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CR-515-BD-1 A credit of $50 million equivalent from the INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), an affiliate of the WORLD BANK, will assist Bangladesh in maintaining or expanding production in industry and agriculture. The credit will finance imports of raw materials and components necessary for better utilization of existing capacity in the two sectors.

Among those present at the signing of the credit documents on October 9, 1974, were, seated from left to right: Mr. S.R. Sen, Executive Director of IDA for Bangladesh; His Excellency M. Hossain Ali, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States; and Mr. Mervyn L. Weiner, Vice President, South Asia Regional Office, IDA.

Photo: G. Franchini for IDA
The INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), an affiliate of the WORLD BANK, made a credit of $15 million equivalent to help finance a family planning project in Bangladesh. Several other sources of assistance — Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom — are also providing finance for the $46 million project.

Bangladesh has given high priority to population control. The implications of a natural population growth rate of 3% per annum in a country with a thin resource base, and a per capita income of about $70, are serious. Recognizing these problems, the Government in its First Five-Year Plan (1973-78) stated that "no civilized measure would be too drastic to keep the population of Bangladesh on the smaller side of 15 crores (150 million) for sheer ecological viability of the nation." The Plan's objective is to reduce the natural rate of population growth from 3% at present to 2.8% by 1978. The long-run goal is to reduce the natural rate of population growth to 1.3% in the next 25 to 30 years.

On October 9, 1974, IDA made a credit of $50 million equivalent to assist in maintaining or expanding production in industry and agriculture. The credit is financing imports of raw materials and components necessary for better utilization of existing capacity in the two sectors. A supplement of $25 million was added to this credit.

Among those present at the signing of the credit and credit supplement documents on March 10, 1975, were, from left to right: Mr. M. Matiul Islam, Alternate Executive Director of IDA for Bangladesh; His Excellency M. Hosain Ali, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States; and Mr. Harvyn L. Weiner, Vice President, South Asia Region.

Photo: Edwin G. Huffman for IDA.