ICMAB journal

editor honoured

Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) recently honoured the Editor of its bi-

Management in a simple cere-

The president in his speech,

mentioned with gratitude that

the image and standard of the

journal, increased enormously

by the hard work, vast knowl-

edge and professional profi-

ciency of Hassan. The ICMAB

journal is now well accepted

and recognised by similar local

and foreign professional insti-

tutes. He said the ICMAB jour-

nal is playing an important role

in the development of CMA

profession in the country.

says a press release.

ICMAB to the editor.

S'pore, Japan aim to reach free trade deal by yr-end

Negotiations begin

a bilateral free trade agreement Tokyo throughout the year here today, confident of achieving their end-of-year tar- behind closed doors, and an-The negotiations will be when there are developments, a

centred on the Japan-Singapore Free Trade Agreement joint AFP. study presented to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori ceived the blessing of both and his Singapore counterpart prime ministers last September. Goh Chok Tong last year.

positive the agreement would be policy sealed by December, the Business Times said Tuesday quoting a government spokesman.

confident about being able to meet the deadline, and agreed

Three days of preparatory cords. talks will be held in Singapore

pore and Japan opened talks on tions in both Singapore and

The negotiations will be held get to ink the accord, says AFP. nouncements will be made

The joint study, which recalled for a "new age partner-Singapore's Deputy Prime ship" in such areas as trade in Minister Lee Hsten Loong, who goods and services, investment, is in Tokyo this week, was told harmonisation of regulatory by Japanese leaders they were procedures, and competition not prepared to liberalise in

government spokesman told

expected to push for information and communication tech-They were positive and very nology (IT) to be covered by the hensive coverage." Bergsten

When completed, it will be with Lee that we should all try the first free trade agreement a free trade pact with New Zeato put in our energies to get for Japan, one of the few in- land, is negotiating a similar that done," the spokesman dustrial countries which does accord with the United States,

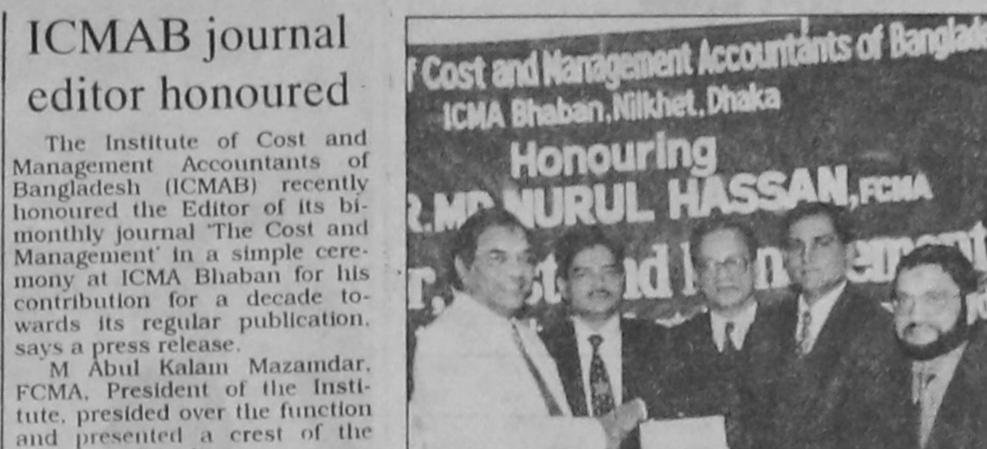
Singapore is negotiating an in the pipeline.

SINGAPORE, Jan 16: Singa- this week, followed by negotia- array of bilateral free trade agreements, which some critics argue will undermine regional and World Trade Organisation efforts towards trade liberallsa-

> At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Brunet last November, noted economist Fred Bergsten singled out the draft plan for Singapore-Japan as likely to pose an obstacle towards overall free trade around the Pacific.

The plan stated Japan was agriculture, fishery and forest Tech-savvy Singapore was products, which "clearly violates the agreed precept of APEC liberalisation of compre-

Singapore last year finalised not already have any such ac- and has further deals with Canada, Mexico and Australia



ICMAB President M Abul Kalam Mazumdar FCMA presenting a crest of the Institute to Md Nurul Hassan FCMA, Editor of the ICMAB Journal "The Cost and Management", for his decade-long contribution. - ICMAB photo

IT boom in India slowly reaching out to its poor

BANGALORE, Jan 16: Despite being one of the world's poorest countries, India has become a global power in producing talented technologists who are highly valued from Silicon Valley to Singapore, reports AP.

