

Call to resume publication of Purbakone

The leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Sangbadpatra Press Samik Federation, Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation and Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ).

Saturday called upon the management of the daily Purbakone of Chittagong to resume the publication of the daily by implementing the Fourth Wage Board Award and meeting other local demands of the journalists employees.

BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President Zahurul Haq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Press Samik Federation President, Moshraf Hossain and General Secretary Bazur Rahman Milon, Karmachari Federation President Jahangir Kabir and General Secretary Mtr Mozammel Hossain and CUJ President Akhtarunnabi and General Secretary Anjan Sen, in a joint statement, also condemned the "obstinate mentality" of the Purbakone management.

They said the journalists — employees of the daily were not getting their salaries for more than a month and they were facing hardships due to the uncertain situation.

Purbakone Unit

A meeting of daik Purbakone Unit of Chittagong Union of Journalists held today in the office of the daily with Unit Chief Omar Kaiser in the chair called upon the management to implement the Fourth Wage Board Award without further delay, a unit press release said.

The meeting pointed out that delay in the implementation of the Wage Board Award was complicating the situation in the newspaper industry. It hoped that the management of the daily would honour the law of the land and shun its 'Dilly-dally tactics'.

Abul Momen, Ataul Hakim, Syed Khaled Ilyat, Anjan Kumar Sen, AZM Omar and others addressed the meeting.

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Nizami's call to foil conspiracy against democracy

Secretary General of the Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat Parliamentary Party Leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami has said democracy and terrorism can not co-exist.

He was speaking at a lawyers' meeting at Rajshahi District Lawyers' Association auditorium on Saturday.

He said terrorism was the main obstacle to advancement of democratic process initiated through the passage of the 12th Amendment Bill to the Constitution.

The Jamaat leader called upon the people to make the September 15 referendum a success by participating in it spontaneously. He called upon all to remain vigilant against any civil forces' attempt to foil the democratic process.

Maulana Nizami said the future of the students were being ruined by continued terrorism in the educational institutions. He called upon the lawyers to use their influence on the political parties not to shelter any terrorist.

He urged all to build up social resistance against corruption which he said, was the main obstacle to the development of the country.

Rajshahi District Lawyers' Association General Secretary, Advocate Rafiqul Hassan presided over the meeting.

Nepalese envoy pays farewell call on President

The outgoing Nepalese Ambassador, Dr Mohan Prasad Lohani, paid a farewell call on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at President's Secretariat in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, Acting President appreciated the contribution of Lohani in strengthening further friendly relation between Bangladesh and Nepal.

In this context, Justice Shahabuddin recalled that the volume of trade between the two countries increased substantially.

The Acting President conveyed his warmest greetings to King Birendra, the government and the people of Nepal.

Ambassador Lohani expressed his gratitude for the excellent cooperation he received from all circles in Bangladesh.



Launch passengers looking helpless (above) at Sadarghat terminal on Saturday as all Water Transports went off different routes due to river transport owners' strike. Double-deckers (below) were used in the river as a blockade against movement of transports — Star photo

Electricity goes to villages

By Special Correspondent

Rural electrification in both developed and developing countries is viewed as a major component of the overall infrastructure. As a key infrastructure input, rural electrification can make a significant contribution towards achieving the goal of socio-economic development in general and of the rural economy in particular.

Bangladesh, like many other developing countries, has adopted a comprehensive plan of rural electrification with a sizeable amount of scarce resources devoted to its implementation. Although only a small fraction, about six to seven per cent, of the country's rural population has been provided electricity, there has been a remarkable growth of rural electrification during the last 10 years and further expansion is envisaged, in the future.

Rural electrification projects are often favoured because they broaden the rural production as age-old modes give way to the mechanical and power based production technology. In addition to stimulating productive activities, the programme contributes to generating employment. Living standards in the rural areas also improve with extensive use of electrical accessories in an increasing number of rural households. Rural electrification also helps promote mass education, health programme and population control.

The general belief regarding the positive impact of rural electrification has also been confirmed by social-science research. In Bangladesh, although not much work has been done to assess the multifarious impact of rural electrification, a number of studies have focussed on the birth rate electrification relationship.

Studies thus far undertaken are found to vary significantly in both methodology and coverage. Methodologically simple ones have generally tried to compare some fertility-related measures like birth rate, children born etc. Between selected number of electrified and non-electrified households or villages. More sophisticated studies have used advance statistical and economic methods.

VDP, Ansars asked to help maintain law and order

Acting Director General of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) Brigadier Mohammad Abed Meah has called upon the VDP members and Ansars to render their dedicated services for maintaining law and order, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest in the concluding function of a training course of union level VDP and Ansar chiefs, at Ansar Academy of Saffur under Gazipur district Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs Delwar Hossain Chowdhury attended the function as special guest.

The Acting Director General said that along with their primary responsibility of maintaining law and order, the VDP members and the Ansars would have to work for socio-economic development of the nation.

Despite such differences most of the studies have established that some degree of relationship between rural electrification and population growth are negatively co-related i.e. the spread of rural electrification is associated with a declining fertility rate and hence a lower population growth.

Interestingly enough, the more sophisticated the methodology used, the stronger is the relationship established. One reason for this variation, perhaps, lies in the fact that the studies using simple methods have no means to disentangle the effects of rural electrification from those of other variables which may contribute to further the growth of population. As a result, fertility-related variables might have been over-estimated in such studies, thus obscuring the true impact of rural electrification.

The mere establishment of some degree of negative correlation between rural electrification and population growth may not however be enough to state that the former causes the latter. The relationship needs to be justified on sound theoretical grounds.

Theoretically, if rural electrification leads to the adoption of new technology in the productive sphere, thus reducing the demand for labour, then a declining population growth due to electrification may be not untenable.

However, such decline in the birth rate or population growth may not be manifested instantly but only after a time lag. It is also possible that rural electrification may affect about the government and state programmes from the mass media.

Bangladesh with its frightening population problem has to explore all possible ways and means to check the population explosion. If rural electrification does indeed contribute to a declining population, the process of reaching electricity to more villages and households should be accelerated further by allocating resources adequate for the purpose.

However, broad-based studies have to be undertaken before reaching any definite conclusions about how far rural electrification affects population growth.

HERE and THERE

Freedom Party
The Freedom Party Saturday said that it would take all possible measures to vote against the 12th Amendment Bill in the referendum to be held on September 15.

It was announced according to the relation of the meeting of the party's high-powered leaders with Chairman Colonel (Retd) Faruk Rahman in the chair.

The party urged the people to vote 'no' in the referendum. It also expressed concern over the price hike, widespread terrorism in the educational institutions and agitation of government employees.

Jatiya Sramik Party
Vice-President of the Jatiya Sramik Party (JSP) F M Sirajul Haq Saturday left Dhaka for New Delhi to attend the 10-day conference of workers' organisation of the SAARC countries.

Huq is the General Secretary of People's Jute Mills Workers Union of Khalishpur, said a party press release.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal
The Standing Committee meeting of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) began Saturday at its temporary office with Nour-e-Alam Ziku in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the present political situation of the country and decided to participate in the referendum on party basis to ensure the leadership of the workers and professionals.

Jatiya Sechchhasebak
Jatiya Sechchhasebak Party on Saturday postponed its proposed biennial conference of August 29 due to the bye-elections.

The conference will be held in September, a party press release said.

The decision to shift the date was taken at a meeting of the party with President Abdul Latif in the chair. Party leaders Mostain Billah, Akter Chowdhury, Abu Syed Khan, Advocate Sohrab Uddin and Faruk Ahmed also addressed the meeting.

Sonali Bank Officers Welfare Assoc
A protest rally was held in front of Sonali Bank Head Office on Saturday as part of the movement of Bank Officers Federation to realise their demands including separate pay scale for bank officers and incentive bonus.

Presided over by Abdus Shahid the rally was addressed among others by Syed Anwar Hossain, Ofiullah Mian, Masum Khadem, Soltaman, Rahimullah Patoari, S G M Mohsin and Masru Rahman.

Law needed to tackle spread of AIDS
Enactment of a law and creation of a fund to deal with the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) situation in Bangladesh have become urgent, say experts.

Investigations have revealed that the lone AIDS case and four out of the five carriers of the AIDS virus — HIV (Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus) — detected so far were all infected abroad.

Experts say, further spread of the disease can be halted by creating checkpoints at the points of entry into Bangladesh to look for new cases, and put the identified HIV cases under constant supervision.

HIV carriers develop into full-blown AIDS cases in ten or more years. During the intervening period they lead normal lives and pose danger if they are not motivated to avoid having sex without precautions, and to destroy needles and syringe used by them.

To prevent further spread of HIV among Bangladeshis, those going abroad should be made to undergo a one-to-two-hour of orientation course through which they could be taught how to protect themselves.

On their returning back home each one of them should again be asked to get his blood tested, and give blood to AIDS surveillance squads at airports, sea ports and border checkpoints.

Simultaneously, prostitutes in brothels should be regularly screened to guard against contacting the AIDS virus from foreigners.

Experts say that in the absence of a law people coming back home cannot be made to give blood for carrying out tests. Again an orientation course for those going abroad on employment also cannot be made compulsory if the effort is not backed by a law.

A fund is needed to create the manpower for surveillance squads to operate at airports, sea ports, and border checkpoints; and to monitor and treat the cases already detected, experts say.

Meanwhile, experts are worried that two of the five HIV cases have hidden themselves. One of them is a young man deported from Dubai last year.

He hails from the district of Cox's Bazar. He has not reported back since his return. He was advised not to marry, and avoid infecting others.

Another young man from Bishwanath upazila in Sylhet was found to be a HIV case last year. He was on his way to Saudi Arabia on employment. He was stopped and given counselling. He has also not reported back.

Film education at varsity level urged

Bangladesh Short Film Forum has announced a five-point charter of demand aimed at flourishing better cine-culture in the country.

The demands were announced at a discussion meeting held at the Teacher-Student Centre premises of the Dhaka University Saturday afternoon. In observance of the fifth founding anniversary of the forum, a colourful procession was brought out before the discussion. The processionists paraded the city streets carrying placards, festoons and banners.

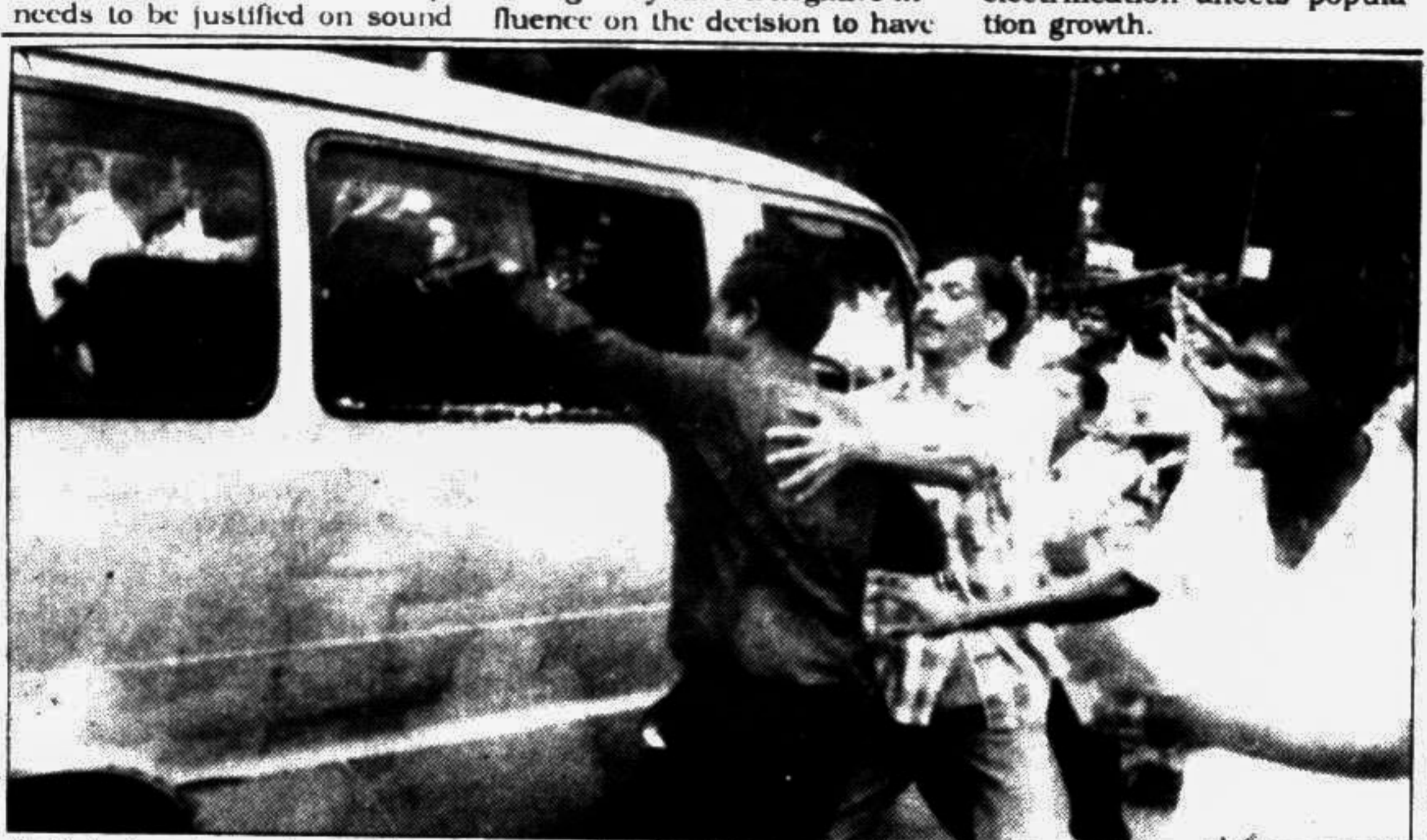
The demands include: Government donation for making artistic and socially-effective films, founding national film centre to facilitate free practice of healthy cine culture, create opportunity for making 16 mm film at the Film Development Corporation (FDC), introduce film education at the university level and cancellation of Film Societies Control Act of 1980.

Chaired by Manzare Hasin Murad, President of the Forum, the discussion at the TSC, was also addressed, among others, by DU English Department Teacher Prof Sirajul Islam Choudhury, filmmaker Niamat Ali, Bangladesh Television Producer M Hamid, short film-makers Morshedul Islam and Tanweer Mokammel.

CPB call to cast votes in referendum
Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has called upon the people to cast their votes in favour of the parliamentary system in referendum.

The CPB central secretariat in a statement on Saturday urged the party workers at all level and other democratic forces to launch campaign and organise voters to cast their votes on September 15.

The statement said it was the sacred duty of all to uphold the democratic rights achieved through long struggle.



Agitated govt employees demaging a micro-bus Saturday. —Star photo

Dateline Chittagong

BNP leaders' meet today over nomination row

CHITTAGONG, Aug 24: BNP leaders in Chittagong divided over the nomination in the Chittagong-8 constituency, are expected to meet party chairman Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia tomorrow (Sunday) to resolve the issue.

Party sources said that the leaders of both the groups left Chittagong this night for Dhaka.

The party has nominated Amir Khasru Mohammad Chowdhury for the bye-election to be held September 11, but some workers and a group of local leaders were demanding either Zahiruddin Khan or Ekramul Karim as party candidate in the Chittagong-8 constituency.

The BNP central body sent Communication Minister Colonel (Retd) Oil Ahmed and Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali to Chittagong but seven rounds of talks with both the groups in the past two days failed to resolve the issue. Meanwhile, anti-Khasru supporters of the BNP held a rally at Pahartali and brought out procession in the city also on Saturday to press home their demand for the cancellation of Khasru's nomination.

Govt employees urged to discharge duties in disciplined manner

The JSSS leaders, in a joint statement, said the main demands of the government employees were fulfilled with the announcement of the Pay Commission reports, re-fixation of office timing and constitution of high-powered committee on promotion.

They called upon the employees to discharge their duties in a disciplined manner and in the interest of the country and the nation.

Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal City Unit President Abul Khayer Bhuiyan and General Secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, in a separate joint statement, called upon the employees to accept the new Pay Commission report.

Later, the Minister visited the cyclone hit-areas of the city to see the rehabilitation works there.

He was accompanied, among others, by MA Jinnah MP and Chittagong City Mayor, Mr Nasiruddin.

BCIC Tender Notice
Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by the Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited, Rangadia, Chittagong from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers for the Purchase of Laboratory Apparatus and Chemicals Tender Enquiry No. CUFL/PUR/91-92/81(22) dated 3.8.91. Tender document can be purchased at the cost of Tk. 50/- (fifty) only (Non-refundable) per set from (1) CUFL, Rangadia, Chittagong, (2) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka and (3) BCIC Branch Office, 06, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong up to 14.9.91 during office hours. Tender documents will be received up to 11.30 A.M. on 16.9.91 and will be opened immediately after. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.
BCIC-743-20/8 D-89

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2. Tender documents will be available from the office of the Director of Accounts, BIWTA, Dhaka on all working days on payment of Tk 1300/- (Non-refundable) only.
3. No tender will be sold on the day of opening of the tender.
4. Earnest money equivalent to 2% (two per cent) of the quoted amount in the form of Pay Order, Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of BIWTA. Bank Guarantee shall be valid for at least 90 days.
5. Tenders will be received on 17.9.91 till 11.00 hrs in the tender box kept at Conservancy & Pilotage Dept., BIWTA Bhaban, 10th floor, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and opened on the same day at 11.30 hrs in presence of the tenderers, if there be any.
6. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason(s) thereof.
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