

**PLA team calls on Army Chief**

A six-member delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) led by Lieutenant General Tang Tianbiao called on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman at the Army Headquarters yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest, an ISPR press release said.

The six-member goodwill delegation that arrived in Dhaka on Thursday evening also visited the Shikha Anirban at the Dhaka Cantonment. The leader of the delegation placed wreath at the memorial to pay homage to the members of the armed forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Later, the delegation members visited the Jatiya Smriti Shoudha at Savar and the Ansar Academy at Shalipur.

During their five-day stay in Bangladesh, the members of the delegation will pay courtesy call on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. They will also call on Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam and the Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed.

**Illegal ticket sale 5 held from stadium area**

Police arrested five persons from the Bangabandhu National Stadium area yesterday on charge of selling Wills Cup cricket tickets on black market, reports APB.

They were picked up from outside the stadium in the afternoon with tickets for the first semifinal match between South Africa and Sri Lanka, police said.

The arrested persons also collected the tickets for the last semifinal and the final match of the Wills International Cup Cricket Tournament, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday respectively, police said.

**3 stabbed, robbed of gold chains**

Three people including two women were injured when a group of muggers stabbed them and snatched two gold chains from their possession in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The injured, identified as Ruhul Amin, 30, his wife Yasmin, 26, and sister-in-law Jesmin, 22, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Condition of Ruhul was stated to be critical.

Police said four muggers waylaid two rickshaws, near Doel Chatter at 4 pm. The muggers stabbed them while the passengers tried to resist them from snatching.

**3 dacoits held at Mongla, arms recovered**

MONGLA (Khulna), Oct 30: Police arrested three alleged dacoits and recovered four foreign-made guns, one rifle and nine bullets from the mangrove forest of the Sundarbans here yesterday, reports BSS.

Mongla police told BSS that they arrested the wanted dacoits who are called the members of 'Kala Bahini' after their hideout along the Kalabagi Khal near Hiron Point, 60-km from Mongla police station, was raided.

The arrested, identified as Kala, 30, Kochi, 30, and Jalil, 35, were allegedly involved in piracy, dacoity, mugging, kidnapping and killing in different parts of greater Khulna for a long time and have 16 registered cases against them.

Mongla thana officer in-charge S M Rashidul Alam said, acting on a tip-off, a 20-member police team rushed to the spot and became locked in a gunfight for about an hour. He, however, said none of the police personnel or the gang were injured in the encounter.

**2 dacoits beaten to death in Panchagarh**

PANCHAGARH, Oct 30: Two alleged dacoits were beaten to death at Aharokri village in Tetulia thana yesterday, reports APB.

They were identified as Safor Ali, 40, and Mahuru, 35, of Chopramari village under Chopra thana in West Dinajpur district of West Bengal state of India.

Police sources said a gang of 15 to 20 dacoits attacked a home at the frontier village and attempted to take away eight cows at about 2:30 am.

As the inmates raised alarm, the villagers surrounded the bandits with lethal weapons.

At one stage of the clash, the two bandits died while others fled back across the border.

The gangsters used crude bombs during the clash, police said.

**Obituary**

Dr Ali Azhar Munir, Principal of Bahadurpur Rover Palli College, died of cardiac arrest at Escort Heart and Research Institute in New Delhi on Wednesday. He was 43, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, three brothers and three sisters.

His *namaj-e-janaza* will be held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque today after Asr prayers. His *guluhaazi* will be held at his family residence, 38, Bhajhari Saha Street, on Monday after Magrib prayers.



Visitors at the special exhibition of paintings by children that began at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. The exhibition will remain open till November 5. The paintings have been selected for the Asian Children's Painting Competition, scheduled to be held in Japan in March. — Star photo

**Villagers clash in Feni: One killed**

FENI, Oct 30: A young man was killed and nine others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Bishnupur village in Sonagazi thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Police and eyewitnesses said the clash ensued when Abul Kashem, son of Nazir Ahmed of the village, locked in an altercation with his neighbours over land dispute.

The clash soon spread across the village and Kshem was killed allegedly by rivals on the spot.

**Statue recovered, one arrested**

By Staff Correspondent

The CID yesterday recovered a statue of black stone and arrested one person from Dhalpur under Demra thana in the city yesterday, police said.

The arrested was identified as Faruk. The statue weighs about 39 kg.



Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing a discussion meeting at DAB office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

**One held for kidnapping girl in N'ganj**

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 30: Police arrested a young man here today on charge of kidnapping schoolgirl from Pagla area on Thursday.

Fatulla police arrested Javed, 26, of village Shahbazpur from a residence at Shyampur in the town where he kept the girl.

