

# Global poverty reduction drive strands rural poor

## UN Fund for Agricultural Development says

REUTERS, United Nations

A global campaign to halve poverty by 2015 is falling behind, threatening to strand hundreds of millions of people in rural areas without enough food, money or vital services, a UN agency said yesterday.

Poverty fell between 1990 and 1998 at less than a third of the rate needed to cut it in half by 2015, as pledged by the UN General Assembly last year, said the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Lagging farthest behind are the people of sub-Saharan Africa, who must move out of poverty at six times their current pace to meet the goal, the agency said in its report "Rural Poverty 2001: The Challenge of Ending Rural Poverty."

"Most of the world's poor are rural and will remain so until at least 2035. The urban-rural gaps in poverty, health and literacy are large and on the whole not narrowing," it said.

The 1995 UN Social Summit in Copenhagen urged each of the

United Nations' 189 members to come up with a battle plan against poverty, and at a Millennium summit held last June, the UN General Assembly set a goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

Globally 1.2 billion people are extremely poor, and three-quarters of these now live in rural areas, the report said, predicting far more than half will still do so in 2025.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the report underlined the close links between urban and rural poverty "as poverty forces large numbers of people to migrate from rural areas into the cities."

So to deal with urban as well as rural poverty in a sustainable way, we must give people in rural areas better opportunities to make a living," he said.

The report said East Asia enjoyed some success during the 1990s in raising farm yields, leading to rural income gains and job creation and ultimately leading to job gains in the key rural nonfarm

sector.

But this trend has not been in evidence in South Asia and Africa, according to the report.

One key reason behind the slow pace of progress is a sharp decline in foreign aid, particularly in the amount of aid targeting the farm sector, the report said.

While aid going to the neediest, least developed countries - where 85 per cent of the poor live - stayed at around 63 per cent of the total, agricultural aid "collapsed" and the rural sector "has largely remained neglected, despite its great concentration of poor people."

"The rural poor also suffer from an inefficiently low share of schools, health care, roads, land, technology, research and institutional and market access," the report said.

While calling for an overall increase in development aid and a greater focus on agriculture, the report also set out four key goals for programmes aimed at reducing rural poverty.

expected to open their markets wider.

But a senior EU official told a news briefing that the aim of the proposal, Brussels' contribution to a process of farm trade reform negotiations begun in the WTO a year ago, was to create "win-win" situation for rich and poorer states.

The official, who asked not to be identified, argued that freer trade would bring benefits all round and help poor developing countries emerge from poverty.

The meeting was part of preparations for a full stock-taking on proposals for overall farm trade liberalisation set to take place at the WTO at the end of March.

The farm talks are running in parallel with discussions on fur-

ther reform of global trade in services-twin processes set into the WTO agenda at the end of the 1986-93 Uruguay Round of liberalisation negotiations.

They have no target date for completion, and diplomats say they could drag on for years unless incorporated into a new round covering a wide range of other trade areas.

The senior EU official said he felt it would be easier to make progress in the context of a wider round - the calling of which developing countries have so far resisted.

"We are not saying we won't negotiate (on agriculture) unless you give us a round," he said.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and WTO Director-General Mike Moore have been increasingly vocal in recent weeks on what they say is the necessity of a new round.

Trade diplomats, including envoys from developing countries who make up the overwhelming majority of the 140 members of the WTO, say there has been some mellowing towards the idea since the collapse of an earlier round project in Seattle in 1999.

# Thailand starts talks with Malaysia over tariff row

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand and Malaysia have entered into their first talks over compensation to be paid for Kuala Lumpur's delay in cutting tariffs on automotive products, senior officials said Tuesday.

Both sides are optimistic they can reach an amicable solution to the dispute, said Boontipa Simaskul, director-general of the commerce ministry's business economics department.

"It's a good sign that Malaysia agreed to negotiate for the first time on Monday although the discussions at this stage have not gone into details," she told reporters after the meeting in the Thai capital.

"Malaysia was very cooperative," she said, adding that the two sides had agreed to meet in Kuala Lumpur on March 5 with subsequent discussions to be held

monthly until a June 19 deadline. If no agreement is reached by that date, Thailand has the right to retaliate against Malaysia.

In a move which has a direct bearing on Thailand's valuable auto parts export industry, Malaysia formally asked the ASEAN Free Trade (AFTA) Council in January for permission to delay cutting tariffs on vehicles and auto parts imports.

Under the AFTA scheme, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states are required to cut import taxes on automotive products to a maximum of 20 per cent by 2000 and a maximum of five per cent by 2003.

But in May, ASEAN trade ministers agreed to grant Malaysia a two-year extension of the 2003 deadline.

Boontipa said the Malaysian delegation, headed by the deputy permanent secretary of the Minis-

try of International Trade and Industry Sidek Hassan, had submitted a list of 218 auto parts it wanted exempted from tax cuts.

But she said the amount of compensation owed to Thailand, the first ASEAN member to hold talks with Malaysia over the issue, has still not been decided.

"We will not be able to calculate compensation yet as we have not yet got into the details and our list of products did not correspond with their list," she said.

Thai officials calculate that 234 products are affected by the request, and the two sides will now try to work out the discrepancy.

"We can speed up the frequency of discussions if needed and we are really optimistic that we can reach a conclusion without retaliation," said Chutima Bunyapharasa, deputy chief of the business economics department.

## CURRENCY

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against Taka to clients.

Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling 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	80.1924	80.2367	78.9681	78.8950	78.6893
Deutsche Mark	26.4256	26.4402	25.3772	25.3216	25.2876
Swiss Franc	33.2904	33.3088	32.6033	32.5318	32.4882
Japanese Yen	0.4734	0.4737	0.4652	0.4642	0.4636
Dutch Guilder	23.4532	23.4661	22.5227	22.4733	22.4432
Danish Krona	6.8583	6.8621	6.7159	6.7012	6.6922
Australian \$	30.4397	30.4565	29.0924	29.0286	28.9897
Belgian Franc	1.2812	1.2819	1.2304	1.2277	1.2260
Canadian \$	36.3850	36.4051	35.3581	35.2806	35.2332
French Franc	7.8792	7.8835	7.5666	7.5500	7.5399
Hong Kong \$	6.9694	6.9733	6.8861	6.8710	6.8618
Italian Lira	0.0267	0.0267	0.0256	0.0256	0.0255
Singapore \$	31.5407	31.5581	30.5593	30.4923	30.4514
Euro	51.6840	51.7126	49.6336	49.5247	49.4583
Saudi Rial	14.5055	14.5145	14.3102	14.2788	14.2597

**Bill buying rates**

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7512	53.3665	52.9181	52.4696	52.0212	51.1243

**US dollar London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR)**

Buying(\$)	Selling(\$)	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
53.6250	54.2500	USD	5.5735	5.4100	5.2700	5.2000	5.2000
78.6893	80.1924	GBP	5.9118	5.8013	5.6719	5.6275	5.6075
		Cash/TC	4.7288	4.7225	4.6373	4.5675	4.5425

**Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars**

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
46.395/46.402	98.225/97	42.34/42.39	3.8000/3.8001	9543/9583	1260.1/1260.3

**Amex notes on Tuesday's Market**

The inter-bank USD/BDT market was very active today. The supply of dollar was low, as the market makers couldn't provide dollars in the inter-bank market. The USD/BDT rate moved up and ranged between 54.18 and 54.20. The average call rate moved between 9.0 and 9.5% per cent.

The dollar fell to one-month lows against the yen for a second consecutive day today, undermined by talk of fund repatriation by Japanese corporations and investors ahead of their upcoming fiscal year-end.

The euro was easier against the dollar today amid speculation that the US economic slowdown could be a bigger drag on the euro zone economy than had previously been thought. The Swiss Franc eased on the dollar and firmed on the euro in early European business today.

At around 0937 GMT the exchange rates of major currencies against USD were GBP/USD 1.4699/1.4709, USD/CHF 1.6399/1.6409, USD/JPY 114.52/114.57 EUR/USD 0.9366/0.9368.

# Poorer developing countries blast EU for farm plan

REUTERS Geneva

Poorer developing countries attacked European Union proposals for further reform of global agricultural trade yesterday, saying they appeared to be aimed at ensuring continued protection for EU farmers.

Diplomats said India and Pakistan, backed by African and Latin American states, led the assault on the plan, formally presented at a World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting some three months after it had been tabled.

Both Asian countries argued that the proposal, one of 17 before the WTO's Committee on Agriculture, would in effect allow the EU to continue to export at subsidised prices while they would be

expected to open their markets wider.

But a senior EU official told a news briefing that the aim of the proposal, Brussels' contribution to a process of farm trade reform negotiations begun in the WTO a year ago, was to create "win-win" situation for rich and poorer states.

The official, who asked not to be identified, argued that freer trade would bring benefits all round and help poor developing countries emerge from poverty.

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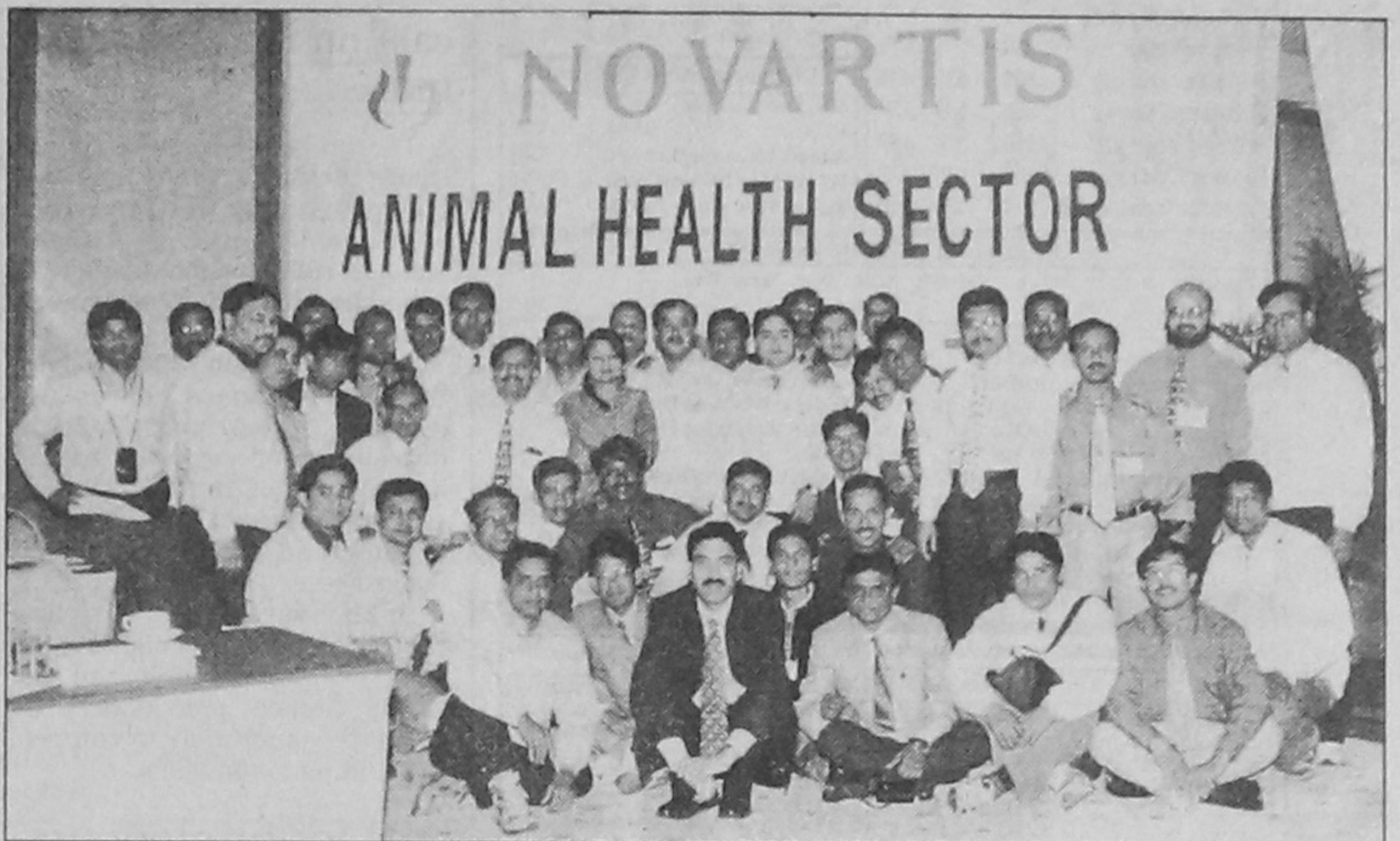
They have no target date for completion, and diplomats say they could drag on for years unless incorporated into a new round covering a wide range of other trade areas.

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Picture shows the participants at Novartis Animal Health annual conference held at a hotel in Kathmandu recently. More than one hundred participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the conference.

# Drive launched to make Daewoo Motor a 'people's company'

AFP, Seoul

Former South Korean prime ministers and academics launched a campaign Tuesday to turn bankrupt Daewoo Motor Co. into a "people's company."

Ahead of the temporary closure of the carmaker's main plant, 300 prominent figures, including

former government officials, college deans, and religious leaders vowed to transform Daewoo Motor into a company financed and run by citizens.

