

News snaps

Saline water inundates 7 villages

SATKHIRA, Apr 23: People of seven villages are passing their days in agony as their villages were inundated by the saline water pouring into the area through a breach in the embankment of Water Development Board, reports UNB.

The breach developed in the WAPDA embankment at Bazar Gham Rahimpur in Kaliganj thana recently, affecting 10,000 people of seven villages. The affected villages are Kulla, Durgapur, Gholadanga Bazar, Gram Rahimpur, Kakshali, Mohatpur and Bhadrakali. An unofficial estimate but the figure of damage of crops and shrimps at Tk 50 lakh as 300 bigha land was inundated. No measures have taken as yet to repair the embankment.

Dacoity in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Apr 23: Armed dacoits stormed into a house in Judge Court area of the town early Thursday and looted cash and goods worth over Tk 5 lakh, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of 10-12 masked robbers entered the first-floor residence of Alhaj M. Alauddin at Girls' School Road by breaking the grill at about 3 am. They tied up Alauddin and his wife, forcibly took away the key of their steel almirah and looted cash Tk 1.5 lakh, 65 grams of gold ornaments and other valuables at gunpoint. A case has been filed with Sadar thana.

Boy crushed under wheels

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 23: A minor boy was killed in a road accident at Ghilakandi in Katiadi thana in Kishoreganj-Bhairab road on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said Saib, 8, of Zolopara village in Sadar thana died on the spot when a Bhairab-bound bus ran over him while he was crossing the road. The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed.

PHED to sink 698 tubewells

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 23: A scheme has been undertaken to sink 698 and re-sink 126 tubewells in 146 flood-affected unions of Mymensingh district, reports UNB.

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Mymensingh circle, under its Rural Water Supply Project will install these tubewells to ensure safe water for the rural people. The tubewells included 660 Tara Pump and 38 shallow tubewells. Of the new tubewells, 58 will be installed in Sadar thana while 54 in Muktagachha, 67 in Trishal, 48 in Bhaluka, 69 in Gafargaon, 69 in Fulbaria, 42 in Gouripur, 87 in Phulpur, 57 in Nandail, 57 in Haluaghat, 54 in Iswarganj, and 38 in Dhobaura thanas.

Road accident kills one

BAGERHAT, Apr 23: A young man was killed and 10 others were injured in an accident near Srighat bus stand on Bagerhat-Rupsha highway on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at noon when the driver of a Bagerhat-bound tempo lost control over steering and the three-wheeler dashed a roadside tree. The dead was identified as Kamal, 25, who hailed from Ukti village of Chuadanga district. He died on way to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital. The injured were admitted to the hospital.

Delay in implementing projects

NETRAKONA, Apr 23: Fifty-seven development projects undertaken by Apara thana parishad under the Rural Infrastructure Development Programme in 1998-99 fiscal could not be implemented yet, reports UNB.

Misappropriation of allocated wheat allegedly by a section of project committee members was said to be the reason behind the unusual delay in implementing the projects. Officials sources said 71 metric tonnes of wheat were sanctioned for implementing the 57 projects.

7 outlaws arrested

MAGURA, Apr 23: Police in a special drive arrested seven members of outlawed Sarbahara Party from Manuria village of Shalikhata thana here on Thursday, reports APB.

A motorcycle was also seized during the raid. But no arms or ammunition could be recovered. Acting on a tip-off, a police force led by SP Akbar Ali, raided two houses at Manuria village and rounded up the Sarbahara men. However, about a dozen other activists managed to escape, witnesses said. The arrested are Bishuapada Biswas, Bikash and Biket of Manuria village, Munajat Sheikh and Nirmal Biswas of Gangni village and Latu Molla and Linton of Narkelbari village under Jessore district.

17 shops, 40 houses gutted in fire

FENI, Apr 23: A devastating fire reportedly gutted 17 shops and 40 houses at Circuit House Road in the suburbs of the town on Monday night, reports APB.

