

Dhaka Day by Day

A Treat for the Season

by Samia Islam



Poppy and her mother preparing pitha.

— Star photo

'Pithas' are such an integral part of our culture that they have come to symbolise the advent of winter itself. But their preparation is so complex that it's fair to refer to the process as an art form. However, these days very few people want to go through the laborious process to enjoy a hearty special breakfast. An easy answer would be a situation where one could buy them and forget about other complexities. To serve that purpose one comes across street vendors these days who sell pithas to meet the growing demands but what about people who prefer some sanitation and safety measures to ensure that they are not devouring pithas teeming with germs of every kind. For the last three years there is someone in the city quietly working towards this end.

She supplies pithas prepared under a strictly healthy environment to a small but growing circle of people.

She might have had a name of her own once but in keeping with the norms of our society now she is simply Poppy's mother. Operating from a small two-bedroom flat, the mother of six children has a sunny disposition hard to come across in people these days. The oldest of ten children, she has always been inclined towards the creative household activities. According to her, she finds it hard to sit idle and loves to cook and sew. She worries about kids who are growing up in the city and hopes that she might at least help to develop a taste for pithas in some of them.

Usually, a day's notice is all she needs to supply any given quantity. Her largest ever delivery was 250 pieces of *patisapta*. What

ever the amount she never dreams of letting anyone else make them, for her she does it all with the occasional help from her two daughters. Even if she has to wake up at three in the morning she never tires of this favourite chore of hers. It takes about two hours to prepare 50 *patisaptas* but making *bhapa pithas* are more time-consuming. She never uses the powdered rice that one gets in the shops simply because they are not prepared the right way and affect the taste and also the appearance of the pitha. Currently she employs two women who grind the rice under her supervision and pays them a wage of Tk 6 per kg. Generally she needs 7 kgs of ground rice per day. In all she makes 7 or 8 kinds of pithas but only the ones that are prepared from rice. It's basically a seasonal occupation but some types of pithas can be made all through the year.

She learnt to cook when she was studying in class two from her grandmother and has loved it ever since. She laughingly adds that her daughters do not have similar inclinations. However, her two daughters and eldest son help her in the way they can — the daughters in preparing and the son in taking the orders and supplying them.

In future, she hopes to set up a shop so that she can expand the number of her customers. She has always had a dream of opening a school where girls could learn the art from her. The dream still lives. At the time of her father's death, she was heart-broken. But her father gave her hope in saying that her two hands would get her through tough times and she muses now that her father's words have come true.

Dhaka aware of Bangladeshis' problems in Saudia Arabia

Bangladesh government is totally aware of the problems being faced by Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia, official sources said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Clarifying the news item published in different newspapers regarding the sending back of Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia, the sources said Saudi Arabia is the country where biggest number of Bangladeshis are presently working.

It said about five lakh persons from Bangladesh are working in Saudi Arabia. Out of them, some of the Bangladeshis have been working there illegally after reaching the country using Omrah visa, the sources said adding: Similarly some other Bangladeshis have turned illegal after taking job changing their original sponsors.

After the Gulf War, the sources pointed out that the general problems facing the foreigners along with Bangladeshis have become acute and wider. It said Bangladesh embassy is active so that the Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia do not face any trouble separately.

The sources mentioned the visit of Bangladesh commerce and information minister to Saudi Arabia during the current month when he discussed the matter at high level.

Douglas Hurd's itinerary

The British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Douglas Hurd, MP, arrives here Tuesday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

According to his itinerary released to the press by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the British High Commission, Hurd will call on the Prime Minister and also have formal talks with the foreign minister and the finance minister.

Hurd will visit a British aid programme funded project at Parbatipur.

According to the British High Commission Hurd and the finance minister, M Saifur Rahman, following their talks Tuesday afternoon, would sign two agreements on behalf of their governments.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) sources said that under the two agreements Britain would provide to Bangladesh, under its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) programme, 18 million pounds as investment and technical assistance for the bridge development and maintenance project phase-two and 15 million pounds as investment and technical assistance for the gas infrastructure development project.

Hurd would officially open an English language teaching centre of the British Council at Dhanmondi.

He will meet the press Wednesday afternoon.

Hurd is scheduled to leave Dhaka Thursday morning.

