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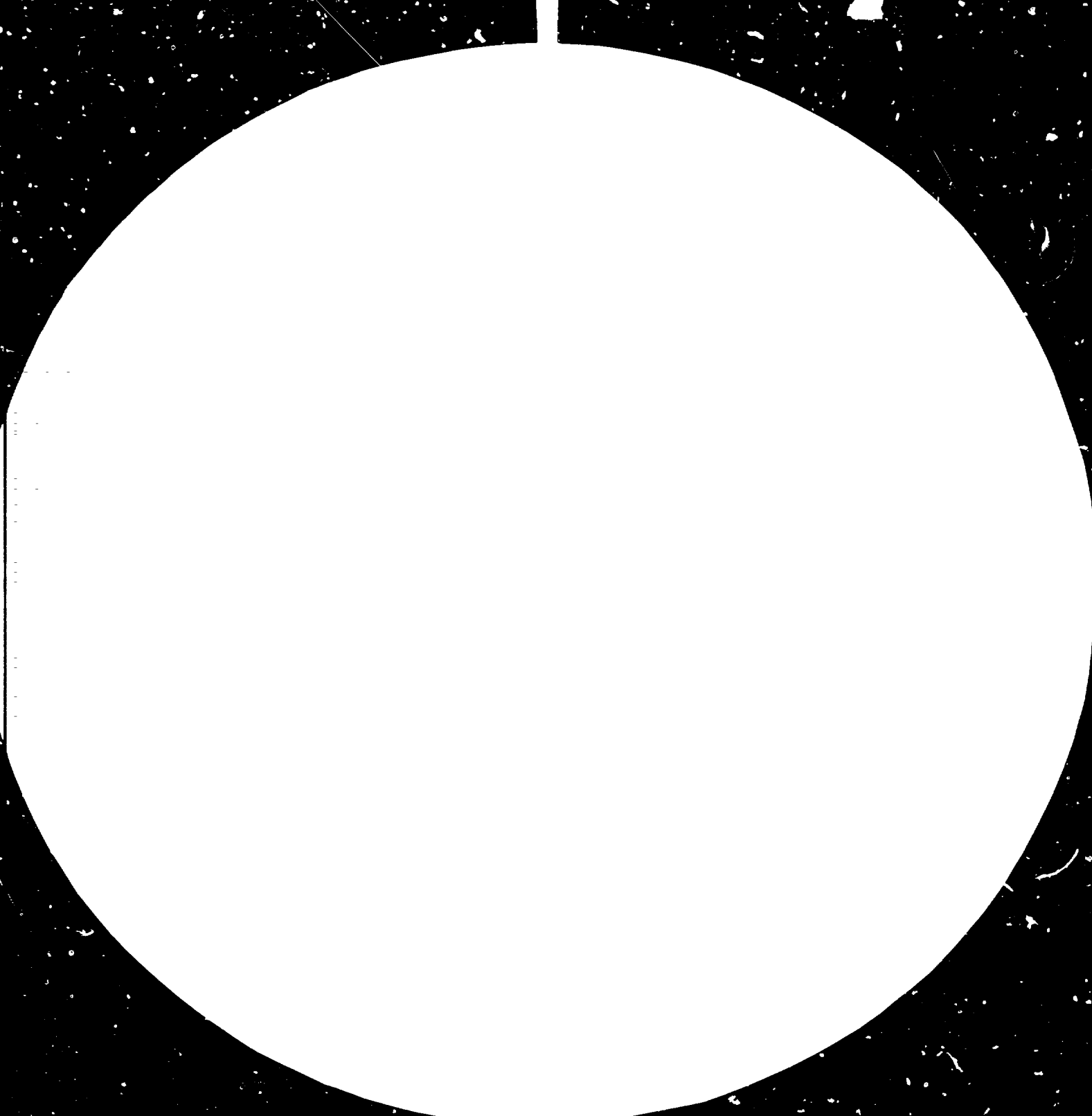
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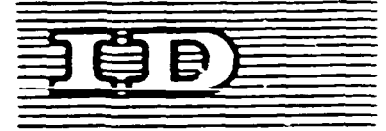


Resolution Test Chart (NBS 1963-A) (ANSI Z39.48-1983)

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Seminar on Furniture and Joinery Industries
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An outline on the Furniture and Joinery ^{1/}
Industries in Bangladesh

by

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^{1/} The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat of UNIDO. This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

Introduction:

Bangladesh is situated in latitude between 20°30' and 26°45' north and longitude between 88°1' and 92°56' east. This small country having an area of 55,126 square miles is in south east Asia with boundaries along all its perimeter with India except on the south eastern side with Burma. Its climate varies from 45°F in winter to 100°F in summer. The annual rainfall varies between 47.9" (lowest) and 225.76" (highest) during the monsoon.

Total population according to 1974 census is about 76.2 million. Annual population growth is about 3.1 percent and G.N.P. per capita income is US\$ 100 per annum. Between 8 and 9 percent of the total surface area is covered by tropical forests which cater the need of raw materials for our furniture and joinery industries, fine wood, pulp and paper mills.

The Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC) is an autonomous body created by the Government in 1959. Its primary function is to establish wood based industries in the public sector for extraction of wood and catering to the needs of the country for various types of furniture and joinery.

