

Japanese minister says US trade report contains misrepresentation of facts

TOKYO, Apr 7: Japanese Trade Minister Shunpei Tsukahara criticized the annual US trade report, saying it contains "misrepresentation of facts" and supports unilateral measures against trading partners, reports AP.

Speaking at a regular news conference, Tsukahara said the report does not abide by the spirit of international trade rules set out by the World Trade Organization.

Japan drew special attention, along with China, in the US Trade Representative's annual foreign trade barriers report, issued Monday. It said Japan had made progress in easing barriers in areas such as autos, auto parts, cellular phones and flat glass, but

added that areas including insurance and photographic film are a cause for concern.

A detailed report issued later by Tsukahara's ministry said the foreign share of Japan's semiconductor market had been abolished by 1976.

The ministry also rebuffed US claims that foreign car dealerships have shown slower-than-expected growth in Japan since a bilateral agreement was struck last summer on autos and auto parts. It said American companies need to try harder.

European automakers, which have made many efforts for greater access to the Japanese market, have been successful, it added.

Despite his criticism of some aspects of the report, Tsukahara said it is "extremely meaningful" that Japan and the United States point out problems in their trading relations in these reports and try to solve them in a constructive manner.

His ministry has released its own report alleging unfair practices by trading partners in which it criticized Washington for taking unilateral measures.

Tsukahara's criticism follows a series of recent comments by Japanese trade officials favoring multilateral trade negotiations within the WTO framework while criticizing Washington for unilaterally adopting sanctions against other nations.

Washington, meanwhile, has been boosting pressure on Japan for progress in settling disputes on insurance, photo film and semiconductors before the scheduled visit to Tokyo by President Clinton in mid-April.

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cent in 1995.

According to Li, the main challenges will come from a sharp rise in the number of new labourers over the next few years.

Jobs created by economic growth will hardly meet the demand for work, Li admitted adding that while unemployment was a concern to any government, in a country as populous as China "it has always been a serious problem, and will become even more so in the future."

China has more than 10 million additional people entering the job market every year, and in one assessment in January, the labour ministry acknowledged that only 38 million of the 54 million entering the market over the next five years were likely to find work.

Rajshahi Road Division, Rajshahi

China faces growing unemployment pressure

BEIJING, Apr 7: A rapid rise in the number of labourers entering the Chinese market as well as increasing state sector redundancies will see China's urban unemployment woes worsen over the next five years, reports said yesterday, according to AP.

At a national conference on employment held in Beijing on Saturday Labour Minister Li Boyong urged the adoption of a series of measures aimed at holding the rising urban jobless rate at 3.2 per cent this year.

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Rajshahi Road Division, Rajshahi

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Rajshahi Road Division, Rajshahi

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No 15 RHD of 1995-96 Eng.
2. Name of work Protection of road embankment on the bank of the river Barnoye by providing brick matressing at 23rd KM of Puthia-Bagmara Road under RHD Road Division, Rajshahi during the year 1995-96.
3. Chargeable head 266-C/A.
4. Estimated cost Tk 33,59,035/-
5. Earnest money Tk 67,181/-
6. Time allowed for completion of work 60 (Sixty) days from the date of issue of work order.
7. Eligibility of bidder RHD enlisted contractor of general category from "A" to "C" as per rule.
8. Last date for selling tender documents Up to 15-4-96 Eng/2-1-1403 Beng during office hours.
9. Last date & time for receiving tenders 16-4-96 Eng/3-1-1403 Beng. up to 12-30 PM.
10. Date & time for opening tenders 18-4-96 Eng/5-1-1403 Beng at 11-00 AM.
11. Name of offices where tender documents will be sold i) Executive Engineer, RHD, Rajshahi Road Division, Rajshahi. ii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Pabna Road Division, Pabna. iii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Nawabganj Road Division, Nawabganj. iv) Executive Engineer, RHD, Naogaon Road Division, Naogaon. v) Executive Engineer, RHD, Planning Division (Roads & Bridges), Sarah Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. vi) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Banani, Dhaka. vii) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division-I/II/III, Rajshahi. viii) Asst Engineer, RHD, 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Rajshahi.

9. Last date & time for receiving tenders 10. Date & time for opening tenders 11. Name of offices where tender documents will be sold
12. Name of offices where tenders will be received

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 for the work are hereby invited from the enlisted RHD contractors of general category recording their financial limit & will be received by the office mentioned above on the date & time fixed for opening of the tenders.