Shahinoor, a 13-year-old girl, and a student of class eight was kidnapped allegedly by Javed and his associate Moktar while returning to her house from school. She left the school when Moktar told her that her mother was sick.

Javed was produced before the Narayanganj magistrate's court while the girl was sent to police custody.

**New UN rule Troops should be no younger than 18**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 30: The United Nations announced new age requirements for UN peacekeepers Thursday, hoping to set an example for countries to refrain from using children under 18 in their own forces, reports AP.

The United Nations is now asking that governments not send civilian police and military observers younger than 25 to serve in UN peacekeeping operations. Troops in national contingents should preferably be 21 but no younger than 18, the under-secretary general for peacekeeping, Bernard Miyet, told the General Assembly.

"National governments should be doing everything possible to stop this horrible practice. Raising their enlistment age to 18 is one important move," Becker said.



Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing a discussion meeting at DAB office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

**India signs MOUs with Myanmar to boost trade**

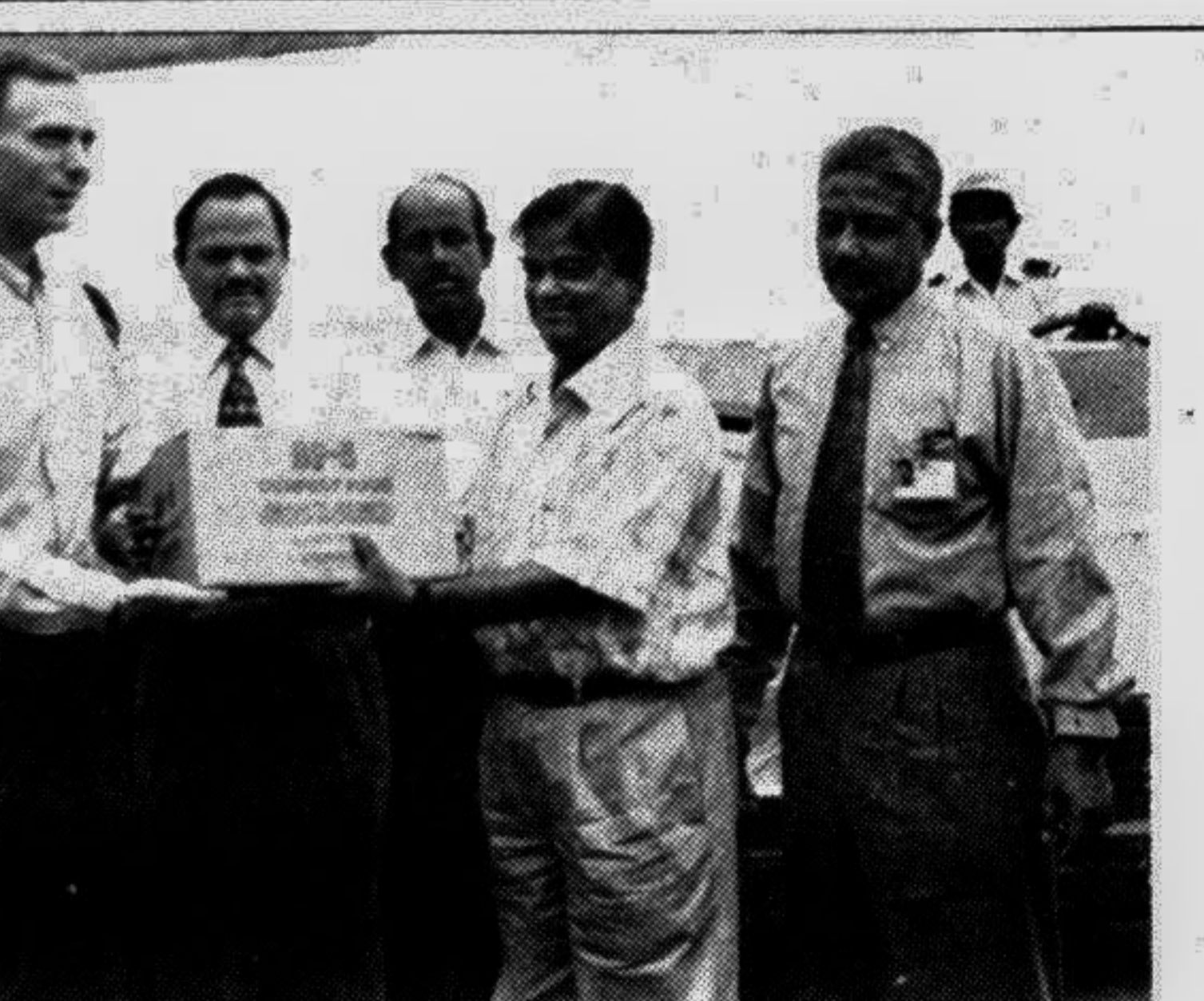
YANGON, Oct 30: India has reached two memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with two major trade and industrial organisations of Myanmar on co-operation in bilateral trade and investment, reports Xinhua.

