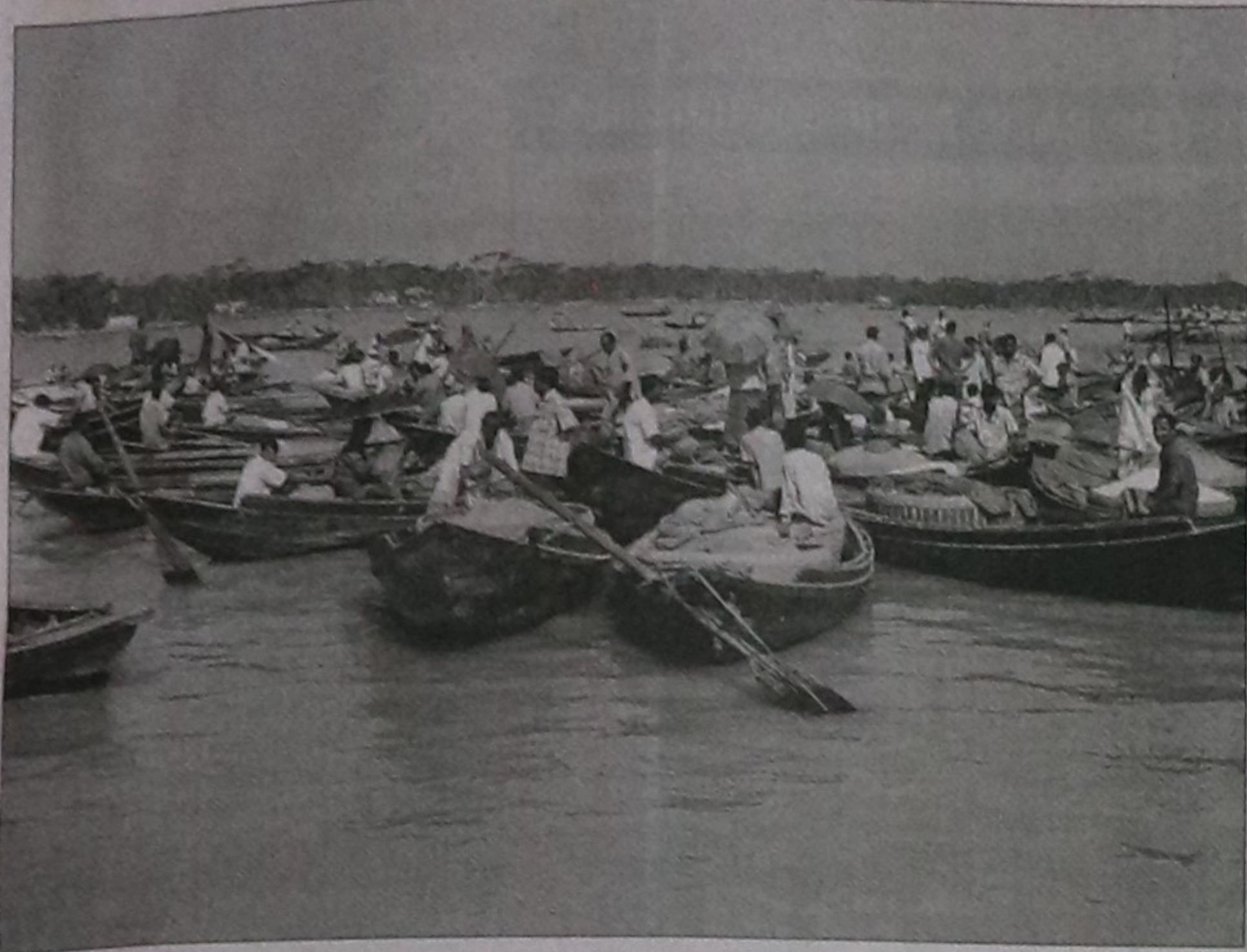


Barisal Boro farmers counting losses



Boats carrying Boro rice to markets in a southern district recently. Farmers in different districts of Barisal division are facing losses as they are forced to sell their produce at almost half the prices the government has fixed.

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

Farmers in different districts of Barisal division are counting losses in selling their paddy as their production costs do not match the government-fixed price.

A farmer of Galachipa upazila under Patuakhali district said he spent around Tk 30,000 to cultivate local variety of Boro on per hectare of land.

"I am selling my paddy at around Tk 7 per kg against the production cost of Tk 7.5," he said.

The farmers alleged that although the government fixed the paddy price at Tk 14 per kg, they are selling at Tk 7-8 to local traders being refused by the food department to collect paddy directly from the producers blaming low quality.

In Banaripara upazila of Barisal district farmers were found selling their paddy at half the government-fixed price, and the government also failed to procure paddy from them directly.

