Newssnaps

14 terrorists surrender

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 20: Some 14 identified terrorists of Shialkol Union in Sadar thana so far surrendered to the mem-

bers of an anti-terrorism committee, reports UNB. The 170-member 'Terrorism Prevention Committee," in a meeting on April 13, made a call to the terrorists of the area to take the opportunity of general amnesty by surrendering them-selves to the committee within seven days. The committee was formed to prevent terrorist activities in the area. After the announcement, 14 terrorists, out of 84 listed ones, handed themselves over to the committee and pledged to lead a normal life. The committee comprising UP Chairman, members and local elite will take decision on Friday next in this connection.

Housewife beaten to death

JESSORE, Apr 20: A housewife was beaten to death by her husband at a village in Kotwali thana on Sunday, reports UNB. Police said 18-year-old Jharna was being tortured by her husband Toriqul Islam regularly for realising the dowry money of Tk 50,000. The couple got married ten months ago. On the fateful day, Toriqul asked Jharna to go to her parents' house for the dowry money. But on her refusal, he became furious and beat her to death. Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed in this connection. Her husband has gone into hiding soon after the incident.

One crushed under wheels

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 20: One person was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding bus on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway Friday noon. The dead was identified as Sekender Ali, 55, of village Srirampur in Sailkupa thana of the district.

Police and eyewitnesses said the accident occurred when the victim was trying to cross the road near Madandanga in same thana. The bus sped away immediately after the incident. A case was filed with Sailkupa thana in this connection and the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Dacoity in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Apr 20: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk two lakh from four houses of four villages in Harinakunda thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of armed dacoity, locally called as 'half-pant bahini,' first entered the house of one Serajul Islam at village Ramnagar at dead of night and started conversation with the house owner. At one stage, the gang swooped on the inmates and looted cash and valuables from the house at gunpoint. They also committed dacoity in three houses of village Joradah, Kachua and Bherkhali on the same night.

2 robbers caught red-handed

BANDARBAN, Apr 20: Two robbers including a woman were caught red-handed by the people while committing dacoity at Baraduara village in Sadar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the villagers surrounded the gang of robbers on hearing the hue and cry at noon. When the opened fire on them, one Riazuddin was wounded critically. But the villager managed to catch Khair Ahmed with a pipe gun and six rounds of bullets and Mamtaj Begum with a ramdao. Later, they were handed over to the police.

Lightning kills one

RAJBARI, Apr 20: One person was killed when a lightning struck him at Goalanda during a nor'wester that swept the area yesterday, police said, reports APB.

The victim, Abdur Razzak, 22, was a labourer at Goalando

Padma Industry. The nor'wester also damaged some houses, police said.

2 children drown

JHALAKATHI, Apr 20: Two children drowned in two villages under Kathalia thana on Saturday, police said today, reports

Sharmin, 6, daughter of one Shamsul Haque of Chingrakhali village drowned in a canal while playing on its bank. Raihan, 2, son of one Manju Mia of Analbunia village, drowned in a pond near their house.

Severe hot spell in N districts

NATORE, Apr 20: Severe hot spell for the last one month and erratic power supply in the northern region including Natore have made the life mis-

erable, reports UNB. People of both the rural and urban areas have been suffering much owing to the dry spell. Erratic power supply and per-sisting load shedding have to their suffering. Meanwhile, hundreds of people have been affected with diseases like asthma, fever and diarrhoea.

Some 150 people fell sick in different places of the district due to the sunstroke. The affected people are undergoing treatment in five thana health complexes and Sadar Hospital, said civil surgeon office sources.

The heat web has forced the people to remain indoors throughout the day. Many business establishments here remained closed and rickshawpullers are charging higher

