



New head for Dhaka Jetro

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Takashi Suzuki has taken over the Dhaka office of Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) as representative, said the organisation in a statement. Suzuki, who will be replacing Tomohiro Kinimoto, will be Jetro's 13th representative in Dhaka. His is a four-year tenure, which came into effect from December 13.

Starting his career with Jetro in 1994, Suzuki served as the representative of the organisation in Lagos and Brussels, and in the economic cooperation department of Jetro headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

Thai auto sales growth highest in four years

AFP, Bangkok
Thai auto sales were up by nearly a quarter in November -- the biggest year-on-year growth for more than four years, the industry said Wednesday. Vehicle sales rose 23.8 percent to 57,031 units as the country's economy recovered from the global slowdown, Toyota Motor Thailand said in its monthly release. The agricultural sector in particular boosted commercial vehicle sales, rising 18.2 percent to 32,977 units, while passenger car sales jumped 32.3 percent to 24,054 units.

Coriander wafts flavour in Chapainawabganj

RABIUL HASAN DOLLAR, Chapainawabganj

Coriander cultivation is gaining popularity among farmers in Chapainawabganj as it has become profitable because of the low costs of production and easy farming methods. Farmers in the district are now cultivating coriander leaf commercially and earning handsome amounts of money. They have been marketing for the last five years coriander of over 500 maunds a day to different parts of the

country, especially to Dhaka, after meeting local demand in the peak season. The herb was earlier cultivated only on small plots around homes for family consumption and sale at local markets. Now it is grown on a large scale in the shoal areas of Shibganj and Sadar upazilas. Sundarpur, Shahjahanpur, Charbagdanga, Narayanpur and Debinagar unions in Sadar upazila and Panka, Durlavpur, Ghorapakhia and Uzirpur unions in Shibganj upazila are

well known for coriander farming. "The herb is widely cultivated between October and February at very little costs in shoal areas, considered suitable for coriander cultivation," said an official at the regional office of the Department of agriculture Extension. "Coriander cultivation needs only Tk 2,500 to Tk 3,000 to cultivate a bigha of land, which sells between Tk 12,000 to Tk 15,000," according to a farmer in Bagdanga. Over 2,000 farmers have cultivated coriander this season on 130 hectares in the district.



AL Gooneratne, managing director of Commercial Bank of Ceylon, poses at a launching ceremony of the bank's two credit cards -- Combank Global Gold Card and Combank Global Classic Card -- in Dhaka recently.

