

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mario Zagallo

(Brazil soccer coach)
"I would rather win playing ugly football than lose playing attractive football."

Boost sports
WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-78
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Competition closes at 8 pm, Sept 19, '97

- In which year did Pakistan and India suspend Test tours between them?
1988 1989 1987
- Who won the Italian Super Cup football title?
Vicenza Bologna Juventus
- Who is the England cricket captain?
Stewart Hussain Atherton
- Who lifted the inter-division women's volleyball trophy?
Pahna Khulna Comilla
- Which team clinched the Second Division chess league title?
W Jatrabari BUET Jatrabari

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

Cute handball

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Air Force registered a comfortable 27-11 victory over Arambagh Krira Sangha in a Cute First Division handball league clash at the court adjacent to Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In an one-sided affair, the winners led the first half 13-5. BAF's Rakib topscored with nine goals while his teammates Nasir and Shafuddin added five goals each.

On the other hand, Palash and Karim scored six and three goals respectively for the losers who will take on Dhaka Mariner Young's Club in their next match today at 4:30 pm.

Maldives hope for repeat act

From Al-Amin

This is nothing but nonsense. Inshallah we will prove our mettle," said the Maldives manager Ali Faiz. It is for the second time Maldives made it to the final in any version of regional meet since their first appearance in 1991 SAF Games.



appearance in 1991 SAF Games final against hosts Sri Lanka. "No doubt, we started as underdogs. But we want to prove

that our passage into the final was no fluke," said Romulo Cortez, the Bolivian coach of a rejuvenated Maldives.

On the other hand, Indians have promised to uphold their reputation of titans by lifting the trophy.

"Our campaign in the meet so far was not up to the mark. We want to play our best game tomorrow," said Indian coach Sayed Naimuddin.

"There is no place being complacent. The Maldives team is a technically sound side. I've warned boys not to take the match for granted."

Although both sides are facing injury problems, they are likely to field the same eleven that played in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the third place-deciding match between the two losing semifinalists — Pakistan and Sri Lanka — will be held prior to the final at the same venue. The match will commence at 12.45 BST.



Action from yesterday's Cute First Division handball league encounter between Biman and Arambagh at the court near to Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Milan, Lazio clash today

MILAN, Sept 12: AC Milan take on Lazio here on Saturday in Italy's first match between two of this season's championship favourites, reports AFP.

The first big game of the Serie A features a Milan team desperately searching for the form they showed during the summer friendlies, and a Lazio side riding on the crest of a wave.

Fabio Capello thought he had solved Milan's problems on August 19, when his men tore champions Juventus apart in the second half of their Berlusconi Trophy match.

French winger Ibrahim Ba produced a series of devastating runs down the flanks, while striker pairing George Weah and Patrick Kluijver both found

their way past the country's best defence.

Since then, however, all three men have fired blanks. Milan could only manage a 1-1 draw at humble Piacenza on their league debut and a dismal 0-0 draw here against Reggiana in the Italian Cup.

New Brazilian midfielder Leonardo is keen to make his debut, but a thigh muscle strain might keep him out. Capello is meanwhile hoping that his internationals all return uninjured from their midweek matches.

A good result is vital to keep the fans happy, but Milan face a team led by Roberto Mancini who have confirmed all their pre-season promise, with five goals scored and none conceded in their last two matches.

Mancini, who like new coach Sven Goran Eriksson has

just arrived from Sampdoria, has proved an ideal maker and scorer of goals, alongside Giuseppe Signori, Alen Boksic and Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Lazio will also welcome back Australian midfielder Paul Okon, who has been out with a knee injury since last April.

Reigning champions Juventus face Italy's other capital club, A.S. Roma, at the Olympic Stadium on Sunday night.

The game was a thriller last time, with Juve leading 1-0 until Marco Delvecchio equalised in the third minute of injury-time.

Midfielder Zinedine Zidane said: "We're going back there to win, and that's not just idle talk."

"I don't know if there will be a lot of goals," I'll be happy if Juventus only scored one more than Roma."

