

## Arsenic contamination 12 S-dists identified as worst-affected areas

Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman said yesterday that the government would welcome any scientific assistance to contain the arsenic contamination in groundwater, reports BSS.

"Arsenic disaster was detected in 1993 by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) when most of the people had already gained access to tubewell water," the minister said, adding that around 40 lakh tubewells are operating across Bangladesh and 97 per cent people are using groundwater from that source.

The minister was addressing the inaugural session of a project completion workshop titled "Groundwater Studies for Arsenic Contamination in Bangladesh" at DPHE here. The project started with DFID assistance in mid-1996 and first phase report was made public in April 1999.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Professor M. Amanullah, Counsellor (DFID) of British High Commission in Dhaka K. L. Sparkhall, Chief Engineer of DPHE Mohammad Qadriuzzaman and British Geological Survey (BGS) expert D. G. Kinniburgh, among others, addressed the opening session. Syed Anwarul Islam, Joint Secretary of the Local Government Division chaired the opening session.

DPHE and BGS jointly conducted the hydro-chemical survey using samples from 3534 tubewells across the country, excluding the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

Lauding the endeavours of different development partners, LGD Minister said the DFID-

assisted study prepared a good and comprehensive map of arsenic contamination in groundwater of Bangladesh. He urged the British authorities to assist further studies in this field and to include CHT in the next map.

Prof. Amanullah observed that mere studies are not enough and immediate official intervention is needed. People in the severe affected areas should search alternative water sources, he said.

The state minister urged the concerned authorities to set a synchronised standard of measuring arsenic contamination level as Bangladeshi yardsticks are different from those of World Health Organization (WHO).

Elaborating the survey findings, D. G. Kinniburgh, said analysis of seven deep tubewell waters from Dhaka city showed that groundwater in the capital is safe according to WHO yardsticks. He, however, earmarked 12 southern districts as the worst-affected areas.

According to BGS study, the districts are Chandpur, Munshiganj, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Noakhali, Satkhira, Comilla, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Meherpur, Bagerhat and Laxmipur.

"Even in areas of low arsenic concentrations, there are some 'hot spots' where a cluster of wells with unusually high concentrations of arsenic exist. Such 'hot spots' are dispersed but most noticeable in northern Bangladesh. We investigated one such 'hot spot' in Chapra nawabganj and estimated that it was about five kilometres by four kilometres in extent," the study said.

## 1998-99 session

JU first yr  
classes begin  
Apr 8

SAVAR, Mar 30: Classes of the first year honours (1998-99 session) of Jahangirnagar University will begin on April 8, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Admission Committee of the University today with Vice Chancellor Prof. Abdul Bayes in the chair.

The meeting decided to cancel the admission of those who will remain absent for 10 consecutive working days from the beginning of their classes without the permission of the departmental head.

Admission could also be cancelled on the basis of report from the departmental head if his or her presence in the class is proved to be unsatisfactory.

## Literacy rate to rise to 80 pc by 2001

Education minister tells JS

Education Minister A. H. S. K. Sadeq told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the literacy rate of the country will rise to 80 per cent from present 60 per cent by December 2001, reports BSS.

Making a statement on a private member resolution by treasury bench member from Sirajganj-4 Abdul Latif Mirza for introduction of honours courses in Akbar Ali Government College at Ullapara, the education minister said that the government has attached highest priority to the promotion of education to transform the huge population into qualified manpower.

He said that during the last

three years, the literacy rate was raised significantly by about 20 per cent. He said UNESCO, in recognition of the success of Sheikh Hasina's government in raising literacy percentage in honours Bangladesh along with four other countries with a special award.

Sadeq said that in order to lessen pressure on the universities, the government has opened the National University to conduct higher education at college level. He said that the National University Senate after considering required conditions at the colleges across the country, had been giving them permission for opening honours courses.

## 2-day short film festival begins in Ctg today

A two-day long contemporary documentary film festival organised by Chittagong Film Centre in association with Bangladesh Short Film Forum will begin in Chittagong from today, says a press release.

Folk artist Sri Binoybanshi Jaldas will inaugurate the ceremony as chief guest at 4.30 pm at Chittagong Alliance Francaise auditorium.

Following the inaugural programme "Amader Chelera" directed by Manzare Hossain and "Binoybanshi" directed by Saibal Chowdhury will be screened today.

After screening of each film, a brief discussion will be held between the audience and film maker.

## Face natural disaster unitedly: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called on the people to come forward to unitedly face natural calamities and disasters, reports UNB.