Tender documents, consisting of BD Form No 2911, notice inviting tenders, schedule of items of works, instruction to the contractor, additional terms & conditions, materials specification, technical specifications of work & particulars of contractors etc will be available for sale in the offices mentioned above during office hours on all working days up to the last date for selling tender documents at usual RHD rate. The tenders will be opened on the date & time fixed for the same in presence of intending tenderers or their authorised representative who may like to remain present.

To ascertain availability of local materials, labour/skilled labour, carrying facilities, transports of materials, situation of the work, the services required to fulfil the contractual obligation etc it is advised to purchase tender documents well ahead of the last date of selling tenders.

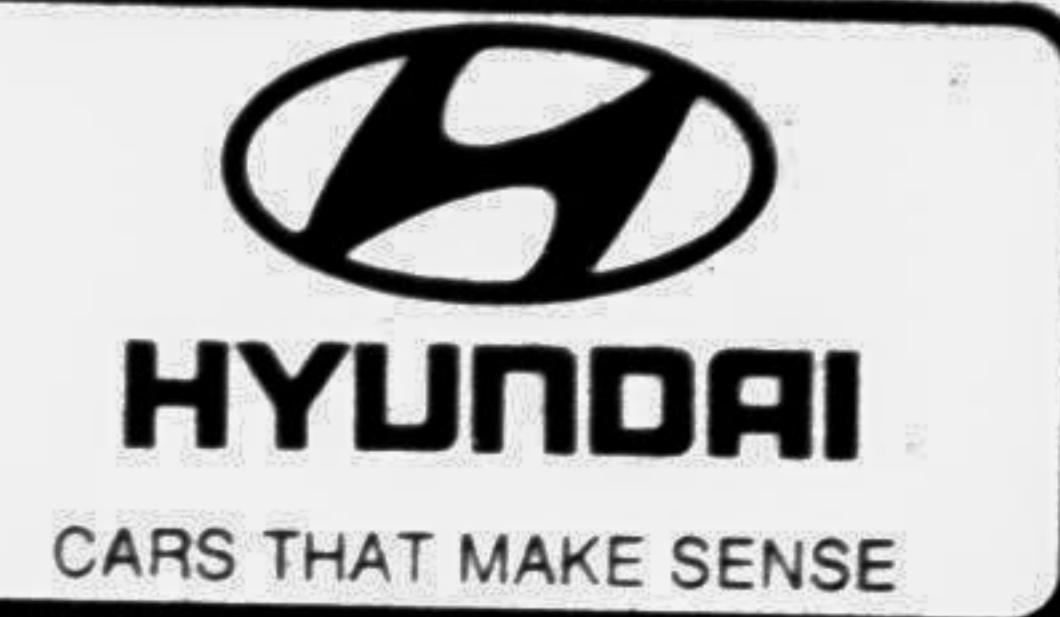
M A Salam
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Rajshahi.

DDP-6727-8/4
G-432

The Daily Star

BUSINESS

DIKSHA MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1996



US releases '96 report on foreign trade barriers

WASHINGTON, Apr 7: US Trade Representative's annual report on foreign trade barriers once again devotes the longest section to Japan, and for the first time, includes a section on Hong Kong, reports USIS.

The 350-page 1996 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE), released April 1 in Washington, lists all "significant" obstacles that restrict US exports as well as those of other countries.

The NTE provides the road map that we will be using in the coming months to ensure full implementation of our trade agreements, and vigorous enforcement efforts against barriers to US exports," Jennifer Hillman, the US Trade Representative's general counsel, said on release of the report.

The United States uses two important trade laws. Under the "Special 301" provision, the US Trade Representative (USTR) must, within 30 days of the NTE report, identify countries that fail to provide adequate protection for intellectual property rights (IPR), or that deny market access to persons who rely on IPR protection.

European countries' commitment to curbing budget deficits has also left them with very limited room for manoeuvre to make the kind of cuts in payroll taxes which they acknowledge are needed to lower the cost of labour.

Smuggling of frozen beef from Europe: 10 arrested

CONAKRY, Apr 7: Police arrested about 10 people Saturday on suspicion of smuggling in several tonnes of frozen beef from Europe, in defiance of an import ban, police said.

The smuggled beef is transported in container ships to the port of Conakry and sold in markets in the Guinean capital, police added.

An AFP Correspondent in Conakry said that several of the illicit cartons of beef carried labels saying "produce of Ireland."

Police said they were continuing their investigations in the hope of tracking down those behind the trafficking network.

Following suggestions there could be a link between 'mad cow' disease and a rare but fatal brain disorder among humans, the European Union last month imposed a worldwide ban on British beef, where 99 per cent of all known cases have occurred.