Japan enters high-speed train sales race

AP, Nagoya, Japan

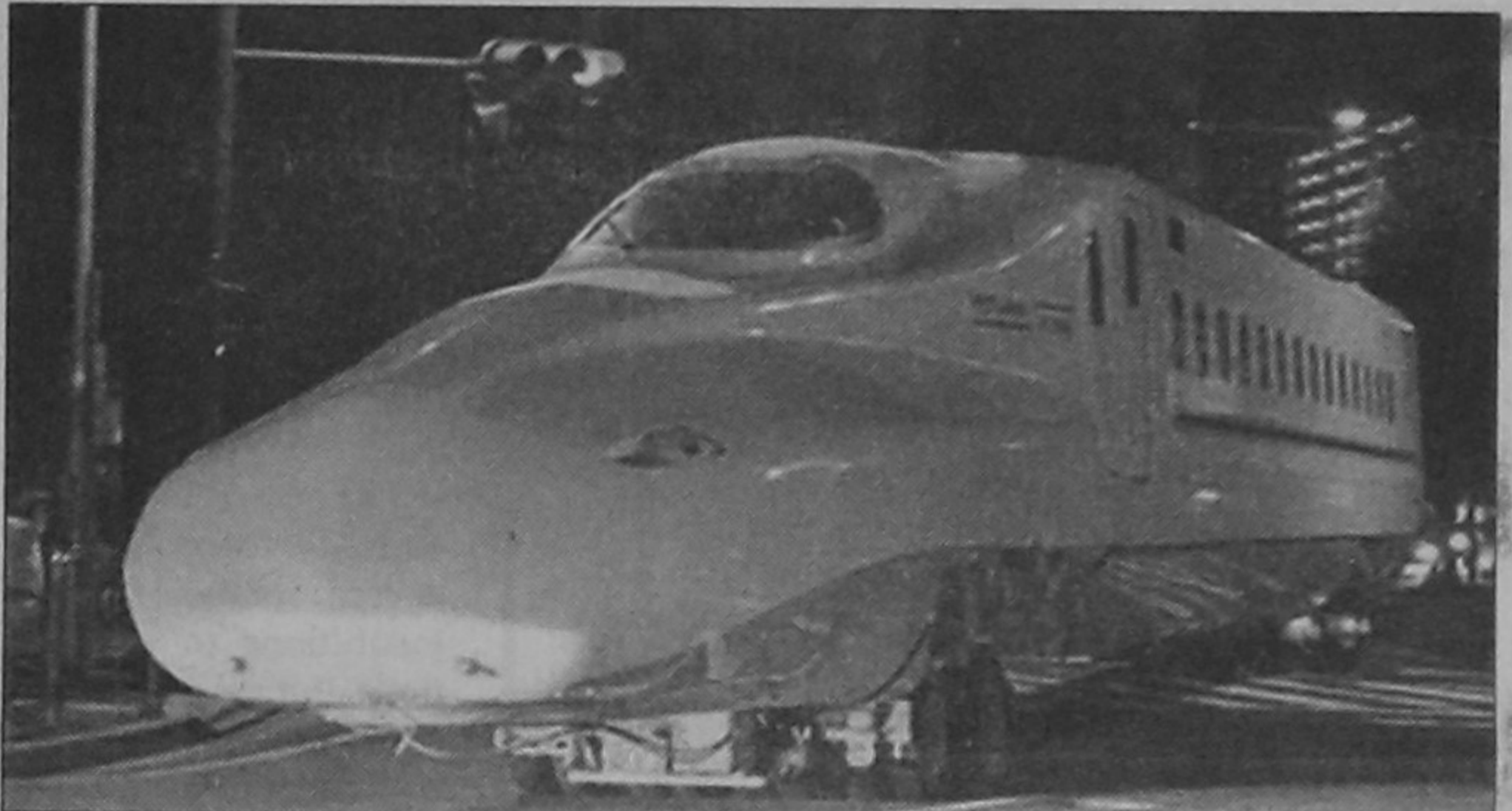
On a desolate stretch of track just before midnight, when all passenger lines have been put to bed, a juiced-up Japanese bullet train goes online and accelerates to over 200 miles per hour. The 700-tonne train, about a quarter of a mile long, whooshes by rice paddies in five seconds. There are no locals around to witness the train glide to a stop at a deserted Kyoto Station, but that's not the point. This is an accelerated sales pitch aimed squarely at the US, where Japan is competing with European train makers for a new high-speed train network that could deliver contracts worth hundreds of billions. Diplomats, business leaders and journalists were crammed in to watch special speedometers record the feat last month, the first time operator Japan Central Railway Co has allowed outsiders to join a test run. Rivals abroad said Japanese

trains weren't up to spec, and JR Central wanted to set the record straight. "In France and Germany they have been saying we can only do 280 kilometres (170 miles) per hour, so we had to demonstrate," says company chairman Yoshiyuki Kasai. That Japan's bottle-nosed bullet trains -- known here as the "shinkansen" -- can hold their own against overseas models has long been a point of pride. But now a massive sales race is underway. While the majority of services to date have been built in Europe, where makers like France's Alstom and Germany's Siemens dominate, governments around the world are looking to upgrade as existing lines age. A diverse group of countries is at various stages of introducing super trains, including Russia, the UK, Vietnam and Brazil, but the US is the ultimate prize. President Barack Obama's stimulus package included an \$8 billion provision for

high-speed trains, and some say eventually \$600 billion will be needed for a nationwide network. Japan's exports to the US last year totalled about \$140 billion. A high-speed network would drastically cut US train times. The Washington to New York route would drop from two and half hours to about 70 minutes, according to Kasai. That would create a viable alternative to planes and cars, cutting down on traffic and depositing travellers at stations that are often in the city centre. Some analysts question whether cash-strapped Washington can afford to follow up the initial provision with more funds. But building new train lines can also be a vote winner, hitting political touchstones like jobs and reduced pollution. JR Central, one of the operators created when Japan privatised its railways in 1987, is leading the charge in the US, but is also taking a risky winner-takes-all approach. The company is

pitching a total package covering everything from train cars to signals to maintenance machinery and even employee instruction -- even though many in the industry prefer to rely on a variety of suppliers. Few countries have the technology to safely move passengers and hundreds of tons of train so swiftly. Japan was an early innovator, launching services in 1964 to coincide with the Tokyo Olympics. Rivals with more experience at exporting include Alstom, a world leader by market share, and Siemens, which already has a light rail factory in Sacramento. Both have 200 mph trains in Europe and have said they will pursue the rail dollars from Washington. Japan is hoping its close political ties to the US will give its sales pitch a boost. When Obama visited Tokyo last month, Japanese leader Yukio Hatoyama highlighted Japanese trains and handed over promotional DVDs. The country has had