Raw materials and fittings:

(a) Solid wood:

This is abundantly available in our forests and causes no problem. Most of the furniture and joinery is made of solid wood. We are searching for markets for the export of our surplus of solid wood.

(b) Wood based panels:

We have our own plants to meet our requirements of veneer, plywood, hardboard and particle boards for furniture and joinery. To meet demands from the market we are switching over to wood based panels in the pro-

duction of furniture and joinery (specially for flush doors).

(c) Hardware and fittings:

Hardware materials are available locally, but its basic raw materials are imported. We are dependent on imports for the fittings we use.

(d) Adhesives:

Wood adhesives are also imported. Nowadays the products from the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom are in use. Urea formaldehyde resin glue from the above countries are in use.

(e) Surface finishes:

Materials for surface finishes are locally available.

(f) Upholstery materials:

Most of the medium quality materials are locally available and the superior quality products are imported.

Structure of the Industry:

The following wood based industries are in operation under the management of Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC):

Name of industry	Nature of product	Installed capacity	Manpower in number	Annual sale value	Remarks
<u>CHITTAGONG ZONE</u>					
1. Fidco Furniture Complex	Furniture	64,000 cu.ft.	228	15,00	
2. Cabinet Mfg. Plant (Joinery plant)	Doors and windows	300,000 sq.ft.	180	10,00	
3. Chittagong Board Mills	Flush doors	--	50	5.00	Not in full operation
4. Particle Board and Veneering Plant	Sliced veneer, veneered boards	18,000,000 sq.ft. } 2,400,000 sq.ft. }	200	5.00	Only sliced veneer, ve- neered board will be pro- duced from the current year. Chip- board produc- tion expec- ted in 80-81.
5. Sangoo Valley Timber Indust- ries	Tea chest plywood	250,000 sets } 500,000 sq.ft. }	300	15,00	

1/ 15.35 Taka = US\$ 1,-

To feed the above industries, and the timber requirements of the other units in the private sector, the following installations, established by BFIDC, are in operation:

Name of industry/Project	Nature of product	Installed capacity	Present manpower	Annual sale value
				In million Taka ^{1/}
1. Mechanical Extraction of Wood from the Forest above Kap'ai.	Timber Firewood	2,600,000 cu.ft. 1,000,000 cu.ft.	1,200	50.00
2. Manual Extraction of wood from Sangco Matamuri Forests	Timber	100,000 cu.ft.	60	5.00
3. Lumber Processing Complex	Sawing, seasoning Planing and treatment of timber	2,000,000 cu.ft.	225	25.00
4. Wood Treating Plant	Preservative treatment of timber	600,000 cu.ft.	180	15.00

1/ 15.35 Taka = US\$ 1

In addition to the above the following furniture and joinery industries of our organization are in operation now:

Name of industry/project	Nature of product	Installed capacity	Present manpower	Annual sale value
				In million Taka ^{1/}
<u>Dacca</u>				
1. Cabinet Manufacturing Plant	Doors and windows	300,000 cu.ft.	148	8.00
2. Eastern Wood Works	Furniture	25,000 cu.ft.	144	5.00
<u>Khulna</u>				
1. Cabinet Manufacturing Plant	Doors and windows	300,000 cu.ft.	93	6.00
2. Wood Treating Plant	Preservative treatment of timber	170,000 cu.ft.	64	10.00

^{1/} 15.35 Taka = US\$ 1

Trained and skilled labourers are not readily available in our country. Most of labourers acquired their skill by experience. Nowadays our Government has provided facilities for training skilled manpower. But, due to the financial backwardness of our people, they cannot afford to avail themselves of the opportunity. This is causing shortage of trained and skilled manpower in running the industries, ultimately affecting growth of such industries. In-service training to labourers under the guidance of experts in the line will help us greatly in increasing the efficiency of our labour force and to attain the growth and higher productivity.

Design and marketing:

We do not have any standardization of products. People place orders based on their personal likings and this affects large scale economic production in our industry. We have trained people from the Swedish Institute of Technology who have a fair knowledge in the designing and manufacturing processes of the products. Unless we go for standardization there is little scope for proper utilization of those trained and skilled people.

Since our organization is governmental, the bulk of our products are required for various government departments and agencies and we do not have serious problems in marketing our products in the home market. We have sufficient surplus of tropical solid wood and furniture and joinery products. So far, we have exhibited our products at different international fairs.

Industrial infrastructure:

Due to lack of trained manpower we could not create the necessary infrastructure from this industry. We have at present no training schemes for the labour force. We, however, have some vocational and technical training institutes. Effort is being made to prepare that infrastructure by utilizing the facilities available in the above institutions.

Some of our industries which were established more than a decade ago need balancing and modernization as the machinery and equipment have become obsolete and uneconomic in production. Availability of spare parts for those things. So, their production efficiency is going down day by day.

To run the existing industries efficiently balancing and modernization of the machinery and equipment is our primary task for which our Government may take action but we need help and advice from the international Agencies in the line. We are shortly going to establish a modern furniture factory under the assistance of the Rumanian Government with a production capacity of 1,000 suites for office and 1,000 suites for household use per annum. This will go a long way in the development of this sector of industry.