"We, all of us, are responsible for Daewoo Motor's problems. The company must be reborn as a competitive people's company," former vice prime minister Choi

Gak-Kyu said in a statement. Choi said the group would stage rallies from March 2 to the end of July aiming to raise one trillion won (794 million dollars) in public donations.

The money would be used to buy Daewoo Motor shares, he said, expressing doubts about a government bid to sell the company to US auto giant General Motors Corp. (GM) and its Italian partner Fiat SpA.

The Hankyoreh newspaper, a former dissident publication, has been run as a so-called "people's company" since 1988. But union leaders and experts have expressed skepticism about the possibilities of Daewoo Motor following the same route.

After Ford Motor Co. pulled out of a 6.9 billion dollar takeover bid last September, GM investigated Daewoo Motor's finances but has since made no further announcement.

The civic campaign came one day after Daewoo Motor announced it would close its main plant in the western city of Incheon for three weeks from next Monday due to slumping sales.



## 2 new GMS of BSRS

ABM Shah Newaz and Md Saiful Islam have been promoted to the post of General Manager of Bangladesh Shipha Rin Sangstha (BSRS), say two separate press releases.

Shah Newaz worked as head of Research & Statistics, Recovery, MIS & Computer, Human Resource & Service Department.

Before being promoted as General Manager, he was working as Deputy General Manager of BSRS.

He obtained Master's degree in Economics from Dhaka University and joined BSRS in 1977.

Saiful Islam held many important positions and worked as head of Human Resources, Services, Project Implementation, Real Estate, Loan Accounts, Central Accounts, Loan Classification Cell, Law and Recovery Departments.

Before the promotion to the post of General Manager, he was the Deputy General Manager of BSRS.

He obtained Master's degree in Accounting in 1970 and MBA in 1972 from Dhaka University.

**Bangladesh Rifles**  
**Headquarters**  
 Administrative Directorate, Cue & Ord. Section  
 Peelkhana, Dhaka

## Tender Notice

Number 401/17/X/Cue Dated: Magh 16, 1407/January 29, 2001

Sealed tenders are invited by the establishment from contractors enlisted with this section/unenlisted contractors for purchasing spare parts for fire arms and armourer tool for 2000-2001 fiscal year. Details of goods to be purchased and rules and regulations of the tender are mentioned in the schedule. Schedule of tender can be procured from the RP on-duty at the Gate Nos. 3 & 4 at BDR Headquarters at Peelkhana on payment of Taka 400.00 (four hundred) from the date of publishing of the advertisement till 15-2-2001, Thursday. The undersigned may be contacted for any information on all working days excepting government holidays during office hours that is within 0800 hours to 1400 hours. Tenders can be submitted in the tender box kept at the BDR Gate No-4 at Peelkhana on 18-2-2001 Sunday, till 1200 Noon and tender box will be opened on the same day at 1230 hours in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remain present).

2) The authority reserves the power to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-2781-31/1 DAQMG  
 G-276 on behalf of the Director General.

**BCIC**  
**Tender Notice**  
 বিসিআইসি'র পক্ষা শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অর্থায়ন প্রতিষ্ঠান

Sealed tenders are invited by the Sr. General Manager (Construction), Construction Division, BCIC, Dhaka from the BCIC enlisted contractors of category A-3 and above for "repairing/replacement of doors, plaster, painting, white washing in different flats at BCIC Housing Colony, Mirpur, Dhaka" at an estimated cost of Tk 1,10,811.08 (Taka One lac ten thousand eight hundred eleven and paisa eight) only.

The tender documents may be purchased from the Accounts Division, BCIC, 30-31 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka up to 25-02-2001 on production of valid enlistment certificate renewed up to 1999-2000 and on payment of Tk 500/- (five hundred) (non-refundable) per set. Tenders will be received up to 12.00 Noon on 26-02-2001 simultaneously at (i) Construction Division, BCIC Bhaban (19<sup>th</sup> Floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka and (ii) BCIC Housing Colony Office, Bux Nagar, Mirpur, Dhaka and will be opened just after closing. BCIC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

M S A Fakir  
 Sr. General Manager (Const).  
 Construction Division  
 BCIC.  
 DFP-255-31/1001  
 DFP-2992-1/2  
 G-275

**Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)**  
 6/22 Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh  
**Extension of Time of Bid Notice No. 03/2001**  
**Bid Notice No. 03/2001 under Reference No. DESCO/MA/2001/178 dated January 20, 2001 is hereby extended up to 12/02/2001 and 13/02/2001 for Bid selling and receiving respectively. All other terms & conditions of the bids shall remain unchanged.**