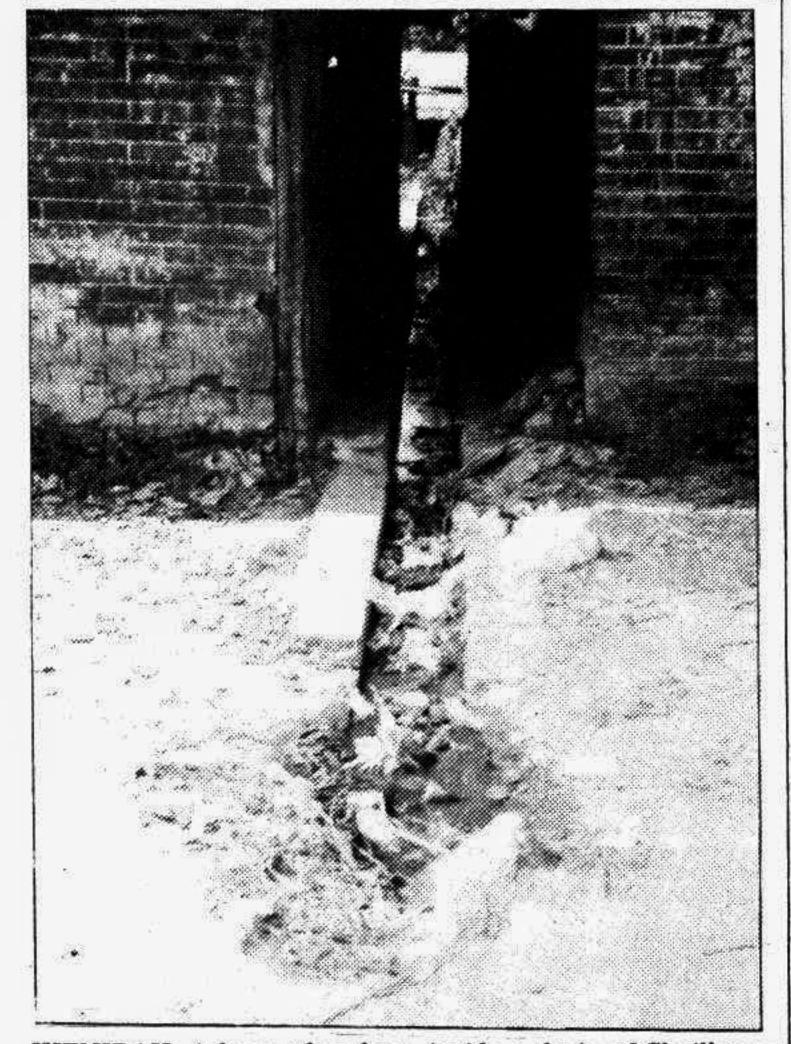
The hot spell has burnt standing IRRI-boro crops on 22,000 hectares of land and jute plants on 7,000 hectares in 16 northern districts of the country, unofficial sources claimed. On the other hand, the production in mills, factories and cottage industries have been seriously hampered as a result of frequent power disruption and severe load shedding.

The harvesting of IRRI-boro paddy of the region is not progressing as usual in the current season as the farm labourers cannot stay in the field for long on account of blistering heat. The rate of day labourers has increased twice in the region hence small and marginal farmers are facing problems in harvesting their crops.

Attendance in both primary and secondary schools in the remote areas of the region has dropped sharply due to the hot

Power Development Board Rajshahi office sources said the demand for electricity in the 16 northern districts stood at 350 MW daily while the supply is 180 to 185 MW.

The Palli Bidyut Samities have been forced to resort to load shedding 12 to 14 hours daily in their commanding areas following the acute shortage of electricity.



JHENIDAH: A heap of garbage inside a drain of Shailkupa Pourasabha. Authorities concerned seem to be indifferent about the civic amenities of the poura dwellers. -Star photo

Rahi murder: 4 BCL leaders acquitted

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Apr 20: Four leaders of ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League were acquitted of the Rahi Murder Case here by Mohammad Murshed Alam, Additional District and Sessions Judge, First court, Sylhet today.

Vice-president of the Sylhet MC College unit of JCD Babul Ahmed Rahi was stabbed to death in his house at Jalalabad Residential area of Sylhet town in September, 1996.

A case was filed against BCL leaders Helal, Mizan, Jony and

Businessman robbed of Tk 2.5 lakh

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Apr 20: Armed terrorists robbed a businessman of Tk 2 lakh and 50 thousand in broad daylight after stabbing him here on April 17.
The victim was identified as

Asgor Mondal, son of Amirul Islam of Ramkrishnapur union of Daulatpur Thana.

The businessman was travelling in a bus. The gang stopped the bus on Kushtia-Bheramara road and picked up him. After snatching the money, they fled the scene in a motorcycle that was also hijacked by the gang. Eyewitnesses said that

armed terrorists were waiting for the bus near bridge No. 3 on Kushtia-Bheramara road beforehand. They also hijacked the motorcycle from one Aktar Hossain at gunpoint.