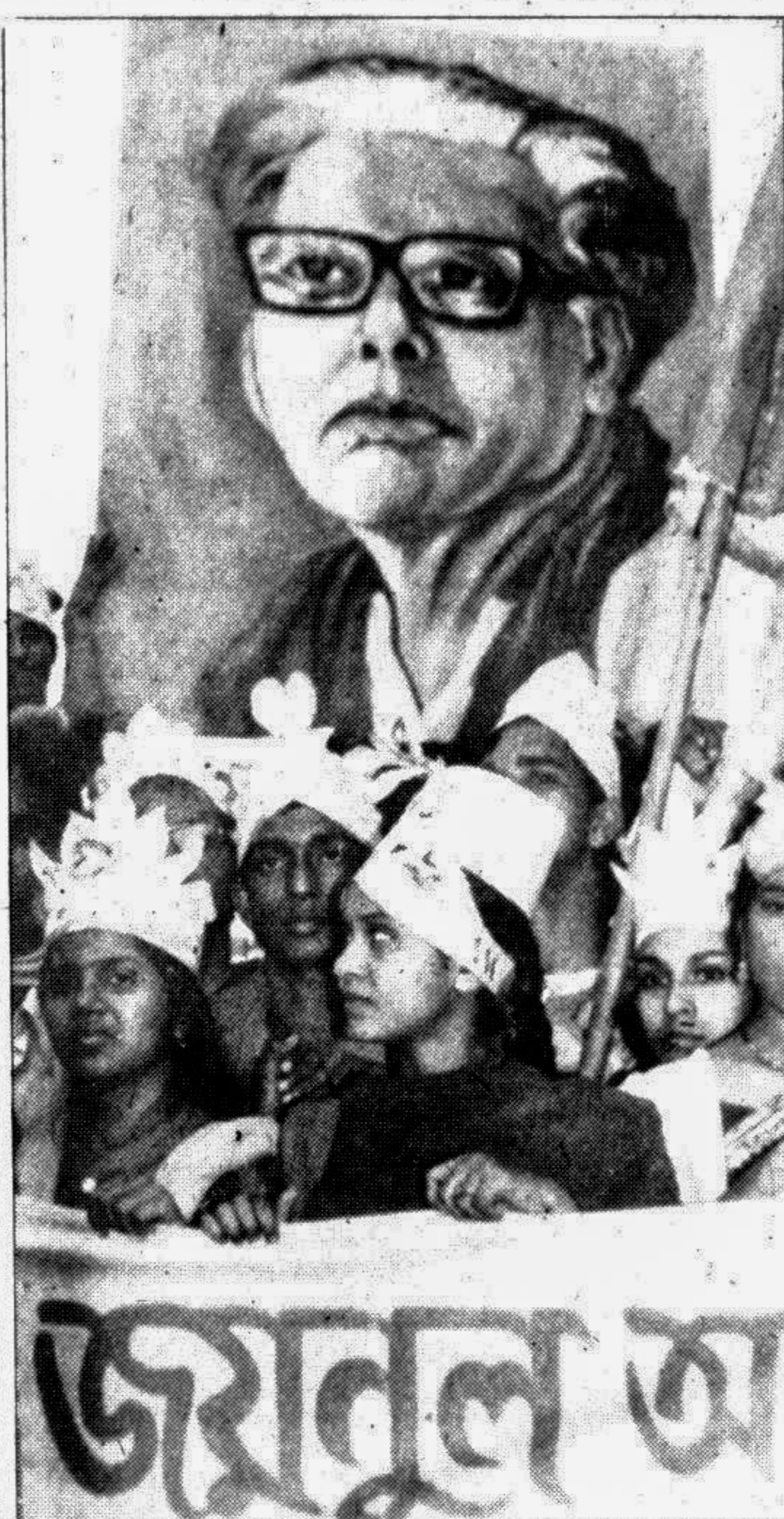
New directors at Uttara Bank

New directors at the Uttara Bank Limited were elected at its 10th and 11th general meetings held at the Sheraton hotel yesterday, says a press release.

A M Anisuzzaman, Prof Syeda Feroza Begum, Zeaul Huq, M A Samad, Md. Maqsoodul Nabi, Motiur Rahman and Md. Abdul Qayyum ran for the vacant post of retiring directors. Among them, A M Anisuzzaman, Prof Syeda Feroza Begum, Zeaul Huq, M A Samad, and Motiur Rahman were elected as directors at the 10th annual general meeting.

At the 11th annual general meeting M Masihur Rahman, Manzurul Islam, Golam Rahman, M Abdur Razaque and Md. Lutfur Rahman were the candidates and, among them, Manzurul Islam, Golam Rahman, M Abdur Razaque and Md. Lutfur Rahman were elected.

Annual reports of 1992 and 1993 of the bank were also approved by the shareholders.