"Information technology has transformed our international image from being a land of elephants and snake charmers to a land of competent engineers, said Azim Premji, head of the info-tech giant Wipro and one of the India's wealthiest men.

Now, India is beginning to deploy its rich tech resources to improve life in the countryside.

"In five years, it could transform the country," said Premji, bridging the huge digital divide between the technologycapable and the illiterate poor; many of whom have never even seen a computer.

The information revolution is exposing villagers to a world of previously inaccessible knowledge - and beginning to stymie endemic petty corruption.

In the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, fiber-optic cables now connect central government offices with district ones. The plan is to connect to all villages, even those without Internet can now be used for registering land transactions. making driver license applica- Nortel Networks, the Canadian

tions and filing complaints telecommunications giant. against government officials.

Internet to facilitate easy, corruption-free transfers.

"With a stroke of the pen, the village accountant can create or destroy land ownership," said Rajiv Chawla, a bureaucrat who heads the project. "With help from computers, we are trying to shut him out."

The state is also using computers to make information available on agricultural prices. pension plans, criminal laws and online transactions involving silk, an important local in-

Several states are using Very Small Aperture Terminals, or VSATs, linked to satellites to reach vast numbers of people who live in areas where there are no telephones. And both the government and private ventures have set up Internet kiosks that offer a range of serv-

"Traditional devices like PCs might not be a solution. We need places where communities roads, hospitals or schools. The can access the Internet," said Clarence Chandran, the Indiaborn chief operating officer of

Illiterate farmers in Madhya

In the neighbouring state of Pradesh state who never even Karnataka, where software hub had access to telephones are Bangalore is located, 17 million transforming their lives after land records, most of them dec- being hooked up to the Interades old, have been put on the net, where they can bypass the middlemen who they claim often cheat them on purchases and sales.

> In the state's Dhar region. for example, poor villagers formerly were obliged to travel long distances by bullock carts or bicycles to government granaries to determine crop prices. More trips were required just to find out when grain buyers were making purchases. Now, they have all this information on the Internet.

Leveraging the Net, villagers can get details of competitive prices in nearby districts to be able to sell at the highest rates, along with local news and weather reports and details of government programmes they never knew about before.

Fishermen, who still go to in primitive, poorly equipped boats, are guided to their catch in western and southern India by an Indian Space Research Organization Satellites identify project. sea temperatures around reserves of phytoplankton, the primary fish food.

Toyota's Thai unit

Exchange Rates

Americ	an Ex	press Ba	nk Ltd fo	reign exch	ange rates	(indicative
Currency		Selling TT & OD	Salling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar		54.2500	54.2800	53.8150	53.6970	53.6250
Pound Stg	Pound Stg		80.4050	79.1403	78.9668	78.8609
Deutsche Mark		26.5199	26.5346	25.4543	25.3985	25.3644
Swiss Franc		33.3559	33.3743	32.6666	32.5950	32.5513
Japanese Yen		0.4601	0.4603	0.4523	0.4513	0.4507
Dutch Guilder		23.5369	23.5499	22.5911	22.5416	22.5114
Danish Krona		6.8796	6.8834	6.7350	6.7203	6.7113
Australian \$		30.7381	30.7550	29,3884	29.3239	29.2846
Belgian Franc		1.2858	1.2865	1.2341	1.2314	1.2298
Canadian \$		36.5172	36.5374	35.4840	35.4062	35.3587
French Franc		7.9073	7.9117	7.5896	7.5729	7.5628
Hong Kong \$		6.9691	6.9729	6.8858	6.8707	6.8615
Italian Lira		0.0268	0.0268	0.0257	0.0257	0.0256
Singapore \$		31.6234	31.6409	30.6376	30.5705	30.5295
Euro		51.8684	51.8971	49.7843	49.6751	49.6085
Saudi Rial		14.5061	14.5141	14.3095	14.2781	14.2589
Bill buy	ying r	ates				
TT Doc			60 Days 90 Day		120 Days	180 Days
53.7512	53.366	55	52.9181	52 4696	The state of the s	51.1243