Later, agitated people barri-caded the road for about one hour protesting the mugging. Police rushed there and brought the situation under control. A case has been registered with Bheramara police station in this connection.

On April 16 night, a daring theft was committed in four shops at Bheramara Bazar, located near the police station. The burglars decamped with cash and valuables worth about Tk one lakh.

One killed, 35 injured in clash

From Our Correspondent GAIBNADHA, Apr 20: One person was killed and 35 others sustained injureis in a fierce clash between two rival groups over a land dispute at village Nandishaher under Palashbari Thana on April 17.

According to sources, a longstanding conflict has been prevailing between two rival groups of Challishghar and ATtghar over the possession of 188 bighas of marshy land since last five decades. Meanwhile, several cases have been lodged and on several occasions a number of clashes occurred.

On Saturday, supporters of Attghar went to the fields for harvesting paddy which was strongly protested by support-ers of Challishghar. Soon there ensued a fierce clash between the two groups using deadly weapons in which 36 persons sustained injuries. One Shahjahan Ali Badsha, 45, succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

Besides, one child Al-Hadi, Fazlar, 65, Nurunabi, 45, Shada Rani, 30, Shahidul, 22, Manto, 35, Anisur, 32, Rana, 22, Nowsha, 25, and Shakhawat, 28, are still fighting for life.

Two cases were filed by both the rival groups with Palashbari Thana. None was arrested in this connection so far.

Brahminbazar UP election Apr 25

From Our Correspondent MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 20: The election of Brahminbazar Union Parishad (UP) in Kulaura district will be held on April 25

next. The Election Commission has taken up necessary steps to hold the election in a free and fair atmosphere. Chairman and member candidates have also submitted their nomination papers to the Returning Officer at Kulaura.

All the candidates for chairman post and member posts started their election campaign and visited from door to door to seek votes.

The Returning Officer said, a total of 11 polling stations will be set up for the election and a total of 12,074 voters will cast their votes.

Plastic surgery camp in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Apr 20: A special plastic surgery camp, first of its kind in this district, was inaugurated here on the premises of a local private

clinic on Friday, reports BSS.

The camp is jointly organised by Society for Rehabilitation of Burn Victims (SRBV) and City Hospital, Dhaka. The aim of the camp is to create mass awareness about plastic surgery and to raise fund for setting up a burn hospital in the country. The camp was inaugurated by Kazi Sirajul Islam, MP.

Eminent plastic surgeon Prof Dr Shahidullah Khan and Dr. Shahidul Bari conducted operations on 20 burn victims and treated other congenital cases in the camp at a very nominal costs.

Speakers at the inaugural function of the camp stressed the necessity of setting up a permanent burn hospital in the country and also pledged to contribute their mite in this direc-

Drought hits IRRI-boro cultivation

From Our Correspondent

.CHANDPUR, Apr 20: The IRRI-boro cultivation in the district is being hampered seriously because of prolonged

Farmers failed to prepare their lands for planting seedlings as rivers, canals and ponds are now almost dry.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, about one lakh fifty-five thousand hectares of land have been brought under IRRI-boro cultivation in seven thanas of the district during the current season. HYV paddy will be grown on 90 thousand hectares of land while local variety on 65 thousand hectares of land.

The farmers apprehended

that the IRRI-boro production target would not be achieved because about 30 per cent land is yet to be prepared for cultivation. Moreover, IRRI-boro crops on about 40 thousand hectares of land have already been damaged due to prolonged drought.

Irrigation is hampered badly in the areas as the drought is continuing for the last six months. Many IRRI-Boro lands have been dried up and cracks have also developed in paddy fields for want of wa-

Farmer Abdul Hannan of village Shekdi under Chandpur Irrigation project complained that he had to wait for eight days to irrigate his paddy field. But one time is not enough, he

said. His land has gone dry again. An IRRI-boro land requires at least six inches deep

water everyday. Md. Aminul Islam, Executive Engineer of Chandpur irrigation Project told this correspondent that the prevailing drought has already adversely affected the IRRI-boro cultivation project.

Finding no other means, the farmers are now offering special prayers to Allah for rains. Special prayers are also being offered in different mosques.

Meanwhile, at least 40 per cent tubewells have gone out of order as the ground water level has fallen, according to public Health & Engineering Department sources.



NATORE: Despite drought, a bumper production of mango is expected throughout the greater Rajshahi region this year. The photo shows a fruit-bearing mango tree. Star photo

Tk 3.75 cr overdue loans not realised

Panchagarh farmers face 923 cases

5 killed in separate

incidents

murder.