The Bulbul Lalitkala Academy brought out a procession in the city yesterday in observance of the 80th birth anniversary of Shilpacharia Zainul Abedin.

— Star photo

One killed, four hurt in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Police recovered a body in the city yesterday. Four persons were also injured in separate incidents.

Police recovered the body of an unknown male aged about 20 near a pond in the old airport area at about 3 pm yesterday.

Several wounds were found in the body which was later sent to the Dhaka Medical Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police suspect he was killed Wednesday night. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Cantonment police station.

Mohammad Alauddin, 30, was injured when two groups of muscle men clashed at Tattury Bazar over the occupation of a slum at about 12:30 pm Thursday.

The victim who lives in the slum received bullet injuries

and was admitted to the DMCH.

In another incident, one Mohammad Abul Kalam was injured while making bombs at Rasulpur, Kamrangirchar in the city yesterday morning. Kalam, 18, was admitted to the DMCH.

Two persons were injured when a group of muggers threw bombs at them at 6:30 pm yesterday.

The victims, Ali Azam, 30, and Mohammad Abdus Salam, 26, received bomb injuries. They were admitted to the DMCH.

The victims alleged that they were waylaid by a group of muggers at Maniknagar and the muggers demanded money from them. When they refused, the miscreants threw bombs and snatched Taka 5500 from Ali Azam and fled immediately.



Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon addressing a press conference at the party office in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

DU English Dept Alumni Society Children's poetry recital

The annual get-together of the alumni of the Department of English, University of Dhaka will be held at the British Council in the city at 3:30 pm today, says a press release.

Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will be present as chief guest.

All ex-students of the department have been requested to attend.

The Kanchi Kanchar Mela, a juvenile organisation, will observe the 92nd birth anniversary of poet Jashimuddin today through organising a poetry recital competition at the premises of the Institute of Fine Arts, reports BSS.

Dr Sanjida Khatun will inaugurate the competition.

Children between 3 and 14 years will participate in the competition.



A M Anisuzzaman, chairman of the Uttara Bank Ltd, presiding over the 10th annual general meeting of the bank at a local hotel in the city yesterday. Detailed story on Page 6.

FOR SALE
1988 Honda today reconditioned one hand foreigner maintained, good condition. Contact 803914. Time 3-10 PM daily. No brokers. S-679

For Sale
Aiwa 2-in-one. TV/VCR. Hitachi washing machine. Hitachi vacuum cleaner, electric iron. All items hardly used. Contact : 803914. S-680

ATTRACTIVE MEENA BAZAR '94/95

Place : Gulshan 2NO. Ladies Club Ground
Date : 30, 31 Dec '94 & 1st Jan '95
Organized by O. S. V. S

AMADEUS INTERNATIONAL
House : 509, Road-7, Dhanmandi, #324651 (Near Russian Cultural Center)
O' LEVEL COACHING FOR 8-7 PM.
June '95 * ENGLISH, * MATHS, * PHYSICS, * BIOLOGY
Jan '95 * HUMAN BIOLOGY * CHEMISTRY

MEENA BAZAAR!
ST. JOSEPH'S OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
INVITES ALL ALUMNI AND THEIR FAMILY & FRIENDS to the
ANNUAL SJOBA MEENA BAZAAR
DATE: 30.12.94
TIME 10:00am to 4:00pm
VENUE: ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL GROUND, Mohammadpur D-1309

HOUSE WANTED
A EUROPEAN COUNTRY EMBASSY WISHES TO RENT A VILLA WITH GARDEN IN GULSHAN OR BARIDHARA, TOTAL CAPACITY 21 ROOMS.
INTERESTED PROPRIETORS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR OFFERS UP TO 2ND JANUARY 1995 TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
8 PARK ROAD, BARIDHARA, DHAKA
TEL : 882751-5, FAX : 883655 D-1326

Lyceum International School
(PLAY GROUP TO 'O' LEVEL)
House # 114/C, Road # 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
TEACHERS REQUIRED
Female candidates should fulfil anyone of the following criteria :
a) Having an educational qualification of Hons./Masters (Excellent communication skills in Written and Spoken English).
b) Completed High School Graduation in English Medium (For infants' classes)
c) Studied and/or taught abroad.
d) Having at least 3 years teaching experience in a reputed English Medium School.
✓ Candidates should have sufficient knowledge in child psychology.
Dynamic, dedicated and hard-working applicants will need to submit an application and a comprehensive CV (including telephone number) together with a recent photograph by January 06, 1995 at the latest. - Principal