some success abroad. Earlier this week the U.K. launched its first high-speed service using trains made by Hitachi. In Vietnam, a major recipient of Japanese government financial assistance, officials have said they want to use Japan's technology for a new train network that may include high-speed services. JR Central runs high-speed services on the prized routes from Tokyo to Kyoto and Osaka, and designs and operates its own fleet. Bullet trains built by the company are currently used in a high-speed network in Taiwan, the first time they were sold abroad. But that \$18 billion project combines the Japanese train cars with technologies from other countries, a hodgepodge solution that JR Central wants to avoid in the US, because it means modifying proven technologies and a smaller paycheck. "This is not a system that



In this file photo, the head part of a new model of N700 bullet train, or the 'shinkansen,' is transported through a street in Fukuoka, southern Japan, on its way to run between Shin-Osaka, western Japan, and central Kagoshima, southern Japan, starting in spring, 2011. The same type of the bullet train marked 330 kilometres (205 miles) per hour during a test run on the commercial rail track between Maibara and Kyoto, western Japan on November 16.



Moazzem Hossain, chairman of National Bank Ltd, inaugurates the bank's 116th branch at Sonagazi in Feni recently. Md Abdur Rahman Sarker, managing director of the bank, is also seen.

Energy costs push up US wholesale prices 1.8pc

AFP, Washington

Surging energy costs lifted wholesale prices 1.8 percent in November, government data showed Tuesday, highlighting the volatility of inflation in recent months. The Labor Department's producer price index (PPI) was driven by a 6.9-percent jump in finished energy prices including a 14.2-percent rise in gasoline costs. Food prices rose a sharp 0.5 percent in the month. Excluding food and energy, the so-called core PPI was up 0.5 percent. Analysts had expected a 0.8 percent rise in the headline PPI and a 0.2-percent increase in the core index. The rise in prices comes amid ongoing fears about inflation as well as deflation. Though overall inflation has been tame, it has allowed the Federal Reserve to keep rates low to help lift the economy out of its malaise. Some analysts believe the recession could lead to a crippling cycle of deflation that crimps a recovery, while others fear that low rates could over time fuel a new surge in inflation that will be difficult to contain. Over the past 12 months, wholesale prices are up 2.4 percent, reversing a period of declining prices for the first time in a year. Joseph Brusuelas at Moody's Economy.com said inflation is not yet a threat, pointing out that "three-quarters of the rise in producer prices reflected increased food and fuel costs."



Nasir A Choudhury, managing director and chief executive officer of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd, receives the International Quality Crown Award IQC 2009 in Diamond category, from Jose E Prieto, president of Business Initiative Directions in London, United Kingdom recently. The company was recognised for its Total Quality Management that has been implemented for the last two years.

BIWTC
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation
(An Inland Shipping Organization)
5, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
নিরাপদ নৌ-চলাচল ও উন্নত যাত্রীসেবা
প্রদান করতে বিআইডব্লিউটিসি অঙ্গীকারবদ্ধ

