

IDB assures Hasina of dev assistance

UNB, Jeddah  
Saudi-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, when Bangladesh's needs for development assistance were discussed.  
They met in the morning at the Jeddah International Airport on the way of Sheikh Hasina's departure for Dhaka after a five-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, her first trip abroad after assuming the office of premier.  
"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the IDB president discussed various issues of trade and business, economy and development," PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.  
The IDB chief assured the PM of providing necessary assistance for development of the country.



President of Islamic Development Bank Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Jeddah Airport yesterday.

Foreign trade thru' Bibir Bazar landport remains suspended

UNB, Comilla  
Export and import through Bibir Bazar land port remained suspended following an indefinite strike enforced by Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) agents yesterday demanding car passing facility.  
Leaders of C&F agents called the wildcat strike last morning in the port, formally inaugurated by Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin barely two days ago.  
The leaders said they have long been suffering for lack of car passing facility on both sides of the port.  
They demanded the government provide the land port with all necessary facilities what a full-pledged port should have, as Bibir Bazar is the country's leading export-oriented land port.  
According to official data, goods worth about Tk 12.15 crore were exported through the land port in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, while goods worth Tk 32.47 lakh were imported.

Jute millers demand bank loan rescheduling arrangement

STAR BUSINESS REPORT  
Jute Millers have asked the government for bank loan rescheduling arrangement so that they can reopen closed factories and boost employment.  
"A number of factories were closed for several reasons in the past. It's necessary to reopen these factories. Rescheduling of bank loans will help these mills to resume operation," said A. Barik Khan, secretary of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA), in a press statement.  
BJMA, a lobby group of 89 private sector millers, made this plea after the government, in its Tk 3424 crore stimulus package, raised cash incentive facilities for jute and jute goods exporters by 2.5 percentage points from 7.5 percent enabling the jute industry to shrug off the recession fallout.  
Appreciating the government, jute millers however said the rise in cash incentives will not help them rebound from the slump in exports because of the fall in demand for jute goods amid global economic meltdown.  
"It will not help make up for losses," said Barik. BJMA sought 20 percent cash incentive for exports.  
According to the BJMA official, out of 89 of its member factories, 22 factories were closed in the past.  
Many of the shut factories are unable to resume operation because of their failure to repay bank dues, he said.  
Referring the jute and jute goods sector as an agro-based industry, the association also urged the government to take measures to enable banks to provide loans at 7 percent interest by treating the sector as agro-based.  
Signed by its chairman Nazmul Huq, the BJMA in its press statement also demanded the government repay the Tk 53.19 crore dues to the private jute mills.  
The BJMA also advocated enacting a law that makes jute sacks usage mandatory in packing goods like sugar, fertiliser and cement.

Cut acrylic yarn import

Urge local spinners

STAR BUSINESS REPORT  
Bangladesh can cut much of its import dependence on a sweater-making raw material, acrylic yarn, by making it locally, spinners said yesterday.  
"Bangladesh requires about 40 crore pounds of yarn a year. But spinners can supply about 17 percent of the yearly requirement. The rest is imported," said Tariq Ahmed, director for operations and marketing of TK Group.  
Chin Hung Fibre Ltd, a subsidiary of TK Group, makes acrylic yarn.  
"It indicates huge potential. We can reduce our dependence on import by making our own yarn. We have scope to produce value-adding acrylic yarn," he said.  
Tariq's remark came on the sidelines of a seminar on value-chain development of acrylic yarn in Bangladesh, co-

