



# Obama rolls into capital for tomorrow's inauguration

AP, Washington

Invoking hope and history, President-elect Barack Obama rolled into the capital city Saturday night after pledging to help bring the nation "a new Declaration of Independence" and promising to rise to the stern challenges of the times.

He kicked off a four-day inaugural celebration with a daylong rail trip, retracing the path Abraham Lincoln took in 1861.

Obama began his day in Philadelphia, where he said the young nation had faced its "first true test" as a fragile democracy. He ended it in Washington, where his own tests await after his inauguration on Tuesday.

The president-in-waiting drew on a grand heritage of American giants as he appealed "not to our easy instincts but to our better angels," an echo of Lincoln's first inaugural address. He took note of the enormous challenges that lie ahead and promised to act with "fierce urgency," a phrase often used by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Riding a vintage railcar on his whistle-stop trip to Washington, Obama carried with him the hopes of a nation weary of war, frightened of economic chaos and searching for better days. Vice President-elect Joe Biden joined the journey en route, from his home in Delaware, and spoke for many when he said he was excited and ready for Tuesday.

Then, sobered by the challenges of governing, Biden added: "I think it's Wednesday we need to be ready."

Obama was smiling and confident throughout the day and across the miles, reaching at each stop for history's lessons. In Philadelphia, he noted the risks taken by the men who declared America independent from Britain. In Wilmington, he applauded the state that first ratified the Constitution. And in Baltimore, he hailed the troops at Fort McHenry who beat back the British navy and inspired the poem that became "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Washington pulsed with anticipation of Obama's swearing in as the nation's first black president. The city was afluster with preparations for four days of parties and pomp, shadowed at every turn by layer upon layer of security. For every banner or piece of bunting that was going up around the city, there was a concrete barrier or metal fence at the ready as well.

Revellers eager to get a head start on the celebration already were flowing into the city.

Toni Mateo, 38, arrived on a packed train from Atlanta. It was a quiet ride at first, he said.

"I just screamed out 'Obama,' and the whole crowd erupted," he said.

For all the travellers arriving in Washington, there were plenty headed the opposite direction fleeing the crowds, the security, and the winter cold.

For traveller Obama, there was a celebratory air as his train pulled out of the station at Philadelphia.

"Welcome aboard the 2009 inaugural train to D.C.," the conductor intoned.

Obama's blue rail car was tacked onto the back of a 10-car Amtrak train filled with hundreds of guests, reporters and staff for the 137-mile ride to Washington. Along the way, Obama and his wife, Michelle, appeared on the back balcony periodically to wave to shivering crowds bundled up in blankets and parkas who had gathered by the dozens, the hundreds and more along the route.

## Obama must shift from poetry to prose

AFP, Washington

The power of words helped propel Barack Obama to the presidency -- a power hewn with a writer's sensibility and honed with the help of a youthful cadre of speechwriters.

But while the poetry of Obama's campaign oratory did much to seal victory in November's election, he must now strike more prosaic notes in formulating the plethora of communications required of a president.

As the gifted author of two best-selling political memoirs, Obama is perhaps the most literate politician to ascend to the presidency since his great hero Abraham Lincoln.

But the value of that talent goes beyond the praise of admirers who look forward to a new eloquence out of the Oval Office after the stumbling gaffes of President George W. Bush.

"Politics hasn't changed essentially since it was invented in a recognizable form by the Greeks. The ability to state one's argument clearly and convincingly is the heart of the matter," Brookings Institution analyst and former White House adviser William Galston said.

"So the ability to do that, both off the cuff and more formally, is a very valuable political asset," he said.

"We've seen what an enormous advantage it was during the campaign. I would expect that will be one of Obama's strong suits as president."

## Pakistan troops kill 15 Taliban

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani paramilitary forces killed at least 15 Taliban militants in intense gunbattles in a northwestern tribal area bordering Afghanistan, a security official said yesterday.

One soldier was also killed in the fighting, which broke out Saturday as paramilitary forces were clearing a key road linking the Bajaur tribal district with provincial capital Peshawar, the official said.

"Fifteen militants were killed in a successful raid by security forces on a militant stronghold in Darwazgai area of Mohmand Agency," the official said.

"One security forces personnel embraced martyrdom in the encounter," he said, adding that the militants fired mortars at troops from their hide-outs.

The toll could not be confirmed independently as the area is out of bounds due to the military operation.

Mohmand lies just south of the Bajaur tribal region, where Pakistani troops have fought militants for months in an operation the military says has left more than 1,700 insurgents dead. The campaign extended into Mohmand in recent weeks.

The US has praised the Pakistani military offensive, saying it has put pressure on insurgents along the border who are involved in attacks on American and Nato forces in Afghanistan.



