



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing on 'Bangladesh at 21st century' at the Defence Services Command and Staff College in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

## Freedom fighters urged to join struggle for economic emancipation

Minister for LGRD and Co-operators Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the freedom fighters to join the struggle for economic emancipation of the country waged by the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

"We are committed to ridding the nation of poverty and unemployment and your active cooperation will greatly help us in fulfilling our aim to bring smile on the faces of the teeming millions," he said while addressing as the chief guest a discussion on Victory day here.

The Sonali Bank branch of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsod organised the discussion which was, earlier, inaugurated by Awami League president member Amir Hussain Amu. State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf was the special guest while chairman of the Sangsod Col (Retd) Shakwat Ali MP was the main speaker.

Zillur Rahman said the present government had declared war against hunger, illiteracy, unemployment and poverty and urged all to extend cooperation to build Sonar Bangla, the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman.

Bangladesh achieved its independence under the leadership of Father of The Nation and now we will have to jump into a war against poverty to achieve economic emancipation under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Referring to the historic peace treaty on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), the LGRD minister said national progress as well as integrity of national independence and sovereignty could not be expected keeping alive unrest in the CHT-one-tenth of the country's total area.

"This treaty was signed to consolidate the national independence and sovereignty as well as to establish peace in the CHT on the basis of the spirit of war of liberation and to bring the area under the total development process," he said.

The right of peaceful coexistence of both hill people and the Bangladeshi was established by this treaty, he added.

Zillur Rahman referred to the widespread acclaim received from donors, international organisations, human rights groups and leading countries for the CHT treaty and said they had also expressed their

willingness to support and invest in various infrastructural development in the three CHT districts.

He asked the opposition to come to parliament and discuss any point which might, in their view, be contrary to the constitution or the national integrity. "What is the harm in discussing the matter in Parliament if you believe in the sovereignty of Parliament and rights of the people," he wanted to know.

The LGRD minister said the CHT peace treaty would not only pave the way for establishment of peace in the three hill districts but open up an avenue for greater development of the country in near future.

He urged all democratic and patriotic forces to unite and resist any conspiracy of the vested quarters who were now out to destroy the basis of peace already built by this historic treaty.

Amir Hussain Amu stressed for discipline and sincerity at all spheres of national life and urged officials and employees of the financial sector to extend their all-out cooperation towards the present government's relentless efforts to free the country from the clutch of the people.

He urged the freedom fighters to show their spirit in the war against hunger and poverty waged by the present government as they did during the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Father of The Nation.

President of the Parishad's Sonali Bank branch Abdul Jabbar Sikder was in the chair while Abdus Sattar MP, Managing Director of Sonali Bank Mahbubur Rahman Khan, economist Dr Atiur Rahman and Labour Leader Habibur Rahman Akond, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday underlined the need for creating greater awareness to save the nation from the daunting malnutrition, reports UNB.

They called for utilising a comprehensive and integrated mass media approach to achieve the success in combatting malnutrition, the country's major public health concern.

The daylong seminar, on the Role of Mass Media for Tackling the Problem of Malnutrition in Bangladesh, was organised by Press Information Department (PID) at a local hotel.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf attended the seminar as chief guest while State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed was present as guest of honour.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Health Minister said the current state of severe malnutrition in the country cannot present a healthy and worthy nation.

He urged all to put their concerted efforts in an integrated approach to remove malnutrition problem and build a healthy and prosperous nation. "Integration should remain at the centre of all activities," he said, stressing the need for strengthening publicity and awareness programmes to motivate the people.

The minister called for building a social movement, if necessary, to bring positive changes in the attitude of people to safeguard them from the curse of malnutrition.

He said the present government has attached importance to implementation of the integrated nutrition project and extend it in future to every thana of the country.

Yusuf hoped that the donors would extend their support for successful implementation of the programmes.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed in his speech said sometimes the problem of malnutrition is projected with incorrect figures to highlight its critical state.

"We have the problem... but I don't think that the problem is so severe. There is always a propaganda on this issue," he said.

The State Minister said the problem of malnutrition could not be removed due to lack of sincerity and commitment of those who are involved in the matter.

He said the women UP members, being elected this year for the first time in the country's history, could be involved in the process to fight the malnutrition.

Prof Sayeed called for creating greater awareness among the people about the problem and suggested that mass media could play a very important role in this respect.

Health Secretary Muhammad Ali and Team Leader of Integrated Nutrition Project Manjurul Karim also spoke in the inaugural session chaired by PIO Muhammad Makhbul Ahmed. Dr AMM Anisul Awwal presented the key-note paper.

In his paper, Dr Awwal mentioned that the extent and magnitude of malnutrition are alarming and the level of malnutrition in Bangladesh is the world's highest.

"About 94 per cent children under the age of five are suffering from different grades of malnutrition," he said.

Quoting a UNICEF report, he said 70 per cent of the world's malnutrition is in the South East Asia and India and Bangladesh constitute its 70 per cent in this region.

About 70 per cent population are suffering from Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) and 47 per cent population have goiter. Incidence and prevalence of night blindness and blindness due to Vitamin-A deficiency is also noticeably high.

"Malnutrition adversely affects health, growth, survival, intelligence, cognitive function, learning capacity, working capacity and ultimately productivity of an individual and a community," Dr Awwal said in his paper.

He said a malnourished community or a nation is intellectually inferior, physically stunted or short.

It has been estimated that the cumulative productivity loss of Bangladesh for malnutrition alone would be about 22.9 billion US dollar in next 10 years, he added.

Dr Awwal further mentioned that two thirds of the under five deaths are associated, directly or indirectly, with malnutrition.

## Minister's call to help decrease population boom

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has urged the officials of Family Planning department to put in their best efforts to control the population explosion in the country, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at a two-day conference of the divisional directors and deputy directors of the Family Planning department at NIPORT auditorium yesterday.

Emphasising the need for visit by the field workers to individual couples to convince them in controlling birth rate,

the minister has asked the concerned directors to visit thana health complexes regularly.

Chaired by Health Secretary Mohammed Ali, the conference was also addressed by Serajul Islam.

## Quikhwani

By Staff Correspondent  
The quikhwani of Major General Abdul Mannaf, a former senior defence personnel and an ambassador who will be held today at the New DOHS Mosque at 3 pm.

General Mannaf, born in 1938, graduated from Dhaka University and was commissioned as an officer in the Armored Corps in 1958 and was a member of the Special Services (Commando) Group.

After liberation he raised the Bangladesh Military Academy and was its first Commandant.

He acted as GOC in Rangpur, Bogra and Chittagong.

He became Chief of General Staff and later served as Commandant of Staff College in Dhaka.

He acted as the country's Ambassador to Thailand, the Philippines and Australia.

He left behind his wife and two daughters.

## The Asia Foundation has moved to a new office:

House #3/B, Road #50  
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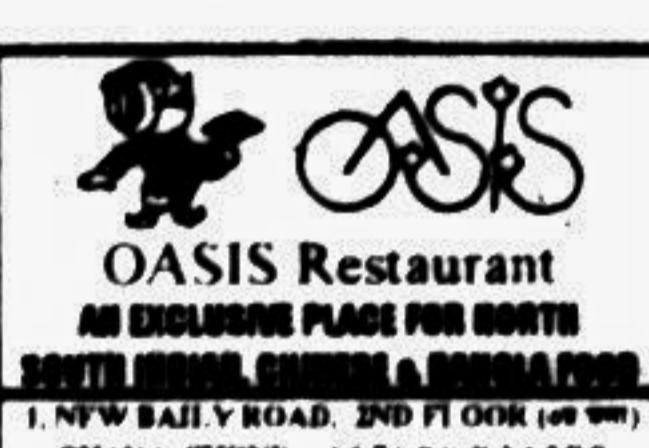
At the moment we only have two phone lines:

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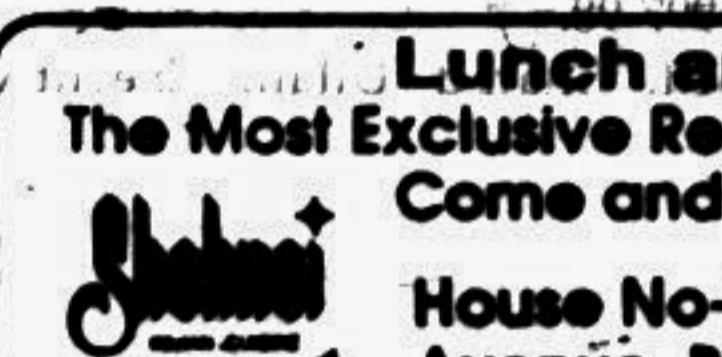


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## Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Madaripur

