

## News snaps

### Reception to noted personalities

From Our Correspondent

**FARIDPUR, May 25:** Faridpur Lalai Parishad accorded a hearty reception to five personalities who attained excellence in literary and cultural life at a function at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall recently.

The recipients were Dr. Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, Associate Professor of Bengali Department of Kustia University and a noted researcher in Lalai works, Mamta, wife of Poet Jasimuddin, Khondaker Nurul Hossain, Syed Ashraf Al Azam, Abdur Rob and Pijus Benerjee in cultural activities specially as a BTV star.

### New annex bldg of BAU hall

From Our Correspondent

**MYMENSINGH, May 25:** Vice-Chancellor Prof. Muhammad Hossain assured the female students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) to solve various problems as well as to provide better accommodation facilities within limited resources of the University.

Inaugurating the new annex building of BAU Sultana Razia Hall built at a cost of Tk 25 lakh with a living accommodation of 60 students, the vice-chancellor reminded that a new female hall would be constructed very soon as per announcement of the Prime Minister while addressing as BAU Chancellor during the fourth convocation '97. Presided over by Prof. Md. Rafiqul Haque, Provost, Sultana Razia Hall, the function was addressed, among others, by senior professors, University Engineer Md. Rahmatullah and Hall Sangsad General Secretary Nasreen Sultana Jueena.

### Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

**SATKHIRA, May 25:** Dead body of an 11-year-old girl was recovered from a ditch at village Agardari in sadar thana recently.

The victim has been identified as Taslima Khatun, 11, daughter of Abul Kashem of village Agardari in sadar thana. Police said, the victim has been missing since May 13. She was kidnapped and raped by a group of miscreants and strangled her to death, police sources apprehended.

### PDB office ransacked

From Our Correspondent

**GAIBANDHA, May 25:** Agitated viewers of World Cup cricket attacked the local Power Development Board office, Gaibandha after being deprived in witnessing the World Cup cricket match between Bangladesh and West Indies following power failure.

Angry youngsters rushed to the office soon after the disruption of power. They ransacked the office and damaged one motorcycle. During the period none was available in the office. Power disruption has become a regular feature here. On May 21 power remained suspended for long six hours.

### Kala azar claimed 7 lives in 7 months

From Our Correspondent

**JAMALPUR, May 25:** At least seven persons died in the district, especially in Sadar thana for the last seven months, according to the local Civil Surgeon office sources.

They were identified as Rahman Ali of Amin Nagar of Shahabaj union, Amena Begum, 38, and her daughter Fatema, 28, and her nephew Laboni, 7, Akbar Ali, 45, Rawshan Ara, 30, and Uras Ali, 11, of village Ranarampur in Sharifpur union of Sadar thana.

### Growers deprived of fair price of Boro

From Our Correspondent

**NETRAKONA, May 25:** Growers are not getting fair price of Boro paddy for want of buyers causing their frustration. Its price in the market is falling sharply in the current harvesting period.

They are compelled to sell the Boro paddy at a price which is below the production cost. The market of paddy is being controlled by a section of middlemen who are offering a low price in credit. Boro paddy is being sold in the market between Tk 240 to Tk 260 per maund, while its production cost is Tk 280 to Tk 300, the production cost was higher this year due to prolonged drought and belated rain.

### Seminar on community theatre

From A Correspondent

**MAGURA, May 25:** A seminar on 'Issues and Strategies in Community Theatre and Development' was held at the Shilpakala auditorium recently.

The seminar was organised by Theatre Centre for Social Development (TCSO). It was presided over by Khondaker Saiful Islam, Lutfur Rahman, lecturer of Jahangirnagar University delivered the inaugural speech. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Prof. Kazi Saifuzzaman and Khan Ziaul Huq.

### Viral diseases in Jessore

**JESSORE, May 25:** Various viral diseases like influenza, chicken pox, fever and diarrhoea have broken out in the district in an epidemic form, reports UNB.

District Health Department sources said five people died of diarrhoea and 2,301 others were attacked in last April. The number of death and attack stood at 23 and 6,668 respectively from January to April. The rush of patients has increased in the hospitals and thana health complexes where 365 people were treated in a week. The water-borne disease attacked the highest 148 people on April 12. But the unofficial sources said 30 people died and some 8,000 were affected during the January-April period. During the period some 3,100 people were also attacked by chicken pox and 5,000 by viral fever including 3,000 by flu.