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from the contractors in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2008 for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping.
2.	Source of funds	BIWTC's own fund.
3.	Tender package No.	W-08/2009-10
4.	Invitation for tender Ref.	XEN(C)/107/01(Part-2)
5.	Tender name	1. Construction of internal road with HBB at terminal No-1 of BIWTC, Chittagong. 2. Construction of internal road with HBB & CC work at Sonachora of Dy-1, BIWTC, Narayanganj. 3. Repair & renovation work of T. S-3 Office at Netaiganj of BIWTC, Narayanganj.
6.	Time for completion of the works	60 (sixty) days for SI No-1 and 30 (thirty) days for SI. No-2 & 3 (each).
7.	Eligibility of tenderer	'A' class contractors working in any Govt./Semi-Govt. Organization having minimum experience of 5 (five) years in construction works.
8.	Price of tender document	Tk. 500/= (five hundred) non-refundable (each set).
9.	Amount of tender security	Tk. 36,000/- (thirty six thousand only) for SI. No-1, Tk. 3,000/- (three thousand) for SI. No-2 & Tk. 2,500/- (two thousand five hundred) for SI. No-3 in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of BIWTC.
10.	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	1) Cash Section, (2 nd Floor), BIWTC, Head Office, 5, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. 2) DGM (Engineering), Dy-1, Sonachora, BIWTC, Narayanganj. 3) AGM (Accounts), BIWTC, Strand Road, Chittagong. 4) AGM (Accounts), BIWTC, Netaiganj, Narayanganj.
11.	Name and address of the office receiving tender	(1) The Executive Engineer (Civil) (5 th Floor), 5, Dilkhusha, C/A, Dhaka-1000. (2) Sr. Asst. Secretary, Room No-819 (8 th Floor), Building No-6, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000.
12.	Name and address of the office opening tenders	Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) (5 th Floor), 5, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
13.	Last date and time for selling tender document	In all working days up to 19-01-2010 during office hour.
14.	Last date and time for submission of tenders	20-01-2010 up to 14-00 hrs.
15.	Date & time for opening of tender	20-01-2010 at 14-30 hrs. Tenderers and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend.
16.	Special instruction	(a) No document will be sold on the date of receiving tender. (b) Should the receiving date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tender shall be opened at the same time on the first subsequent working day. (c) Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening tender. (d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders prior to acceptance.
17.	Brief description of works	1. Construction of internal road with HBB at terminal No-1 of BIWTC, Chittagong. 2. Construction of internal road with HBB & CC work at Sonachora of Dy-1, BIWTC, Narayanganj. 3. Repair & renovation work of TS-3 Office at Netaiganj of BIWTC, Narayanganj.

BIWTC/PR/55/2009-2010
GD-5642

Engr. Mohammad Ali
Executive Engineer (Civil)
BIWTC, Dhaka

গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল)
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
রেড ক্রিসেন্ট-বোরাক টাওয়ার (লেভেল ৩-৬)
৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইস্টাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ
করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

"শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস
গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানি"

ভাড়া জীপ সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বিশুদ্ধ, জ্বালানি ও বনজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/জ্বালানি ও বনজ সম্পদ বিভাগ।
২।	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ তেল, গ্যাস ও বনজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)।
৩।	প্রকৃতির এনটি	গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল)।
৪।	অর্থায়নের উৎস	সরকারের উন্নয়ন বাজেট।
৫।	দরপত্রের সূত্র	জিটিসিএল/বি-এস/পরি(জীপ)/দরপত্র/২০০৯, তারিখঃ ১৯-১১-২০০৯।
৬।	দরপত্রের নাম/কাজের বিবরণ	বাখরাবাদ-সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ গ্যাস সমালীন পাইপলাইন প্রকল্পে ব্যবহারের জন্য ১৯৯৮ বা তৎপরবর্তী সনে প্রস্তুতকৃত ২০০০-৩০০০ সিপি'র ২ (দুই)টি জীপ ভাড়া সরবরাহের দরপত্র।
৭।	প্রকৃতির পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৮।	দরপত্রাদানের যোগ্যতা	ভাড়া গাড়ি সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে দরপত্রদাতার কমপক্ষে ৩ (তিন) বৎসরের ব্যবসায়িক অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে এবং দরপত্র দলিলে বর্ণিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা।
৯।	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	৮ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১০।	দরপত্র জামানত/আর্নেস্টমনি	৮ ৬৫,০০০/- (পঁয়ষট্টি হাজার টাকা) মাত্র (ফেরতযোগ্য), গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হইতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১১।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ক) হিসাব ডিপার্টমেন্ট, গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল), রেড ক্রিসেন্ট-বোরাক টাওয়ার (লেভেল-৪), ৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইস্টাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১২।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সময়সীমা	১৭-১২-২০০৯ হইতে ১০-০১-২০১০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরে বর্ণিত স্থান হইতে দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
১৩।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ সময়, খোলার সময় ও স্থান	১১-০১-২০১০ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কমিটি রুম, গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল), রেড ক্রিসেন্ট-বোরাক টাওয়ার (লেভেল-৩), ৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইস্টাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০ ঠিকানায় দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১২.০৫ ঘটিকায় একই স্থানে দরপত্রদাতা/দরপত্রদাতাগণের প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে।
১৪।	দরপত্র আদানকারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা	প্রকল্প পরিচালক বাখরাবাদ-সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ প্রকল্প রেড ক্রিসেন্ট-বোরাক টাওয়ার (লেভেল-৩) ৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইস্টাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০

মিঃ ডঃ
১। প্রকৃতির এনটি কোন কারণ দর্শনা ব্যতীতকেই যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।
২। অবিলম্বে কার্যবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময় ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।

জিটিসিএল-২০/০৯-১০