

## US-Japan trade pact doubtful before Friday

TOKYO, Sept 27: Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Tuesday he doubted Japan and the United States can hammer out a trade pact before a Friday deadline, reports AP.

"I have no intention of making any new proposals or changing Japan's current position," Hashimoto said only hours before his departure for Washington, where he was scheduled to hold last-ditch talks with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

The Clinton administration says failure to reach an agreement in the 15-month-old trade talks by Friday would set the stage for sanctions.

The two sides have been holding talks on Japanese government procurement of medical supplies and telecommunications equipment; autos and auto parts; access to Japan's insurance market; and sale of US glass.

Hashimoto described the negotiations as bogged down, with both sides unmoving.

If the talks fail, it will be the second time this year the two countries have been unable to meet US-set deadlines for reaching accords meant to reduce Japan's 60 billion dollars trade surplus with the United States.

Hashimoto said he told US ambassador Walter Mondale earlier Tuesday morning that the main sticking point is numerical targets.

Throughout the trade talks, the United States has pressed for accords that include ways of measuring progress in opening Japan's markets. The Japanese insist that amounts to managed trade.

Hashimoto did assure Mondale that Japan would try to compromise in measuring market share in government procurement, but not the private sector.

Reuters adds: Japan's Trade Minister abruptly decided to travel to Washington for last-minute talks as the US Ambassador to Japan warned on Monday that failure to strike a deal this week would invite sanctions.

Ambassador Walter Mondale said failure to reach a deal on Japanese government procurement by a Friday deadline would force the United States to invoke trade sanctions despite the potential fallout in financial markets.

"If we fail in government procurement... sanctions would be imposed under law. It's not something we'd want to do, but it would be something we would be compelled to do under the law. We don't like sanctions... we'd like to avoid it," Mondale told reporters.

Shortly after Mondale spoke, a Japanese official said Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had decided to leave on Tuesday for a day of last-ditch talks in Washington.

The official said Hashimoto spoke to US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor for just under an hour on Monday and would probably meet him and other officials in Washington.

## WB urged to commence lending to energy sector in Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, Sept 27: Special envoy of Bangladesh Prime Minister M. Morshed Khan has urged the World Bank, Vice President Joseph Wood to immediately commence lending to the energy sector in Bangladesh, which according to him, was one of the major constraints to industrialisation, according to a message received here, reports BSS.

The special envoy, who met the World Bank vice president and two other senior officials at a luncheon, project like gas infrastructure development project (GIDP) would certainly facilitate creation of proper infrastructure necessary to attract foreign investors besides fulfilling the indigenous demand for domestic usages and economic development.

Joseph Wood informed Khan of the conclusion of the gas infrastructure development project (GIDP) last week. He said that the World Bank decided to provide US dollar 120.8 million out of 161.8 million required for the implementation of the project. Wood expressed the view that strong reform measures to establish discipline in the power sector was a key to creating conditions for domestic as well as foreign investment.

Khan passed a very busy day yesterday meeting some of the high officials of the state department. He met Allen Larson, deputy assistant secretary, International finance division, Joanna Shelton, deputy assistant secretary, trade and commercial affairs and Timothy Carney, deputy assistant secretary, Bureau of South Asian Affairs, department of state.

He also met the Washington bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal, Tim Carrington Khan explained various issues related to economic development and investment opportunities in Bangladesh during the discussions.

Discussing the general investment climate created by various reforms measures in Bangladesh, here yesterday.

## Africa likely to record higher growth this year

HARARE, Sept 27: Africa, long the world's sick child, will record higher growth this year than some other regions — the first time this will have happened since the start of this decade, Zimbabwe's biggest bank said yesterday, reports Reuters.

Standard Chartered Bank, in a report on a continent hamstrung by foreign debt, poverty and war, said Africa's growth would be fuelled by an increase in commodity prices on global markets and faster world trade growth.

It pegged African economic growth this year 3.4 per cent and said this would accelerate to 4.5 per cent next year. This compared with Latin America's expected 2.6 per cent growth this year and three per cent each for the Middle East and southern Europe this year.

"Indeed for the first time since 1990, the African economy will grow faster than some other developing regions, suggesting that the worst may now be over," the bank said.

The OFA zone countries stood to gain primarily from a sharp devaluation of their currency in January, while southern Africa would steam ahead on the back of better prices for its copper, nickel and a better-than-expected tobacco crop from Zimbabwe and Malawi.