Juventus striker Alessandro del Piero has recovered from an eye injury suffered last week, when he took a ball in the face while training. However, the 22-year-old may still be rested on Sunday and used instead against Feyenoord in the Champions' League on Wednesday night.

Ronaldinho will get his second league outing with Inter Milan at Roberto Baggioli's Bologna, where he played in a pre-season friendly last month.



Malian Seydou Keita (R) gets the better of Mexican Luis Ernesto as the latter loses his balance after a challenge during their U-17 World Cup encounter in Cairo on Sept 10. Mali moved into the quarterfinals with a 3-1 victory. — APP/UN photo

Unattractive Day Three

Sports Reporter

The third day of the inter-club cricketers' transfer passed off peacefully at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After almost all the major Premier Division clubs completed their tradings in the first two days, it was the turn of the First Division clubs on the penultimate day of the four-day bourse. Surjo Tarun Club and Brothers Union were the only Premier Division clubs seen at the market.

Surjo Tarun, who have already organised a good side with two national pool cricketers — Javed Omar Belim Golla and Anisur Rahman — and Pakistani all-rounder Shahid Saeed, roped in two young cricketers including Azad Boy's Club batsman Ishtiaq Sadeq while Brothers confirmed the service of Halim Shah.

A total of 66 cricketers changed their allegiance on a Friday evening of whom Gulshan Youth Club collected highest 14 players for their side.

'98 World Cup France fixes ticket prices

PARIS, Sept 12: Prices for next year's World Cup final at the 80,000-seat Stade de France have been decided, organisers said here on Thursday, reports Xinhua.

Ticket prices will be in four categories — 350 francs (58 dollars), 950 francs (158 dollars), 1,750 francs (290 dollars), 2,950 francs (490 dollars).

Prices for the semifinals will range from 300 francs (50 dollars) to 1,850 francs (308 dollars), fans will have to pay between 250 francs (40 dollars) and 750 francs (125 dollars) for the quarterfinals.

Ticket-prices for champions Brazil's opening match on June 10 will range from 200 francs (33 dollars) to 1,250 francs (208 dollars).

King Carl's final dash

HOUSTON, Sept 12: Carl Lewis formally ends his reign as king of track and field Saturday with a final dash around the Houston track where he trained for 18 years and launched a career that netted nine Olympic gold medals, reports Reuters.

Lewis, a member of five US Olympic teams who capped his career with a gold medal in the long jump at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, has been planning to retire for the past two years.

"Athletically, the desire to compete in these meets just isn't there anymore," Lewis said as he prepared to run a final 4x100 metres exhibition relay with teammates Mike Marsh, Leroy Burrell and Floyd Heard during halftime of Saturday's University of Houston-Pittsburgh football game.

At a press conference on Thursday, Lewis said US Track and Field, struggling to build a nationwide following, should take a page out of the playbook of the newly formed women's professional basketball league.

Lewis said that instead of allowing college coaches to rule over the sport, track needs to bring in professional managers to promote the athletes and take a stand against drug use that has tarnished the sport's image.

"I think anyone who knows anything about track has to be concerned about the future of the sport," he said. "It's more than just running fast."

Lewis is not about to toss his track shoes away, however, and plans to continue training with his Santa Monica Track Club teammates for several years on his home track here.

He is under contract to Nike through 2004 and is launching an adult fitness programme this year built around a new all-terrain bicycle that doubles as a stationary bike.