The loss in the blaze was estimated at Tk 40 lakh. Police and witnesses said the fire originated from a burning candle in a quilt shop at about 12 midnight in the area. The fire soon engulfed the adjacent areas and burnt into ashes the establishments.

Smuggled Indian sugar seized

FENI, Apr 23: Jawans of Bangladesh Rifles seized some 7.5 thousand kgs of smuggled Indian sugar from a Chittagong-bound truck near the level-crossing here on Tuesday, reports APB.

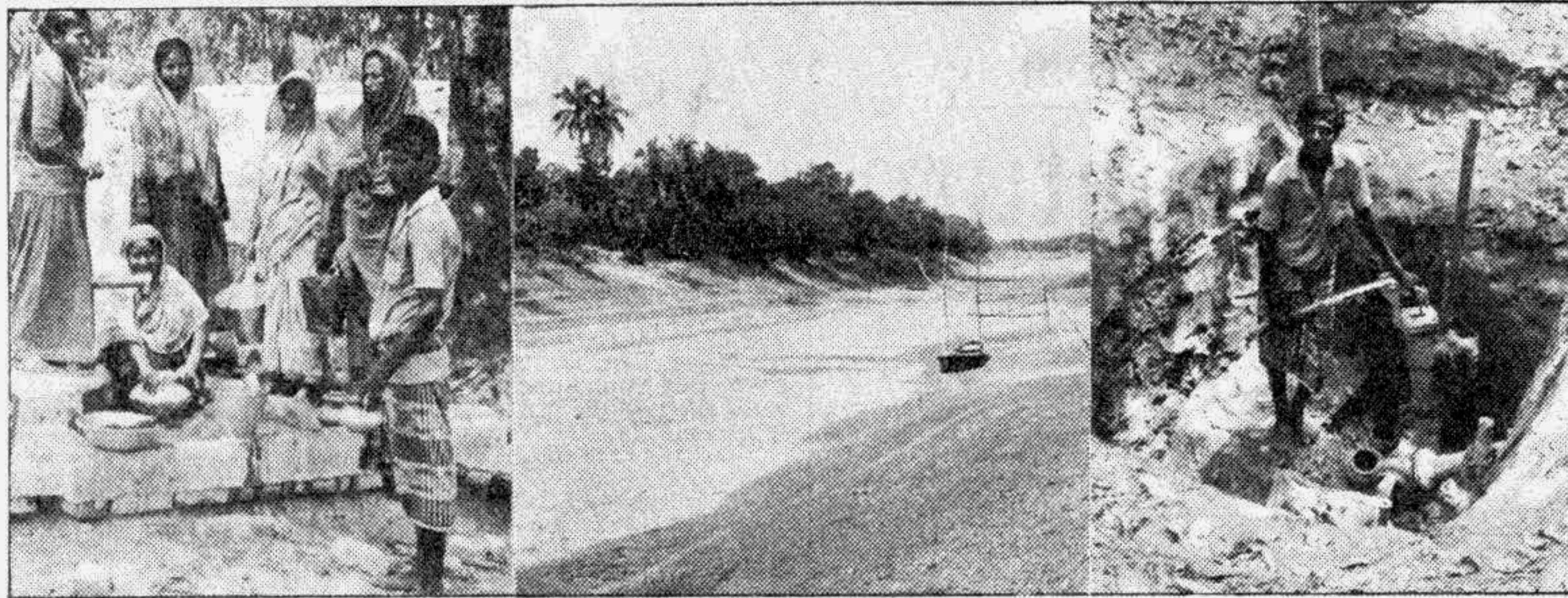
The seized truck along with the sugar worth Tk 2.63 lakh was handed over to the local Customs authority, BDR sources said.

Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice : 51/98-99.
- Name of work : Supplying of spare parts for 110 HP Daf Engine (Model 615 & 620) under Ferry Maintenance Sub-Divn, Katchpur, Dhaka.
- Estimated cost : As per schedule.
- Earnest money : 2% of the estimated cost.
- Time allowed : 10 (ten) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Form No. : Bangladesh Form No 2908.
- Eligibility of contractors : Enlisted 'A to C' general category contractors of RHD, 'D' general category contractors of RHD, Mechl Ferry Circle, Dhaka & 'E' general category contractors of RHD, Ferry Maint Divn, Dhaka.
- Name of office : EE R&H, FMD Dhaka/FCD of availability of tender documents Sylhet & SDE R&H, Ferry Maint Sub-Divn, Dhaka. Tender documents will be available on or before 5-5-99.
- Name of officers to receive tender bids : SE R&H, Dhaka Ferry Circle, Dhaka/EE RHD, Ferry Maint Divn, Dhaka/FCD Dhaka/Ferry Divn, Sylhet.
- Date of receipt of tender : Up to 12:00 Noon of 6-5-99.
- Date & time of opening of bids : 12:30 PM of 10-5-99.
- Date & time of lottery : To be informed in due time.

Md Motakbir Hossain
Executive Engineer, R&H
Ferry Maintenance Divn
12, Santinagar, Dhaka.

DFP-8191-19/4
G-713



NATORE: Water crisis has gripped the entire Natore district as the groundwater level has fallen alarmingly. The photo shows women collecting drinking water from the only Tara pump at Sherkol village in Shingra (left), the dried-up Barnoi river (middle) and a tubewell installed after digging a hole.

Water crisis worsens in Natore as groundwater level falls

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Apr 23: With the groundwater level falling sharply, the crisis of drinking water has worsened throughout the 52 unions of the district as over 60 per cent tubewells has gone out of order.

A source in the Department of Public Health Engineering said water level in the main rivers and their tributaries in this region like Padma, Chhoto Jamuna, Mohananda, Atrai, Baral, and Barnoi has gone down alarmingly. And at many points, the rivers have dried up due to adverse effect of the Farakka barrage.

According to the DPHE sources, out of 11,000 tubewells, installed by the department, more than 6000 tubewells have already choked up while 36,015, out of 54,895 private tubewells, have gone out of order due to fall in the water level. In some areas, the water level has gone down 35 to 40 feet.

Scarcity of drinking water is causing untold suffering to about seven thousand town dwellers as about 80 per cent tubewells have been inoperative. Now they have to depend on the municipality for the water supply.

Increasing loadshedding is also threatening the water supply system of the municipality, adding to the suffering of the town dwellers. Two turbine water pumps, out of seven, have been lying out of order due to mechanical fault.

In rural areas, people are to depend on the water of Tara pumps, installed by the DPHE. Many of the Tara pumps went out of order due to lack of proper maintenance and care.

In some areas in the Chalan Beel, people of two or three villages collect drinking water from a single Tara pump. One such area is Sherkol union un-

der Shingra thana. While visiting Sherkol last week, this correspondent saw the Barnoi river passing through the union had dried up completely.

Not a single tubewell is working here. Some tubewells have been set up digging a hole 3 to 5 feet deep, but all efforts have gone in vain. Women were found collecting water from nearby Tara pumps.

Many villagers are now being forced to use contaminated water from pond and ditch. As a result, various water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, gastroenteritis and skin diseases have broken out. Some experts of DPHE and Natore municipality told The Daily Star that such a water crisis could easily be avoided through taking early measures of repairing the turbine water pumps and installing some new Tara pumps.

150 police camps set up in Khulna to contain crimes

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 23: One hundred and fifty new police camps have been set up in ten districts of Khulna division to contain crimes.

Police aided by army, BDR, APBN, RRF and Ansars will begin a special combined operation in the division very soon, said DIG of Khulna Range.

Meanwhile, the new police camps have already taken all preparations to launch a crackdown on criminals. Interrogation cells have also been set up in eleven sector headquarters including the KMP with a provision for Joint Interrogation cell at Jessore.