Movement of all modes of transports excepting paddle rickshaws virtually came to a standstill yesterday in the city following dawn to dusk road and rail barricade of the mainstream opposition parties. The photo shows parked rickshaws in front of the Stadium Market for want of business activities. — Star photo

## Spiralling inflation hits Lebanon

BEIRUT, Sept 27: The Lebanese government, which has embarked on a costly post-war reconstruction, is facing mounting pressure from political, religious and labour leaders who warn the country is on the brink of social explosion because of spiralling inflation, reports AFP.

"People are hurting and cannot take more and more promises," said Elias Abu Rizk, head of the 400,000-strong General Confederations of Trade (CGTL), which is threatening nationwide strikes and demonstrations.

The CGTL is demanding an 88 per cent pay rise, claiming that prices have risen by an average of 155 per cent between early 1992 and mid-1994.

The Association of Lebanese Banks reported a 12 per cent inflation rate for the first seven months of the year and said the country's economy was stagnating.

The head of the Maronite church, Lebanon's largest Christian community, has also joined the fray, charging in a recent Sunday sermon that "clouds of hunger" hung over Lebanon.

Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berry meanwhile called on the government to declare "a state of economic emergency."

"We must take urgent steps to fight against the cost of living and monopolise and give priority to readjusting monthly wages in order to restore the people's dignity," he said, adding that ignoring the situation would make things worse.

For Rima, a cleaning woman who earns the equivalent of around 10 dollars a day, the worst has already arrived.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
P.W.D Division, Gopalganj

### Auction Notice

No 8 of 1994-95 (9th Call)

Fresh auction in sealed covers are hereby invited in prescribed proforma to be supplied by this Department from all classes of approved contractors/firms under PWD and any other intending persons for the undermentioned materials and will be received by the undersigned and all the Executive Engineer, under PWD Circle, Barisal up to 12-00 Noon of 10-10-94 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the auctioneer who may like to remain present. Each auction shall be in a sealed covers with name of materials (as shown in) superscribed on it. The auction tender will be sold up to 9-10-94.

- Name of Work :- Auction of survey reported coal as per Group List (as is where it is basis) as it is lying in the stack yard under PWD Sub-Division, Gopalganj.
- Earliest money: Tk. 10% (Ten per cent) of the quoted amount.
- Time allowed for removal of the auction materials from the date of issue of delivery order : 30 (thirty) days.
- The earnest money should be submitted along with the auction paper in Pratirakha Sanchaya Patra or 5-year B.D Sanchaya Patra or Bonus Sanchaya Patra duly pledged in T.C or C.D from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Gopalganj must accompany each tender.
- Prescribed proforma, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and have from the office of the undersigned and from the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Barisal/Bhola/Patuakhali/Perajpur/Madanpur/Jhalakathi/Borguna/Shariatpur on all working days up to the last date of selling on payment of usual charges of Tk 400/00 for prescribed proforma & additional terms and conditions & Tk 25/= for each copy of BD Form No 2911.

S.M.A. Mannan  
Executive Engineer  
P.W.D Division, Gopalganj

DDP-5132-229  
G-1482

## India to offer \$1.33b worth of equity in public sector

NEW DELHI, Sept 27: The Indian government will soon offer 40 billion rupees (1.33 billion dollars) worth of equity in the public sector as part of a cautious privatisation programme, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh said here, reports AFP.

Singh told reporters here the cabinet had given the go-ahead for the sale and "in the next two months steps will be taken" to put the process in motion.

He said Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government is committed to progressively reducing to 49 per cent its stake in the public sector, which includes more than 200 companies cutting across all sectors of the economy.

"We have to think of a more ambitious divestment programme," Singh said, suggesting that proceeds from the sale of public sector equity could be used to retire government debt and reduce its interest burden.

The money raised from off-loading a modest portion of public sector equity has so far been used to cut budget deficits.

A government-appointed panel has called for bolder privatisation measures, saying as much as 76 per cent of government holding in select firms could be put on the block, Singh said, adding: "The proposal needs examination."

Government-run companies, many of which are heavily overstaffed, are involved in such critical sectors as mining, oil, telecommunications, steel, aviation, shipbuilding, railways, hotels and bus transport.

Successive governments have poured more than 40 billion dollars since 1947 into the gigantic public sector, but returns have rarely exceeded one per cent or two per cent.

## Cuba pulls \$1.23b pesos so far

HAVANA, Sept 27: Cuba's efforts to reduce an excess of pesos in circulation are having an effect, with almost 10 per cent of excess liquidity soaked up in the last three months, Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez was quoted as saying yesterday, reports Reuters.

