

APEC officials open meet on free trade

MANILA, Oct 18: Senior officials of 18 Pacific rim economies opened their last meeting Friday ahead of a November 25 summit in the Philippines with a proposal to set an October 30 deadline for members to submit individual free trade blueprints, reports AFP.

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Federico Macaranas, the chairman of the meeting, told delegates they needed to show progress soon to avoid disappointing their constituents.

The Individual Action Plans (IAPs), would show how each Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum member will open up their economies in line with commitments made in 1994 to allow free trade within the group by 2010 for developed countries and 2020 for developing members.

APEC includes trading powers: the United States, Japan, China, Canada, Australia, South Korea and Taiwan and 11 other Asian and Latin American economies.

He said the senior officials expected to soon receive from each economy a two-page summary or highlights of their IAPs and that they plan to set an October 30 deadline for the submission of all IAPs.

Expansion work of Padma Textiles begins

Padma Textile Mills Ltd on Thursday started implementing a Taka 1250 million project to expand the mills, says a press release.

Under the project, an additional spinning facility of 50,400 spindles will be set up in the mills.

It will help increase the mills present capacity by 73 per cent.

World's 1.3b people live in extreme poverty: UNDP

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 18: The world has the resources and the skills to help 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty but lacks the political and financial will to do so, a senior UN official said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Inaugurating the international year for the eradication of poverty, James Gustave Speth said it was necessary "to launch a global crusade to eliminate poverty."

"We have the resources the know-how. We just need the momentum, the political support and the financial support to do it," said Speth, head of the UN Development Programme.

A highlight of the day's ceremonies was a commemorative stone presented by France for the victims of extreme poverty, saying that poverty was not inevitable. Children then placed small colourful precious stones near it in the UN garden.

Speth said that government aid had fallen 25 per cent in the last four years while private investment increased. But 80 per cent of such investment to developing nations was directed

to 12 medium-income countries. "There is no correlation between direct foreign investment and real need," he said.

He noted that fast-growing economies like Malaysia once received aid. "Behind the Asian miracle was a long period of development cooperation," he said.

In the United States once the world's largest donor, foreign aid has dropped 40 per cent in real terms since 1985 and according to US statistics, Washington provides less than 20 per cent of the world's foreign assistance.

According to UN documents one out of every five people in the world suffers from debilitation poverty which means a lack of material resources as well as control over land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections.

The gap between rich and poor is widening both within countries and between developed and developing nations. The income ratio between the richest 20 per cent and the poorest 20 per cent was 30=1 in 1960. It had increased to 61:1 by

1991.

The largest concentration of severely impoverished people live in southern Asia — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. And among industrial countries in western Europe and the United States 15 per cent of the population live below national poverty lines.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, now travelling in Germany, said in a statement that a concerted effort was required to integrate the least developed countries in the mainstream of the global economy.

"At the national level policies to enhance overall competitiveness must be accompanied by targeted programmes and projects that combat social exclusion expand social services and stimulate productive employment," he said.

"At all levels there is a pressing need to recognise that the poor can be key partners in the development process and that investments in people are the surest way to lasting development," he said.

Paris Club cuts \$4b debt for Egypt

PARIS, Oct 18: The Paris Club of creditor nations approved four billion dollars in debt relief for Egypt that was initially planned for 1994, a source close to the group said Thursday, reports AP.

The Paris Club sent a letter to Egypt Wednesday with notification of the approval, which had been held up for two years, the source said on customary anonymity.

A Paris Club spokesman was not immediately available to comment.

The approval, which was expected to come several days after the International Monetary Fund approved 391 million dollars in new standby credit for Egypt to support the country's economic reforms.

Egypt and the IMF had reached a tentative agreement on Sept. 8 regarding the country's economic reforms, paving the way for the new accord.

In 1991, the Paris Club agreed to write off 50 per cent of Egypt's debt to the group, with the reduction to be phased in over three years.

The group wrote off roughly three billion dollars of Egypt's debt in May 1991 and the same amount in 1993, but suspended the planned 1994 reduction because of the lack of an IMF standby agreement at that time.

The 1994 amount represents 20 per cent of Egypt's total Paris Club debt, about four billion dollars. The debt forgiveness is expected to save Egypt 350 million dollars a year in interest payments.

Egypt foreign debt burden, before the writeoff, totalled about 32.5 billion dollars.