Sri Lankan Defence Ministry photo shows Army Chief Sarath Fonseka (C) visits troops at the northern base of Vavuniya to meet with front line field commanders. Lt General Fonseka said that his troops had surrounded Tamil Tiger rebels in their last remaining urban stronghold of Mullaitivu and the guerrillas had no option but to jump in the Indian Ocean.

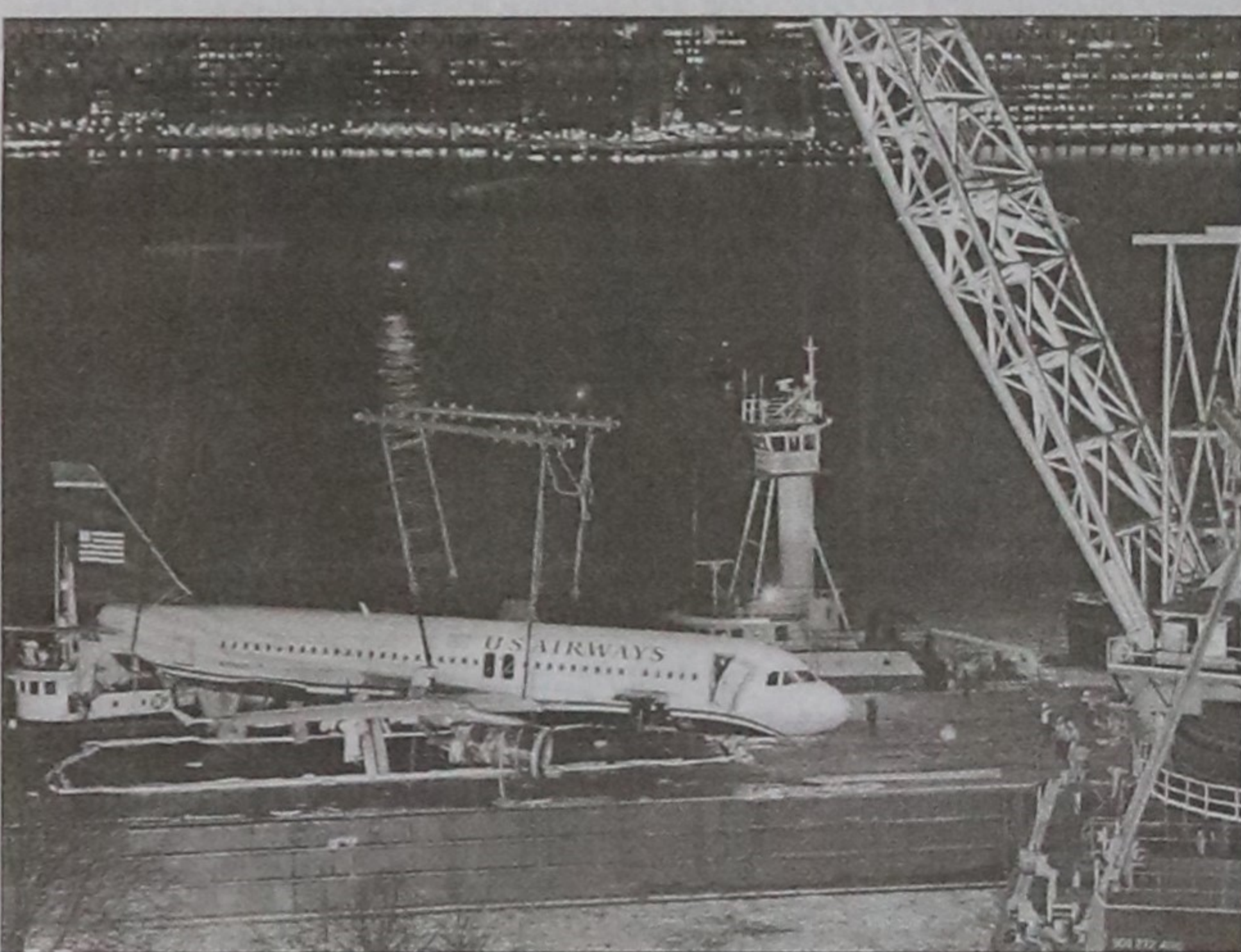
## Taliban video claims Pakistan attacks

AFP, Peshawar

Taliban militants yesterday released a rare video of statements from purported suicide bombers and footage of deadly attacks they claimed to have perpetrated in Pakistan.

The 40-minute tape shows men and youths, some apparently in their teens, addressing the camera about their intention to carry out suicide attacks to background music of Urdu-language militant anthems.

The video was handed out to reporters in Peshawar, the capital of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), by militant commander Qari Hussain, who is based in the lawless South Waziristan tribal district that borders Afghanistan.



The US Airways Airbus A320 is seen in a barge in the Hudson River on Saturday in New York City. US Airways Flight 1549 crashed shortly after take-off from LaGuardia Airport heading to Charlotte, North Carolina on Jan 15.