PANCHAGARH, Apr 20: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank IRAKUB) has filed 923 cases, including 822 Certificate Cases, to realise overdue agriculture loans of Tk 3.75 crore in the district, reports APB.

Twelve branches of Rakub in Panchagarh district have lodged the cases, the bank sources said. Regional manager of the

bank, Khurshed Alam, told APB that the Certificate Cases have been filed for realisation of Tk 3.20 crore and other 101 cases to recover Tk 55 lakh. During the current fiscal

year, the regional manager said, the bank has set a target to disburse Tk 12.58 crore as agriculture loans in the district. And the recovery target has

been fixed at Tk 14.5 crore. Of the targeted amount to be disbursed, the bank has already

Five people were killed and

32 others injured in separate

incidents in four districts dur-

ing the last week, police said,

Rasheed, 36, and Parvin, 25,

was killed on the spot when a

speedy minibus dashed their

rickshaw near Bazar

Kellabondh in Rangpur Sadar

shawpuller were rushed to the

Rangpur Medical College Hospi-

bus managed to flee the scene

with his vehicle. A case was

killed and 30 others were in-

jured in a clash between the ri-

val groups in Palash thana on

Saturday morning over har-

vesting paddy from a disputed

and his men came under attack

when they tried to harvest

paddy at Nadideshai in Betkopa

union. At one stage, Shahjahan

In another incident in

was beaten to death.

Police said Shahjahan, 45,

filed with the Kotwali police.

Their child and the rick-

However, the driver of the

In Gaibandha, a man was

on Saturday evening.

A couple, identified as

reports UNB.

tal (RMCH).

land.

distributed about Tk 6 crore among the farmers. Among 1.22 lakh agriculture

families in the district, 30,491 are the bank's loan recipients. In addition to them, the bank has distributed loans to 2,870 fresh farmers and 230 sharecroppers this year, he said. This year the bank has

rescheduled the loans of 43 farmers who were affected by the last year's devastating floods and they were given loans anew. Most of the loans have been

distributed for the cultivation of Boro crops this year, which has exceeded the target by 28 per The district's Boda branch of

RAKUB has set a record of disbursing fresh loans within 48 hours of repayment of the due loans, the manager added.

recovered the body of a day

labourer Hanif, 17, son of Sek-

bar Ali of Char Kalibari, from

the river Brahmaputra near the

Shambhuganj bridge in the

town. Previous enmity was said

to be the reason behind the

daughter of Sejlu Mia, drowned

while she was taking a bath in

the river Surma on April 13.

Villagers recovered the body af-

Bumper production

of wheat likely

20: The bumper production of

wheat is expected in the district

due to the early sowing of seeds

in the favourable climatic con-

Extension Department, some

18,364 hectares of land were

cultivated against the target of

yield is expected between 2.13 and 2.25 mts per hectare and

the total production is expected

at 40:217 mts. The harvesting is

According to officials, the

According to the Agriculture

dition, reports UNB.

15,933 hectares.

on in full swing.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr

ter six hours of the incident.

In Sunamganj, Jarina, 9,

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Apr 20: A total of 3,323 crimes were committed in the district during last six months from September last year to February this year, according to police sources.

filed 41 cases for killings, 88 for women oppressions, 11 for abducting, 80 for riots, 11 for possessing illegal arms, eight for riots with murders, 59 under Narcotics Control Act, 231 for stealing and buglary incidents. 21 for cattle liftings, one for smuggling and 1,038 for various incidents.

During the last six months. police arrested 1,422 persons on charge of various cases. Police also recovered 614 bottles of phensidyl, 41 litres of country wine and 33 kgs of hemp in raids during the last six months.

In a press conference held at the office of Police Super (SP) of Mymensingh, Alhaj Lutfur Rahman Miah sought help of the pressmen to improve the law and order situation in the district.