US dollar London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) 12 Months Months Months 54.2500 5.91063 5.74125 5.50500 5.52625 5.51063 80.3605 5.99250 5.87563 5.68313 Cash/TC EURO 4.83000 4.81188 4.72625 4.66375 4.63750 Exchange rates of some Asian currencles against US dollars Indian Rupee Malaysian Indonesian Korean Won Ringgit Rupee Rupiah 46.48/46.58 59.37/ 43.25/ 3.7998/ 9475/9495 1282.5/ 43.28 12830

Amex notes on Tuesday's market

The interbank USD/BDT market was very active Tuesday. The supply was low as the market players were not selling dollars in the market. The USD/BDT rates ranged between 54.02 and 54.11. The call money market was also active. The average call rates fell to 6-6.5 per cent.

Dollar retreated slightly against yen in Tokyo morning trade on Tuesday under pressure from selling to correct recent rapid rallies as it shied away from the closely watched 120 yen level. The euro came under selling pressure against the dollar as traders doubted the Federal Reserve would pursue an aggressive credit-easing policy after Friday's stronger-than-expected US retail sales and producer price index data.

Swiss franc was easier against dollar and the euro in early European trade Tuesday after news that Swiss food giant Nestle would pay \$10 billion for US pet food company Ralston Purina. At around 08:13 GMT the exchange rates of major currencies

against USD were GBP/USD 1.4773/1.4777, USD/CHF 1.6368/1.6378, USD/JPY 118.11/118.14, EUR/USD 0.9404/0.9409.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth Name of Vessels Cargo L Port Local Date of Leaving

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 16.01.2001

No			Call	Agent	Arrival	
J/1	Southern Queen	GI (Copra)	Sing	Aeka	28/11	-
J/3	Ravidas (E/L)	E/L	Mong	SSLL	14/1	18/1
J/4	Ava	Rice(P)	Yang	MTA	3/1	19/1
J/5	Banglar Mookh	Wheat (P)	Mong	MSA	14/12	21/01
J/6	Oriental Queen	C Clink	Pilok	RML	31/12	18/1
J/7	Pavonis	Wheat (P)	Mumb	SMSL	28/12	22/1
J/8	Tia Estela	Urea (BCIC) Basu	PANA	CCNL	18/1
J/9	Pangani	Urea (Bag)	Sing	PSAL	6/1	20/1
J/10	Jon Jin	C Clink	Indo	NWSL	4/1	17/1
J/11	Buxmoon	Cont	P Kel	RSL	8/1	16/1
J/12	X-Press Renowsn	Cont	Col	Everett	6/1	16/1
J/13	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	PII(BD)	9/1	19/1
CCT/1	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	12/1	20/1
CCT/2	Banga Bonik	Cont	Sing	BDShip	9/1	16/1
CCT/3	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	PII(BD)	12/1	20/1
RM/15	Alam Tabah		1			21/1
CCJ	Agios Panourios	C Clink	-	Seacon	14/1	21/1
GSJ	Magna Power	-	K Dia	Lams	13/1	16/1
TSP	Crystal Ace	R Phos	Sing	Total	30/12	23/1
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil		BSC	R/A	16/1
CUFLJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Lang	BSL	7/1	21/1

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE Name of Vessels Local Cargo Loading Arrival Call Agent Port Banglar Moni(Cont)7/1 Sing BSC Cont 16/1 Sing Jaya Mars(Cont)1/1 16/1 Hald Cont Everbest Col Banga Lanka(Cont)4/1 17/1 CBO Baridhi Cont Timber Star(72)11/1 Everett St Coll+GI 16/1 Sing Spring Ocean 18/1 -H.R Coils H.R.Coil Everett Al Muztuba 16/1 Pipa CLA GI SBS C Clink Sentosa 22/1 -16/1 Yema OTBL Beluga OTBL Marigold-1 OTBL Thios Mitsos 17/1 Kaoh Vasiliki-L 16/1 Kaoh OTBL Triumph Chittagong (72)2/117/1 Yang RML GI(St.Coll) Arabella (Cont)8/1 QCSL Cont 17/1 -GI (Maize) Topaz (liner) 17/1 -Banga Birol (Cont)8/1 BDShip Cont 19/1 -Sing NOL Cont Tiger River(Cont)8/1 19/1 -Feng Kang Shan(Linter) BDShip GI 19/1 PRC Pil(BD) Cont Kota Singa 19/1 Sing Kuo Hslung(Cont) QCSL Cont Sing 20/1 -Prog Proj. Mat Kranj (72)/8/1 22/1 -Qc Pintail (Cont)/8/1 QCSL Cont Sing 22/1 -