## Nato slams 'ineffective' Afghan govt

AFP, Washington

Nato chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on Sunday denounced Afghanistan's "ineffective" government and said the authorities there were almost as much to blame for the country's plight as the resurgent Taliban.

The comments by the Nato secretary general, in an opinion piece for The Washington Post newspaper, was an unusually strong expression of the alliance's dissatisfaction with the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

De Hoop Scheffer did not mention Karzai by name, but his remarks come at a politically sensitive time for the Afghan leader.

Karzai is due for re-election this year, and observers believe an open rift with Nato could substantially weaken him ahead of yet-to-be-scheduled polls.

**Social Development Foundation**  
House # 4, Road # 21, Sector # 4  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL CONSULTANT**

Government of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) to implement two new programs under Social Investment Program Project (SIPP) through Social Development Foundation (SDF) to help restore the livelihood of rural communities affected by the 2007 floods and by Cyclone Sidr. SDF is a pro-poor organization that aims at social and economic empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged people in Bangladesh by addressing the poverty, livelihoods and empowerment issues of the rural poor. SDF is looking for motivated and innovative professionals for the following positions in its new Disaster Risk Mitigation Unit (DRMU) to be set up as a Regional Branch of SDF, in Barisal. The DRMU will be responsible for managing the implementation of the new programs. Successful candidates have to respect the poor, open to learning and should have an aptitude for community driven development. The work involves extensive travel to the affected areas and working in the field.

**(1) Livelihood/Business Development Specialist**  
**Job Description:**  
The incumbent will be responsible for overall livelihood promotion and restoration strategy of the program; specifically exploring various employment and income generating opportunities for the poor and affected families; establishing linkages between the rural poor, and skill development providers, labor markets, and markets for their products.  
**Qualification and Experience:** Postgraduate in Business Studies /Commerce/ Economics/ Finance and any other discipline in Social Science ; with minimum 8 years experience in the relevant field, especially dealing with the private sector agencies in developing products and markets.

**(2) Information, Education and Communication Specialist**  
**Job Description:**  
The incumbent will design and implement for the project and oversee the development and delivery of all communication and information messages and products throughout its implementation.  
**Qualification and Experience:** Postgraduate in Journalism/ Mass Communication / Public Administration / Economics or any other discipline in Social Science with minimum 8 years experience in the relevant field, including 4 years in the field of Information and Communication.

**(3) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist**  
**Job Description:**  
The incumbent will be responsible for designing and implementing monitoring, evaluation and learning systems for the project including setting up of a baseline survey, monitoring progress against targets, process monitoring impact assessments etc. and reporting progress and issues to the Project Director and Managing Director on a monthly basis.  
**Qualification and Experience:** Postgraduate in Statistics, Economics and any other discipline in Social Science with minimum 8 years experience in designing and implementing of the monitoring and learning systems and/or Management Information Systems.

For all the posts:

- Attractive remuneration package commensurate with the qualifications, skill and experience will be offered.
- The candidates must have strong computer literacy, high level of interpersonal skill, excellent report writing skill and strong ability in oral and written communication in both Bangle & English.
- Experience with international agencies, donor funded projects and NGO and GoB would be an advantage.
- The tenure of the above position is up to 36 months following satisfactory performance evaluation.
- Only short listed applicants will be called for interviews.
- The incumbents should be willing to travel to remote areas extensively, and will be spending minimum 20 days per month in the project area.

Interested persons are requested to send their detail CV indicating proposed position, name, address (present & permanent, Telephone / Cell Number), date of birth, nationality, membership in professional societies, education, other training, languages & degree of proficiency, countries of work experience, employment records and work undertaken that best illustrates capability to handle this assignment. The interested candidates are requested to send their applications including copies of all certificates with two passport size photographs to the following address on or before **5th February 2009** during office time. Details will be available in the SDF website: [www.sdfbd.org](http://www.sdfbd.org). Candidates are requested to view the position applied for on the top of the envelope. No TA/DA will be provided for attending interview.

**Managing Director**  
Social Development Foundation (SDF)  
House # 4, Road # 21, Sector # 4  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

**ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোং লিঃ**  
প্রধান কার্যালয় : এনএলআই টাওয়ার  
৫৪, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

**মাইক্রোবাস ক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অত্র কোম্পানী জাপানের তৈরী ১৯ (উনিশটি) বিকল্পিত অথবা নতুন মাইক্রোবাস ক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত আমদানীকারক/ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করছে :

**ক্রয়তর্য গাড়ীসমূহের Specification নিম্নরূপ :**  
Minimum 8 seater, 5 door microbus with built in air-conditioning, engine capacity of maximum 1500cc (1549cc) with standard tools and accessories. The offered microbus may be with manual or auto transmission & preferably white or of any light colour. In case of reconditioned microbus date of manufacture will not be earlier than 2005. শর্তাবলী :