The MOUs were signed here on Thursday between a visiting Indian commerce delegation led by Commerce Secretary of India P P Prabhu, and the Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Industrial Producers' Association respectively.

The Indian delegation also called on Myanmar Deputy Prime Minister and chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Myanmar Commerce Minister Major General Kyaw Than respectively on Wednesday and had discussions with them on the prospects of investment and bilateral economic cooperation between the two sides.

A meeting was also held the same day between the Indian delegation and its Myanmar counterparts, led by Deputy Minister Commodore Myo Tint, on trade promotion between the two countries.

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and India has registered a significant growth in the past four years with Myanmar's exports to India rising from 111.9 million US dollars in 1993-94 fiscal year to 236.63 million dollars in 1997-98 which ended in March, according to Myanmar official economic indicators.



A panelload of 40mt of high protein biscuits arrived at the Zia International Airport as part of UNICEF's emergency relief assistance. This was the final installment of the 168 tons of biscuit handed over to the officials of the Ministry of disaster Management and Relief by UNICEF.

**Legal Aid Bill to be placed before JS session**

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday said the Legal Aid Bill will be placed before the coming parliament session, reports BSS.

"Vast majority of our people due to poverty, illiteracy and ignorance do not have access to court when they face litigations," the minister said while addressing as the chief guest a seminar on "Access to Justice-Legal Aid" in the CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

In a civilian society, the minister said, it is a fundamental right of the people to get justice and the responsibility lies with the state in this regard as it has been guaranteed under the Constitution.

He said the government has taken initiative to reform the judicial system in the light of developments taking place on the present democratic world scenario.

The seminar, organised by the Bangladesh Law Association (BLA) was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka Prof A K Azad Chowdhury.

The seminar was also addressed by Member, Law Commission, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Chairman, Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Dr Mizanur Rahman, senior advocate Dr Mohammad Zahir and BLA General Secretary Mohammad Shahjahan.

**Chandrika opens SAARC environment ministers' meet**

COLOMBO, Oct 30: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga made a strong appeal on Friday for collective efforts to save the South Asian environment, reports Xinhua.

Inaugurating the three-day 4th meeting of the environment ministers of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the President said much needed to be done to stop the degradation of natural resources in the South Asian countries.

She admitted that national efforts were decisive in addressing most issues. However, she said, in the case of the environment a regional approach is necessary because even local environmental problems have implications for the entire region.

The President pointed out that a great deal of environmental degradation was a result of poverty.

Therefore, she said, poverty alleviation is not only a moral imperative but also a prerequisite for environmental sustainability.

**Iranian leader slams Arafat as 'disgraceful traitor'**

TEHRAN, Oct 30: Iran's spiritual leader on Friday denounced Yasser Arafat as a "disgraceful traitor," heaping on the Palestinian leader some of the worst insults he has faced for signing a peace accord with Israel, reports AP.

"He is an abject, treacherous person, a person who is deeply immersed in the filth of selfishness and worldliness," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a highly-publicised sermon at Tehran University.

Khamenei was interrupted by chants of "no compromise, no surrender, combat Israel" by the hundreds of thousands of worshippers hearing him.

Most top Iranian officials including President Mohammad Khatami, cabinet ministers, parliament members and military officers were present.

The one-hour speech marked the 1,000th *Jumma* (Friday) prayers held in the capital since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and followed intensive media campaigns encouraging people to take part.

Although the gist of Khamenei's speech reflected Iran's longstanding opposition to any Palestinian peace with Israel, the sermon was remarkable for its vitriolic rhetoric.

Arafat is "a disgraceful human, a traitor. He is shameless and unworthy of being called a member of the Palestinian resistance, let alone the leader of this movement," Khamenei said.

**20 more killed in fighting Suicide bombers destroy Lankan Navy gunboat**

COLOMBO, Oct 30: Tamil Tiger suicide bombers destroyed a Sri Lankan Navy gunboat today, triggering a pitched sea battle as 20 more people were killed in fresh fighting elsewhere, the Defence Ministry said, reports AFP.

Elite suicide cadres of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) blasted their fiberglass-boat against a Dvora-class navy gunboat off the island's north-eastern coast of Mullaitivu, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, in ground battles across the island's north-east, at least 19 rebels and a para-military homeguard were killed in fresh fighting on Thursday, the ministry said in a separate statement.