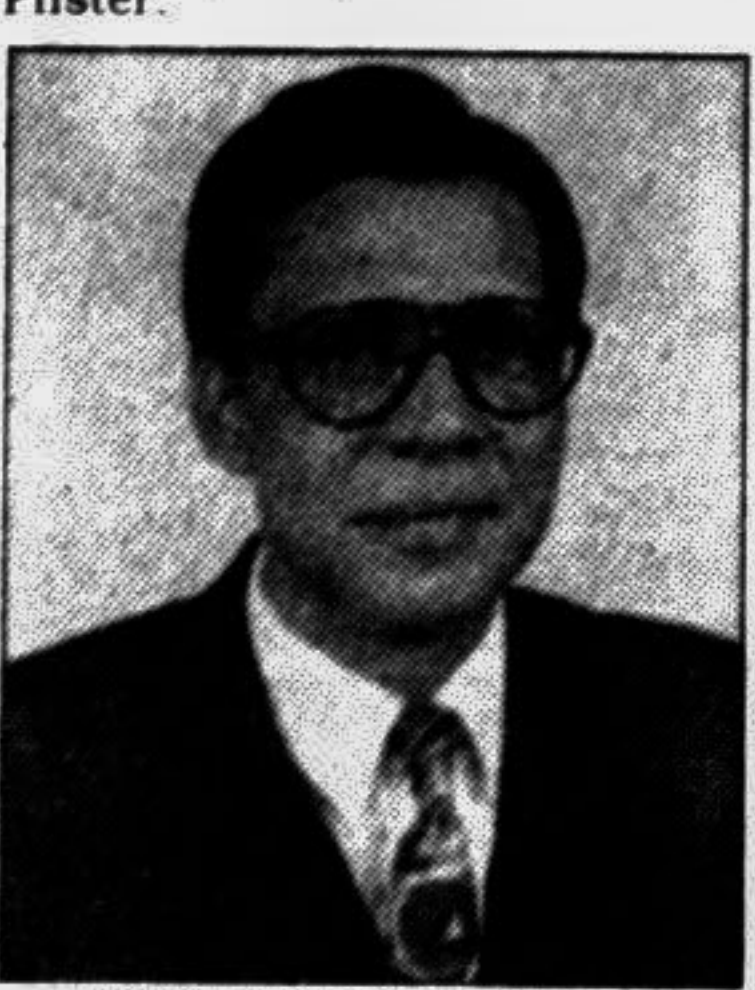
"I'm taking the whole approach not as the end of a career but as the beginning of a career, with a good head start," he said.

Football: Time for footing bill

Syed Ashfaqul Haque

Once again the dream of a regional trophy has turned into ashes. And the football-loving nation, like in the past, sank in a sea of suffering as their sporting ambassadors, oblivious of the commitment and conviction, abused their motherland away in Nepal.

The pre-tournament favourites were booted out of the South Asian Football Federation championship at the nascent stage, prompting calls at home for the heads of the so-called star footballers and their awe-inspiring coach Otto Pfister.



MOHAMMAD HANIF

Bangladesh, who are yet to win their first regional meet despite being tipped as strong contenders on every occasion, first drew with tournament dark horses the Maldives, who earned a dubious distinction of late losing 0-17 to Iran in a World Cup qualifier, and then swindled India to confirm a premature exit from the meet.

The latest setback for Bangladesh football is likely to bring back all the old symptoms. Media will make life difficult for the sporting personalities for a few days by publishing scores of sizzling reports against them. The freakishly famous footballers will roam around the city likewise, wearing on a hopeless grin. And, as usual, neither the volleys of criticism nor any wise word

will enter the deaf ears of the organisers, whose only concern seems to be managing foreign trips and inaugurating highly-publicised tournaments. Come a debacle, the loud-mouthed football bosses are quick in finding a scapegoat to save their thick skins and jobs.

The scapegoat this time is Pfister. Stage has already been set to put the German, whose success with the Ghana youth team earned him the tag of 'wonder mentor' in the footballing world, on the altar for his failure in generating the magic that the country has been longing for.

It is obvious that Pfister and his boys will have to face the music following the pathetic performance they showed in the six-nation tourney. But the dons of our football simply cannot pass the buck on Pfister. They are the main culprits who need to be put on the dock for mishandling the whole affair. They should not forget that their salary and the luxury of foreign trips are being met by the poor tax-payers of this country. And if they do not draw up a master plan and go for its implementation a dozen Pfisters will be of no good in helping footballers win laurels.

Like the frequent devaluation of Taka by the central bank of Bangladesh, it has been an unending tale of downwards slide for Bangladesh in the FIFA world ranking. But the Bangladesh Football Federation has done nothing at all to soup up the dwindling standard of the game.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, a politician who has no appetite for football, is gracing the chair of the chief executive. What sport has got to do with a seasoned politician? How much the nation can expect from the chief who seldom visits his own working place at the Dhaka Stadium?

BFF's technical committee, comprising veteran footballers, put forward numerous proposals to rev up the standard. But the policy-makers always put those projects in cold storage

citing shortage of funds. But, surprisingly though, they never turn short of funds while managing a trip abroad or organising a lacklustre invitational tourney.

If the federation fails to provide adequate funds for the improvement of the game then what is the necessity of taking part in any competitive tournament? Bangladesh could have easily followed the footsteps of Bhutan who did not participate in South Asian meet due to financial constraints.

Until few days back, the only one aim of the football federation



OTTO PFISTER

was to keep the possession over Dhaka Stadium by driving away cricket elsewhere. They never bothered to do something for the cause of football. As a result the game which once enjoyed the credential of being the most crowd-pulling sport has slipped into the shadow of cricket.

Country waits to see what State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader Chowdhury, who is also the chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC), will do now with his gang in the football federation.

Will it not be wise of him to dismantle the federation immediately?

Will it be unwise of us to expect an organiser at the helm of the federation who cares for the game?

Fukuoka braces for records

FUKUOKA, Japan, Sept 12: An amazing summer of broken athletics records comes to an end on Saturday with the possibility that more marks will be shattered, reports Reuters.

The assault on the record books at the Grand Prix finals in this southern Japanese city will be led by Denmark's Wilson Kipketer, who broke Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old mark in the men's 800 metres last month.

It was one of seven world marks eclipsed since the end of the World Championships in Athens in early August and the powerful head of world athletics, Primo Nebiolo, said that financial incentives on Saturday could increase that number.

"More than three million dollars will be paid out to the world's top athletes in Fukuoka," Nebiolo said.

That anyone setting a world record, plus 200,000 dollars to the top overall male and female athletes for the Grand Prix season, plus 50,000 dollars to each person who wins his or her event in the finals.

While the Kenya-born Kipketer is the runaway men's leader in the Grand Prix point standings, Jamaica's 400-metre hurdler Deon Hemmings and Astrid Kumbernuss, a German shot putter, are tied atop the women's standings.

Hemmings almost did not make it to Japan after her passport was lost by a courier service last week when it was being returned to her after receiving a Japanese visa. She got a new one in time to arrive on Wednesday and said jet lag will not be a problem.

Points are earned by competition in Grand Prix meets, with the top eight invited to the finals.

The only way Kipketer can lose the overall title is if he falters badly and Kenya's Daniel Komen breaks his own 5,000

world record which he set at the Grand Prix meet in Brussels on August 22.

Komen said today that was his goal, but added that because of the competition, he would have to run a tactical race without anyone to help him in setting a pace.

"I think I can try it on my own, but it will have to be a tactical race," Komen said.

The best race on Saturday, and another one where a world

record could fall, could be the 3,000 metres steeplechase, which will feature the world record holder and two former world record holders, all from Kenya.

The latest mark of 7:55.72 was set by Bernard Barmasai on August 24 in Cologne, smashing the mark of 7:59.08 set just 11 days earlier by Wilson Bot Kipketer (no relation to Wilson Kipketer).

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিয়ারনে জাতীয় অর্থপত্রিক প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Zia Fertiliser Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3403, Bangladesh invites sealed quotation in two envelope system for supply of items against Tender Enquiry Number (1) ZFCL/OS-1935-Alumina Desiccant and (2) ZFCL/OS-1936-Sorbacid Desiccant on C&F (C) Dhaka/Chittagong basis under any suitable source of finance. Tender documents will be available from the office of (1) The Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) Senior General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (3) General Manager (Accounts & Finance), Zia Fertiliser Company Ltd, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3403, Bangladesh on cash payment of Tk 400/- (non-refundable) per set of each tender document. Tender shall be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the General Manager (Commercial), Zia Fertiliser Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3403, Bangladesh up to 2.30 PM on 20.10.97 with 1% earnest money of the total quoted value subject to minimum of Taka 1 (one) thousand which will be opened immediately thereafter. No tender document will be sold on the opening date.

Zia Fertiliser Company Limited reserves the right to accept any tender, reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BCIC 796-7/9/97
DFP-20332-9/9
G-2172

General Manager (Commercial)
Zia Fertiliser Company Limited.

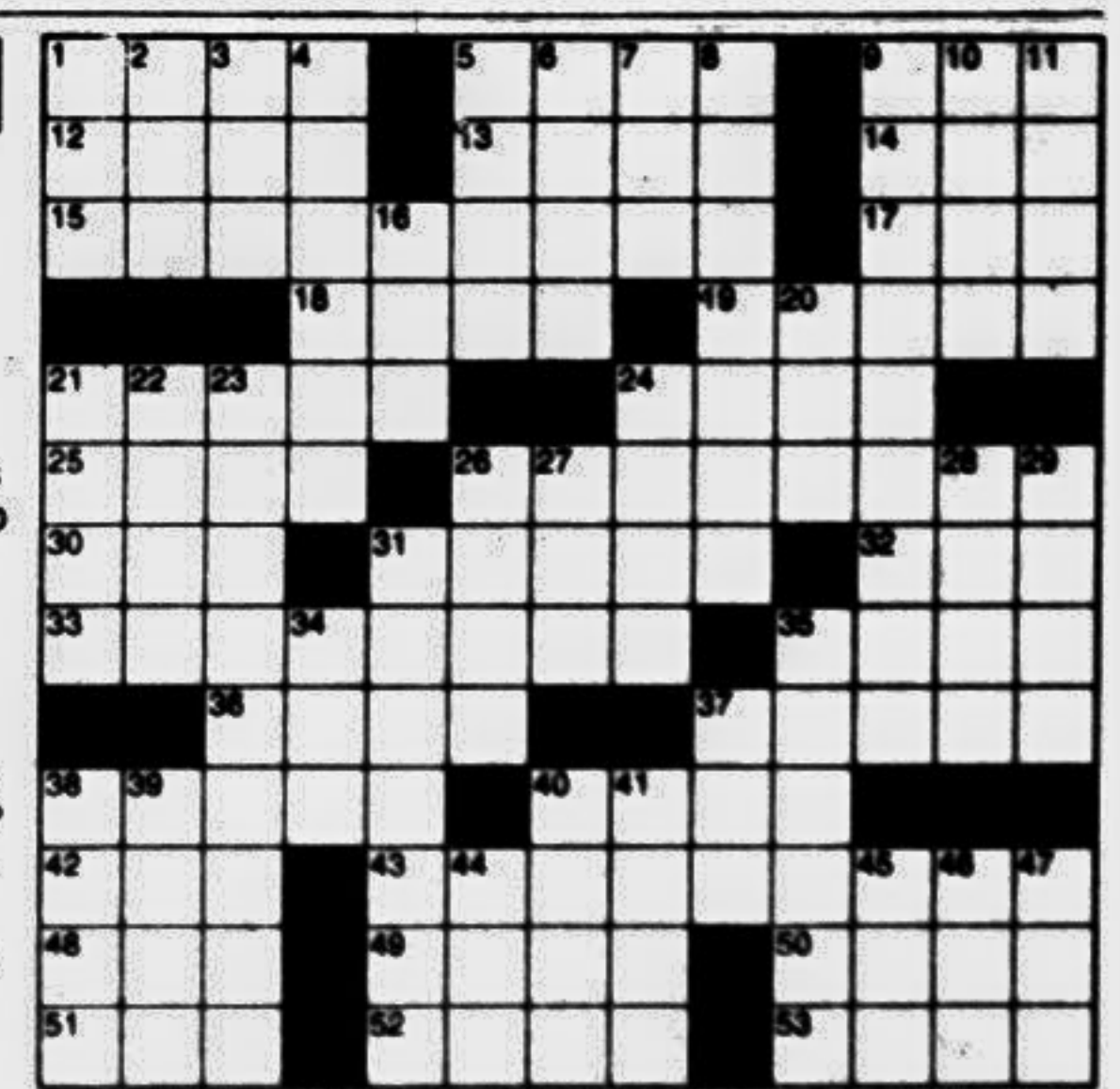
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Plurality
 - 5 Leprechauns' dances
 - 9 Massachusetts cape
 - 12 Smart remark?
 - 13 Small (be suspicious)
 - 14 "Eureka!"
 - 15 Office carryall
 - 17 Edge
 - 18 Tour de France vehicle
 - 19 Birthplace of the GOP
 - 21 Black varnish
 - 24 It goes without saying
 - 25 Fairy-tale word
 - 26 Worked with clay
 - 30 Aachen article
 - 31 Finishing-school lesson
 - 32 Manila, e.g.
 - 33 Draws out
 - 36 Rose's
- DOWN**
- 2 home?
 - 3 Worker's compensation
 - 6 Facade
 - 10 Reaction
 - 11 Yorkie
 - 16 Shoulder of sush
 - 18 Mainlander's memento
 - 20 "go brag!"
 - 22 Malaria symptom
 - 23 Ring decision
 - 27 Semi-sawbuck
 - 28 Gremelin
 - 29 Harpy's "the Obscure"
 - 30 "as high as you can go"
 - 31 Artier's carryall
 - 32 "Diss"
 - 34 Petrol
 - 35 Unproductive
 - 36 Piece of luggage
 - 37 Buckeyes' home
 - 38 Rhett's shocking
 - 39 See
 - 40 More than enthusiastic
 - 41 Photog's choice
 - 42 "All the Things You..."
 - 43 Khan life
 - 44 Cow's
 - 47 Indispensable