- (০১) দরপত্র দাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব লেটারহেড প্যাডে আগামী ৪ ফেব্রুয়ারী ০৯ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে "ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোং লিঃ, এনএলআই টাওয়ার, ৫৪, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫"-তে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবে দাখিল করবেন।
- (০২) দরপত্র ০৪-০২-০৯ তারিখ দুপুর ১২-৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।
- (০৩) দরপত্রের সাথে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে উদ্ধৃত দরের ২% আর্নেস্টম্যানি অত্র কোম্পানীর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ব্রাঙ্কে ড্রাফট আকারে জমা দিতে হবে। আর্নেস্টম্যানি ব্যতীত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল করা হবে।
- (০৪) দরপত্র দাতাকে প্রতিটি গাড়ীর একক মূল্য ও মোট মূল্য উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- (০৫) দরপত্রের সঙ্গে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, অ্যাকসর সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- (০৬) সরকার কর্তৃক প্রচলিত নিয়মে ভ্যাট, ট্যাক্স প্রযোজ্য হবে।
- (০৭) টেন্ডারে উপস্থিত গাড়ী ক্রয়ের সংখ্যা কম বা বেশী হতে পারে।
- (০৮) যোগ্য বিবেচিত দরপত্র দাতাকে কার্যক্রম প্রদানের ১৫ (পনর) দিনের মধ্যে গাড়ী সরবরাহ করতে হবে, বার্ষিক আর্নেস্টম্যানি বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে।
- (০৯) একজন অটোমোবাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ার অথবা যোগ্যপূঙ্ক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের চূড়ান্ত পরিদর্শন সাপেক্ষে ক্রয় সম্পন্ন করা হবে।
- (১০) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সমুদয় দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- (১১) কর্তৃপক্ষ উপস্থিত সংখ্যক গাড়ী এক বা একাধিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের সরবরাহের জন্য কার্যক্রম প্রদানের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

**ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোং লিঃ**  
প্রধান কার্যালয় : এনএলআই টাওয়ার  
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**গাড়ী বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অত্র কোম্পানীর ব্যবহৃত ৩টি কার ও ৬টি মাইক্রোবাস বিক্রয়ের জন্য অগ্রাহী ক্রেতাগণের নিকট থেকে নিজস্ব পাতে/সাদা কাগজে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

**গাড়ীসমূহের বিস্তারিত নিম্নে দেয়া হলো :**

Sl.No	Registration No.	Type of Vehicle	Model & Year of Manufacture
01	Dhaka Metro Ga-14-5425	Car	Toyota Mark-II Model-1996, 1838c.c.
02	Dhaka Metro Ga-14-0218	Car	Toyota Model-1993, 1331c.c.
03	Dhaka Metro Ga-14-0577	Car	Toyota Model-1994, 1331c.c.
04	Dhaka Metro Cha-54-0045	Micro	Toyota Model-1995, 1500c.c.
05	Dhaka Metro Ga-14-0238	Micro	Toyota Model-1993, 1480c.c.
06	Dhaka Metro Ga-14-2444	Micro	Toyota Model-1996, 1500c.c.
07	Dhaka Metro Ga-14-2445	Micro	Toyota Model-1995, 1500c.c.
08	Dhaka Metro Ga-14-2569	Micro	Toyota Model-1995, 1800c.c.
09	Dhaka Metro Cha-54-0342	Micro	Toyota Model-1996, 1500c.c.

গাড়ীসমূহ ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিঃ-এর প্রধান কার্যালয়, এনএলআই টাওয়ার ভবন, ৫৪, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ-এর রেজিস্ট্রেটে রক্ষিত আছে। গাড়ীসমূহ বিক্রয় প্রকাশের পর থেকে ০২-০২-২০০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।

দরপত্রের সাথে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে উদ্ধৃত দরের ৫% আর্নেস্টম্যানি অত্র কোম্পানীর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ব্রাঙ্কে জমা দিতে হবে। কোম্পানীর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সংস্থাপন বিভাগে রক্ষিত বাক্সে ০২-০২-২০০৯ তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। একই দিনে বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

সর্বোচ্চ দরপত্র দাতাকে কোম্পানী কর্তৃক গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্ত জানানোর ১৫ (পনর) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে সর্বশেষ গাড়ীর উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের অবশিষ্ট সমুদয় মূল্য এককালীন পরিশোধ করে গাড়ী ডেলিভারী দিতে হবে। গাড়ী সংক্রান্ত প্রদেয় অন্যান্য কর (৪.৫০%) সর্বোচ্চ দরপত্রদাতা রহন করবেন। উপরোক্ত শর্তাবলী পালনে ব্যর্থ হলে আর্নেস্টম্যানি বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সর্বকালীন কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক