

Inside Today

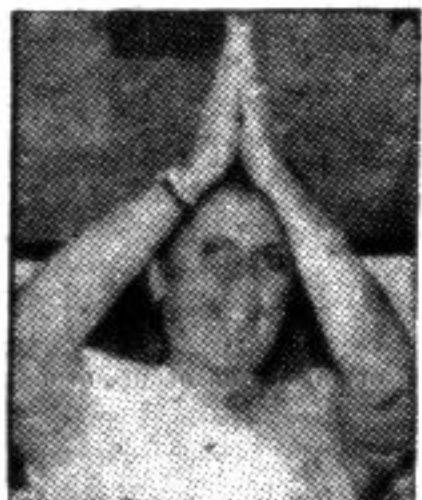
Article

Insensitivity
Makes Light of
Scam

Column: Between The Lines
by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

International

Israel sets date for handing over powers to Palestinians in West Bank



Chandrika a veteran of political Mayhem
Page 5

Business

Pakistan, UAE to speed up work on under-sea gas project

ROK rejects US suggestions to lower tariffs on car imports
Pages 6, 7

Weekend
Magazine

Building Democracy: Arenas of European Politics; The Statue of Liberty: A Beacon of Promise; In Search of a Kindly Light; Poets Go for Apartments Rather than Stadiums; For Adults Only; A Drama of Debates; Ravi Shankar: Genius Behind the Sitar; Analysing the Political Economy of Local Government; Seeking Social Justice via the Lens; Viewing Video
Pages 9, 10, 11

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Birds of the Same Feather Flock Together
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda shocked

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Gopalpur Pourashava Chairman and Gopalpur thana BNP president Khondoker Abdul Mannan, reports BSS.

Cassette on Hasina

'Bangakanya', an audio-cassette recorded on struggling life of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will be launched ceremonially here in September. Begum Sofia Kamal will inaugurate the cassette, the fourth venture of eminent reciter Kazi Khasru Iqbal, reports BSS.

One dies in Sylhet

SYLHET, Aug 18: An auto tempo driver was killed in a road accident that took place on Sylhet-Sunamganj road this morning. The incident occurred near the Pathantola Government Primary School when the auto tempo had a head-on collision with a tractor. The auto tempo driver Ruhul Islam, 30, died on the spot. Police seized both the vehicles. A case had been filed with the Sylhet Kotwali police station.

Kumaratunga new
Lankan PM

COLOMBO, Aug 18: Chandrika Kumaratunga, whose socialist party won the national election, has been appointed prime minister and is forming a government, sources said today, reports AP, AFP.

Outgoing Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe today vacated his office and residence.

Wickremesinghe told reporters shortly before he ceased to be Premier that Kumaratunga will be sworn in tomorrow.

Kumaratunga — who entered politics after both her parents served as prime minister and one of them was assassinated — has promised to begin negotiations with the Tamil rebels who have been

fighting for independence in Sri Lanka for 11 years.

She also has pledged to continue the nation's free-market reforms, educate more women and children, reduce corruption, and decentralise government by reducing the

Editorial on Page 4

Profile on Page 5

powers of the president and increasing those of the legislators and prime minister.

Hours after the 49-year-old leader was named prime minister designate, the powerful Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, welcomed her offer for talks.

"We are very happy that she

is willing to talk to us, we are also willing," said Tamil rebel spokesman Anton Raja. Raja was speaking in London.

On Wednesday, Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance became the first opposition party in 17 years to defeat President D B Wijetunga's United National Party in a parliamentary election.

Although the coalition fell eight seats short of a majority, other opposition parties promised to join its government.

As President, Wijetunga, has the power to choose anyone as prime minister, and there were fears he would pick someone from his own party, even though it finished second

See Page 12 Col 8

Earthquake kills
147 in Algeria

ALGIERS, Aug 18: An earthquake struck northwest Algeria early Thursday, killing at least 147 people and injuring 289, local rescue officials said, reports AP.

The quake, which hit about 400 kilometers west of Algiers, registered a preliminary magnitude of 5.6, according to the Algerian Centre for Astrophysical Research. A quake of such strength can cause widespread structural damage and take a considerable human toll in populated areas.