ADB okays \$45.6m loan to Indonesia

MANILA, Oct 18: The Asian Development Bank has approved two loans worth 45.6 million dollars to Indonesia for a conservation and development project designed to restore the ecosystem of the last mangrove complex on Java Island, reports AP.

The project will benefit 12,000 residents of four poverty-stricken villages who rely on the Segara Anakan lagoon for their subsistence, and an additional 13,000 people from two nearby towns who fish the coastal waters, the Manila-based bank said Thursday.

The Segara Anakan is rich in fish, shrimp, crabs and other aquatic products and is also a source of mangrove wood and other wood by-products. But soil erosion induced by natural and human causes threatens to fill the lagoon in 10 years if it is not stopped.

The project will include water resource management, sedimentation control and community development, the bank said.

The ADB loan will cover 60 per cent of the project's total cost of 76.89 million dollars, with the Indonesian government providing the rest.

One loan worth 22.8 million dollars will come from the bank's special funds. The interest-free loan will have an annual service charge of one per cent and is repayable over 35 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

The other loan for the same amount will come from the bank's ordinary capital resources and will be repayable over 25 years, including a grace period of five years. Interest will be computed on the bank's pool-based variable lending system.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka Housing Division-1

Section No 2, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

Re-Tender Notice No-3/1996-97

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are hereby invited from Housing Directorate's Special 1st Class/Public Works Directorate's Special 1st Class/Roads & Highways Directorate's 'A' class general/MES's 'A' class/RAJUK's 'A' class & Dhaka City Corporation's 'A' Class. enlisted upto date renewed contractors for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Housing Circle, Segunbagicha, Dhaka/the undersigned/Executive Engineer, Dhaka Housing Division-2, Mohamudpur, Dhaka/Public Works Eden Building Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka/City Public Works Division, Dhaka/any Division approved by Chairman & Chief Engineer, RAJUK up to 12:00 Noon of 29-10-96, and opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence (if any) of the contractors. Relevant papers of tender can be purchased on any day during office hours up to 27.10.96 from the office of the undersigned/Executive Engineer, Dhaka Housing Division-2, Mohamudpur, Dhaka/Public Works, Eden Building Division/City Public Works Division/Bank approved by the Chairman & Chief Engineer, RAJUK at Taka 1000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable) per set and details in this regard can be obtained. Earnest money should be enclosed with the tender through Barik Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, Dhaka Housing Division-1, Mirpur, Dhaka. Contractors having permanent security money should deduct the security money from the earnest money and deposit Bank Draft for the remaining amount. Interested contractors shall have to purchase the tender from the Division concerned on production of upto date renewed contractor's licence, VAT registration certificate etc. and must have to attach attested photocopies of all related papers with the tender. Any eligible contractor can participate in all groups, but, one contractor being successful in more than one group will not be given work of more than 1 (one) group.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for completion of work
1.	Land development work at under implementation 'Benarasi Palli' area of Bangladesh Handloom Board under the Ministry of Textiles at Section-17, Mirpur, Dhaka under Dhaka Housing Division-1, during 1996-97 financial year.			
	Group No 3	Tk. 1,99,51,488/-	Tk. 3,99,030/-	120 (one hundred twenty) days
	Group No 4	Tk. 1,96,17,528/-	Tk. 3,92,350/-	120 (one hundred twenty) days

Md. Abdus Sabur
Executive Engineer, Dhaka Housing Division-1
Section No 2, Mirpur, Dhaka, Telephone: 9000062

DFP-22720-8/10
G-1267

Japan's trade surplus falls 30pc

TOKYO, Oct 18: Fast growth in imports at the expense of exports pushed Japan's merchandise trade surplus down 30 per cent in September from the same month a year ago, the government said Friday, reports AP.

September's unadjusted surplus — measured as goods pass customs but before adjustment for seasonal factors — was 779.52 billion yen (6.95 billion dollars), compared to 1.118 trillion yen (9.96 billion dollars) in September 1995.

The drop was basically in line with economists' expectations.

Meanwhile, Japan's surplus for the first half of the current fiscal year dropped 42 per cent to 2,902 trillion yen (25.86 billion dollars) from the same period last year, the Finance Ministry said.

Japan's trade surplus remains on a declining trend, a ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

The official said import volume has continuously expanded

more than three years in a row, outpacing the increase in the volume of exports.

Imports in September grew 15 per cent, while exports only increased by 1.4 per cent.

Japan's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States fell 8.5 per cent to 398.85 billion yen (3.55 billion dollars) from last year, falling for the 19th straight month.

The surplus with the European Union fell 36 per cent in September, while the imbalance with Asia narrowed 27 per cent.

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Bagerhat

Tender Notice
No. 14/96-97

Dated: 9-10-96

Tenders are hereby invited from Importers/Agents/Dealers/Suppliers in sealed envelope for purchasing Pick-up (Single Cabrio) under Coastal Greenbelt Project as per schedule of requirement specification.

Name of Goods with quantity	Description of Goods	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of schedule	Place of delivery	Time allowed for delivery
Pick-Up (one)	Completely new latest Model, 2000-4500CC (Petrol/Diesel) 4-6 Cylinder, 4WD with 3 seats of single Cabin	Tk. 1210000/- (Twelve lakh ten thousand) only	2.5% of the quoted amount	Tk. 500/- (Five hundred) only	Bagerhat	1 (one) month from the date of work order.

- Tenders will be received in the name of the undersigned on 29th October, 1996 till 12-00 Noon at the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Bagerhat, Office of the Conservator of Forests, Jessore Circle, Shekhati, Dhaka Road, Jessore and Office of the Project Director, Coastal Green Belt Project, Banbhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka and tenders will be opened on the same day in presence of tenderer (if any one remains present) at 12-30 PM.
- Name of work, Tender Notice No. and date should be mentioned on the envelope while submitting the tender.
- Details about the tender including schedule of requirements, specifications, instructions and general conditions etc. (detailed tender schedule) can be collected at the cost of Tk. 500/00 (Five hundred) non-refundable from the office of the undersigned and Project Director, Coastal Greenbelt Project, Banbhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka up to 28th October, 1996 during the office hours except Friday and other Govt. holidays.

Rezaul Sikder
Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division
Bagerhat

DFP-23324-15/10
G-1266

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Pirojpur PWD Division, Pirojpur

Tender Notice
No. 25/1996-97

- Name of work : Constn of 44 Nos New Dist H/Q in Bangladesh one at Pirojpur. SH:Constn of (4-Unit) 600 Sft Staff Qrts over the under construction (4-Unit) 600 Staff Qrts attached to Police Line at Pirojpur, during the year 1996-97.
- Estimated Cost : Tk 13,66,351/-
- Earnest Money : Tk 27,327/-
- Date of receiving & time of opening : Up to 12.00 Noon of 4/11/96 and will be opened at 12.15 PM on the same day. (In presence of contractor, if any).
- Last date of selling : Up to office hours of 3.11.96.
- Place of selling and receiving of tender documents : Office of the all Executive Engineers under PWD Circle, Barisal and Khulna Division-III.
- Eligibility of contractors : Special Class-I (One), Class-II approved enlisted Bldg Contractor of PWD and Class-II approved Bldg Contractor of PWD Khulna Zone, Khulna respectively.
- If two or more tenderer become lowest by quoting the same rate then the lowest tenderer will be selected through "LOTTERY" on 17/11/96 at 11.00 AM in the office chamber of the undersigned.
All detailed information are available in the tender documents.

Md Lokman Hakim Mallik
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Pirojpur
Phone: 427

DFP-23384-15/10
G-1274



Rashed Mowdud Khan, Managing Director, Bengal Fine Ceramics Ltd. seen receiving National Exports trophy from the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function held in the city on Sunday.

BCIC Tender Notice
বিসিকার পৰা শিল্পাবনে জাতীয় অক্ষতৰ প্রতীক

The Addl Chief Manager (P), Karnaphuli Rayon & Chemicals Ltd, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong, invite sealed quotation from the bonafide suppliers for supply of steam valve and steam trap against Tender No. PD/PT/KRC-32(C) dated 24-9-96 free delivery at Mill site from their ready stock. Quotation supported with 1% earnest money on the total quoted value in favour of M/s Karnaphuli Rayon & Chemicals Ltd, in shape of Pay Order/DD will be received up to 11-00 AM on 30-10-96 and will be opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidders, if any. Tender document will be available on cash payment of Tk 50.00 (non-refundable) from the Controller of Accounts BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka and Dy Chief Accountant (Sales), KRC, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong during office hours. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC-1058-9/10/96
DFP-23040-12/10
G-1263