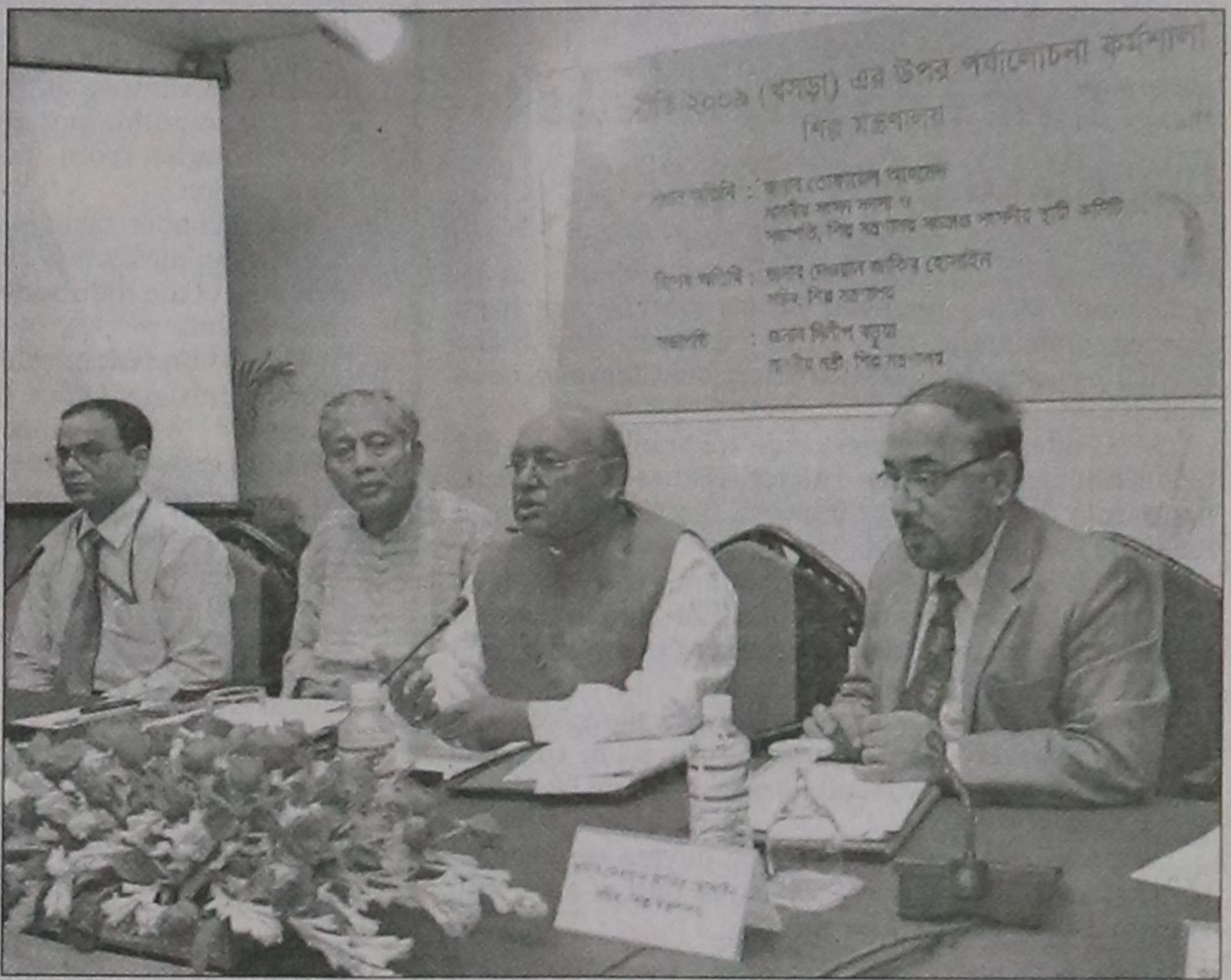
organised by Chin Hung Fibre and Thai Acrylic Fibre Co of Aditya Birla Group at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka.  
Referring to more than \$1.0 billion earnings from sweater exports, Tariq said he hoped the exports would double in the next couple of years, as Bangladeshi makers would enjoy an edge in pricing over competing countries such as China.  
"Although sweater exports now face a slowdown, we hope the next winter will be a good season for us," he said.  
According to the TK Group director, acrylic yarn is now imported from countries such as China, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand and Spain.  
"But we will have more benefit, if we import raw materials and make yarn. Buying yarn from the domestic market will be helpful for sweater makers to meet the lead time easily," said Tariq.

About 10 acrylic yarn spinners operate in Bangladesh and are trying to meet a part of acrylic-yarn demand by export-oriented sweater factories, Tariq said.  
Tariq also said TK Group has a plan to increase production of acrylic yarn with focus to make value-added ones. "We are planning to make special yarn," he said.  
Local companies can meet 5-7 percent of demand for special yarn now. The rest is met by import.  
Shammy Mathew, deputy general manager for marketing of Thai Acrylic Fibre Co Ltd, observed that many local sweater makers still depend on import, as there is a "knowledge gap" in the value chain.  
"You can make here all yarn you need. You don't need to import," he said.

According to official data, goods worth about Tk 12.15 crore were exported through the land port in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, while goods worth Tk 32.47 lakh were imported.