Several aftershocks followed, the strongest of which had a preliminary magnitude of 5.1. Fear of aftershocks drove thousands of people flee their homes and spend the night in the street.

Homes built of mud-and-straw brick collapsed with the first quake, and 8,000-10,000 people were left without shel-

ter, according to rescue officials, quoted on national radio.

Officials appealed for blood donations and warned that drinking water could soon be in short supply.

The British Geological Survey said the quake hit at 2:13 am local time (0113 GMT) and registered a 5.2 magnitude. Its epicenter was near the city of Sig.

The people, must have been killed by something — usually it's by falling masonry," said geologist John Lovell of the British organization.

"This is nothing unusual for the area," Lovell said. "The whole of the Mediterranean is susceptible to quite large earthquakes from time to time because of the shifting tectonic plates."

Hardest hit were Bou Hanifia, a hot springs resort.

See Page 12 Col 7

Mystery over
body found near
JU persists

By Staff Correspondent

The mystery shrouding the death of a young man whose body was found near the Jahangirnagar University on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway Wednesday remained unsolved until yesterday.

The Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, has claimed the victim Quamrul Islam as one of its supporters and alleged that Islam was murdered in a JU residential hall.

However, investigating police men are yet to be sure of the cause of Islam's death and the allegations surrounding it.

Savar police said they were still waiting for the autopsy report from the forensic experts of the Dhaka Medical College who completed the post-mortem examination of the body yesterday.

A police officer said "We are

See Page 12 Col 3

BUET students
vacate halls

By Staff Correspondent

All resident students of the seven halls of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) vacated their halls by 10 am yesterday.

The BUET authorities closed the university since the campus situation deteriorated centring the election of the central students union (EUCSU) and hall unions.

The authorities ordered the resident students to vacate the halls by 10 am yesterday.

The elections scheduled to have been held yesterday were postponed and processions and rallies on the campus banned.

No untoward incidents took place yesterday. Police presence on the campus, however, continued.

See Page 12 Col 6



Three engineering students march out of their dormitory yesterday morning following the indefinite closure of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology by the authorities on Wednesday.

— Star photo

FFE — a new ray of hope

By Nazmul Ashraf, back from Gazipur



A large number of guardians queuing yesterday for wheat at a primary school in Gazipur covered by the government's Food-for-Education Programme for poor village children of school-going age.

— Star photo

Anwar Hossain, a student of class II of Saina Government Primary School under Gazipur district, attended classes even on the day his maternal grandfather died.