Each of the eleven sectors will be headed by police Super and police commissioner of KMP.

During the past three months, 145 people were killed in Khulna division alone.

Rampant use of current nets in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 23: About three hundred current nets worth about Tk 50 lakh were seized from the fishermen catching fish in the rivers Padma and Meghna during a drive in the month of April.

According to District Fishery Office sources, the mobile courts launched the operation from Haimchar thana to Shaitnal under Matlab thana. So far, 25 fishermen were also arrested while they were catching jatka at Nilimala, Haimchar, Ibrahimpur, Mohanpur, and Safarmal areas.

The use of current nets has increased alarmingly nowadays. And the mobile courts also become active during the current season. After seizing the nets, they set fire to the haul on the bank of rivers in front of the people.

According to the Fisheries Department, small hilsa ma-

suring 4 cm to 10 cm are called jatka. Some unscrupulous fishermen catch jatka flouting the government ban. Unauthorised use of current nets for catching fish fries has become widespread, specially in the rivers Padma and Meghna. In the country, there are two big nursery grounds for small hilsa. The largest one is in between haimchar to Shaitnal in Chandpur and the other is located in Kuakata in Patuakhali district.

Jatkas remain in the water of Padma and Meghna from March to June. After this period they migrate to the sea.

The average catch of jatka is estimated at about four thousand metric tons in a year. If 30 per cent of the haul can be protected each year, an additional production of hilsa worth about Tk 500 crore can be obtained.



CHANDPUR: Huge quantity of jatka being caught from the rivers Padma and Meghna everyday using current nets.

Ensuring safe water in remote areas

By Naimul Haq, back from Rangamati

For Ashutosh Barua and many of his neighbours, it is a dream-come-true. About twenty households in the community living in the suburb of Rangamati are about to start using tubewell water for drinking and cooking purposes. For them it is a new life.

In the past, people of the community in Bashundhara colony at Garjanati used lake water collected from a distance not less than half a kilometre from their homes. As a result, incidence of water-borne diseases was very high, next to malaria in the region. They often fell seriously ill drinking contaminated water of the lake.

The lake, surrounded by many slums, is also used for the purpose of disposing toilet waste and other garbage mainly dumped by the Rangamati town residents. People could hardly ascertain the cause of the diseases until they went to doctors.

It was the NGO Forum, a non-profit organisation working with local and national NGOs for promoting safe drinking water and sanitation, that selected the area in the remote

hilly region to install, through the local partner NGO - Green Hill, a number of ringwells - an ideal technique for the hilly region. Basundhara is among their nine other locations in Rangamati Hill District.

"Our mission is to provide safe water to any region where people do not have access to safe water. We also promote personal hygiene side by side. We are determined to work even in the remotest areas no matter how difficult the challenge is," said an official of NGO Forum.

Apart from the NGO Forum, the Department of Public Health and Engineering, is also working to promote installing ringwells in the regions.

"We have been using water from the nearby Karnaphuli lake. The lake is the only source of water for us. But now that we are about to use the ringwell I don't think we would have to go to doctors as often as we did before," said Ashutosh Barua, a leader of the community.

An old man, also a neighbour of Barua said, "Three of my sons were admitted to hospital last year due to severe di-

arrhoeal attack. They were treated and returned home after a week. But in the following month, two of them again fell sick drinking water from the lake."

Acknowledging the fact, Barua's neighbour, Joya Das said, "I know that water should be boiled before drinking, but we cannot afford to do this all the time."

The local Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) officials also admits that the lake is contaminated with high concentration of microscopic organism. Almost all the sewerage pipelines flow to the lake.

A partner of NGO Forum, Green Hill has been working in the remote hill regions where access to drinking water is difficult. They have been motivating people to practice using tubewell water instead of surface water where risk of contamination is high.

"We are working to change people's habit of using water from the lake. In the hill districts surface water (lake) is used for drinking and cooking

purposes. Although it is difficult for the users to accept the concept but people seem to accept the idea straightaway," said Green Hill Coordinator Moung Thowai Ching.