Tourists flock to crisis-stricken Iceland

AFP, Reykjavik  
With Iceland's economic meltdown sending its currency into freefall, tourists who saw this remote North Atlantic island as prohibitively expensive are now flocking to its dramatic volcanic scenery.  
"Last year you got 60 kronur for one dollar, today you get 105 kronur," said Will Delaney, a 22-year-old student from Canada who, like thousands of others, has taken advantage of the current exchange rate to see Iceland.  
More than 10,500 Canadians visited the country last year, a rise of 68 percent from 2007, contributing to an overall total of 502,000 tourists in the nation of just 320,000, according to Iceland's tourism board.  
"The collapse of the banks had an effect on the currency, which fell quite a lot," said tourism board director Olouef Yr Atladottir.  
In fact, the value of the Icelandic currency plunged 44 percent in 2008.  
The drop "was not negative for the tourism industry because before the crisis Iceland had become a very expensive destination. It has become a more affordable destination now," Atladottir said.  
Delaney holds that it is now feasible to visit Iceland for just a couple hundred dollars, something unimaginable a year ago, before the crisis hit.



Totalif Ahmed, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries Ministry, speaks at a meeting on the proposed industrial policy 2009 in Dhaka yesterday. Dilip Barua, industries minister, is also seen. (Story on page 1)

Crisis traps more in poverty: IMF, WB

AFP, Washington  
The global economic crisis means up to 90 million more people will remain trapped in extreme poverty this year while the chronically hungry could top one billion, a World Bank/IMF report said Friday.  
The report, entitled "A Development Emergency," says the crisis was putting in danger attaining the United Nations' 2015 Millennium Development Goals which focus on poverty reduction, especially in Africa.  
Most of the eight goals -- which also include reducing

child and maternal mortality, improving education and fighting malaria and HIV/AIDS -- are unlikely to be met, it said.  
"It is estimated that an additional 55 to 90 million people will be trapped in extreme poverty in 2009 due to the worldwide recession."  
"The number of chronically hungry people is expected to climb to over one billion, reversing gains in fighting malnutrition," a statement on the report said.  
The report said efforts to cut poverty and hunger levels by half between 1990 and

2015 had gotten off to a good start but were now at risk as overseas markets dry up, and foreign investment and aid flows come under pressure.  
Before the sharp rise in food prices starting from 2007, some 850 million people suffered from chronic hunger but this had risen to 960 million in 2008 and would be above one billion this year, it said.  
"The situation is extremely serious," said John Lipsky, first deputy managing director at the International Monetary Fund, describing the prob-

lems facing the poor as the "third wave" of a global crisis unprecedented since the 1930s Great Depression.  
"With simultaneous recessions striking all major regions, the likelihood of painfully slow recoveries in many countries is very real, making the fight against poverty more challenging and more urgent," Lipsky said.  
Antoinette Sayeh, the IMF director for Sub-Saharan Africa, one of the world's most vulnerable regions, said countries there need more direct aid to get through the crisis.

Dairy traders protest poor sales

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Several dairy traders in Chittagong, hurt by massive losses on poor sales, threw a huge quantity of milk onto the streets yesterday as a symbolic protest.  
The traders of several dairy firms staged a demonstration in Shikabaha Raster Moor area on the bank of Karnaphuli river at around 11 am, witnesses said.  
The sales marked a sharp fall since most sweetmeat shops in the port city have stopped buying dairy milk from them, businessmen alleged.  
Sweetmeat traders are now using milk powder instead of dairy milk due to its cheaper prices.  
They sought government intervention to safeguard the dairy milk sector from collapse.  
Businessmen claimed over 200 firms in different unions at west Patiya under Patiya upazila have been incurring huge losses over the last few weeks because of poor sales.  
As part of the protest, owners of some six dairy firms including Shahhaj Dairy Firm, Model Dairy Firm, Azizia Dairy Firm, Amin Firm, Arisa Dairy Firm and Hossainia Dairy Firm poured around 400 litres of milk on the street.  
Around 230 dairy firms located at eight unions at west Patiya produce around 30 thousand litres of milk everyday and used to supply the milk to hundreds of sweetmeat shops in the port city.

Session on business journalism held

STAR BUSINESS DESK  
An orientation session on business journalism was organised in Jessore yesterday in a bid to enhance the local journalists' understanding of trade financing, agricultural credit, use of ICT in banking sector and anti-money laundering issues.  
Business Journalists' Network, Jessore, and Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) jointly organised the orientation in association with Jessore Press Club and with support from Katalyst.  
Speakers at the discussion stressed that the busi-

ness reporters must have clear understanding of border trade, banking and related issues for better, more accurate and objective reporting.  
Shyamal Kumar Das, deputy general manager, Bangladesh Bank (BB), Khulna, conducted sessions on trade financing, L/C settlement, banking procedures for export and import, SME credit, and pre-shipment inspection.  
Besides, Md Abdul Khaleque, deputy director, BB, Khulna, discussed procedures of agricultural credit, use of ICT in banking sector and anti-money laundering issues.  
The orientation session covered necessary aspects of reporting on trade financing and related issues with practical viewpoints. Journalists were advised to interpret the available data correctly, quote reference specifically and maintain regular communication with the sources.  
The resource persons also discussed the ongoing global economic meltdown and the challenges the local business houses are facing.  
A total of 29 local journalists including correspondents of national print and electronic media and editors of local dailies participated in the orientation programme.