A farmer of Uzirpur upazila said he spent Tk 8,000 per hectare for irrigation purpose in Boro season this year, whereas the cost was Tk 5,000 last year.

A farmer from Swarupkathi upazila of Pirojpur said he had to spend Tk 8,250 per hectare for irrigation with diesel-run pumps. But if the electricity supply was normal, the cost would be Tk 6,000, he added.

The farmers in the region claimed that they had to spend around Tk 8,000 per hectare for irrigation due to erratic

power supply.

The amount is around Tk 3,000 higher than that in the last season as they failed to take benefits of government subsidy on fuel price announced after Boro cultivation started.

Officials at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said if there was no shortfall in electricity supply during Boro season, the farmers would spend around Tk 4,500 per hectare for irrigation. The cost is Tk 5,250 per hectare if they use diesel-run pumps.

Only 60 tonnes of rice were procured in Barisal in last 20 days after the government started a four-month-long procurement drive from May 1.

The government set a target of procuring only 3,164 tonnes of paddy and 475 tonnes of rice from forty upazilas in six districts of Barisal division at the price of per kg rice Tk 22 and paddy at Tk 14.

The procurement quota included 1,377 tonnes paddy and 70 tonnes rice in Barisal, 193 tonnes paddy and 31 tonnes rice in Jhalakathi, 348 tonnes paddy and 65 tonnes rice in Pirojpur, 1,116 tonnes paddy in Bhola, 112 tonnes paddy and 309 tonnes rice in Patuakhali, and 18 tonnes rice in Barguna districts of the division.

Sukumar Chandra Roy, the regional food controller of Barisal, told The Daily Star that the farmers want to sell their paddy hurriedly without maintaining standards of drying and moistures and so are being refused by the food procurement department.

SEC urges AG's move on mutual fund case

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stock market regulator yesterday urged Attorney General Mahbubey Alam to take steps to resolve a case on mutual funds.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Ziaul Haque Khondker made the plea at a meeting with the attorney general.

In response, Alam assured the SEC boss that initiatives would be taken to fast-track disposal of the case as soon as possible.

The High Court (HC) in August last year stayed SEC's ban on issuance of bonus shares or rights issues for closed-end mutual funds.

The HC had also stayed the dividend declaration by all the mutual fund managers until disposal of the case.

Prior to the stay order, the SEC in July last year approved changes in the mutual fund rules and barred the closed-end mutual funds from offering bonus shares as dividend or offer right issues in a bid to increase their capital base.

The SEC's decision had prompted an investor to file a writ petition with the HC.

AKTEL receives award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AKTEL was recently awarded for its special contribution in customer service, says a press statement.

Jefri Ahmad Tambi, managing director of AKTEL, received "The Telelink Telecommunications Award 2008" from Raziuddin Ahmed Raju, posts and telecommunications minister, at a ceremony at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

AKTEL opened nineteen customer care centres and more than 500 touch points across the country, in addition to their traditional outlets, offering its customers with internet, radio, directory services, balance transfer, call block and other value added services.



APOB

President of Association of PSTN Operators of Bangladesh (APOB) Abdur Rouf Chowdhury (3-L) hands over a set of recommendations to amend Telecommunications Act 2001 to Post and Telecommunications Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Raju (extreme right) at a meeting in Dhaka on Wednesday. The minister assured the APOB leaders of continuing government efforts to make the telecommunications law time-befitting and solving the problems of fully locally-owned public switched telephone network (PSTN) operators on a priority basis. The minister asked the PSTN operators to play a strong role in creating a Digital Bangladesh. Other leaders of APOB were also present at the meeting.

NBR probe digs out rod import scam

UNB, Dhaka

An inquiry committee formed to probe the allegation of assessment of imported rods before a ship's berthing in the country's territorial waters blamed the automated assessor for the tax fraud.

M Mominul Kabir has recently submitted the inquiry report to the National Board of Revenue (NBR), saying that Data Soft, the company that operates the automated systems of Chittagong seaport customs, 'willingly or unwittingly made the mistake'.

As per the automation process, Data Soft submits the Import General Manifest (IGM) or Export General Manifest (EGM) to the Chittagong Customs House. The Customs just does the assessment based on the IGM or EGM of the Data Soft submissions made electronically.

The probe report said that Data Soft submitted the IGM to the Chittagong Customs House for assess-

ment on May 6 and May 7. But they did not mention that the consignments were far away from Bangladesh waters. Customs House just assessed the import products with 7 percent import duty.

The matter of prior assessment came to light as the government imposed 15 percent VAT on import of MS rods and bars from May 12.

Earlier, in the middle of 2008, the caretaker government had abolished VAT and reduced duty to 7 per cent from 25 per cent to facilitate real estate and construction sectors when the price of MS rods hit an astronomical high.

