

Iran, India,
Turkmenistan
sign transit
accord

TEHRAN, Feb 24: Iran, India and Turkmenistan signed a trade and transit agreement here on Sunday in a bid to boost trilateral economic cooperation, says Xinhua.

The accord was signed by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Indian Minister of External Affairs Inder Kumar Gujral and Turkmen Foreign Minister Boris Shikmyradov.

Under the agreement, India will ship its goods and cargoes to the central Asian state of Turkmenistan via Iran.

The new facilities would open many avenues for Indian goods to reach central Asian republics and vice versa, beside greatly benefiting Iran.

Specialists said that it will cut the transport costs by at least one-third. Earlier, the goods were being exported through Russia, which made transportation costs more expensive.

\$2 lakh Japanese
grant for 2 NGOs

Yoshikazu Kaneko, Ambassador of Japan in Dhaka, signed two grant contracts of Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Projects (AGRP) with two non-government organisations (NGOs) yesterday with a total amount of 1,94,194 US dollars, says of press release.

The grant contracts will extend financial assistance for purchasing necessary equipment in order to accelerate activities of the two NGOs toward social welfare of Bangladesh.

Md Irshadul Haq, Chairman, Abeda Nur Foundation and Dr Jonaid Shafiq, Secretary General of the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, Bangladesh signed the contracts on behalf of their organisations.

In accordance with the grant contracts of AGRP, the Japanese government will extend the grant assistance to the following projects: (1) Abeda Nur Hospital for Destitute Child and Mother Project will be executed by the Abeda Nur Foundation at Gollai of Chandina, Comilla in order to provide medical facilities to the destitute mother and children. (2) The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, Bangladesh will execute the AMDA-HASUK Mobile Clinic Project for providing clinical and medical facilities to the poor people in Kishoreganj and Dhaka.

Third office of
Sonali Exchange
in NY soon

Sonali Bank will soon open the third office of Sonali Exchange Co. Inc., in New York to facilitate the safe and quick transfer of the hard-earned foreign currency of the expatriate Bangladeshis, reports BSS.

The ministry of finance has already accorded approval for taking necessary steps. The third office of the Sonali Exchange Co. is expected to operate at Queens within the first half of the current calendar year.

Sonali Exchange Co. incorporated in New York under the single ownership of Sonali Bank opened its first office in December 1994 at Manhattan, New York and remitted worth about 46 million US dollar till December, 1996.

The second office of Sonali Exchange Co. was opened in September 1996 at Brooklyn, New York. About 30 thousands expatriate Bangladeshis availed themselves of the opportunity of remitting their earnings direct to the country through these two exchange offices at Manhattan and Brooklyn.

New chairman
of TCB

Hiralal Bala, Joint Secretary, has joined as Chairman of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) recently, says a press release.

Earlier, he was working as chairman-in-charge of the corporation.

He has already served as Director (Finance), TCB, Member, Bangladesh Handloom Board and Director, BPATC, Savar. He joined the then East Pakistan Civil Service in 1969.

Steps taken to reopen 98
industrial units: Tofael

The government has taken steps to reopen 98 industrial units in the public sector, all but one of which were closed during the BNP rule, said Tofael Ahmed in parliament on Sunday, reports UNB.

Replying to Prof Panna Kaiser (AL), the Industries Minister said mills were closed due to inefficient management, shortage of capital, continuous loss, privatisation policy, short supply of raw materials and court orders.

He said during the present Awami League government,

only one factory — Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) — was closed from December 9 last year owing to stoppage of gas supply from Bakhrabad Gas System Ltd (BGSL).

He said necessary steps were taken by the concerned district and national committees to reopen 81 mills and factories under Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation.

The minister said a high-level meeting was held with the BGSL authorities to reopen the CUFL. He hoped that BGSL would be able to supply gas from

March 26 and the factory go into production.

In reply to Mohammad Fazlul Azim (Noakhali-6), Tofael said CUFL so far had suffered a production loss amounting to Tk 51.14 crore with daily production loss of 1,700 metric tons.

Responding to Abdus Sattar (Mymensingh-8), the minister said the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority had issued permission for setting up 12 industries in Chittagong EPZ and 12 in Dhaka EPZ since June 1996.



Mosharraf Hossain, Managing Director, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, addressed a conference of chief and regional managers under Dhaka division of the bank in the city on Saturday. General managers of head office and Dhaka division also seen in the picture.

Delhi launches massive
food subsidy programme

NEW DELHI, Feb 24: The federal government on Monday launched a massive food subsidy programme for 320 million people, saying the poorest of India's poor need support, reports AP.

Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda told the Parliament that the programme will cost 80 billion rupees (2.28 billion dollars) a year.

Leaders of Gowda's 14-party coalition decided to take the populist step last week, and the prime minister formally announced it days before releasing India's 1997-98 budget.

Under the programme, the government will give each poor family 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of wheat and rice at 2.50 rupees (7 cents) a kilogram and 3.50 rupees (10 cents) respectively.

Rice and wheat are now being sold at double this price to the poor through government shops. Prices in the open market are five to 10 times those figures.

Gowda has been under pressure from his Communist partners to expand subsidies, though Monday's announcement was likely to worry business leaders who want proof he's willing to cut government spending and stick to promised economic reforms.

The communists have criticized the new government's approach to economic reforms.

Emirates to attend
ITB Berlin

Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, will once again attend the ITB Berlin in Germany, which takes place from March 8 to 12 at the Messe Berlin Exhibition Hall, says a press release.

The annual international travel mart ranks as the world's biggest, where thousands of travel industry leaders meet and strike major deals each year.



As part of Dhaka Sheraton's policy to upgrade hotel's services, some new trainee staff have been recruited for various departments. The trainees who are now undergoing training are seen with San Amalan, General Manager and A N M Shahjahan, Director (Human Resources) of the hotel.

Pak austerity plan to
reduce foreign debts

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24: Pakistan's new Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced austerity plans on Sunday to reduce foreign debts, urging overseas Pakistanis to make donations and open hard currency bank accounts at home, reports Reuters.

In his first televised address since party's landslide victory in February 3 elections, he said he would make "a big cut" in government expenditure, except on defence.

To help low-income groups, he announced a freeze in electricity and petrol prices, raised salaries of junior government workers and called for similar increases in the private sector.

Sharif, who has yet to name his cabinet, tried to reassure foreign investors by saying that if necessary his government would give constitutional protection to their investments.

In his 'remove debts, build the country' campaign, he appealed to overseas Pakistanis to send hard currency in the shape of donations or interest-free loans to the government.

He said he would send personal letters of thanks to those who deposited 100,000 US dollars to one million US dollars and those depositing one mil-

lion US dollars or more would be invited to Pakistan to receive special medals.

He announced a donation of 10 million rupees (248,600 US dollars) from his own family, which owns the large Ittefaq group of industries.

Sharif accused past rulers of looting Pakistan for their luxuries and burdening it with 30 billion US dollars in debts so that "we have lost even freedom to make our own budget."

StanChart workshop
on Islamic
banking held

A workshop on 'Islamic Banking' was held in the city yesterday, says a press release.

It was organised by the Standard Chartered Bank for executives of various banks in Dhaka engaged in Islamic banking functions.

Shah Abdul Hannan, Chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR), was present as chief guest.

Geoff Williams, Chief Executive Bangladesh for Standard Chartered, also spoke on the occasion.

Training on jute opens
'Find out ways to
improve jute
sector'

State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Fazlul Huq yesterday urged all concerned to find out the ways to improve the jute sector, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating a two-day training programme on "Development strategies for production of jute goods and enhancement of efficiency of officials" held at Jute Research Institute here.

The prospective jute industry is now on the verge of disaster due to lack of realistic steps in the past 21 years, the minister regretted.

He, however, said that the government has taken up various reform programmes with the financial assistance of World Bank for its improvement.

NBL branch opens
in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 24: The 64th branch of National Bank Limited, the largest private sector bank established in 1983, was opened here yesterday, reports BSS.

Chairman of the bank, Abdul Awal Minto, inaugurated the branch.

The inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Chairman of Nepal-Arab Bank Ltd (NABIL) and Chief Secretary of Nepal Government BS Malla and directors of NBL AKM Abu Taher, Alhaj Khalilur Rahman, Habibullah, KH Tajuddin Ahmad, deputy Managing Director, RI Khan, and Assistant Vice-President of the bank Mahbulul Huq.

PEREGRINE BANGLADESH INDEX

Monday's market comment

The PBI dropped slightly for the third consecutive day by 0.87% to close at 811.42. Trading was bearish as 16 issues declined over 8 gainers. One issue remained unchanged. Reckitt & Colman led the losers with a 9.08% drop on institutional selling pressure followed by Chittagong Cement which fell by 8.03% on retail selling. Olympic Industries (-3.53%) and Square Pharma (-2.59%) were also amongst the notable losers. On the other hand, Eastern Housing topped the winners as it added 5.19% on retail demand followed by Apex Tannery which gained 2.87%. Bata Shoe remained unchanged.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 24/02/97

Selling	T.T.	B.C.	T.T.	O.D.Sight	O.D.
Currency	Q.D.		Clean	Export Bills	Transfer
US Dollar	42.9120	42.9650	42.6200	42.4550	42.3433
GB Pound	69.9075	69.9888	68.9739	69.5908	68.4110
D. Mark	25.7110	25.7409	25.2802	25.1763	25.1103
P. Franc	7.6160	7.6248	7.4892	7.4534	7.4399
J. Yen	0.3534	0.3533	0.3451	0.3437	0.3428
C. Dollar	31.6245	31.6612	31.0924	30.9346	30.8834
S. Franc	29.4893	29.5240	29.9844	29.8855	28.7896