Shyamal Kumar Das, deputy general manager of Bangladesh Bank, Khulna, speaks at an orientation session on business journalism in Jessore yesterday.

China's gold reserves top 1,000 tonnes

AFP, Beijing  
China's gold reserves rose 75 percent from 2003 to 2008, state media said, reporting that Beijing now had the world's fifth largest holdings of the precious metal.  
China had 1,054 tonnes of gold by the end of 2008, up 454 tonnes from the 600 tonnes that it said it had in 2003, the last time it reported its reserve figures, Xinhua news agency said in a report Friday.  
The new figures, released by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, has been reported to the International Monetary Fund, Xinhua said.  
China has adjusted its gold reserve holdings twice since 2000, raising the holdings from 394 tonnes to 500 tonnes in 2001, and to 600 tonnes in 2003. Hu Xiaolian, head of the administration, told Xinhua.  
China holds the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, which stood at 1.954 trillion dollars at the end of March, up from 1.946 trillion dollars in December, official data showed.

**জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ**  
৬২/৩, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০  
নং-জাতীয়ক্রীড়া/৫-৩৭/১০২৬ তারিখঃ ২০-০৪-২০০৯ইং

**পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১১তম এস এ গেমস উপলক্ষে নিম্নবর্ণিত ক্রীড়া, অফিস ও ইলেকট্রনিক্স সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত আমদানিকারক/সরবরাহকারী/স্থানীয় এজেন্টদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ-

ক্রম	ক্রঃ নং	বিবরণ	স্থান	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	আর্নেস্টমানির পরিমাণ (ফেরতযোগ্য)	সরবরাহের সময়
এ	১.	এ্যাথলেটিক্স	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	৬,২০,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
বি	২.	সুইমিং	ঢাকা	১৫০০.০০	৩,০০,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
সি	৩.	হকি	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	৫৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
ডি	৪.	কাবাডি	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	১,৩৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
ই	৫.	বক্সিং	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	১,২৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
এফ	৬.	তায়কোয়ানডো	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	১,২০,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
জি	৭.	কারাতে	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	১,১৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
এইচ	৮.	উড	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	৬৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
আই	৯.	হ্যান্ডবল	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	৩,০০,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
জে	১০.	টেবিল টেনিস	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	৫৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
কে	১১.	আরচারী	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	১,২৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
এল	১২.	শ্যুটিং	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	১,৩৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
এম	১৩.	ডলিভল	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	২,২৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
এন	১৪.	ভারোত্তোলন	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	২,১৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
ও	১৫.	ব্যাজমিন্টন	ঢাকা	১৫০০.০০	৩,৮০,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
পি	১৬.	বাস্কেটবল	ঢাকা	১০০০.০০	৬০,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
কিউ	১৭.	কোয়াশ	ঢাকা	৫০০.০০	২৫,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
আর	১৮.	অফিস ইকুপমেন্ট এবং ইলেকট্রনিক্স স্কোর বোর্ড	ঢাকা	১৫০০.০০	৭,১০,০০০.০০	৯০ দিন

১. দরপত্রের সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ : ১১/০৫/২০০৯ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)।  
২. দরপত্রের সিডিউল দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময় : ১২/০৫/২০০৯ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।  
৩. দরপত্রে সিডিউল খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ১২/০৫/২০০৯ বেলা ২:০০ ঘটিকা।  
৪. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান : রাজশ শাখা, জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা এবং কমিশনারের অফিস, ঢাকা বিভাগ, সেকেন্ডবাগিচা, ঢাকা।  
৫. দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের স্থান : পরিচালক (ক্রীড়া)-এর অফিস কক্ষ, জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা।  
৬. দরপত্র খোলার স্থান : পরিচালক (ক্রীড়া)-এর অফিস কক্ষ, জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা।  
ক্রীড়া বিষয়ক সামগ্রীর বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।  
এছাড়াও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।  
মোঃ হাইয়ুল কাইয়ুম  
পরিচালক (ক্রীড়া)  
জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা

জিডি-২০৭৬