

The Nation

What's on today.....

Photography exhibition: The 1st solo photography exhibition by Md Zaherul Islam Tarun will be inaugurated. Venue: National Photographic Gallery, Bangladesh Photographic Society (BPS), 87 Science Laboratory. Time: 2:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Conference: The inaugural session of the Rotary International Presidential Conference 2000 will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3:30 pm. Chief guest: Chief Justice Latifur Rahman.

Seminar: Sandhani will hold a seminar on "Safe blood starts with Me. Voluntary blood donation starts with Sandhani." on occasion of World Health Day 2000. Chief guest: Satish Chandra Roy, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30 am.

Film show: Three French movies *Les Créatures* (The Creatures), *Les Gens* (The People) and *Le Travail* (The Work) will be screened. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 11:00am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Rock concert: A rock concert *FLAH* by the groups. The attempted Band, Glad Tigers, Migraine and Nemesis will be held. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 4:00 pm.

Inauguration: The 10th solo painting exhibition of miniatures titled "Image of the City" by Kazi Salauddin Ahmed will be held. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 5:00 pm.

Reunion: The 7th reunion of Bawanians will be held. Venue: Osmany Memorial Hall. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

Tapestry exhibition: A week-long solo tapestry exhibition "Warp and Weft" by Shateul Kabir Chandra will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Time: 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

BRCS discussion: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) will hold a discussion meeting on "Role of BRCS in Voluntary Blood Donation programme, and Safe Blood Transfusion." Venue: Red Crescent Blood Centre, 7/5, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 3:30 pm.

Photography exhibition: A photography exhibition "The Wandering Lens" (from Shiraz to Samarkand, Himalaya and some more) by Deb Mukharji, High Commissioner of India to Dhaka, will be inaugurated. Venue: Drik Gallery, House No 58, Rd No 15/A (New), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5 pm.

Reception: Shariatpur Zilla Shiksha Trust will accord a reception to meritorious HSC and SSC 1999 students. Chief guest: Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development, Nukhet. Time: 5:00 pm.

Rabindra Sangeet: An evening of Rabindra Sangeet will be presented by Rabi Rashmi, a cultural organisation. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:45 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Annual general meeting: The AGM of Bangladesh Shishu Adikar Forum will be held. The executive for (2000-2001) will also be elected. Venue: Dhaka Ahsania Mission auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershowers with gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and the region of Bogra in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met Office said adding day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 39.5 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 19.8 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	26.3	78	62
Chittagong	31.5	24.4	77	77
Rajshahi	39.5	26.6	78	29
Khulna	35.0	25.5	78	66
Barisal	33.1	25.3	79	72
Sylhet	31.0	19.8	82	75
Cox's Bazar	32.2	24.8	73	77

HR Commission

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prived of their human rights. People must expose repression whenever they demand an explanation for acts committed by government officials, said Kabi.

Dr. Abrar Chowdhury gave a vivid account of human rights violations across the country. A human rights commission is essential to protect and promote human rights, he said.

Debarpriya Bhattacharya said civil and political rights are an important component of a free market economy.

"You cannot have a strong private sector without ensuring fundamental human rights," said Bhattacharya. "Even the officials who have drafted the

Death anniversary

The third death anniversary of Alhaj Nizamuddin Khan an MP from Manikganj will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the death anniversary, a *Qurankhuni* and *doa mahfil* will be held at the residence of the deceased at Girls School Road in Manikganj.

Obituary

Rattal Saha, father of a senior reporter of The Daily Prothom Alo Pranab Saha and a noted businessman of Gaibandha, died on Wednesday night. He was 72, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives. He was cremated at the Gaibandha Swashanghat yesterday.

objections would not agree to read them out in a civilised forum in or outside the country."

The Home Ministry objected to the draft's definition of human rights. The draft stated human rights would mean "the right to personal life, freedom, equality and status guaranteed by the state's constitution, the rights enshrined in international human rights instruments ratified by Bangladesh and those enforceable through any court of the country."

The ministry said the definition was too broad, especially since it would make human rights violations punishable under the law.

If passed, the bill "would enable any person to sue the prime minister, ministers and government officials on charges of human rights violations," while police would "face cases very often."

The ministry suggested the government drop another provision that would allow the commission to conduct investigation *suo moto* or after an application by a victim. If the provision was not dropped, the ministry argued, certain NGOs working on so-called human rights issues would be able to blackmail or embarrass government officials for political reasons.

The home ministry also objected to a provision allowing the commission to take part in human rights case with the court's permission. "An embarrassing situation will be created for government officials if the commission takes part in court proceedings,"

The ministry recommended a provision to ensure the "proper monitoring and control of NGO activities." Instead of "encouraging the NGOs in human rights activities,"

The home ministry also said enacting such a law "would make it very difficult for the police to play a bold role during hartals and other political demonstrations." Innumerable cases would be filed against police by the demonstrators.

Students ransack Motijheel Model College office

By Staff Correspondent

Female students of Motijheel Model High School and College ransacked the college office yesterday following cancellation of their registration for the upcoming HSC examination.

Tasbir Rahman, Principal of the college in a press release acknowledged that some students had ransacked the office of the college yesterday.

The incident took place when some students of the college went to the office and found that some irregularities regarding their registration.

A total 132 female students from humanities group of the college registered about two years back to appear for the HSC examination this year. But due to official mistakes, their forms were rejected said a press release of the college.

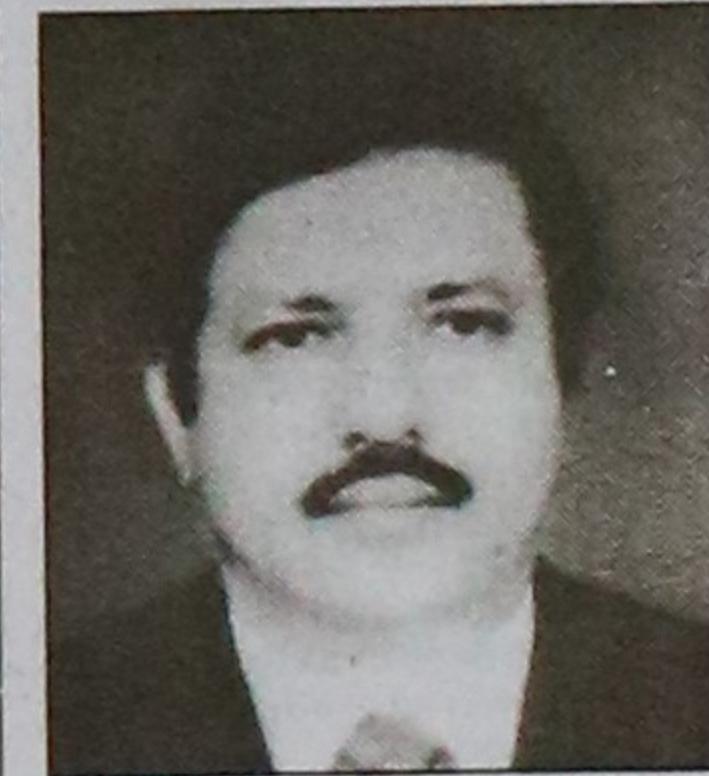
On Wednesday, the college authorities had asked the students to come to the college the next day to solve their problem.

When they went to the college yesterday they found a notice saying that the college was closed and also found that police were deployed outside the campus.

When they were informed that there was now no way to reverse the decision taken regarding the refusal to let them sit for the exam, they became furious and started ransacking office room, witness said.

Police deployed outside the campus swung into action and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the students.

The students then brought out a procession and marched up to the Jatiya Press Club, and held a rally there demanding justice for themselves.

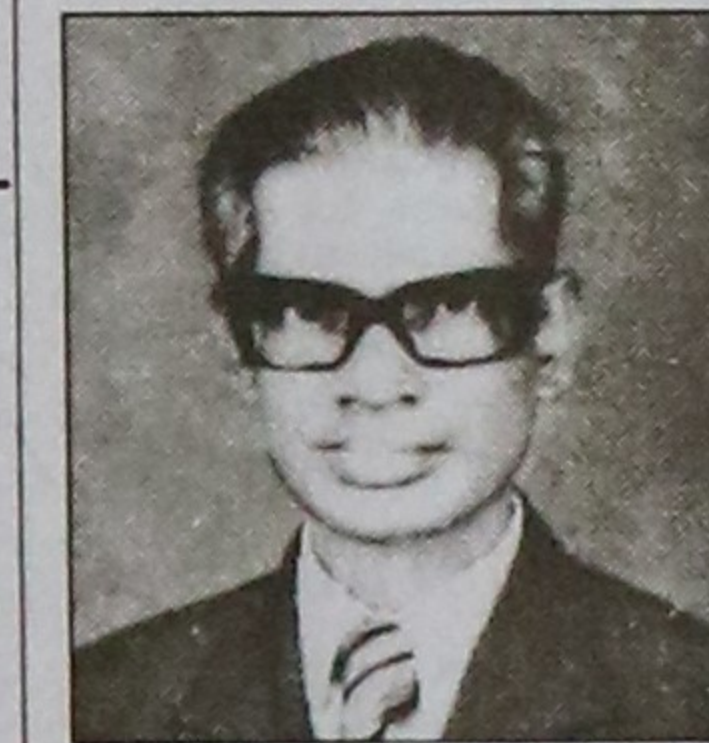


Humayun Zahir's death anniversary tomorrow

The 7th death anniversary of Humayun Zahir, former Chief Legal Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Ltd. will be observed tomorrow at Janata Insurance Company Ltd. head office, 125 Motijheel C/A in the city, says a press release.