## Short Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited.

1. Tender No. 33/E/E/MRD/1997-98 Eng.
2. Name of work Earth work for ditch filling in road embankment by carried earth at 1st KM from Ch. 0.00 M to 84.00 M of Bhang-Bhatiara-Gopalganj-Mollarhat-Fakirhat-Nawapara road (Bhang-Bhatiara portion) under Madaripur Road Division during the year 1997-98.
3. Estimated cost Tk. 8,1555/-
4. Earnest money Tk. 16,391/-
5. Time allowed for completion of work 30 days
6. Eligibility of contractor "A" to "C" General Category, and "D" Class General Category of Faridpur Road Circle.
7. Name of office where tender document will be available Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur/Faridpur/Gopalganj/Planning Division, Barisal/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Faridpur Road Circle, Madaripur/Sheriati/Banga/Asstt Engineer, RHD, 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Madaripur.
8. Name of office where tender will be received Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Faridpur Road Circle, Faridpur/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring and Evaluation (P&D) Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka, Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur.
9. Last date of selling of tender document 04-01-98 Eng./21.9.1404 Beng. up to 12:00 Noon.
10. Last date and time of receiving of tender Up to 12:30 PM on 04.01.98 Eng./21.9.1404 Beng. and opening of sealed tender from box at 12:45 PM.
11. Last date and time of opening of tender At 10:00 AM on 05.01.98 Eng./22.9.1404 Beng. Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur in office room.
12. Date and time for lottery. (If necessary) At 3:00 PM on 05.01.98 Eng./22.9.1404 Beng.

Md Abdus Settar

Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur



The newly appointed Ambassador of Iran to Bangladesh Mohammad Sadeq Fayyaz called on BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia at her Minto Road residence yesterday.

— Star photo

## Obituary

Engineer Ezzabuddin Ahmed, son of late Samiruddin Ahmed of Thakurgaon district died yesterday morning at his Gulshan residence due to cerebral haemorrhage. He was 78, reports BSS.

Late Ezzabuddin Ahmed was a pioneer industrialist of the country and a great philanthropist.

His Namaj-e-Janaza was held in the Gulshan Mosque after Zohar prayers and he was buried at the Banani Graveyard. His quikhwani will be held at House No 6, Road No 104, Gulshan tomorrow after 7pm prayers.

All employees of Square Pharmaceuticals donated their one day salary for the treatment of Mukul.

All artistes, technicians and performers worked for the programme without honorarium.

BTV will telecast Mukul

Gaz today after Bangali news.

Organisations or individuals willing to donate for treatment of Mukul can deposit their contribution to Kamrun Nahar Mukul, Account Number 23227, Janata Bank, TSC Branch, Dhaka University.

Speakers condemn hartal, blockade programmes

Speakers at a press conference Friday sharply criticised the political programmes like hartal and blockade that result in immense sufferings to the common people and urged the political parties to refrain from such programmes, reports BSS.

Held at the National Press Club the press conference was addressed by the president of Peer Mashaeq and Ulema Parishad Alhaj Moulana Shah APM Wahid. It was organised by the Dhaka City Khanda Governing Committee of Kashemaband Darbar Sharif.

Moulana Zahurul Islam, Moulana Abdul Kader Buiyan, Principal Gazi Shamsul Haque and Moulana Sirajul Islam were present in the press conference.

Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong.

1. Executive Engineer, Cox's Bazar O&M Division, BWDB, Cox's Bazar.

2. Executive Engineer, Water Dev. Divn.-I, CERB, BWDB, Cox's Bazar.

3. Executive Engineer, Chittagong O&M Division, WDB, Chittagong.

4. Executive Engineer, Dhaka O&M Division-II, WDB, Dhaka.

5. Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O&M Circle, WDB, Dhaka.

6. Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong.

7. Name of office for receiving & opening of tender Executive Engineer, Cox's Bazar O&M Division, BWDB, Cox's Bazar.

8. Last date of selling of tender 7-1-98 up to 2-00 PM in all offices.

9. Date of receiving tender 6-1-98, 7-1-98 up to office hours 8-1-98 up to 12:00 Noon in all offices.

10. Date of opening tender 8-1-98 at 13:30 PM in all offices.

Executive Engineer Cox's Bazar O&M Division BWDB, Cox's Bazar.

PANI-239/97-98  
GD-468

## Jamaat's rally tomorrow

Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a rally at Paltan Crossing and bring out a procession in the city on Tuesday, demanding steps to arrest the price hike of essential commodities and maintain the sanctity of Holy Ramadan, reports UNB.

Party city unit will organise the programmes, said a press release.

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