### Bridge construction begins

**RANGPUR, May 25:** Work has begun on the construction of a bridge on the river Korotoa on Shadullahpur-Pirganj-Nawabganj road, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Maju laid the foundation stone of the bridge at Dudheyabari-Kachdaha ghat at Pirganj thana of the district on Thursday. Official sources said the 259.88-metre long and 9.50-metre wide bridge will be built at a cost of about Tk 10 crore. On completion, the bridge will greatly improve road communication between Shadullahpur thana in Gaibandha district and Nawabganj thana in Dinajpur district via Pirganj thana in Rangpur district.

### Segun timber seized

**HABIGANJ, May 25:** BDR jawans and forest officials in a joint raid seized segun timber worth Tk 4.50 lakh from Haritola village in Bahubal thana last week, reports UNB.

BDR sources said acting on a tip-off, they along with the forest officials raided the houses of Yasin Miah, Elias Miah, Ekhlash Miah, Abid Ali and Kala Miah and recovered 330 pieces of segun timber.

### Awami Lawyers Parishad meeting

**KISHOREGANJ, May 25:** The Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdul Hamid Advocate said, lawyers can easily highlight the programmes and activities of a party by exchanging views with the common people, reports BS.

He was addressing the annual meeting of Bangladesh Awami Lawyers Parishad, held at local Bar Association Hall Room on May 20. He said the lawyers can mix with general public, influence them and lead them towards the ideology of a party. Presided over by Advocate Mallik, the meeting was addressed, among others, by advocates Zillur Rahman, Zinnatul Islam, Mia Mohammad Ferdous, Shaheed and Bimal Biswas.

### Arms seized

**BAGERHAT, May 25:** Police recovered 183 firearms and 596 rounds of ammunition during the anti-terrorist operation in the district last year, reports UNB.

A total of 3,971 dacoits, terrorists and extortionists were also arrested during the period, a police report said. The recovered arms and ammunition were displayed on Thursday at the office of the District Police Super Alhaj Jalahuddin Al-Azad.

### Two commit suicide

**NOAKHALI, May 25:** Young Alamgir, 18, allegedly committed suicide on Saturday by hanging himself from a tree near Satankpur of the town here, reports UNB.

Body of Alamgir, son of Shahjahan, was recovered from a tree in the area by police and sent it for post-mortem. Alamgir is said to have felt offended by his parents' behaviour. Another report adds: A middle-aged woman of Sagardi village in Raipur thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at her home, police said. They said Rahima Khatun, 38, committed suicide following a family feud on May 11.

### Fund misappropriated

**SHARIATPUR, May 25:** A school headmaster here went away India misappropriating Tk 50,000 of the school fund, police said, reports UNB.

Sanjayan Chowdhury, the headmaster of Panchapalli High School of Narayanpur, after headmastering Tk 50,000 from the school development fund fled away India one month ago. Police after investigation confirmed the report on Thursday.

# 19 passenger launches sank in 15 years in southern districts

From Aroop Talukdar

**BARISAL, May 25:** At least 19 passenger launches, both single and double decker, sank in different rivers of the southern districts under Barisal division in last 15 years.

This has been learnt from the BIWTA authority and news published in different national dailies of the country.

More than 1,500 people drowned and wealth, merchandise including money amounting to Taka 20 crore were lost in these incidents.

It may be recalled here the two major incidents of capsizing the vessels, MV Soni in 1987, near Mehendighanj and MV Atlas Star in 1989 in the Meghna river. Both vessels were steel body double-decker passenger launches. They were on way to Dhaka.

A similar widebody launch MV Samia, a passenger launch along Dhaka-Bhola river sank in the Kalabadar river near Moulavirhat of Barisal four years ago.

According to official and unofficial sources, the incidents

left more than 700 passengers dead and wealth of several lakhs of taka lost.

According to a survey report, the major incidents took place in the rivers of Kirtankhola of Barisal, Palra, Tetulla, Lohalia of Patuakhali, Sandhya of Jhalakati, Bishkhali and Agunmukha of Barguna, Kalabadar and Meghna of Bhola during the last decade.

According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Launch Owners' Association and witnesses, the reasons of these disastrous incidents are negligence of the launch owners in providing necessary life saving equipments in the passenger vessels.

absence of regular survey and repair and above all, absence of skilled 'master' and well-trained launch staffers.