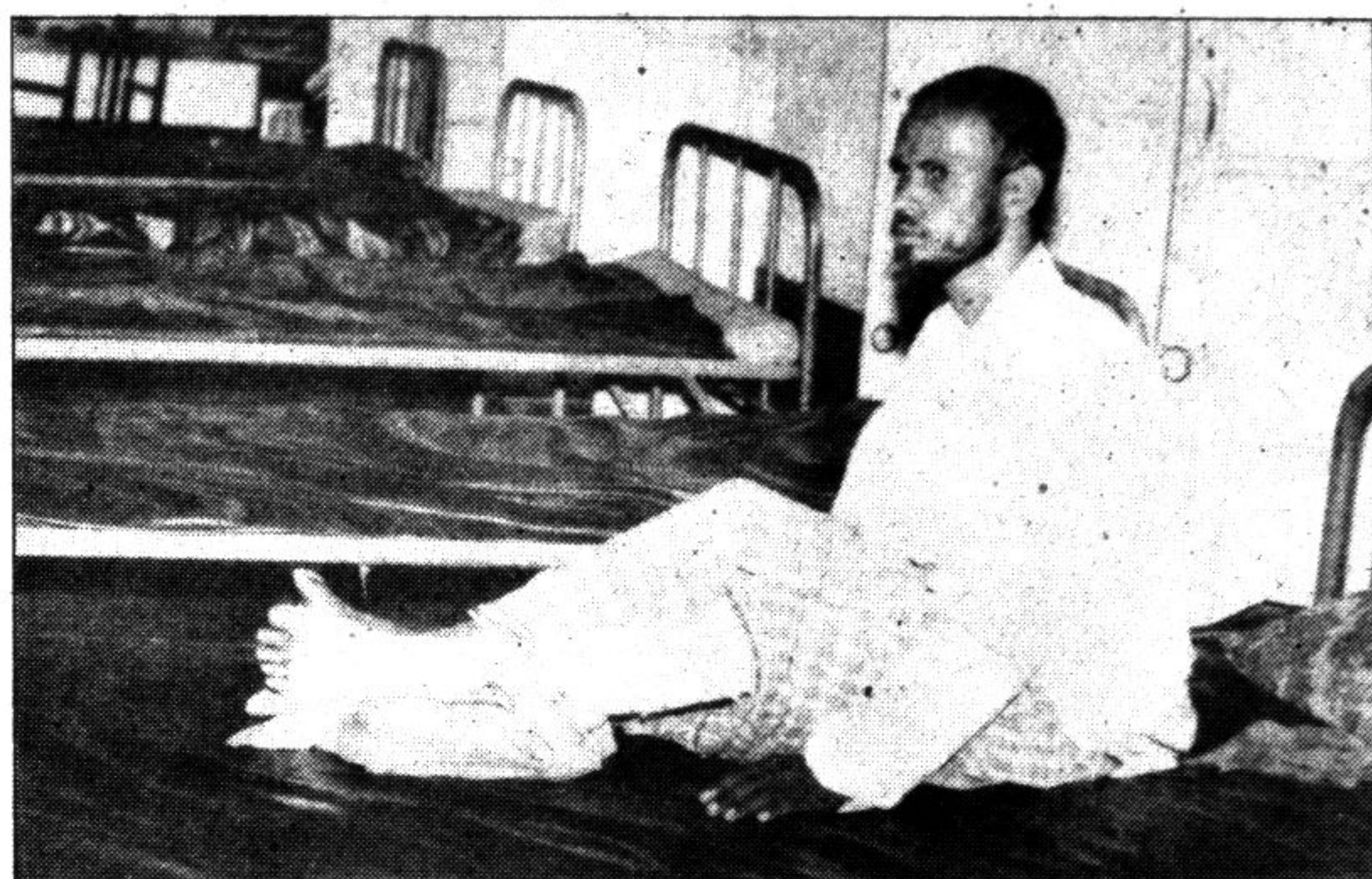
This is a glaring example of the students' determination to have 85 per cent attendance in classes, a requirement for receiving wheat under the government's Food For Education (FFE) programme.

Anwar never missed classes since the FFE programme was launched a year ago as his teachers asked him to remain present under any circumstances," said his father Mohammad Ali, a vendor.

"The supply of wheat, 15 kg a month for each family with one primary school-going children, had encouraged us to send our son to school regularly. Ali told The Daily Star while queuing to receive wheat before the Union Parishad office yesterday morning.

Moksed Ali Akhand, a shopkeeper, was also in the queue to receive the monthly allocation of wheat for his daughter. Fatema. Moksed did not agree that he was sending his daughter to school to get wheat in return. "I wish that all of my children will be educated. I'm not here only for wheat," he said admitting that the wheat he was receiving

See Page 12 Col 7



Perhaps this patient's inability to walk prevented him from joining the rest who left the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's casualty ward on the concluding day of the doctors' 48-hr strike yesterday.

— Star photo

Prokrichi
deadline

By Staff Correspondent

Some 70 thousand professionals and members of different functional cadres have threatened a continuous strike across the country from October 10 if the government fails to reform the existing bureaucracy by October 7.

They also plan a day-long strike "on September 22 to press for their 17-point charter of demands."

Announcement of the fresh agitation programme of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council, platform of the professionals, came at a rally in the capital yesterday during a day-long strike.

Prokrichi members struck work throughout the country in protest against what they termed "bureaucratic conspiracy and government repression."

Many government offices

See Page 12 Col 1

Several patients die,
many leave hospitals

By Staff Correspondent

Thousands of patients who went to the government hospitals and clinics were denied of medicare for the second day yesterday by striking doctors.

Many patients were seen leaving the hospitals in view of the 48-hr strike, according to reports received from different hospitals.

A baby boy, born some weeks prematurely, died in the incubator yesterday at the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) only 27 hours after birth.

Relatives of the baby said it had died for want of treatment in the absence of the doctors.

The mother, Niarala, was admitted at the SSMCH on Wednesday.

At the SSMCH, four other patients died yesterday. However, the doctors on emergency duty claimed the patients had died despite their

attention.

Our Dhaka Medical College Hospital Correspondent reported that nine patients died at the country's largest 1200-bed hospital while 23 others left due to the strike.

No tickets were sold at the outdoor booths of the DMCH, the reports said.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), the platform of the doctors, said their 48-hour strike passed off peacefully yesterday all over the country.

In a statement, the secretary general of the association regretted the inconvenience caused to the patients because of the strike and at the same time congratulated the doctors for joining it.

The doctors struck work to press for the realisation of their 21-point demand and re-

See Page 12 Col 2

Flood situation worsens in
C'nawabganj, Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: Flood situation worsened further in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj as more areas have been engulfed by flood waters today, reports BSS.

Five more unions in Chapainawabganj and five unions in Rajshahi have been affected yesterday. With this, 25 unions in Chapainawabganj and 11 unions in Rajshahi have so far been inundated by waters.

Meanwhile, the river Padma and Mohananda at Chapainawabganj were flowing 2.58 meter and 32 cm above the bed mark today.

River Padma was also in spate and it was flowing over four cm above the danger mark.

UNB from Chapainawabganj adds: Some 1,500 families have been rendered homeless by the flood onslaught in two thanas — Shibganj and Nawabganj Sadar including part of the district headquarters.

About 80,000 people have been reported trapped in their inundated villages in the last seven days of flooding which submerged some 243 square km area in the two thanas.

Meanwhile, one person drowned in flood water in Shibganj, raising the death toll from the current floods to four.

Reports of diarrhoea patients being admitted to the Shibganj Health Complex daily are about 25. Medical teams are yet to reach the areas.

In Sadar thana, about 50 people were attacked by the disease during the last three days, official source said.

Total number of families affected by the floods, caused by torrential rains in June and July and onrush of water from across the border, stood at 12,706 in 25 unions.

A Sirajganj report says: Water level of the river Jamuna swelled further during the last two days inundating the low lying areas of Kazipur and Chowdhali thanas of the district.

About 200 feet areas of the Sirajganj-Belkuchi flood protection embankment in Ramgathi, was washed away.

Three villages — Jodhpara, Rehakowlia and Khasdhalai in Chowdhali thana went under water.

Reduce trade gap,
Khalea urges
Malaysian envoy

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said yesterday there is a wide scope for expanding bilateral economic and trade relations between Bangladesh and Malaysia, reports UNB.

She suggested the import of jute, jute goods, leather, leather products and ceramic from Bangladesh to reduce the trade gap between the two countries. Malaysia can also import skilled and unskilled manpower from the country, she added.

The Prime Minister was talking to outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner Ahmed Fuzi Bin Haji Abdul Razak who called on her at her office.

The Malaysian envoy lauded Bangladesh's economic development during the present regime under the leadership of

See Page 12 Col 2

Hasina blasts
critics of
caretaker govt

Sheikh Hasina yesterday blasted the critics of caretaker government and said none but interested quarters believe that election can be impartial under the BNP government's supervision, reports UNB.

"Our experiences from the past byelections and city corporation elections suggest that without a neutral caretaker government, it is impossible to protect voters' rights and their security from torture and repression by the ruling party," said the Awami League President addressing a group of about 500 leaders and workers of the undivided CPB who joined her party at her official residence yesterday afternoon.

Hasina criticised those who are arguing that fair polls is possible under the BNP even after an "unprecedented rigging and torture" during the

See Page 12 Col 6

Rival N'ganj AL
factions hail high
command decision

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Aug 18: Local Awami League (AL) leaders have hailed the central committee decision to ban all party activities here following the August 15 interline clash.

AL Town Committee president Prof Najma Rahman said the group which clashed with her supporters was a vested quarter comprising activists from different political parties. She alleged that this quarter was trying to tarnish the image of the AL.