The ministry acknowledged casualties on both sides in the sea battle but gave no details. However, defence sources said that a search was on for at least 10 missing sailors after two crewmen were rescued.

The navy searched the sea area for survivors until last light on Friday and officials said a fresh search would be mounted on Saturday at first light.

Another eight sailors from two other Dvora class boats were wounded when their craft came under heavy fire from at least half a dozen guerilla craft.

"During the confrontation one naval craft in the location moved to its assistance, where a close quarter battle with a large number of LTTE boats took place.

"The disabled naval craft was attacked by an LTTE suicide boat and sunk in the area," the ministry said in a statement. It added that an unspecified number of rebel boats were destroyed together with their occupants.

Official sources said that two more Dvora craft were damaged in the fierce exchange of fire that prompted the authorities to order a troop-transporter ship in the area to turn back and avoid the battle area.

The latest attack came as navy gunboats moved into the area to provide security to a convoy of ships carrying civilians and troops from the northern Jaffna peninsula to the north-eastern port of Trincomalee.

**'Pakistan won't sign CTBT under duress'**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 30: Abdul Washeed, chairman of the National Assembly's standing committee on foreign affairs, said on Friday that Pakistan would not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) under duress, reports Xinhua.

He expressed this view while addressing a press conference here at the Parliament House.

Washeed quoted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as saying that "We would not sign CTBT under coercion and we would not sign it in a way that we are discriminated against vis a vis India."

He dispelled the impression that Sharif is going to sign the treaty during his visit to the United States in December.

"There is no truth in these allegations," Washeed said.

**Indonesia provides \$ 5.5b to guarantee LCs for exporters**

JAKARTA, Oct 30: The Indonesian government has pumped in \$ 5.5 billion dollars to guarantee letters of credit (LCs) for local exporters hit by frozen international bank credit lines, a newspaper reported Friday, says AP.

The Jakarta Post quoted Bank Indonesia Director Miranda Gultom as saying the measure would help accelerate the recovery of Indonesian industry and help the crisis-ridden economy.

"There are seven letters of credit guarantee arrangements, which have been or will soon be operational," she was quoted as saying.

The plan includes government deposits in foreign banks as well as guarantees, she said.

Miranda was quoted as saying that negotiations are ongoing with Germany, the Netherlands, China, Singapore and Brunei to also provide financing loans for Indonesian exporters to import raw material.

Plunging confidence in Indonesian banks prompted international banks to reject Indonesian letters of credit.

Many Indonesia exporters need letters of credit to import raw materials for their production.

Bank Indonesia, which is the central bank stepped in earlier this year by opening more than one billion dollars in deposits at foreign banks to guarantee Indonesian letters of credit.

It also signed an agreement in July with 21 local banks to provide 2.5 trillion rupiah (\$327 million dollars) loan pool to exporters.

**Pakistan accused of trying to capture Siachen Glacier**

NEW DELHI, Oct 30: For the second time this week, India accused Pakistan of trying to capture an icy border battlefield and said its troops killed two enemy soldiers while repulsing the attack, reports AP.

The army said in a statement that Pakistani troops attacked the Indian post "Fateh-5770" on the Siachen Glacier. A sentry noticed some movement and alerted his colleagues who fought back.

Two Pakistani soldiers were killed in the fighting, the statement said.

On Tuesday, the Indian army said its troops killed six Pakistani soldiers while trying to push back an attack on Siachen. There was an exchange of mortars and shells in the fighting.

There was no confirmation of the clash by Pakistan.

The glacier, 6000 miles north of New Delhi, is more than 20,000 feet above sea level. Both India and Pakistan claim Siachen, and skirmishes are common across the frontier despite severe conditions. Usually temperatures on Siachen hover around minus-65, with wind speeds of up to 62 mph.

The Siachen dispute is among the items to be discussed next week by Indian and Pakistani secretaries of defence, water and power, police and culture. The talks aimed at normalising relations are part of a round that began this month with talks between the two countries' foreign secretaries.

The foreign secretaries' talks, which ended inconclusively, were also preceded by fighting on Siachen.

**Chechen FM sacked**

MOSCOW, Oct 30: Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov today fired his foreign minister, known for his radical opposition to Moscow, Interfax reported today, says AFP.

Maskhadov, who sacked his entire Cabinet on October 1, dismissed Moviady Udugov, who is linked to the former Premier Shamyil Basayev, a former comrade-turned-enemy of the president who has urged his impeachment.

**Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation**  
Office of the Project Director  
Mahbubul Huda Bhuiyan Ashuganj-Polash Agro  
Irrigation Project, Ashuganj, B'baria

**Tender Notice**

- Tender Notice No : PD 04 (98-99) date 21-10-98
- Places of purchasing tender : 1. Cashier, Krishi Bhaban, 4th floor, 49-51, Diluksha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
- Places where tender will have to be submitted : 1. Chief Engineer (Irrigation), BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 4th floor, 49-51, Diluksha Commercial Area, Dhaka. 2. Project Director's office, BADC, Mahbubul Huda Bhuiyan Ashuganj-Palash Agro Irrigation Project, Ashuganj, B'baria
- Last date of purchasing tender : 12-11-98 (till office hours)
- Date and time of submitting tender : 15-11-98 till 2 PM.
- Date and time of opening tender : 15-11-98 at 2:30 PM.
- Eligibility of tenderer : Contractors with prequalified in project
- Cost of tender : Amount of money as mentioned in description of work against each work (non-refundable).
- Earnest money : 2% (two and a half per cent) of the quoted rate in the forms of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director.

Sl No	Package/ group no	Description of work	Estimated cost	Cost of tender	Time for work
1	Ashu-06/32	Re-excavation of Napta Canal 2.20 km (from Syed Tola to Bishwa Road)	4,06,457/-	300/-	30 days.
2	Ashu 06/33	Re-excavation of 15 km canal from Zafar Canal to Kaliganj (chainage from 00 to 1500 meter)	2,83,039/=	200/=	30 "
3	Ashu-06/34	Re-excavation of 15 km canal from Zafar Canal to Kali-Kachha (chainage from 1500 meter to 3000 m)	2,83,039/=	200/=	30 "
4	Ashu 06/35	Re-excavation of 1.00 km canal from Chhilkut to Barail and 1.50 km canal from Kharasar to Naoghat	4,59,722/=	300/=	30 "
5	Ashu 06/36	Re-excavation of 2.00km Boalia canal	3,09,223/=	300/=	30 "
6	Ashu-06/37	Re-excavation of 1.875 km canal from Tarua to Hafez Nazrul Market	4,25,000/=	300/=	30 "
7	Ashu-06/38	Re-excavation of 2.50 km from Bentala to Bitghar (Panishar)	3,34,990/=	300/=	30 "
8	Ashu-06/39	Re-excavation of 0.50 km canal from Social Welfare Office to Shhagpur and 0.50 km canal from Astogram Baropit to Puthai Eidgh	2,47,672/=	200/=	30 "
9	Ashu-06/40	Construction of 2.00 km mud-dam from RCC canal to Maishar and repair of 1.40 km mud-dam from Talla to Jatrapur.	3,37,613/=	300/=	30 "
10	Ashu-06/41	Construction of 3.60 km mud-dam from Talla to Jatrapur.	3,61,460/=	300/=	30 "
11	Ashu-06/42	Construction of 3.00 km mud-dam Bahadurpur towards Khariala	4,60,236/=	300/=	30 "
12	O & M Ashu/08	Repairing of mud-dam at Sonarampur	3,43,375/=	300/=	30 "
13	Ashu-06/43	Earth filling of approach of bridge/culvert and construction of 0.68 km feeder road from Bamaura R&H Road to Bashutara Primary School	3,73,294/=	300/=	30 "
14	Ashu-07/19	Repair of Sonarampur Saifun Protection and RCC main canal and brick field canal	3,05,678/=	300/=	30 "
15	Ashu 03/25	Construction of 2 vent RCC box culvert at Boalia canal	2,36,186/=	200/=	30 "
16	Ashu 03/26	Construction of 2 vent box culvert at Andidil canal	2,36,186/=	200/=	30 "
17	Ashu-05/16	Installation of sluice gate at Talsahar Saifun, repair of culvert and construction of 5 field outlet at different sites of Ashuganj Project Area	2,61,606/=	200/=	30 "

- Certificate of renewal current (1998-99) will have to be produced at the time of purchasing tender schedule and an attested photocopy of this certificate will have to be submitted with tender.
- Rate will have to be quoted considering all kinds of tax, VAT etc.
- If rate is submitted at 10% (ten per cent) over rate/ below rate then rate analysis on item-wise will have to be submitted with tender, otherwise tender will not be acceptable.
- Concerned Deputy Project Director's office may be contacted for additional information or to see necessary drawings.
- The authority reserves the power to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

ADC-564  
DFP 22797/27-10-98  
G-2444

**Md Mahbubul Islam**  
Project Director  
Mahbubul Huda Bhuiyan Ashuganj-Polash Agro  
Irrigation Project  
BADC, Ashuganj, B'baria.