23/1 -

23/1 -

TANKER DUE Olympic Pride ECSL LBO Name of Vessels Last Port Local Date of Cargo Arrival Agent VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA 5/4 Energy Explorer-IV BBAL 17/8 Ismaya BBAL R/A(31/12) Arafeen Dea Conquerror Dea Captain Sing Arafeen 2/1 R/A(22/12) Seabulk Command Greek Fighter COIL Rast Unique R/A(15/1) Banglar Shourabh COIL Leberty Sea Wheat(G) Sing 12/1 R/A(13/1) Banglar Kakoli BSC Wheat(G) -Prometheus Wheat(G) -

Sing

R/A(14/1)

BDShip Cont

BDShip Cont

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON					
sg Alpha (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	13/1	
ota Berjaya(Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	13/1	
rient Independence (Cont) Cont.		P Kel	BDShip	14/1	
urong Balsam (count)	Cont	Sing	Nol	14/1	
c Teal (Cont)	Cont	Mong	QCSL	15/1	
ndhika Adiparwa	CPO	Sing	Sealift	15/1	
an Pablo (Roro/24)	Vehi	P Kel	JF	15/1	
an Ann (Liner)	GI	Sing	Prog	16/1	
ladra	HSD	Juba	ECSL	12/1	
1	ESSELS	NOT REA	ADY		

of Criox	GI(Peas)	Sing	Littmond	11-1
Eltanin	Wheat(P)	Momb	SMSL	11/1
nos	GI(Y.M)	Yang	SMSL	11/1
enka	R.Seed	Sing	Rainbow	12/1
dam Tabah	Wheat(P)	Viza	RSA	13/1
asmine	Wheat(P)	Momb	SMSL	15/1
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	and the second second second second	The second second	and the same of th	

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION R/A(10/10

R/A(13/1) Erodios MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 17.1.2001

Outgoing Shifting Incoming J/9 Pangani to RM/4 J/10 Jon Jin DOJ B Jyoti RM/3 Andhika Adiparwa J/7 St Criox DOJ B. Shourabh Enos Al Muztuba J/10 Tenka

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

The inaugural function of the 5th Branch of Global Insurance Limited was held at Chowrangi Market, Begum Rokeya Sarnai, Mirpur on Monday. Syed Badrul Alam, Advisor of the company, inaugurated the branch while its Chairman Architect Mubasshar Hussain, other directors, Chief Advisor RA Howlader, Managing Director AR Bhuiya and a large number of distinguished guests from the industrial and business arena and elite of the locality attended the - Global Ins photo function.

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় টেন্ডার নোটিশ নং-১২১/১

নিম্নলিখিত কাজের জন্য অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকত টেভার

ক্রমিক কাজের নাম আমানতি অর্থ (ফেরতযোগ্য) ঠিকাদারের শ্রেণী টভারের সংক্রান্ত কাগজের মূল্য রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চারুকলা দফাওয়ারী দেয় মোট দরের ३म ट्यानीत णका- ७०००/-ভবনের (২য় পর্ব) নির্মাণ কাজ। (পুনঃ টেন্ডার)

