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BANGLADESH TO GET CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES

DHAKA, BANGLADESH--The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which Canada will provide \$65 million worth of industrial commodities to Bangladesh over the next five years.

The funds, from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will pay for aluminum, copper, zinc, woodpulp and sulphur, purchased in Canada to help industrial development in Bangladesh.

"Under this agreement, Canada will help to increase the budgetary resources available to the Government of Bangladesh for development purposes and provide balance of payments support by the supply of competitive Canadian industrial commodities", Mr. Clark said.

Aluminum is used in the manufacture of goods such as utensils, electric fans, rickshaws and power conductors; copper is required for power cables; zinc is a rust inhibitor in the production of galvanized metals; woodpulp is required for paper and newsprint; and sulphur is used in the production of fertilizer.

"These are commodities normally exported from Canada to Bangladesh", the Minister explained. "They will provide direct support to industry and indirect support for agriculture and energy, which are two of the priorities of the current Five Year Plan of the Government of Bangladesh".

All procurement will be in Canada with the respective Bangladesh corporations issuing tenders and CIDA guaranteeing payment to suppliers.

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For more information, contact: Henry Heald
CIDA, Public Affairs Branch
Hull (819) 994-3818