She also confirmed her faction's acceptance of the AL high command diktat.

Earlier, late Wednesday night, the General Secretary of the AL, Zillur Rahman, through a letter, ordered all activities of the town and district com-

See Page 12 Col 2

Ershad's appeal cases
referred to CJ

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court Bench hearing the appeal cases of deposed President HM Ershad yesterday referred the cases to the Chief Justice in view of the Attorney General's alleged apprehension that the state would not get fair justice from the Bench.

This bench still does not feel embarrassed to hear the matter but under the prevailing circumstances, the matter is being sent to the Chief Justice for further decision whether it will be heard by this court or passed to any

other," said the presiding judge, Justice, Noimuddin Ahmed. The other judge of the Division Bench is Justice Md. Ruhul Amin.

After the court resumed hearing at around 10-45 am, Deputy Attorney General Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, prayed for four weeks' time to give a reply to its August 2 order.

The Bench had ordered the Attorney General to let the court know in writing within seven days whether he made statement that government

See Page 12 Col 1

Order regarding
responsibilities
of AG revoked

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities yesterday revoked an order, issued last year, distributing responsibilities of the Attorney General, the Additional Attorney Generals and Deputy Attorney Generals, court sources said.

The cancellation order, signed by Khandaker Abu Bakar, Solicitor of the Ministry of Law and Justice, stated that the previous order dated September, 14, 1993 has been revoked.

See Page 12 Col 2

CMM grants bail
to Taslima

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday enlarged controversial author Taslima Nasreen on a bail of Tk 20,000 with two sureties until disposal of Petition Case No 1315/1994. A bail bond was accordingly furnished and executed, says a press release issued by Nasreen's lawyers.

Following Nasreen's appearance in the High Court on August 3, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh had granted her ad-interim bail for fifteen days.

See Page 12 Col 2

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সমবিত্ত উপাধ্যান্টিক শিক্ষা বিস্তার কার্যক্রম
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা বিভাগ
বাড়ী নং-৩৩০, রোড নং-১৫ (পুরাতন), ৮/এ (নতুন)
ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা
নং-ইনস্পেক/প্রা-৮৪৬/মুদ্রা/৪৪/৩৭৫ তারিখ-১৫-৮-১৯৯৪
**বিবিধ বই ও ফ্লিপ চার্ট মুদ্রণের
জরুরী দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (২য়)**
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা বিভাগের অধীনস্থ সমবিত্ত উপাধ্যান্টিক শিক্ষা বিস্তার কার্যক্রমের বয়স্ক ও কিশোর-কিশোরী শিক্ষার বিপুল সংখ্যক বিবিধ বই ও ফ্লিপ চার্ট মুদ্রণের জন্য এনসিটিবি এবং অন্যান্য সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। (মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট সংস্থার তালিকাভুক্তির আদেশের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। অনন্যায় দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না। দরপত্র আগামী ২৮-৮-৯৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে দরপত্র বাস্তবে গৃহীত হইবে এবং এদিন বেলা ১২.০৫ মিঃ সময়ে দরপত্রসমূহের উপস্থিতিতে (যাহারা উপস্থিত থাকিবেন।) খোলা হইবে।
২। দরপত্রের সহিত মোট উদ্ধৃত ১.৫% আনুমানিক যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের পেন-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত পরিচালক, সমবিত্ত উপাধ্যান্টিক শিক্ষা বিস্তার কার্যক্রমের ব্যবস্থাপনা দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
৩। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিশদ বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী ইত্যাদিসহ দরপত্র সিদ্ধিউল আর অফিসের (প্রশাসন শাখা) হইতে সাক্ষাতিক ও সরকারী ছুটি দিন ব্যতিরেকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে টাকা ৩০০/- (তিনশত) (অফিসের ব্যয়) নগদ পরিশোধের বিধিমায়ে আগামী ২৭-৮-৯৪ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত দর প্রদানে আগ্রহী মুদ্রণকারী সংগ্রহ করিতে পারিবেন।
৪। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন, আর্থিক বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
মোঃ আফিকুর রহমান খান
উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)
D-847