নিম্বাক্ষরকারীর অনুকলে উপরে উল্লেখিত কাজের বিপরীতে দেয় আমার্নতি অর্থ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট্ বা পে-অর্ডার আকারে অবশ্যই টেভারের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবে। টেভার ডকুমেন্টসমূহ সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ২৪/১/২০০১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখা, ব্যাংক অফ স্মল ইভাস্ট্রিজ এভ কমার্স লিমিটেড, সাহেব বাজার শাখা এবং সোনালী ব্যাংক মতিহার শাখা, রাজশাহী হতে পাওয়া যাবে এবং ২৫/১/২০০১ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০-৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত কোষাধ্যক্ষ, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দপ্তরে রক্ষিত টেভার বাল্পে টেভার গৃহীত হবে অথবা ইচ্ছা করলে কোন ঠিকাদার ডাকযোগে দরপত্র পাঠাতে পারেন তবে সে ক্ষেত্রে দরপত্রসমূহ নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে অবশাই পৌছাতে হবে এবং ঐ দিন টেভার বাজ বন্ধের অব্যবহিত পর টেন্ডারদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। দরপত্রের বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ কোন কারণে সরকারী ছুটি/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে ক্রয় করা যাবে এবং সেইক্লেক্সে ক্রয়ের পরিবর্তিত শেষ তারিখের পরদিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্রসমূহ দাখিল করা যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিল/খোলার তারিখ সরকারী ছুটি অথবা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বন্ধ থাকলে বন্ধের পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসৈ (শনিবার ছাড়া) দাখিল/খোলা হবে। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের পূর্বে তালিকাভুক্তি বইসহ প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর বরাবরে অনুমতির জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। দরপত্রদাতাদের প্রদত্ত দরে সকল প্রকার সরকারী কর অন্তর্ভুক্ত থাকতে হবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন টেভার গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন বা সকল টেভার বাতিল করতে পারেন। টেভারদাতাদের দেয় দরের দফাওয়ারী বিশ্লেষণ টেভার এর সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর পদমর্যাদার নীচে নন এমন একজন প্রকৌশলীর নিকট হতে বিগত ৭ (সাত) বছরের মধ্যে ১৭ লক্ষ টাকার একক ভবন নির্মাণের সম্ভোষজনক সমাপ্তির সার্টিফিকেট দাখিল করতে হবে। অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হতে এ সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি জানা যাবে এবং বেলা ১-০০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত সিভিউল ক্রয়ের অনুমতি দেয়া হবে।

জিডি-৫০

DFP-905-11/1

G-144

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যাল

Bangladesh Postal Department

Office of the Post Master General, Central Circle Dak Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

File No SD-7/Pillar Letter Box/2000-2001 Dated Dhaka-8-1-2001/25-9-1407 Bang

Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from pillar letter box manufacturers/suppliers/organisations as per schedule specification approved by Postal Stock Depot, the Post Master General, Central Circle. Schedule of tender will be available in the office of the Senior Post Master, Dhaka GPO/DPMG Sorting & Air Division, Dhaka-1217/Post Master, Dhaka Sadar Main Post Office, Dhaka-1100/ Sub Post Master, New Market Sub Post Office, Dhaka-1205 and Postal Stock Depot, Dhaka on 23-1-2001 till 11 AM and specimen can be seen in the Stock Depot, Dhaka. Persons interested in participating in tender will have to apply in respective pads for purchasing tender. Attested photocopy of trade licence uptodate, certificates of income tax, VAT registration and solvency certificate must submitted with application and the photocopy of press release regarding the issue; after attestation, must be enclosed with the application for purchasing. Otherwise schedule will not be sold. The cost of schedule is non-refundable. By depositing it any non-classified head, the original receipt will have to be enclosed with the application. Otherwise, schedule will not be supplied. Tenders will be received in the box kept at the said offices and in the office chamber of DPMG (Savings), Central Circle, Dhaka on 25-01-2001 till 11 AM. Tenders received in the Dhaka GPO/DPMG Sorting & Air Division/Dhaka Sadar Main Post Office and New Market Sub Post Office will have to be sent by a special messenger in the sealed condition in presence of tenderers (if anyone remains present) after preparing list on the same day by 2 PM in the office of DPMG Savings, Post Master General, Central Circle, Dhaka. All tenders will be opened the same day at 2-00 PM in the office room of the Addl. PMG (Postal Service) in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present). The specimen of the items with the label, seal and with signature (refundable) must be given on 24-01 2001 during office hours by 02 PM to Manager, PSD. Otherwise tenders will be treated as rejected. Income tax, VAT will be realiseable as per government rules. Bill will be paid as per allocation of budget. The authority reserves the power

to accept any tender or reject all tenders. Serial No Description of item Number size/ingredient Cost of schedule Pillar letter box 350/= 100 as per description in schedule and approved specimen

> Mohammad Shahidul Islam Deputy Post Master General (Savings) Central Circle, Dhaka-1000 Phone-9555528.

Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)

Government of the People's

Mymensingh Road Division

Notice

It is observed with grave concern that certain people submit tenders with false money receipts that is fake tender against tenders of various development works of Mymensingh Road Division, which is a forgery and illegal act. Besides, it also hampers the pace of development works.

So, all concerned are requested to refrain from such illegal activities. Mentionable, it is hereby cautioned that the legal actions will be taken against tenderers submitting tenders with forged documents

DFP-835-11/1

G-143

Executive Engineer (R&H) Mymensingh Road Division

Md Habibur Rahman



Chittagong Port Authority

Marine Engineering Division **Tender Notice**

Tender Notice No-EE(V)/i-32(Loose-3)/2001

Sealed tenders in prescribed form are hereby invited from those interested vessel repairing establishments situated in Chittagong which have the slipway or dockyard and engineering workshop for docking repairing work of Deck loading barge no-1. Tender schedule can be procured from the office of the undersigned during office hours through Challan by depositing Taka 750/-(seven hundred fifty) only nonrefundable in the port fund and through Pay-Order/Bank Draft from the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong. No tender schedule will be sold on the day of opening tender. If the slipway in which docking will be done is private, the certificate regarding capacity of lifting, technical eligibility by the volume. according to analysts. Classification Society, Government of Bangladesh or Engineering University (Bureau of Research, Testing and Consultation/BUET) will have to be submitted. 2.5% (two and a half per cent) of the total quoted cost in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Port Authority" will have to be enclosed with tender. Tenders will be received on 30-01-2001 till 12-30 PM in the box kept at the office of the undersigned and office of the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong. Tenders will be opened the next day that is 31-01-2001 at 12-00 Noon before the tenderers present (if anyone remains present).

The port authority reserves the power to accept or reject any tender partially or fully without assigning any

DFP-850-11/1 G-142

Ferdous Ahmad Executive Engineer (Vessels) Chittagong Port Authority.

expects 10 pc sales growth this year BANGKOK, Jan 16: Toyota Motor Corp's Thai unit said

Tuesday it expects its domestic sales to rise to at least 80,000 vehicles in 2001, compared to 71,300 units in 2000, says AP. The expected 10.8 per cent increase would enable Toyota

Motor Thailand Co Ltd to maintain its market share at 27 per cent, company president Ryoichi Sasaki told reporters. He said the total vehicle market is expected to grow to

300,000-320,000 units this year compared to 262,189 units in 2000. Sales figures for the domestic sales market in 2000, which

were released by Toyota Mon-

day, show that Toyota's market slice fell by 7 percentage points to 27.2 per cent, compared to 34.2 per cent in 1999. The decline was due to the inability of Toyota to take the

Boxer Capt Cook

Bangla Bijoy

Samara

Banglar Urmi

lead in the commercial vehicle markets, especially the pickup trucks segment. Sasaki, however, said this was not too worrying as Toyota

had maintained its lead in the passenger car market and as the 1999 market share had been rather unusual for Toyota. "In every other year since 1996, Toyota's share of the Thai market had been in the high 20

per cent range except in '99,

Sasaki said.

Indian cigarette maker ITC profit seen up 30 pc

CALCUTTA, India, Jan 16: India's largest cigarette maker, ITC Ltd, is expected to report net profit rose 25-30 per cent the October-December quarter, due to higher prices and a small increase in sales The Calcutta-based com-

pany, 31.7 per cent owned by British American Tobacco Plc, Increased prices of its premium brand cigarettes by 3.45 to 17.95 per cent in the second half of October. "This is definitely going to

contribute a lot to its earnings. I expect net profit to easily grow by 25-30 per cent," Pritam Lala, an analyst with Jet Age Securities, told Reuters. ITC which also has interests in hotels, information technol-

business, will release its third-

quarter earnings results on Wednesday. The benefit of higher prices would not be diluted by any significant increase in costs, said Mathew Easow, head of Mathew Easow Securities.

retailing and agri-