It may be stated here that enquiry teams were formed following major launch disasters, but eventually the enquiry reports helped very little to check and control occurrence of such tragic incidents.

An example may be cited here. The 'Queen of Patuakhali', a passenger launch sank at least four times during the last seven years in different rivers leaving many people dead.

Furthermore, the same passenger vessel was renamed and very illegally kept on plying in other routes without any permission from the proper authority. At several times enquiries were conducted against this passenger vessel, but to no effect.

Authorities concerned have admitted, there are many marine vessels, both cargo and passenger carrier which do not have their survey and other documents properly renewed.

An enquiry committee has already been formed regarding the 'ML Dweep Kanya' tragedy which sank on May 8 in the Sahajapur channel of the river Meghna amid stormy weather and strong current leaving 40 passengers dead and more than 60 missing.

Vessels are classified in four categories, oceangoing ships

sailing along international routes, passenger-cum-cargo vessels in the coastal areas, inland passenger carrier steamers, fishing boats and engine boats which are usually known as trawler. These are meant for fishing purpose in the rivers and in the Bay of Bengal almost throughout the year.

Number of these passenger and cargo carriers are about 2,000 while different kinds of registered marine vessels are more than 6,000. These vessels normally ply in the domestic routes.

Most of these marine vessels have no regular valid papers. On the other hand, thousands of emerging shoals in the river beds are also responsible for such mishaps. As a result, the riverine journey becomes very risky at nights.

Dredging is necessary and inoperative or missing beacons should be replaced immediately to make the rivers navigable. But BIWTA and other concerned authorities are not paying heed to the suggestions.