Four arrested for lifting rail tracks

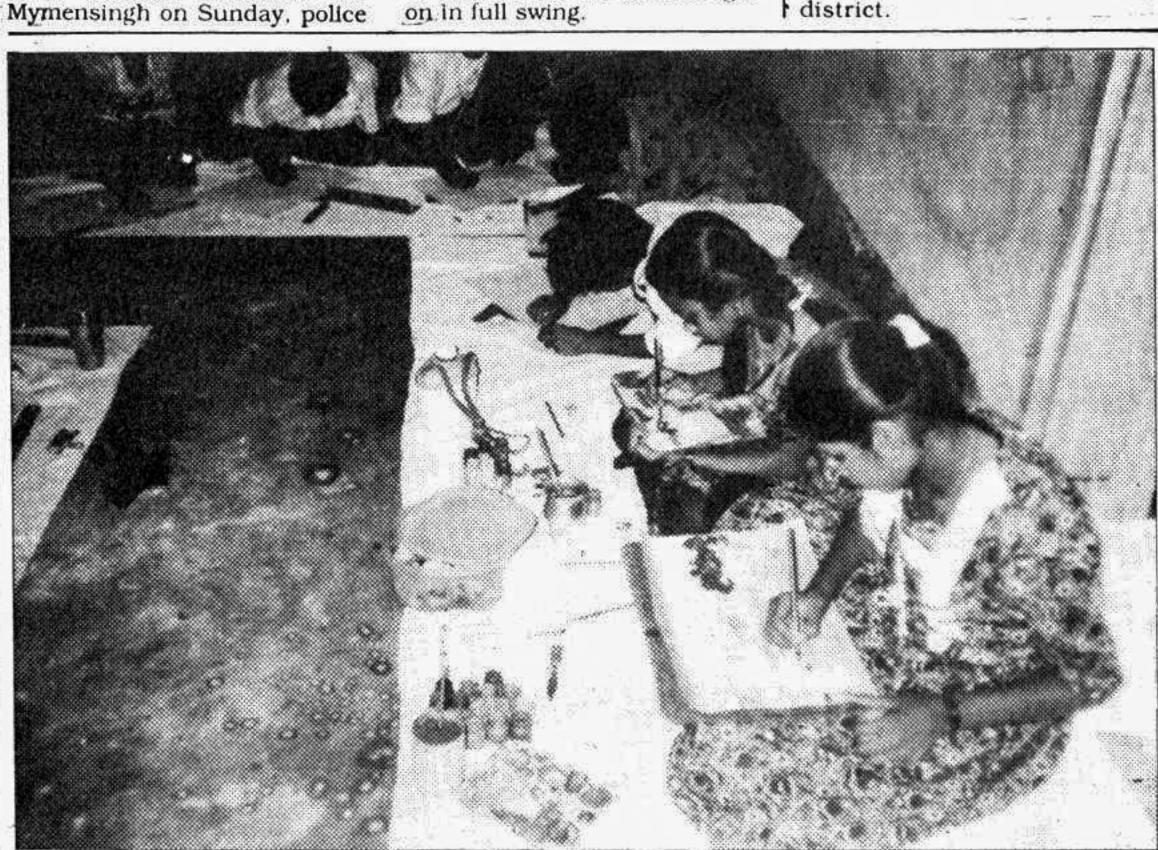
From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, Apr 20: Shaghata Thana police in a re-cent drive arrested four persons while they were allegedly lifting rail tracks from Shankerganj railway bridge. Police also recovered six-feet-long seven pieces of rails from their possession on April 15.

Acting on a tip-off, a police contingent went to the Shankerganj Railway bridge at dead night and arrested the four who were loading a rickshwa van with the seven pieces of rails. They were identified as Raja Mia, 30, Belal, 42, Shabuddin, 32, and Shahidul,

According to the confessional statement of arrested persons, they had been engaged in stealing rail tracks from the bridge site since long. A case has been filed.

3323 crimes committed in six months

Following the crimes, police



BARISAL: Participants at a drawing competition for children on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh. Barisal Press Club organised the event. - Star photo

40000 suffering from arsenic poisoning

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Apr 20: Over 40 thousand people of northern districts have been suffering from arsenic contamination, according to a survey conducted by an NGO.

The survey reveals that only in Charghat area under Rajshahi district, 68 people have already been attacked with arsenic poison.

Conducted by NGO forum, the preliminary test shows that the water of 13 tube-wells, out of 15 in Charghat area, has arsenic contents. And the contamination level is well above danger level of .05 per cent.

In Gaibandha district, the NGO workers found presence of arsenic content in tube-well water in between .01 to .02 per cent. A tube-well at Badiakĥali under Gaibandha sadar Thana

River erosion posing threat to power transmission line in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Apr 20: Two py-lons and four poles of a 33 KV power transmission line at Gunrajdi near the town may collapse any time due to erosion by the river Dakatia, reports

If the pylons collapse, power supply to Hajiganj, Kochua and some areas of Chandpur Sadar, Matlab, Faridganj, Laksam and Lakshmipur thanas will be snapped.