WORLD BANK VACANCY
Position: **RESETTLEMENT OFFICER**
Duties and Accountabilities:
IDA is actively assisting the Government of Bangladesh prepare and supervise several infrastructure development projects which would require resettlement of people who would be displaced from their homes and property. The Resettlement Officer would assist in the designing and implementing resettlement programs meeting IDA's guidelines. Specifically he/she would (i) arrange for initial socio-economic surveys of the people affected; (ii) review the resettlement plans prepared by the government; (iii) ensure approval of the plans within the Bank; (iv) actively supervise the implementation of the resettlement plans, and help resolve any problems.
Initially the focus would be on final preparation/implementation of resettlement plans for four active projects, but the mandate would gradually expand as new projects are initiated. The Resettlement Officer would facilitate public actions to achieve (i) effective local participation; (ii) involvement of local NGOs; (iii) a fair price for lost and other capital, and/or assistance in finding equally productive replacements.

A further major responsibility would be helping the Government improve its own procedures and institutional arrangements for handling resettlement. The job would also likely involve facilitating local participation in other aspects of the preparation and implementation of Bank-supported projects. The Resettlement Officer would need to establish effective working relationships with the respective government departments, Bank staff and NGOs.
Qualifications: Master or Ph.D degree in an appropriate social science, preferable anthropology or sociology or public administration, and at least some undergraduate course work in economics or finance and statistics. Candidates must have at least five years experience working on development projects and hands on experience with community participation. Candidates must have a strong analytic capability and a demonstrated ability to write clearly. Evidence of good analytical and report writing skills should be provided. Candidates should have the ability to work with multi-disciplinary teams in a difficult area, and to communicate effectively with senior government officials as well as with rural populations. The position would involve extensive travel in the countryside. Women are encouraged to apply.
The person chosen would be recruited on a two-year contract, which would be extended provided performance is satisfactory and the work program justifies it. The World Bank pays salaries which are competitive and commensurate with the UN salary structure and provides medical benefits for staff and dependents as well as termination benefits.
Applications with complete curriculum vitae and contact telephone number should be addressed to :
World Bank Resident Mission
(Ref. Resettlement Officer)
3A Parkleigh
GPO Box 97, Dhaka
Deadline: Applications should be submitted by January 21, 1995.

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Phone: 503891, 866497, 503960 Fax : 880-2-816361

Bangladesh Water Development Board
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mymensingh O&M Division,
Mymensingh
Tender Notice

1. Tender No. 4/1994-95
2. Name of work Ditch filling, repair & maintenance of submergible embankment with other works of Humapur Haor Project in PS Bajitpur, Dist. Kishoreganj under 163-IND, during 1994-95 under Mymensingh O&M Division, BWDB, Mymensingh.

3. Place/Office from where tender document can be purchased
1. Sonali Bank, Mymensingh Branch, Mymensingh.
2. Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel, C/A, Dhaka.
3. Office of the Executive Engineer, Tangail O&M Division, BWDA, Tangail.
4. Office of the Executive Engineer, Netrakona WD Division, BWDB, Netrakona.

4. Place/Office where tender document will be received
1. Office of the Executive Engineer, Mymensingh O&M Division, BWDB, Mymensingh.
2. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka Division-2, BWDB, Dhaka.
3. Office of the Executive Engineer, Tangail O&M Division, BWDB, Tangail.
4. Office of the Executive Engineer, Netrakona WD Division, BWDB, Netrakona.

5. Tender document will be sold Up to 7.1.1995 during working & banking hours.
6. Receiving date of tender document On 8.1.95 & 9.1.95 during working hours & 10.1.95 up to 12:00 Noon.
7. Opening date and time of tender document On 10.1.95 at 12:30 PM.

8. Name of advertiser and address Syed Ahmed (Kabir), Executive Engineer, Mymensingh O&M Division, BWDB, Mymensingh.

9. List of work:

No	Name of work with location	Group No	Estimated cost in Tk	Earliest money 3% in Tk	1% for fixed deposit holder in Tk	Price of tender or document	Time allowed	Class of contractor
1.	Ditch filling, repair & maintenance with other works of Humapur Haor submergible embankment in PS Bajitpur, Dist. Kishoreganj	The work is divided into 10 (Ten) Groups	Group-wise estimated cost within Tk 4,70,575/-	3% of Group-wise estimated cost	1% of Group-wise estimated cost	400/- per set per document	60 (Sixty) days per Group	'C&D' Class

Syed Ahmed (Kabir)
Executive Engineer,
Mymensingh O&M Division,
BWDB, Mymensingh

PANI-354/94-95
DFP-14223-24/12
G-2066