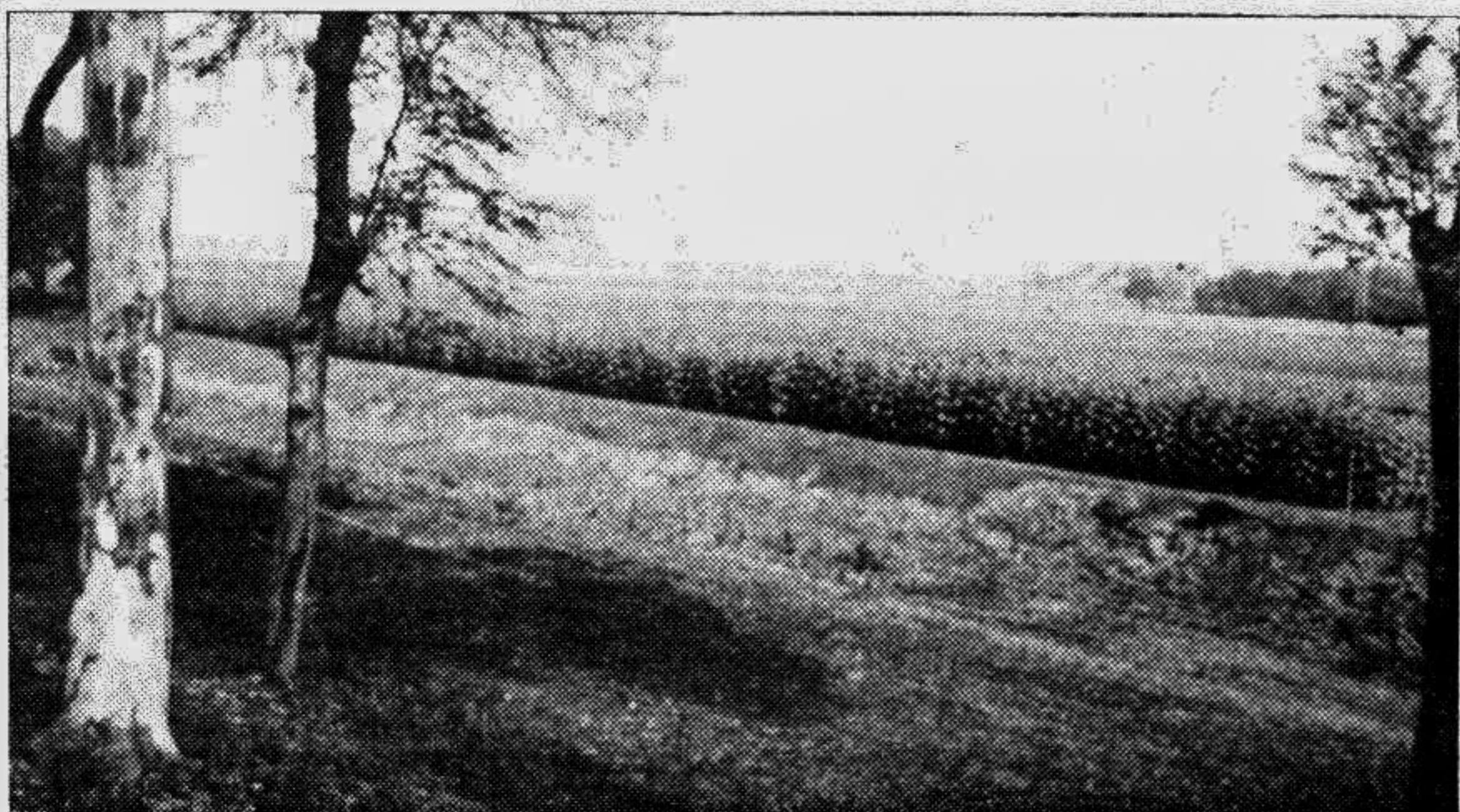
## Installation ceremony

From Our Correspondent

**CHUADANGA, May 25:** The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected executive committee of Chuadanga District Shilpakala Academy was held here at the local Sreemonto Town Hall recently.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Chuadanga MR Choudhury who is also the ex-officio of the District Shilpakala Academy conducted the oath of the newly elected committee.

The new executives are: Vice-presidents — Nurul Islam Malik and Keamot Ali Biswas, Secretary — Walur Rahman Malik, Assistant Secretary — Abdul Mannan and Nazir Ahmed, Treasurer — Md Alauddin, executive committee members — Akber Hossain, Md. Akbar Hossain, Md. Kazi Mahmud, Alauddin Omer, Advocate Shaikat Mahmud.



**KUSHINA:** Sunflower has turned into a cash crop in this district. Photo shows a demonstration plot of sunflower near the district town.

## Betel leaf growers facing problems

From Abu Ahmed

**SATKHIRA, May 25:** The betel leaf growers in seven thanas of the district have been facing manifold problems.

Lack of inputs, high rate of carrying cost, paucity of loan and lack of marketing facilities, insufficient rain and natural calamities like draught, cyclone and tidal bore are the main causes behind the setback of betel leaf cultivation in Shyamnagar, Kaligonj, Debhata, Assassuni, Tala, Kalaroa and Sadar thana of the district.

According to official sources of Agriculture Extension Department, a considerable number of betel leaf fields were diminished in these areas following abnormal price-hike of raw

materials during the last few years.

It is also mentioned here that the price-hike of straw, bamboo, jute stick, oil cake, pesticides, wire and increased labour charges are behind hampering betel leaf cultivation.

About 40 maunds of oil cake are required for one bigha of cultivable land for betel leaf. Bamboo frame used for plantation of betel leaf are required to be changed frequently but the high cost of bamboo which sells between Taka 80 to Taka 100 per piece has been hindering betel leaf cultivation.

Most of betel leaves in these areas are exported to various Asian, Arabian and Middle Eastern countries.

Meanwhile, due to drastic fall in demand of betel leaf in domestic markets and unavailability of direct export facilities many of the growers have given up their traditional profession.

On the other hand, the condition of betel leaf farmers are very miserable.

They can not cope with the production cost and the selling price of betel leaf. At present about 20,000 families of these areas have been passing their days in miseries.

When contacted some betel leaf growers told this respondent that the price of inputs such as straw, bamboo, oil cake, fertiliser and jute sticks have increased abnormally.

## Repairing of Rajshahi city protection dam demanded

From Our Correspondent

**RAJSHAHI, May 25:** A total of 36 ward commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation have demanded repairing of Rajshahi City Protection embankment immediately.

They demanded this at a meeting held at the conference room of the City Bhavan recently.

They expressed their concern over the present condition of the city protection embankment and said Rajshahi city cannot be saved in the next flood if no measures are taken immediately to repair and renovate the damaged parts of the embankment.

They also unanimously extended their support to various organisations of the city who are organising movements to repair the embankment.

They also expressed their disappointment over the scanty allotment of money for the purpose.

They said during the last flood the President and Prime Minister visited the damaged parts of the city protection embankment, but no sufficient money was allocated for this purpose.