Government of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Madaripur

Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money Tk.	Time allowed for completion of work	Cost of schedule	Category of contractor
1.	Construction of Flexible pavement (Sub-base WBM with seal coat) at 25th KM and 26th KM of Madaripur-Shariatpur-Bhadarganj-Chandpur Road under Madaripur Road Division, during the year 1996-97.	266 Dev. Tk 3549792/- (Feeder Road)	Tk 70996/-	75 (Seventy five) days	1000/- per group	'A' to 'C' General Category
2.	Construction of Flexible pavement work (Sub-base WBM with seal coat) at 11th KM (P) of Shariatpur-Naria Road under Madaripur Road Divn. during the year 1996-97.	-do- Tk 896302/-	Tk 17926/-	30 (Thirty) days	500/-	'A' to 'C' Class RHD, 'D' Class Circle, Faridpur -do-
3.	Construction of Flexible pavement (Sub-base WBM with seal coat) at 19th (P), 20th (P) and 21st KM (P) of Madaripur-Shariatpur-Bhadarganj-Chandpur Road under Madaripur Road Division, during the year 1996-97.	-do- Tk 1628971/-	Tk 32539/-	50 (Fifty) days	500/-	-do-
4.	Construction of Flexible pavement (Sub-base WBM with seal coat) at 13th (P) and 14th KM (P) of Madaripur-Shariatpur-Bhadarganj-Chandpur Road under Madaripur Road Division during the year 1996-97.	-do- Tk 1438971/-	Tk 24779/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
5.	Construction of Flexible pavement at 6th (P) and 7th KM (P) of Shariatpur-Naria Road under Madaripur Road Division during the year 1996-97.	-do- Tk 1964810/-	Tk 39296/-	-do-	-do-	-do-

N.B. Tender receiving authorities concerned are requested to send the tender/tenders received in sealed cover to the office of the undersigned.

Md Habibur Rahman
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Madaripur

DFP-23307-15/10
G-1265

Tender Invitation Notice
Tender Notice No 7(Seven)/Executive Engineer (R&H) Habiganj 1996-97

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from RHD valid enlisted 'A' to 'E' general class contractors, as per eligibility for the undermentioned works.

Group No	Name & site of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
1 (one)	Earth work at different KM of different roads under Habiganj Road Division, during 1996-97 FY in 6 (six) groups.				
1	1st & 2nd KM of Sharif Uddin Ahmed Road (19th & 20th KM of Habiganj-Baniachong-Azmirganj Road).	Tk 8,91,480/-	Tk 17,830/-	60 (sixty) days from the date of issuing work order	'A' to 'D' general class
2 (two)	3rd, 4th & 5th KM of Sarif Uddin Ahmed Road (21st, 22nd & 23rd KM of Habiganj-Baniachong-Azmirganj Road).	Tk 15,38,906/-	Tk 30,779/-	60 (sixty) days	-do- -do-
3 (three)	7th KM of Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur Road.	Tk 10,99,269/-	Tk 21,985/-	60 (sixty) days	-do- -do-
4 (four)	8th KM of Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur Road.	Tk 12,07,888/-	Tk 24,158/-	60 (sixty) days	-do- -do-
5 (five)	9th KM of Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur Road.	Tk 8,59,415/-	Tk 17,188/-	60 (sixty) days	-do- -do-
6 (six)	6th KM (p) of Mirpur-Bahubal Road.	Tk 2,35,290/-	Tk 4,706/-	30 (thirty) days	'A' to 'E' general class

Special earnest money: Contractors quoting rates more than 5% (five per cent) below the rate stated in the schedule shall have to deposit special earnest money equivalent to 10% (ten per cent) of estimated cost in the form of BD/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer, (R&H), Habiganj Road Division, Habiganj. Otherwise tender will be treated as canceled outright. Permanent earnest money depositor also shall have to deposit this special earnest money. Contractors quoting rates more than 10% (ten per cent) below the schedule rate will have their tenders canceled outright.

Tender schedule, specification, terms & conditions, special terms & conditions can be seen & purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Habiganj/Moulvibazar/Sylhet/Sunamganj/Planning & Drawing Division, Comilla/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Road Sub-Division, Habiganj/Shahastaganj/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Habiganj up to 02-11-96.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Additional Chief Engineer (R&H), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka & the undersigned up to 12-30 PM of 03-11-96 and all the tenders together will be opened at the office of the undersigned on 05-11-96 at 11-00 AM.

Md Abul Quasem Bhuiyan
Executive Engineer (R&H)
(Current Responsibility)
Road Division, Habiganj

DFP-23223-14/10
G-1272