"The aim of this government is to raise awareness of the people about disaster management so that they can save their

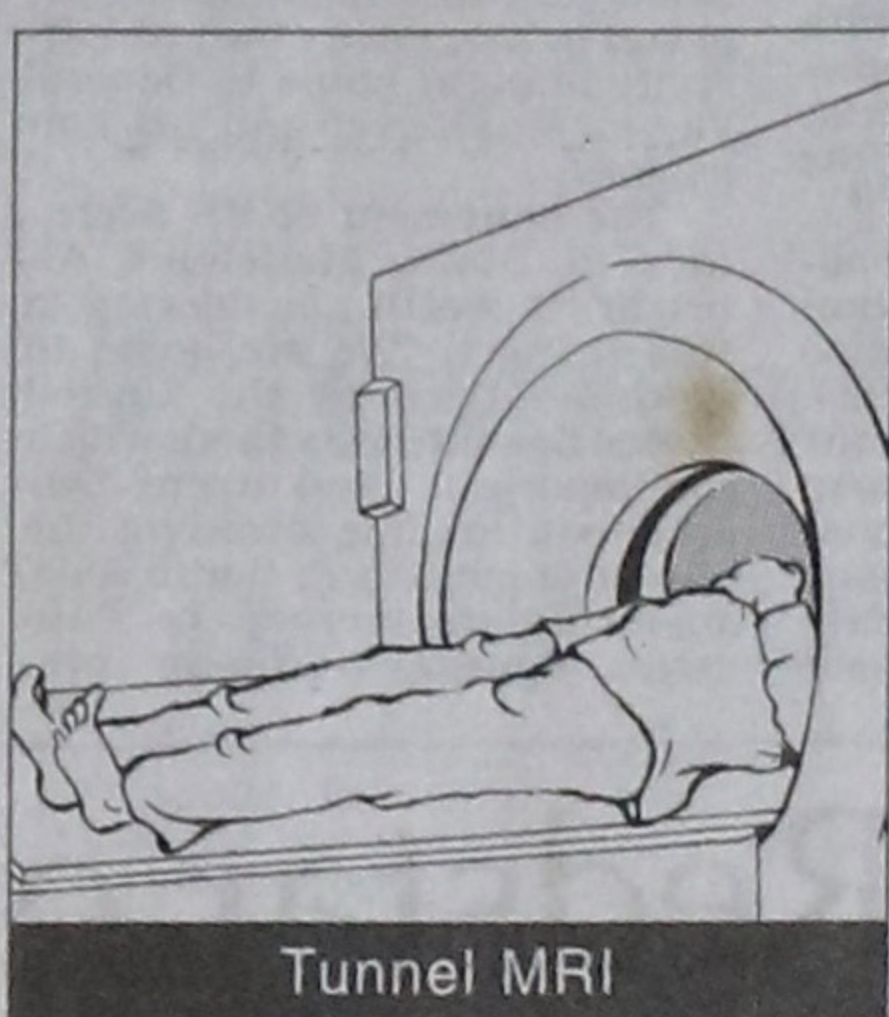
lives and property during natural disaster," she said in a message marking National Disaster Preparedness Day.

She said the people of Bangladesh have proved themselves to be courageous and tolerant in facing natural calamities and disasters.