Solution time: 24 mins.

ROME PAM HAKE
ORATORIO AWID
BROCCOLI VOTE
TAKES SHAKEN
PEN REARS DON
GABRIEL ANNA
OILS ARNO
TIGON ZUCCHINI
FLAIRT JULES
EDDY DOS ROTO

Thursday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

P U Z Z L E G V W B K Z K E W U G
S P P Q F I W Y W I T G P
T F W H Q Y I H U Q Z J S P U S W I U
K U E V P G B P E T
Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE MACKEREL FISH-
ERMAN RECENTLY GOT ARRESTED SIMPLY FOR
PACKING A ROD.
Today's Cryptogram clue: E equals G
The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one
letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it
will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short
words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to
locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Office of the Executive Engineer Feni O & M Division BWDB, Feni

Tender Notice

- Tender Notice No : 09/97-98.
- Name of work : Protective work at Kahua river right bank under Feni O & M Division, BWDB, Feni during 1997-98 (217 Town Protection & River Training) (3 Groups).
- Estimated amount : Each Group Tk 9.18 lac to 15.43 lac.
- Earnest money : 2.5% of estimated amount (1% for FD holder).
- Rate of tender document : Per set Tk 750.00 (Taka seven hundred fifty) & 400.00 (Taka four hundred) only (Non-refundable) (As per group list)
- Eligibility of contractor : Enlisted 'A', 'B' & 'C' class contractor of BWDB/1997-98.
- Place where tender documents will be available : a) Sonali Bank, Mohipal Branch, Mohipal, Feni.
b) Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka.
c) Sonali Bank, Sonapur Branch, Noakhali.
d) Uttara Bank Ltd, Kandirpar Branch, Comilla.
e) Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong.
- Last date for selling of tender documents : 22.9.97 up to banking hours.
- Place of dropping tender : a) Office of the Executive Engineer, Feni O & M Division, BWDB, Feni.
b) Office of the Executive Engineer, Noakhali O & M Division, BWDB, Noakhali.
c) Office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O & M Circle, BWDB, Dhaka.
d) Office of the Executive Engineer, Comilla O & M Division, BWDB, Comilla.
e) Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong.
- Date of dropping of tender : 21.9.97, 22.9.97 during office hours & 23.9.97 up to 12:00 Noon.
- Date of opening of tender : 23.9.97 at 12:30 PM.
- Tender invited by : Md Abdul Quader, Executive Engineer, Feni O & M Division, BWDB, Feni.
Md Abdul Quader
Executive Engineer
Feni O & M Division, BWDB, Feni.

PANI-85/97-98
DFP-20347-9/9
G-2168