## Beximco declares 35 pc dividend

The eighteenth Annual General Meeting of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd. was held yesterday at Sonargaon Hotel, says a press release.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd earned a gross profit of Tk 24.75 crore on total sales of Tk. 121.31 crore during the period April-December '93. Company earned net profit of Tk. 13.32 crore and contributed Tk. 21.36 crore to the national exchequer. A dividend of 35 pc i.e. Tk. 26.25 per share was declared in the meeting.

The company also declared 10 pc interim dividend based on the January-June 1994 half yearly performance.

The shareholders were highly satisfied with company's continued growth both in terms of turnover and profit. The company attained sales growth of 50 per cent during the period over the previous year.

The meeting was presided over by ASF Rahman, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Salman F Rahman, Managing Director and other directors attended the meeting.

## OPEC chief off to S Arabia for talks

MANAMA, Sept 27: OPEC President Abdullah Al-Badri of Libya headed for Saudi Arabia from Bahrain on Tuesday in pursuit of his discussions on OPEC and Arab affairs.

Badri, Libya's Oil Minister and acting Secretary-General of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), told Reuters as he left that he would head for Oman after his talks in the kingdom. He also plans to go to Kuwait.

The minister has been seeking OPEC member opinions on whether the group should roll over its current 24.52 million barrel per day production ceiling into the first part of next year when it meets in Bali, Indonesia, on November 21.

He repeated that it was too early to say whether a roll over was the preferred option. "There are still 1-1/2 months to go (till Bali)," he said.

But he noted that one of the reasons for his tour was to review the roll over question.

Badri had said in Qatar that 18 to 20 US dollars a barrel was a good target for OPEC to shoot for in setting its production policy. He clarified in Bahrain that he was referring to the average price for OPEC's basket of seven crudes, not the Brent price.

That is somewhat more ambitious than seeking 18-20 US dollar on Brent, since the OPEC basket has averaged about 35 cents a barrel less than Brent this year.

The OPEC basket last week was 15.54 US dollar a barrel, November futures for North Sea Brent closed on Monday at the 16.51, dollar though this reflected a strong rise over the past few days.