Presided over by Entazul Alam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by the ward commissioners, Abdul Jabbar, Emran Ali, Shahadat Hossain, Shahjahan Ali and Sajjad Hossain.

## Dacoit arrested after exchange of fire with police

From Our Correspondent

**JHENIDAH, May 25:** An armed dacoit was arrested after exchange of firing with police at village Patibila in Mohepur thana on Sunday night.

According to police sources, acting on a tip-off Officer in-Charge (OC) Shahadat Hossain challenged the armed dacoit at about 9:45 PM. Then the dacoit, Aktaruzzaman alias Samad opened fire on police. Police responded to the fire and caught him.

An Indian pistol and two rounds of rifle bullet were recovered from his possession.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Finance Internal Resource Division Dhaka Invitation for Bids

Internal Resource Division (IRD, Ministry of Finance) invites tender from eligible bidder, for the supply of 3 (three) computers and accessories. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the undersigned on payment of Tk. 100.00 (one hundred) in cash. Bid must be submitted to the abovementioned office at or before 11:00 AM on 09/06/1999. Each offer must be accompanied by an earnest money by way of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank at the rate of 2.5% of the quoted price. Tenders shall be opened at 11:30 AM on the same day in presence of bidder(s) or their representatives who wish to attend.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or to divide the work amongst the bidders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

VAT and AIT will be deducted from the total contract price as per government's rule as applicable at the time of payment.

Tender documents shall not be sold to anyone after 2:00 PM on 07.06.1999.

DFP-11239-20/5 G-980 **Md Abul Hossain Khan** Assistant Secretary

## Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD) Workshop Division, Feni Notice of the Inviting Tender

- Tender No : 38 (RHD) Workshop Division, Feni/1998-99.
- Name of work : Group-1. Supply of spare parts for 120 HP Hydromaster Ford Engine, under the RHD Workshop Division, Feni during the year-1998-99. Group-2. Supply of spare parts for case Vibromax Soil Compactor No-20, Avelling Bar Ford Soil Compactor No-23 & Kumatsu Motor Graders No-1 fuel pump repair and other necessary repair, under the RHD Workshop Division, Feni, during the year-1998-99.
- Name of offices of availability of tender document : 1. EE (RHD), Workshop Division, Feni/Mymensingh. 2. Sub-Divisional Eng (RHD), Workshop Sub-Division, Feni.
- Name of office to receive tender bids : 1. Superintending Engineer (RHD), Workshop Circle, Dhaka. 2. Executive Engineer (RHD), Workshop Division, Feni/Mymensingh.
- Last date of selling tender : 2-6-99.
- Last date of receipt of tender : 3-6-99 (Till 12-30 PM).
- Last date of opening tender : 6-6-99 (At 1-00 PM).
- Value of tender documents : Bangladesh Form No-2908 = 15/- and at the rate of per set schedule Tk 500/- & 250/-.

Tender no	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
38 (98-99)				1. "A" to "C" general class of (RHD) department.
Group-1	3,61,000/-	7,220/-	20 (Twenty) days.	2. "D" class of RHD Workshop Circle, Dhaka.
Group-2	84,800/-	1,696/-	-do-	3. "E" class of (RHD) Workshop Division, Feni.

DFP-11241 20/5 G-978 **Executive Engineer (RHD)** Workshop Division, Feni.

## Unnatural death cases up in Faridpur dist

**FARIDPUR, May 25:** Increasing number of unnatural death cases are being reported in the district, reports UNB.

Five unnatural deaths were reported from different parts of the district in the last three days till Sunday.

One beheaded body of a young man was recovered from a crop field at Daduria Beeldangi village in Boalmari thana on Friday.

The dead, aged about 26, could not be identified.

Alam Molla, 95, was crushed under the wheels of a pick up van at Badarpur on Faridpur-Kamarkhali road on Friday.

He succumbed to his injuries after being taken to the hospital.

Latifa Begum, a 22 years old housewife, succumbed to her burn injuries at Faridpur General Hospital on Thursday.

Police said after regular tor-

ture by her husband, Latifa set fire on her body and was admitted to the hospital with severe burn injuries.

Boalmari police has arrested Latifa's husband Faruq Hossain, an employee of Rupali Bank. Boalmari branch in this connection.

Shahab Ali, 25, a farmer was admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital with multiple injuries inflicted allegedly by his cousin and neighbour at village Tamarhati under Boalmari thana on Thursday. He died in the hospital on Friday.