But at the time when the SRO was issued the consignment of the finished rods was not even within the waters of the country.

NBR sources said, that sometimes importers used to advance their paper works before arrival of the ships with import consignments.

In the consignments of two ships, Kabir Steel and SN Corporation made the

advance assessment of 51,233 tonnes.

The enquiry committee in its report warned the Data Soft to be more careful before submitting entries.

It also suggested that the officials of Chittagong Customs House be cautious before making any assessment.

Responding to a question about punishment for this mistake of Data Soft, an NBR official told the news agency that as per the MoU signed between Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and Data Soft there is no provision for punishing the Data Soft for their "willing or unwitting mistakes or fraudulence".

The caretaker government in 2008 introduced the automation system with the aim of making import and export trade hassle-free. Data Soft got the job for bill of entry.

On May 24, the government again introduced the same automation in Dhaka Customs House where the Data Soft got the same job.

Dhaka to ink two deals with Riyadh

Visa problem to be resolved: Saudi envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will soon sign two agreements with Saudi Arabia on 'Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investment' and 'Abolishing Double Taxation' for enhancing bilateral trade and business.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan announced the government decision yesterday while talking to reporters after a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi in his office.

Talking about the outcome of the talks with the Saudi ambassador, Khan said they discussed the signing of the two deals on abolishing Double Taxation and Investment Protection for Saudi Arabia.

He said the Saudi diplomat expressed his positive attitude on access of some Bangladeshi goods to his country under 'duty-free' facilities.

He said the visa problems for Bangladeshis would soon be solved, as the ambassador assured him.

The minister said, "The existing trade relations would further be extended in the days ahead."

The current trade volume between the two countries amount to \$500 million and urged the Saudi diplomat to take the opportunity of importing jute goods, ships and pharmaceuticals from Bangladesh.

Earlier, the Saudi ambassador met Finance Minister AMA Muhith at his office in the morning when he assured the minister of making the visa process easier for Bangladeshi people.

He also assured that the problems facing foreign workers in Saudi Arabia would be solved on priority basis, especially for Bangladeshi workers. "It'll be brought down to minimum level for Bangladeshi workers."

Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi also emphasised strengthening the bilateral relations.

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

No. EDCL/Procurement/2009/843

Dated: 28/05/2009

Corrigendum Notice

Corrigendum to our Tender Notice No. EDCL/Procurement/2009/292 dt. 27/05/2009 for Enlistment of Automobile Workshop in the following manner:

1. Tender Schedule will not be purchased and Schedule will collected from Planning & Procurement Deptt.

All other terms & conditions against the above tender will remain unchanged.

The above Tender was Published earlier in The Daily Star on 28/05/2009 and The Shamokal on 28/05/2009.

Md. Feroze-ul-Alam

Director Operation & Incharge
Planning & Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.



STAR

Awami League lawmaker and President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry MA Latif visits a stall after inaugurating a three-day international medical exhibition styled CHIMEXPO-2009 at Peninsula Chittagong Hotel in the port city yesterday.

Desco asked to generate power, too

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Power and Energy Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday asked the Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (Desco) to move for power generation alongside its distribution business.

"As you're already allowed to do generation business and you've enough funds, you should not hesitate any more," he told the company officials while visiting the Desco headquarters in Banani.

Desco is the country's first state-owned public limited company established in 1996 as a power distribution entity as part of power sector reform programme.

The main objective of setting up the company was to reduce system loss from excessive 47 percent to below 10 percent.

After 13 years of its journey, the system loss in Desco areas has finally come down to 9.55 percent.

The company is now doing a good business as it made a Tk 207 crore profit

last year.

When the country's main power generation body, PDB, suffering from fund crisis, Desco has huge utilised funds.

Having heard of this great success of a state-owned company, the minister asked the Desco officials to move for new ventures in the power sector. "You can do renewable power business too."

He also advised Desco to introduce home-grown prepaid metre system in other parts in the city.

Desco's prepaid metre was installed in Uttara area which has brought the system loss down to zero percent alongside reducing power consumption there.

Desco Managing Director Saleh Ahmed informed the minister that there is a plan to install 12,000 prepaid metres in Uttara within the next three months while another 1 lakh in Gulshan, Mirpur and Baridhara areas within a year.

PDB Chairman Alamgir Kabir and joint secretary of the power ministry Wahid Hossain also spoke.