Several African countries, including Guinea, have also banned imports of beef from other European countries.

Cattle remains Another report from London says the British government is considering dumping at sea the remains of cattle slaughtered in the campaign to combat so-called mad cow disease, a press report said here Sunday.

The Sunday Telegraph, quoting a government source, said the idea was being studied because British abattoirs could not handle the destruction of more than 1,200 beasts every week.

But Kantor made the announcement April 3 in his annual review of compliance by other countries with US telecom trade agreements, as required by the 1988 Trade Act.

USTR reviews telecom pacts with Mexico, Korea, Japan

WASHINGTON, Apr 7: US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor says he will seek a dispute-settlement panel under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) over Mexico's delay in accepting US product safety test data for US telecommunications terminals, says USIS.

Kantor made the announcement April 3 in his annual review of compliance by other countries with US telecom trade agreements, as required by the 1988 Trade Act.

There has been little rainfall in the American prairies.

The winter wheat crop, which is already sown, could be damaged. And the dry conditions could also affect the seeding for maize, which is due to take place soon.

In Europe, prices also advanced, because of the cold weather which threatens to disrupt the sowing of spring wheat and thus delay the summer crop. In London, the price of wheat rose by four pounds to 125 pounds.

COTTON: Tight. Cotton manufacturers and traders are worried about the lack of good-quality cotton supplies. This pushed prices higher, and the cotton output price indicator advanced one pence to 83 pence per kilogram.

Experts believe that the rains which recently fell on Argentine cotton plantations could affect the quality of the crop there. And it is this region that traders had hoped would make up the deficit in good-quality cotton on the US market.

WOOL: Calm. The Australian wool market has ground to a halt for Easter, with no auctions in the country this week. In Britain, prices remained at 444 pence per kilogram.

Libya, Iran begin talks on oil cooperation

LONDON, Apr 7: Libyan and Iranian officials began talks Saturday in Tripoli on oil cooperation, Libyan television, monitored by the BBC, reported, says AFP.

The talks were attended by the Secretary-General of Libya's General People's Committee for Energy and the Iranian deputy oil minister whom the television named as Nejat Hadi.

The television said the secretary of Libya's National Petroleum Corporation and Iran's Ambassador to Libya also took part in the talks it gave no further details of what was discussed.

MIG manufacturer making more civilian planes

MOSCOW, Apr 7: The maker of MIG fighters is stepping up production of light civilian planes to make up for a drop in demand for the Russian warplanes, the firm's director said, reports AP.

A statement released at the end of the G7 meeting in Lille, northern France, urged further moves to cut payroll and tax and social system changes to encourage employment.

If there is movement, the pace is very slow, uneven, but the force behind it is also very large. It's likely to make progress over time," Daniel Gros, an economist at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, said.

The policy challenges

Europe should move fast to dent unemployment rate: Economists

PARIS, Apr 7: European countries are edging forward in their battle against mass unemployment, but the changes may be too slow to allow them to keep pace with other economies in an era of world trade liberalisation, reports Reuter.

At a meeting of the Group of Seven rich nations this week, European ministers acknowledged they would have to seek a third way between the United States' free labour markets and their own relatively protected — and expensive — workforces. But economists say they have to start now with more radical reforms than seen so far if they are to dent an unemployment rate of nearly 11 per cent.

One economist noted that unemployment has tended to worsen more in time of recession than it improved in times of growth, threatening spiralling unemployment rates.

Globalisation in world trade has also intensified fears of competition from cheaper labour in developing countries.

"We are looking at a world much more integrated economically, low wage competition is becoming even more of a force, we have to adjust to that," Holger Schmid, an economist at Merrill Lynch in Frankfurt, said.

Along with globalisation, Europe must also confront what the OECD has dubbed the "creative destruction" ushered in by new technology — comparable to the economic upheaval that accompanied the 19th century industrial revolution.

Europe must be defended worldwide, government spokesman Alain Lamassoure quoted him as saying.

France was crippled by a public sector strike at the end of last year when the government tried to force through reforms to its welfare system and civil service pensions.

European countries' commitment to curbing budget deficits has also left them with very limited room for manoeuvre to make the kind of cuts in payroll taxes which they acknowledge are needed to lower the cost of labour.

The United States uses two important trade laws. Under the "Special 301" provision, the US Trade Representative (USTR) must, within 30 days of the NTE report, identify countries that fail to provide adequate protection for intellectual property rights (IPR), or that deny market access to persons who rely on IPR protection.

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