US DLR	GBP	S RYAL	UAE DH	KU DINAR
SELLING	42.9000	68.9075	11.7000	11.6500
BUYING	42.3000	55.6575	11.3000	11.5000

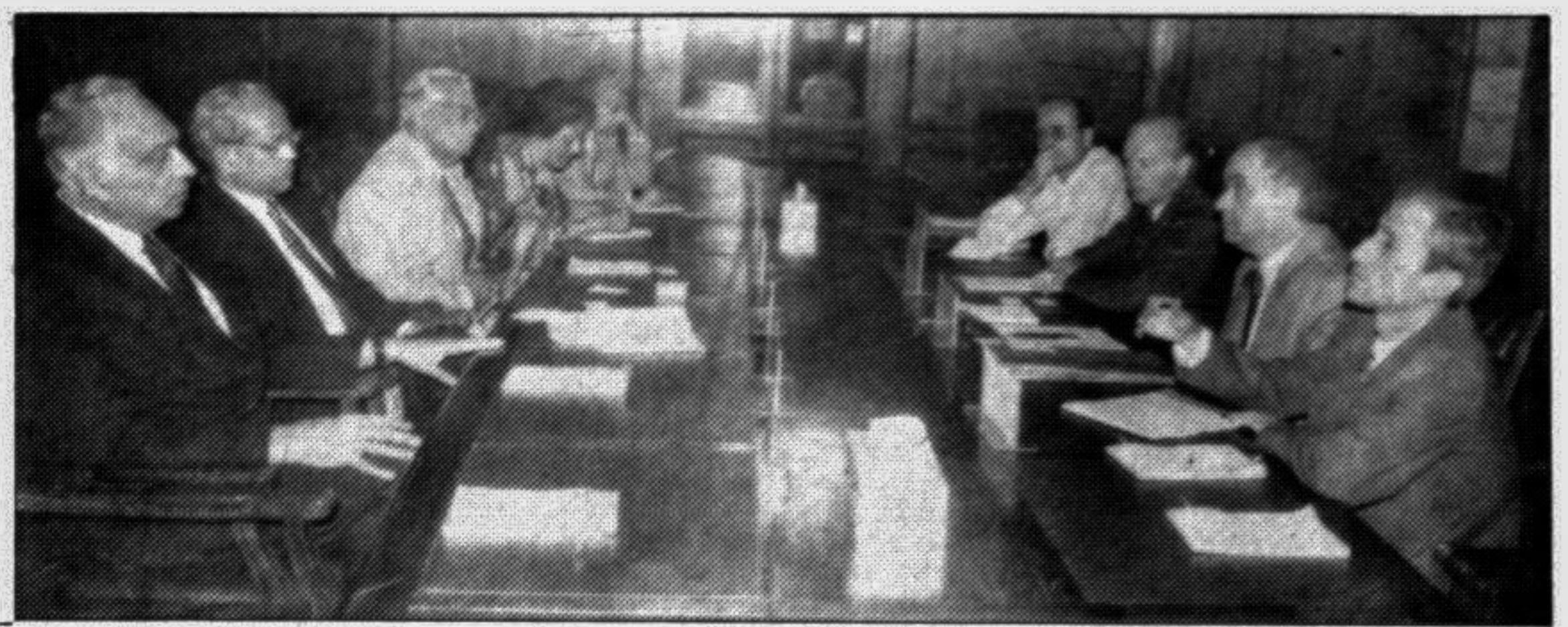
Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port									
Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 24.2.97.									
Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving			
J/1	Amrta-VII(48)	GI	Sing	Everett	21/2	24/2			
J/2	Mare	GI (Copro)	Sing	IFL	19/2	6/3			
J/5	Lady Juliet	Cement	Sing	Progr	20/2	27/2			
J/6	Chelyabinsk	Cement	Sing	CCNL	26/1	28/2			
J/7	Chang Ping	Urea (G)	Bong	Seacom	20/2	3/3			
J/8	Yi Yang	GI	Xing	Progr	15/2	5/3			
J/9	Reste Presco	GI	Sing	Everett	22/2	26/2			
J/10	Professor	Urea (G)	Roya	Litmond	16/2	28/2			
J/11	Banglar Shobha	Urea (G)	Marc	BSC	11/1	25/2			
J/12	Datzu Maru	GI (D Peas)	Sing	AASS	27/1	28/2			
J/13	Sea Elegance	Cont	Sing	PL (BD)	23/2	26/2			
CCT/1	Kota Bintang	Cont	Sing	PL (BD)	21/2	24/2			
CCT/2	Vanessa	Cont	Sing	RSL	22/2	25/2			
CCT/3	Banglar Monti	Cont	Sing	BSC	15/1	24/2			
GSJ	Evimeria	Wheat (G)	USA	RSA	17/2	24/2			
RM/4	White Star	CDSO	MAD	Seacom	18/2	26/2			
RM/6	Jian She-35	L Oil	-	BDSHP	22/2	24/2			
DQJ	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	Tanary Star	Idle	BSC Para	R/A	24/2	7/6	
DDJ/1									
RM/9	Banglar Robi	Repair	Mong	BSC	16/2	24/2			
CUFL/9	Blue North	Cement	Qing	PSAL	3/6	24/2			

Vessels Due At Outer Anchorage					
Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Asian Harp (Roro/24) 25/1	24/2	P Kel	BBA	Vehi	Col
Fong Lee 18/2	24/2	Col	BDSHP	Wheat (G)	
Anangel Honour Magic Wave (Roro/24) 17/2	24/2	South	RSA		
QC Pintail 16/2	25/2	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Xing Li 25/2	25/2	Sing	PSAL	Cement	
Orison 25/2	25/2	Sing	B Bay	Survey Purpose	
Invincible Tide	25/2	Sing	B Bay	-do-	
Brute Tide	25/2	Sing	B Bay	-do-	
Banglar Gourab (24) 22/2	26/2	Mong	BSC	Chin	
Emeral Venture	26/2	Mong	Stinni	Scraping	
Banglar Monti 24/2	27/2	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing
X-Press Trisul 17/2	27/2	Mong	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Peng Xiang Ling	27/2	Sing	Deimure	C Clinker (Bulk)	
Padma 18/2	27/2	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Meng Yang 19/2	27/2	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Fong Shin 12/2	28/2	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya 16/2	27/2	Sing	PL (BD)	Cont	Sing
An Da	28/2	Dall	MBL	C Clinker (M Jetty)	
Al Salma (48) 22/2	1/3	Bomb	ASLL	CI	
QC Teal 20/2	2/3	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Da Fu 22/2	2/3	Sing	APL (B)	Cont	Sing
Meng Kiat 20/2	2/3	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing

Tanker Due					
Destiny	Date of Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Leaving	
Kapitan Nagonyuk	26/2	Sing	EPL	SKO/MS	
	27/2	Sing	ICPL	Lube Oil	
Vessels at Kutubdin					
Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	
Ismaya			B Bay	9/1	
Mighty Tide			B Bay	20/2	
Vessels at Outer Anchorage					
Ready On					
Trade Down	Urea (G)	Switch	Litmond	16/2	
Feng Qing	GI	S Hai	BDSHP	23/2	
Jin Jiang	GI	Sing	Progr	23/2	
Norbuk Namir	Cont	Coch	Oil	23/2	
Consistence	Wheat (F)	Sing	RSL	23/2	
Hemlock	Wheat (F)	Sing	QCSL	23/2	
Mariupl	Wheat (F)	P Kel	AASS	19/2	
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil		BSC	R/A	

The above were the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.



The Chief Economist, South Asia of the World Bank, along with Tercan Baysan, Senior Economist and other officials of the World Bank here met the members of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka yesterday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়

স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশলী অধিদপ্তর

জেলা - শেরপুর

স্মারক নং-এলজিইডি/নিঃসঃ/শের/৯৭/১৯৬

তারিখঃ ২৯-১-৯৭ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-১০/৯৬-৯৭

এতদ্বারা স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরের অধীন শেরপুর জেলায় ১৯৯৬-৯৭ইং অর্থ বৎসরে বিশ্বখ্যাত কর্মসূচীর সহায়তায় গ্রাণ্ড সেক্টর সংযোগকারী সড়ক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচীর আওতায় নিম্নবর্ণিত কীমসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত এবং সকল প্রকল্পের পূর্বযোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার ও জেলা পরিষদের ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে ঠিকাদারের নিম্নবর্ণিত শ্রেণী বিন্যাস ও যোগ্যতা অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১ মারফত সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ০৪/০৩/৯৭ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে থানা প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, থানা-নকলা, নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী এলজিইডি'র দপ্তর জামালপুর এবং নিম্নাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হইতে নির্ধারিত নমদ মূল্যে ক্রয় করা/দেখা যাইবে এবং ০৪/০৩/৯৭ইং তারিখ বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্রসমূহ উল্লিখিত দপ্তরসমূহে রক্ষিত বাস্তব গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উল্লিখিত স্ব-স্ব দপ্তরের দরপত্র বাস্তবায়ন সীলগালা অবস্থায় লিষ্ট করা হইবে এবং প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ বিভিন্ন দপ্তর হইতে সংগ্রহ করিয়া একত্রে পরবর্তীতে ঠিকাদারদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, শেরপুর এর দপ্তরে খোলা হইবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনা ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। এই নোটিশ সংক্ষিপ্ত বিধায় নিম্নাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হইতে বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি ও শর্তাবলী জানা যাইবে।

ক্রম নং	কাজের নাম ও অবস্থান	দরপত্রের মূল্য	সময়সীমা	ঠিকাদারের শ্রেণী/যোগ্যতা
GST 97510201	নকলা থানাধীন নকলা-তারাকান্দা জিসিসি রাস্তায় ৪১০ মিঃ চেইনেজে ৩.০০ মিঃ x ২.৫০ মিটার আরসিসি বস্ত্র কালভার্ট নির্মাণ।	৩০০/-	৪৫ দিন	এলজিইডি'র সকল শ্রেণী, জেলা পরিষদের প্রথম শ্রেণীর "ক" এবং সকল প্রকল্পের পূর্বযোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার যাহারা ইতিপূর্বে ২ ডেট আরসিসি বস্ত্র কালভার্ট অথবা ১০ মিঃ ব্রিজ নির্মাণ-এর কাজ সমাপ্তকৃতভাবে সম্পন্ন করিয়াছেন। শুধুমাত্র ঐ সকল ঠিকাদারগণই দরপত