Sources in the Chandpur Rumission line said there are the areas.

Some local people talking to this correspondent alleged that

they apprised the authorities

be shifted soon to a safer place. The local people said that few days back, an electric pole near one of the two pylons collapsed due to erosion, snapping power in some areas for about five hours. This had happened due to non-action by the authorities concerned, they al-

has been sealed up as .08 per cent of arsenic was found in its

At a symposium held here recently, the speakers stressed the need for setting up an arsenic test laboratory in the northern region. The NGO workers conducted the preliminary tests for arsenic through manual process. The arsenic test kit they used is not enough to get the correct result. So it has become difficult to get accurate percentage of arsenic pres-

ence in tube-well water. The speakers also suggested using water from pond and river for drinking purpose. Besides, they also gave importance on storing rain water for drinking, as it is free from ar-

Pirates kill. businessman in Khulna

ral Electrification Society (CRES) which owns the transabout 1,25,000 subscribers in

Power supply to Chandpur Irrigation Project and Meghna-Dhonagoda Irrigation Project will also be snapped, they said.

concerned of the imminent danger time and again but nothing has been done so far. The General Manager of CRES, when contacted, said that the transmission line will

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 20: A busi-nessman was killed and four were injured, two of them seriously. during a piracy early this morning in the river Pashur at Dakop thana here, police said: The severely injured were admitted to Chalna Hospital in

critical condition. The dead was identified as Selim Shaikh, 30, and injured are Akram, 38, Sabur, 28, Abdul Haq, 30, and Mahbub Sarder 32. Police said the pirates fired

on an engine boat loaded with

rice leaving Selim dead on the spot and four of his staff injured. They took the engine boat to an unknown destination, police

A case was lodged with Dacop

Shalikha thana OC closed

MAGURA, Apr 202 The Officer-in-Charge of Shalikha thana was closed in Police Line here today on charge of negligence and failure to discharge his duty, reports UNB.

The police super issued an office order to close OC Golam Rabbani following kidnapping of two female students and a housewife from Arpara bazaar, some 50 yards away from the police station.



HABIGANJ: A fortnight-long magazine and poster exhibition was held at the Habiganj Press Club recently on the occasion of the Independence Day. - Star Photo

R&H Department Tender Invitation Notice

Tender Notice number: Name of work

Estimated cost Earnest money Time limit for :

Eligibility for contractors submitting tender

completion of work

Offices where tender schedule will be available

contractors enlisted with the Roads and Highways Department, 'D' category contractors of Barisal Road Circle and 'E' category of contractors of Barisal Road Division. Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Barisal/Patuakhali/ Bhola/Pirojpur/Jhalakathi/Bar-guna/Planning Division, (PD)

BRD 99 of the year 1998-99.

Widening of road embankment

by earth on the 18th (part) KM

and 19th (part) kilometre of

Barisal-Dinarerpool-Khayer-jhee-Nalua road under Barisal

Road Division during 1998-99

'A' to 'C' general category of

fiscal year. Tk 5,41,949/-.

20 (twenty) days.

Tk 10,839/-

Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/ Planning and Design Division, Barisal/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H Road Sub-Division 1/2, Barisal/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division,
Barisal on all working days
during office hours excepting
holiday. No tender form will be
sold on the day of opening

tender. Last date and time of : 26.04.99 till 5-00 PM.

> Additional Chief Engineer, R&H Barisal Zone, Barisal/ Superintending Engineer, R&H Road Circle, Barisal/ Superintending Engineer, R&H Moni & Eva Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/ Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Barisal/ Jhalakathi/ Pirojpur.

28.04.99 till 12-30 PM. 10. Last date and time of receiving tender in sealed condition Date and time of : 28.04.99 at 12-45 PM.

selling tender schedule

Offices of the offici-

als where tenders will

be received in sealed

condition

G-684

filing tenders in sealed condition 12. Place, date and time Office of the Executive

Engineer, R&H Road Division, of opening tender Barisal on 3.05.99 at 11-00

04.05.99 at 11-00 AM. 13. Date and time of: lottery

DFP-7878-15/4

Md Abdus Sattar Executive Engineer R&H Barisal Road Division