Promoting activities like providing information and education on the issues related to drinking water depends on the needs of the community. Posters, leaflets, brochures and other necessary materials are provided to motivate people including the older ones who find social changes too heavy on them.

NGO Forum's role as a partner is to provide hardware and training support. They provide tubewell shaft-head, PVC pipes, cement rings and other materials as well as providing training for installing ringwells as deep as 30 meter and making the rings which costs around Tk 75,000 each including digging charges.

The NGO Forum also gives lessons on maintenance and repair of the wells and environmental sanitation and personal hygiene.

Report on Jessore jail revolt Recommendations yet to be implemented

JESSORE, Apr 23: The condition of the jail here has not improved as the recommendations of the report on Jessore Jail Revolt were not implemented as yet, reports UNB.

Sources said prisoners have been living in a miserable condition as no development work has been taken up even 28 months after the revolt.

Prison sources said some works were done to repair the walls and furniture, which were damaged during the revolt that left 14 people including policemen killed.

Prisoners revolted in December 1996 for better prison condition including improved food and medical facility that were recommended by 1990 caretaker government.

Sources said that overall condition of the prison remained as before and the prisoners are to stay in overcrowded cells and forced to take adulterated food.

Proper food is supplied and treatment provided to them who can pay money for these, they alleged.

Another source said the mismanagement that was responsible for the deterioration of the jail conditions still exists.

The report identified irresponsibility of the administration and irregularities as the main cause of the jail revolt and recommended increasing the capacity of the prison and keeping the convicted and accused prisoners in separate cells.

11 killed in S-W dists in 15 days

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Apr 23: Eleven people, including two union Chairmen and one school teacher, have been killed in 10 districts of South-western region during the first 15 days of this month.

According to reports, Sharkhali Union Chairman Mostafa Habib, 48, of Botiaghata thana in Khulna was killed on his way back home from Khulna on April 13 last.

Kazipur union chairman and Union AL President Abdul Baki, 45, was shot dead the same day.

Alfaz Uddin, 38, of Fulbaria, and Kamal Uddin, 30, of Arshinagar under Harinakundo thana in Jhenaidah district, were chopped to death on April 4 by rival group.

It is alleged that both of them were activists of a outlawed party.

On the same day, Billal Hossain of Dagi under sadar thana of Faridpur, killed his wife Rahela Khatun, 25, and two sons - Russel, 7, and Rajib, 5.

Two persons - Kalam, 27, of Joirampur under Rupsha thana of Khulna - were chopped to death by their rival groups.

A primary school headmaster and his son of Gopalpur under Damurhuda thana in Chuadanga - Mahatab Uddin, 55, and Raju, 18, - were shot dead by a group of armed men.

Two bodies recovered in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 23: Khulna thana police recovered a body of an unidentified man aged about 50 from Iwta terminal at early Wednesday morning. Some deep cut marks were found in different parts of his body.

Police also recovered another body of a minor boy from a slum area at Nirala residential area under Khulna thana. The two-year-old boy has been identified as Hira, son of a rickshawpuller. Police suspect that he was strangled to death by his mother Rohinora, 24, who has gone into hiding. A UD case has been lodged with Khulna thana.

Foundation stone of Natore college laid

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Apr 23: The foundation stone of Natore City College, a private college, was laid at a ceremony at Hugalbaria areas in Natore town on Pahela Baisakh.

M Ishaq Bhuiyan, DC of Natore, formally laid the foundation stone as chief guest.

The DC, later, participated in a discussion which was also addressed by the Vice principal of N S Government College Md Ibrahim, Principal of Natore City College Md Delwar Hossain and president of Natore Press Club Md Mahfuz Alam. Md Ershad Ahmed, chairman of Natore City College Managing Board, was in the chair.

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

Corrigendum Notice for Bids (IFB)
No. 12/1998-99 dated -01-04-99

It is notified for information and necessary action to all concern that some amendments have been made in the bids notice as circulated vide Memo No T-1/788 (100) dated 01-04-99.