Sumon, 8, son of Abdur Razzaque of village Ramkantapur in Nagarkanda thana, was killed on the spot being hit on his head by a palm cluster.

Police said Sumon was standing beneath a palm tree when clusters were being collected.

## Crimes up in Madaripur

**MADARIPUR, May 25:** A total of six murders, two women repression, one dacoity and two thefts were committed during the last 35 days till May 16 marking the sharp deterioration of law and order situation in the district, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said Sharafat, 17, a meritorious student and son of Sharif Mujibul of Dargakhola, was killed in broad day light in Donabhan School Road in the town on May 16 by the terrorists.

Bijon Roy met his tragic end of life on April 16 while resisting a group of thieves at his residence at Amgram in Rajoir thana. The thieves stabbed him to death and injured his three sons.

A housewife Sitara, 22, of Baligram in Kalkini thana was killed by her husband and father-in-law on May 9.

Another housewife Shilpi was murdered by her husband Saiful Islam and brother-in-law at Shokuni area in the town on April 22 for dowry money. Besides, a young man named Shikuli Haq was stabbed to death allegedly by his friend in

the same area. Hospital sources said a teenage girl is fighting for life after having a serious injury at her sex organ by a hoodlum named Saidur whose love proposal was refused by the girl on May 8.

A dance artiste Shimul, 12, a student of class VI of Jonabhan Girls High School was kidnapped by some terrorists from Taramguria in the town on May 4.

A bus helper identified as Abdus Sattar died on May 17 after being injured by the dacoits. He tried to resist the dacoits while committing dacoity in his Benapole-bound night coach coming from Barisal at Pantapara in Kalkini thana on May 16.

The sources further said the two thefts were committed at the residences of Habib Hawlader of Taramguria in the town and Adv Farhad Hossain of Kukrail village on May 14 and 16 respectively.

Besides, 14 people including three women were injured in three separate clashes over land dispute during the period.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Narail Tender Notice No. 10/1998-99

- Name of work : General repairs to THC at Kalia in the dist. of Narail (SH: General repairs to Hospital bldg. in/c sanitary & E/I works). Ch. to: Code : 3-3251-0007-4921.
- Estimated cost : A) Civil work: Tk 1,10,330/- B) Sanitary : Tk 54,843/- C) Electrical : Tk 58,977/- Tk 2,24,150/-
- Earnest money : Tk. 4483/-
- Last date of selling of tender : 01/06/99 up to office hours.
- Receiving and opening date of tender : 02/06/99 at 12:00 Noon and opening at 12:15 PM on the same day.
- Time allowed for completion of work : 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Date of lottery : 09/06/99 at 11:00 AM in the office chamber of undersigned.
- Name of office from where tender schedule of items etc. can be purchased and submitted : All the Executive Engineers office under Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore.
- Eligibility of contractor for purchasing tender : Valid enlisted special Class-I, Contractors/Firms under PWD & consortium formed among Civil Sanitary & Electrical Contractor/ Firm of PWD according to their financial limit.

DFP-11246-20/5 G-977 **Executive Engineer** PWD Division, Narail.



## Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Kurmitola, Dhaka

গাই লগান গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাচান - প্রধানমন্ত্রী। **বিমান বন্দর পরিচর্যা রাখুন।**

## Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned from the enlisted 'C' and above class contractor of CAAB for the work "RMO building during the year 1998-99 (SH: Renewing of doors and windows chowkat shutter, renewing of cement plaster, distemper, painting to do, renewing fly proof wire netting and supplying fitting fixing of dish wash basin etc of quarter No. C-4) at TAP, Dhaka at an estimated cost Tk 76,844/- up to 12:00 Noon on 23.6.99 which will be received in the office of the Chief Engineer, CAAB, Headquarters, Director CEMSU and in the office of the undersigned and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the participants if any. Schedule & tender document can be had from the office of the Director, CEMSU, PA to member (OPS & PLAN), Chief Engineer, CAAB Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, Director ZIA and in the office of the undersigned on payment of Tk 150/- (non-refundable) on all working days except date fixed for opening the tender. Each tender must accompany Tk 2000/- as earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, Civil Division-II, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Tender notice paper cutting, original VAT registration certificate and enlistment renewal fee receipt on 1998-99 to be produced along with application for purchase the tender documents. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason.

**Executive Engineer** Civil Division-II CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka  
DFP-11360-20/5 G-979