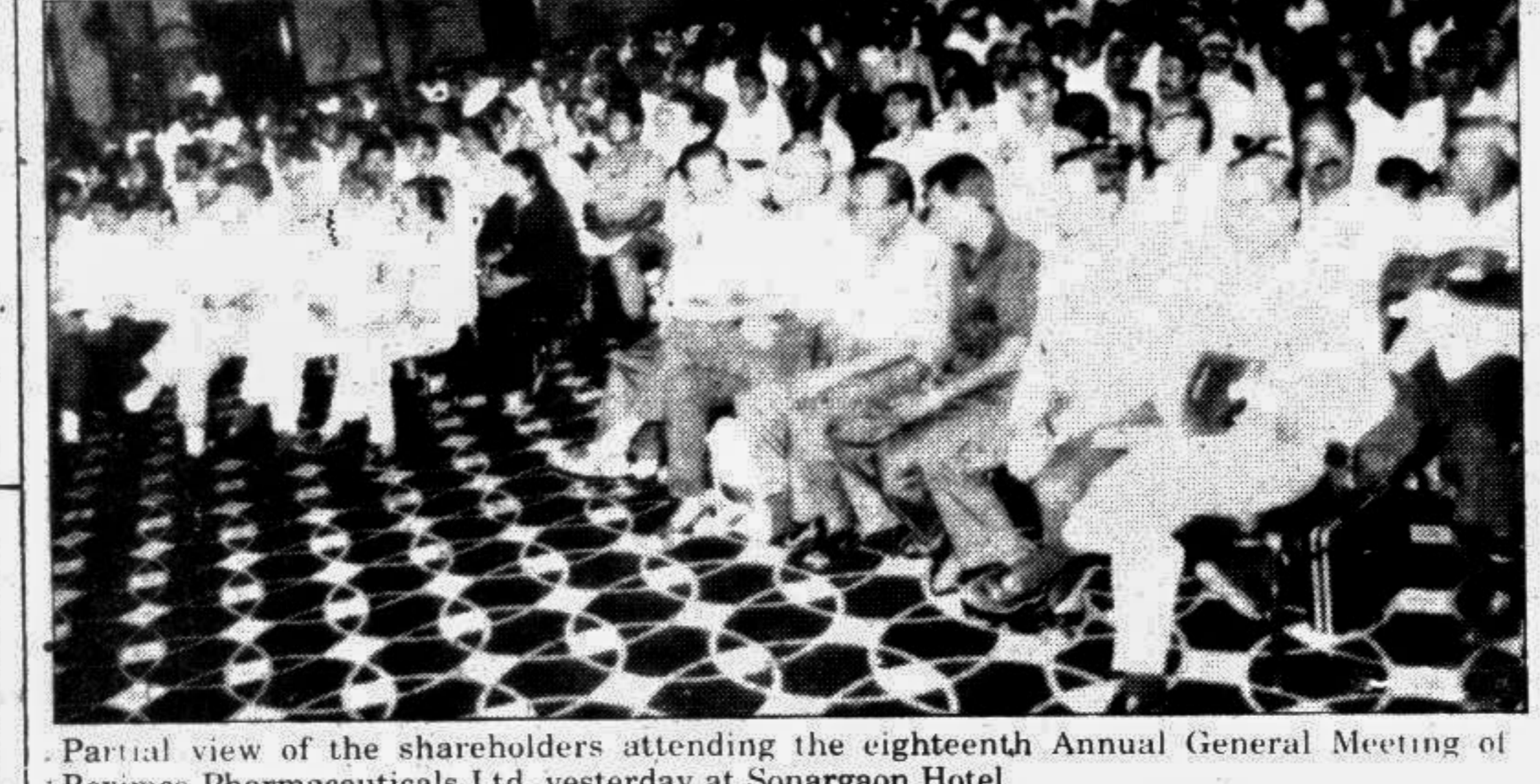
**BIBM workshop concludes**

A 3-day Workshop on Financial Institutions' Risk Analysis, organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) was concluded in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Among other things the objectives of the workshop were to identify and measure the risks inherent in the management of financial institutions in market environment and how to reduce those risk for profitable management of the financial institutions.

The Director General of BIBM, AHM Nurul Islam Choudhuri, presided over the concluding session and gave away certificates to the participants.

Speaking on the occasion Choudhuri, briefly explained the importance of the workshop for the bank officers and urged them to find out and manage risks of the financial institutions properly.



Partial view of the shareholders attending the eighteenth Annual General Meeting of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd. yesterday at Sonargaon Hotel.

## IMF, World Bank under pressure to change policies

BRUSSELS, Sept 27: In Poland, coal miners went on strike for higher pay. In Venezuela, thousands rioted against price increases for food. In Jordan, protesters went on a rampage after gasoline prices were raised, says AP.

Whether in Eastern Europe, the Middle East or Latin America, demonstrators have raged in recent years against "shock therapy" programmes prescribed for sick economies by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Having made scores of enemies in their first 50 years, the institutions are facing demands for a radical overhaul to strip away some of their powers — and even "ferce infighting" — on the way ahead.

"Despite repeated criticism, the institutions remain two of the world's most powerful, lending billions of dollars annually to countries struggling to regain economic health."

"The IMF and World Bank combined are examples of the greatest success of international cooperation over the last 50 years," said Catherine Gwin of the Overseas Development Council, a Washington research group.

Even so, some say the two should be merged since they do similar work in promoting economic development. Others want them drastically curtailed because of tough programmes imposed on the poor.

And a blue-ribbon panel headed by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker wants to give the IMF new tools to improve the economic performance of the world's rich nations.

The Bretton Woods Commission, made up of 47 experts in international economics, called on the Fund to help industrial nations coordinate economic policies and smooth fluctuations in their currencies.

The organisations have strayed far from the roles assigned them at a July 1944 conference held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to create a new economic order out of the ruins of World War II.

The IMF was created to monitor a new monetary system, and the World Bank to provide economic aid for war-ravaged Europe.

In the 1980s, the IMF backed by the World Bank, took on controversial work when it rescued bankrupt Latin American nations.

In the early 1990s, the two were pressed to help former communist nations in Eastern Europe remodel their economies into free-market systems.

Some say the challenge of Eastern Europe, especially giant Russia, will be the most taxing in the years ahead.

The remarking of those economies "runs the danger of ending in the financial and moral ruin of the IMF," cautioned Marcus Lusser, President of Switzerland's influential central bank.

Since their founding, the IMF and World Bank have provided well over 400 billion dollars to nations in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

A pivotal moment came in August 1982 when Mexico declared it could not make payments on its multibillion-dollar foreign debt.

Destitute, it appealed to the IMF.

"They lend you money when nobody else will," said Jose Angel Gurria, Mexican debt negotiator during the crisis.