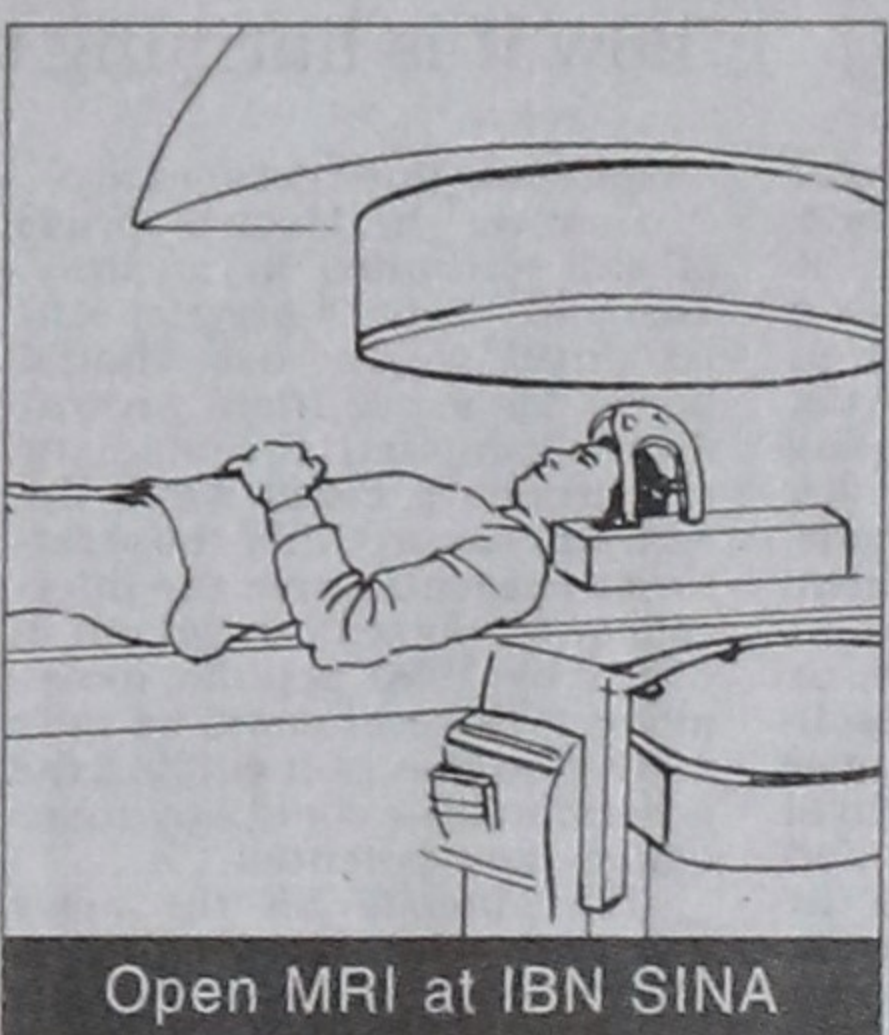
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## রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

ইসলামপুর রোড শাখা

১০৫, ইসলামপুর, ঢাকা।

## দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র শাখার বেলাপী স্বর্ণ গ্রহিতা মেসার্স অপটিক্স ইন্টারন্যাশনাল, মালিক জনাব মোঃ ওহাব মিয়া, ৮, পাটুয়াটুলী, ঢাকা এর সিসি- প্রেজ স্বর্ণ হিসাব নং ২০/২৯-এর বিপরীতে অপটিক্স মালামাল-মেটাল ফ্রেম ১৪০০ পিচ, সেল ফ্রেম ১২৪৮ পিচ, চশমার গ্রাস ১১৪২৫ পিচ এবং লিম হিসাব নং ২০/৩ এর বিপরীতে ১০৪৪ পিচ সানগ্রাস (যা বা ব্যাংক তবনে রক্ষিত আছে) নিলামে বিক্রয় হইবে। শুদামে রক্ষিত মালামালের গণাতন ও পরিমাণ যেখানে যে অবস্থায় এবং যতটুকু আছে সে ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের জন্য অগ্রহী ক্রেতাগণের নিকট হতে সীল মোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল আগামী ৯/৪/২০০০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পাওয়া যাবে। দরপত্রে প্রস্তাবিত মূল্যের ৫% আনেষ্ট মানি (ফেরৎ যোগ্য) বাবদ রূপালী ব্যাংক লিঃ ইসলামপুর রোড শাখা, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংকের ড্রাফট বা পে-অর্ডার সহ (চেক গ্রহণ যোগ্য নয়) আগামী ১০-৪-২০০০ ইং তারিখে বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে শাখায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব দরপত্র ফেলতে হবে। ঐ দিন বেলা ৩.৩০ মিনিটে দরপত্র দাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) টেন্ডার বাস্তব খোলা হবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ব্যবস্থাপক

## রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

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অত্র শাখার বেলাপী স্বর্ণ গ্রহিতা মেসার্স সুলতানা ট্রেডার্স, মালিক- মোঃ সাকিম উদ্দিন, ৩৬/১ আহসান উল্লাহ রোড, বিসমিল্লাহ ম্যানশন, ৪র্থ তলা, ইসলামপুর, ঢাকা এর সিসি-প্রেজ স্বর্ণ হিসাব নং ২৫/৭-এর বিপরীতে ১নং আশেক লেন, ইসলামপুর ঢাকা এর নীচ তলায় ব্যাংকের শুদামে অবস্থিত আটকিন নেভী ব্রাক ডাইস কেমিক্যাল ২২০ কেজি নিলামে বিক্রয় হইবে। শুদামে রক্ষিত মালামালের গণাতন ও পরিমাণ বর্তমানে যেখানে যে অবস্থায় এবং যতটুকু আছে সে ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের জন্য অগ্রহী ক্রেতাগণের নিকট থেকে সীল মোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

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