February 06, 2001 Md. Shaful Islam Chowdhury  
 Memo No. DESCO/MA/01/2001/252 Manager, Administration, DESCO

## Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Ferry Division, Barisal

### RHD Tender Notice

- Tender Notice No : 56 of RHD, Ferry Division, Barisal/2000-2001.
- Name of work : As described below.
- Eligibility of contractor : "A to E" general category contractor of RHD as per financial capacity & territorial jurisdiction.
- Availability of tender schedule : 1. Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna.  
2. Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Mechl Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal (only office hours). No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender schedule.
- Tender receiving officer : 1. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl Ferry Circle, Khulna.  
2. Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna.
- Last date of selling tender documents : 19.02.2001/07.11.1407 (only office hours).
- Last date of receiving tender in sealed cover : 20.02.2001/08.11.1407 at 12 Noon.
- Date and time of opening tender : 25.02.2001/13.11.1407 at 12 Noon.
- Date and time of lottery if applicable : 26.02.2001/14.11.1407 at 12 Noon.

Group No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money
1.	Supplying spare parts with Machining for overhauling for 150 kilowatt Man Engine laying at workshop under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 2,04,700/-	Tk 4,094/-
2.	Supplying of spare parts for 110 HP Daf Engine (Model-DT 615) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 2,02,000/-	Tk 4,040/-
3.	Supplying of spare parts for 120 HP Hydromaster (Newford, Model-BSD 666T) under Ferry Sub-Div, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 1,51,000/-	Tk 3,020/-
4.	Supplying of spare parts for 150 kilowatt Man Engine (Model-BSD 2866 E) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 3,00,600/-	Tk 6,012/-
5.	Supplying of spare parts for 110 HP Daf Engine (Model-DT 615) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 2,50,000/-	Tk 5,010/-
6.	Supplying of spare parts for 120 HP Hydromaster (Newford Model-BSD 666T) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 2,03,000/-	Tk 4,060/-
7.	Supplying of spare parts for 120 HB Hydromaster (Newford, Model-BSD 666T) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 4,00,000/-	Tk 8,000/-

Executive Engineer (RHD)  
 (Mech) Ferry Division, Barisal.  
 DFP-2515-29/1  
 G-272

## SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 06.02.2001

Berth no	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Southern Queen	GI	Sing	Aeka	28/11	-
J/2	Millennium Falcon	GI	Yang	Everett	4/2	9/2
J/3	Pacific Emerald	GI	P Kel	Alisee	21/1	9/2
J/4	Feng Kang Shan	GI	Yang	BD Ship	1/2	7/2
J/5	Leona	GI	Sing	Prog	4/2	12/2
J/6	Bac Yun Shan	GI (ST.C)	Yang	RML	4/2	7/2
J/7	Andhika Rainbow	GI (ST.C)	Kach	ASA	4/2	7/2
J/8	Jasmine	Wheat(P)	MCM	SMSL	15/1	10/2
J/9	Xiang Jiang	GI	Yang	BD Ship	01/2	8/2
J/10	Topaz	GI (Maize)	Yang	Prog	22/1	9/2
J/11	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	30/1	10/2
J/12	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	28/1	8/2
J/13	Banga Lanka	Cont	Mong	Baridhi	4/2	10/2
CCT/1	Da Fa	Cont	Sing	RSL	24/1	6/2
CCT/2	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	3/2	9/2
CCT/3	X-Press Renewon	Cont	Col	Everbest	26/1	6/2
RM-14	Banglar Kallol	IDLE	K.Dia	BSC	27/1	8/2
CCJ	Agios Fanourios	Gypsum	Krab	BSC	01/2	10/2
GSJ	Marande	Wheat(G)	P.Said	Ancient	30/1	7/2
TSP	Piran	R Phos	Sing	Seacoast	29/1	13/2
RM/6	Haustrum	HSD	Mina	ECSL	2/2	7/2
DOJ	Banglar Robi	Cont/IDLE	Sing	BSC	31/1	6/2
DD	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	8/2
RM/8	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	7/2

Vessels due at outer anchora

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading pot
Banga Bijoy (Cont) 31/1	6/2	Col	Baridhi	Cont	L/Col
Arabella (Cont) 28/1	6/2	PKL	QCSL	Cont	Lt Sing
Viva Treasure	6/2	Bela	UMTL	In Ballast	-
Triumph Kaoshiung(72)1/2	7/2	Sing	RML	GI (ST.C)	-
Emma Oldendorff (48) 25/1	7/2	Russ	RSA	GI (ST.C)	