Ministry of Communications

Bridges Division
Bangladesh Bridge Authority
Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212
Web Site: www.bba.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Communications.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).		
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer (In-charge), Bangladesh Bridge Authority.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not available.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Installation of deep tube well (DTW) and automatic Water Treatment Plant at BBA Office-cum-Rest House Site, Mukterpur, Munshiganj.		
7	Invitation Ref No.	Tech/Jb-MB-10/2005-381		
8	Date	May 21, 2009		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB/BBA		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
14	Tender package No.	1 (one)		
15	Tender package name	Installation of deep tube well (DTW) and Automatic Water Treatment Plant at BBA Office-cum-Rest House Site, Mukterpur, Munshiganj.		
16	Tender publication date	Date: May 22, 2009		
17	Tender last selling date	Date: June 03, 2009		Time: During office hours
18	Tender submission/closing date and time	Date: June 04, 2009		Time: 12:30pm
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: June 04, 2009		Time: 4:00pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Account Section, BBA, Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212.		
20.1	Selling tender document (principal)	Not applicable.		
20.2	Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.		
20.3	Receiving tender document	Additional Director (Admin), Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), 2 nd Floor, Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212 and Md. Tofazzel Hossain, Assistant Engineer, BBA, Bangabandhu Bridge (Jamuna Bridge), Site Office, Bhupur, Tangail.		
20.4	Opening tender document	Conference Room, 2 nd Floor, Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212.		
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years similar type of experience. (2) The intending tenderers shall have to apply in their letterhead to the designated officer to obtain permission for the issuance of the tender documents.		
23	Brief description of works	Installation of deep tube well (DTW) and Automatic Water Treatment Plant at BBA Office-cum-Rest House Site, Mukterpur, Munshiganj.		
24	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.		
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk)
				Tender security amount (Tk)
25	1	Installation of deep tube well (DTW) and Automatic Water Treatment Plant at BBA Office-cum-Rest House Site, Mukterpur, Munshiganj	Mukterpur, Munshiganj	300.00
				36,000.00
				21 (twenty one) days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Shaiful Islam.		
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (In-charge), Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).		
28	Address of official inviting tender	BBA Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212.		
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 8850540 Fax: Nil		
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason thereof.			
GD-2733		Md. Shaiful Islam Executive Engineer (In-charge)		

বাখরাবাদ গ্যাস সিস্টেমস লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
প্রধান কার্যালয়, চাঁপপুর, কুমিল্লা

আপনার ও জাতীয় অর্থনৈতিক স্বাচ্ছন্দ্যের জন্য গ্যাস ব্যবহার করুন

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১। বাখরাবাদ গ্যাস সিস্টেমস লিমিটেড এর প্রধান কার্যালয়, চাঁপপুর, কুমিল্লায় রক্ষিত ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি গাড়ি এবং ১৭টি ১০০সিসি ও ২০টি ৫০ সিসি মোটর সাইকেল যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত সিলমোহরকৃত প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২৫% (পঁচিশ শতাংশ) এর সম-পরিমাণ অর্থ আনেক্সটানি হিসাবে তফসিলের শর্তানুযায়ী দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। গাড়িগুলির বর্ণনা নিম্নরূপঃ

ক্রমিক নং	গাড়ির প্রকৃতি	সংখ্যা	ক্রয়ের সন
১.১	টয়োটা ল্যান্ডক্রুজার জিপ (ডিজেল চালিত)	২টি	১৯৮৭ইং
১.২	ইসুজু মাইকোবাস (সিএনজিকৃত)	১টি	১৯৯৩ইং
১.৩	মিতসুবিশি মাইকোবাস (গ্যাপুলেপ), ডিজেল চালিত	১টি	১৯৮৭ইং
১.৪	ইসুজু জিটারা জিপ (সিএনজিকৃত)	১টি	১৯৯২ইং
১.৫	মোটর সাইকেল ১০০ সিসি	১৭টি	১৯৮৪-১৯৮৬ইং
১.৬	মোটর সাইকেল ৫০ সিসি	২০টি	১৯৮৫-১৯৮৬ইং

২। উল্লিখিত ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি গাড়ি ও ৩৭ (সাইক্লিশ) টি মোটর সাইকেল নিলামে বিক্রয়ের শর্তসম্মত দরপত্র তফসিল প্রতি সেট ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) মূল্যের বিনিময়ে আগামী ০১-০৬-২০০৯ইং হইতে ২১-০৬-২০০৯ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নোক্ত ঠিকানায় অবস্থিত অফিস হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবেঃ

ক) হিসাব বিভাগ, বিজিএসএল, প্রধান কার্যালয়, চাঁপপুর, কুমিল্লা; ও
খ) হিসাব শাখা, রাজস্ব বিভাগ, বিজিএসএল, ১৩৭/এ সিডিএ গ্রাউন্ডিন, মৌলভীবাজার, চট্টগ্রাম।
৩। দরপত্র ২২-০৬-২০০৯ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত তফসিলে বর্ণিত স্থানসমূহে গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং একইদিন বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র খোলা হইবে।

বিজি/৯৪১, মে-২০০৯

জিডি-২৭৩৩

কর্তৃপক্ষ