Para 6 may be read as:
Bids shall be received by the Superintending Engineer, Faridpur O & M Circle, BWDB, Faridpur and the Executive Engineer, Faridpur O & M Division, BWDB, Faridpur up to 11-05-99 (12.00 Noon) in place of the office of the (a) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka, (b) Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O & M Circle, BWDB, Dhaka (c) Executive Engineer, O & M Division, BWDB, Rajbari/Gopalgonj/Madaripur and instead of 09-05-99 & 10-05-99 during office hours and on 11-05-99 up to 12.00 Noon.

Para 8 may be read as:
Bids shall be opened in presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 13.00 hours on 11-05-99 in the office of the undersigned in place of the office of the (a) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka (b) Superintending Engineer, Faridpur, O&M Circle, BWDB, Faridpur, (c) Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O & M Circle, BWDB, Dhaka (d) Executive Engineer, O & M Division, BWDB, Rajbari/Gopalgonj/ Madaripur.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Md Shamsuddin
Executive Engineer
Faridpur O & M Division
BWDB Faridpur.

PANI-452/98-99
GD-322

Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd
(A Company of Petrolbangla)
EMES Division, Demra, Dhaka

Ref No. 881/D&M/T No. 35
Dated: 05-04-99

Re-Tender Notice

- Name of work : Electrical maintenance work of buildings at Demra Residential Area.
- Time limit for completion of work : 45 days (excluding all Govt holidays).
- Estimated cost : Tk 1,79,845.00 only.
- Price of tender document : Tk 500.00 (non-refundable)
- Earnest money : 2% of quoted amount. To be deposited in the shape of Pay Order. But in case of quoting rate 10% below the estimated cost, additional 10% against the quoted amount should be similarly submitted.
- Date & time of obtaining tender : 02-05-99 to 12-05-99 daily morning 10-00 hrs to noon 13-00 hrs (on all working days)
- Places of distributing & receiving tender : A) Accounts Department, Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. Tender document should be deposited in tender box kept at the ground floor of the building.
B) Sales Division (Metro-Dhaka-1), Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd, 7, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
C) Revenue Division (Metro-Dhaka-1), Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd., 25/4, Golapbag, Dhaka-1204.
D) Sales Division (Metro-Dhaka-2), Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd., 5, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212.
E) Revenue Division (Metro-Dhaka-2), Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd., 7, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
F) Sales Division (Metro-Dhaka-3), Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd., 1/5, Block-A, Lalmita, Dhaka-1207.
G) Revenue Division (Metro-Dhaka-3), Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd., House No. 3, Block-C, Mirpur-10, Avenue-2, Dhaka.
H) Stores Division, Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd., Sarulia, Demra, Dhaka.

Interested tenderers can collect the tender document free of cost from the above offices. But at the time of submitting tender, the price of tender document & the amount of earnest money must be submitted with the tender in separate Pay Orders from any scheduled commercial bank in Bangladesh in favour of Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd.

- Date & time of receiving tender : 12-05-99 up to 11-30 AM.
- Date, time & place of opening tender : 12-05-99 at 12:00 Noon at the office chamber of Deputy General Manager (EMES).
- Eligibility of tenderer : Second class contractors of govt, semi-govt, autonomous, semi-autonomous, sector corporation having 'B' class electrical licence in their own firm's name. Contractor is required to possess experience of successful completion of similar work within the past three years.

11. This company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without taking any liability or assigning any reason.

12. All other information are attached to the tender document. If, under unavoidable circumstance, it is not possible to receive/open tender on the prescribed date, then the tender will be received/opened on the next working day.

আপনার রান্নার কাজ শেষ হয়ে থাকলে এখনি গ্যাসের ছাটি নিভিয়ে ফেলুন

Titas/PR-100/98-99
DFP-7996-18/4
G-711

Deputy General Manager
(EMES Division)