After lengthy bargaining, the Fund gave Mexico an aid package to tide it over. In all, it has received 35.7 billion dollars from the two organisations.

Similar rescue plans have been arranged for others in Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. The World Bank has chipped in for roads, ports and other projects.

But politically unpopular conditions have been attached to the aid.

Recipient nations have had to repair their economies by slashing inflation rates, curbing red-ink spending and lifting trade barriers. Only if they do so will private banks and foreign governments move in.

The measures have led to recession, soaring unemployment rates and drops in living standards.

Jeffrey Sachs, a Harvard University professor who has advised governments in IMF negotiations, gives the Fund a mediocre rating on efforts to help bankrupt nations.

It should provide more money sooner, he said in a telephone interview. "More generous and timely aid would make possible larger steps of reform and help countries get through a very difficult phase."

Others criticise the "shock therapy" conditions imposed on the poor.

"We have seen a deepening (and) a broadening of poverty around the world," said Douglas Hellingger of Development Group for Alternative Policies in Washington.

The Bank responds it has helped raise life expectancy, reduce illiteracy and boost incomes worldwide. It recently reported, though, "more than a billion people continue to subsist on less than a dollar a day."

"To be sure, adjustment is difficult," World Bank President Lewis Preston told The Associated Press in Washington.

"But I got news for you: Lack of adjustment is worse..." he said. "If you let the failed financial policies of those countries go on, there's going to be more suffering."

Ghana, which has received 4.1 billion dollar in World Bank-IMF aid, is one of the few African nations making a turnaround.

Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, Ghana's Ambassador to the United States, said the government cushioned the economic reforms with special health, education and jobs programmes for the poor.

Even so, a report by the British aid group Oxfam said, "In Ghana, the star pupil of both the World Bank and the IMF, the average citizen will not cross the poverty line for another half century."

**বিজেএমসি বিজ্ঞাপন**  
**পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

মহাবাহাদুর, যশোর জুট ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড, রাজঘাট, যশোর কর্তৃক ১০২.০০ মেঃ টন ন্যারো লুম জুট কাডিস ও ৪০.০০ মেঃ টন বড় লুম জুট কাডিস সর্বমোট ১৭২.০০ মেঃ টন কাডিস বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে খাতনামা, ব্যবসায়ীদের নিকট হইতে সীমাহীনকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

শর্তাবলীঃ— (১) মাল পত্রের রশিদ দিয়া কাটা বেল আকারে টিন সেড ও যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ঐভাবে ক্রেতার নিজ খরচে নৌকা/ট্রাকে সরবরাহ নিতে হইবে। (২) বড় ও ন্যারো লুম কাডিসের মূল্য আলাদা আলাদাভাবে প্রতি কুইন্টাল অথবা মেঃ টন হিসাবে অর্কে এবং কথায় উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে উক্ত মূল্য প্রচলিত ট্যাটসহ বা বাদে তাহাও উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে। উল্লেখিত রেটের উপরে কোন প্রকার কাটা বা ঘষা গ্রহণ করা হইবে না। (৩) মালের প্রস্তাবিত মোট মূল্যের ১০% টাকা জামানত হিসাবে জমিৎ অথবা পে-অর্ডার আকারে মিলের অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্রদাতাকে তাহার/তাদের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ইনকাম ট্যাক্স ক্রিয়ামূল সাট্রিফিকেট ও ব্যাংক সসভেন্দী সাট্রিফিকেট দিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না। (৪) দরপত্র বিজেএমসি, খুলনা আঞ্চলিক অফিসে রক্ষিত বাস্তব ১০ই অক্টোবর '৯৪ইং তারিখের বেলা ১২-০০ টার মধ্যে দাখিল করিতে হইবে এবং ঐদিনই বেলা ১২-৩০ মিঃ সময়ে দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে যেদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। আর্থী কেতা ইচ্ছা করিলে দরপত্র দেওয়ার পূর্ব দিন পর্যন্ত মিলের কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে মিলে আসিয়া মাল পরিদর্শন করিতে পারিবেন। টেন্ডার গ্রহণের ৭(সাত) দিনের মধ্যে সম্পূর্ণ মূল্য পরিশোধ করিয়া পরবর্তী ১৫(পনের) দিনের মধ্যে মাল যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ঐভাবে ডেলিভারী লইতে হইবে অন্যথায় জামানতের টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হইবে এবং চুক্তিপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। (৫) মিল কর্তৃপক্ষ/বিজেএমসি সমস্ত অথবা যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিজেএমসি  
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