Humayun Zahir was the Chief Legal Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Ltd., Chairman of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) and District Governor of Lions' Clubs International. He was the founder of Dhaka Mahila College at Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

In observance of his death anniversary a *milad mahfil* will be arranged at Dhaka Mahila College at Dhanmondi after Asr prayers today. A *milad mahfil* will also be arranged at 11:00 am at JIC head office on Saturday.



Death anniversary of Mohammad Hossain today

The eleventh death anniversary of noted journalist Mohammad Hossain will be observed today, says a press release.

Hossain was the News Editor of Daily Azad, Sangram, Gonokantha and Janapad. He was also the elected vice president of BFUJ.

A *milad mahfil* will be held on the occasion today after Asr prayers at 121/5, Banani Army Officers Quarter, the residence of his son, Major Hussain Imam.

Date changed

The written test for 21st BCS scheduled for April 12 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

The test now will be held on April 26 at the same time and venue.

BCL rally on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Ruling party backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession in the Dhaka University campus protesting certain remarks of Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia delivered in Chittagong on Tuesday.

Following the procession, they also held a rally at the Aparajito Bangla on the campus at noon.

Sharif gets life term

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League party officials have said they will not ask their supporters to take to the streets. Sharif's wife, Khulsoom, who wept when the verdict was announced said the conviction could lead to spontaneous protests.

The judge also ordered all of Sharif's extensive properties confiscated. He ordered Sharif to pay 2 million rupees (dhs 37,000) compensation to the 198 passengers and crew aboard the Pakistan International Airlines aircraft he prevented from landing. He also was fined an additional 1 million rupees (dhs 18,500).

Sharif is expected to appeal. The law allows to avenues of appeal, to the Sindh Provincial High Court and to the Federal Supreme Court.

Sharif was charged with hijacking and terrorism after refusing to allow the passenger aircraft returning Gen Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan to land in the southern city of Karachi. The standoff in the air over Karachi occurred in the midst of an Oct 12 coup. The army seized power after Sharif dismissed Musharraf and replaced him with a junior general.

The plane was allowed to land after the army gained control, but by then the aircraft had barely seven minutes of fuel remaining. There were 198 people aboard the aircraft including 60 children from US-run American schools in Pakistan, attended by children of US diplomats stationed here.

"The conspiracy started when Nawaz Sharif ordered (former chief aviation authority chief) Aminullah Chaudhry to stop the plane from landing," said Jafri who is heading down the verdict and sentence. "Until then the control tower was working lawfully, but after the

US pleased

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verdict or its fairness," said PJ Crowley, spokesman for the White House National Security Council. "But certainly we are pleased that the death penalty has apparently been taken off the table."

Sharif's political party, the Pakistan Muslim League, plans to appeal the verdict.

"We hope that the appeals process will be fair and transparent. The Pakistani government should continue to allow open access and open reporting of the proceedings, and provide due process to Mr Sharif," Crowley said.

"He should be allowed access to the counsel of his choice. And we will continue to monitor the proceedings closely," he said.

India reaction

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"engineered". India had expressed concern over the military takeover in Pakistan in October but had refrained from denouncing the coup.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Sharif had embarked on a high-profile peace process when the former travelled on a bus to the Pakistani city of Lahore in February. But relations between the two nosedived after a bloody border conflict in Kashmir in May-July.

Sharif eventually ordered infiltrated militants to return to Pakistan following US pressure, raising tensions between him and the military.

World Health Day today

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mass awareness on matters relating to healthcare and called for successfully implementing the government programmes to bring down the rate of child and maternal mortality to a desired level.

The Bangladesh government, with support from the UNDP, launches a programme today to screen blood in 97 centres where patients are receiving blood or blood component with 'safe blood' to mark the ob-

servance of the day.

"Potentially every healthy person is a blood donor," said the WHO Mission Chief in Bangladesh, while addressing a press conference yesterday at Hotel Sheraton in the city.

He added, "Despite the fact we have a tremendous shortage of blood in the country to fill up the gap between supply and requirement, we must raise the quantum of voluntary blood donation."

On the occasion of the day, the Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said, "We had set goals at Alma Ata in 1978 promising to ensure health for all by year 2000. But unfortunately, due to undemocratic rule in the country those goals could not be achieved; but with practice of democracy, however, we are now able to meet the health needs like reducing maternal and child death."

Among others who spoke at the press conference were the State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah, Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Sheikh Kabir Hossain, additional secretary of Health Ministry Dr D Kumar Nath.

Brigadier (ret'd) A Q M Hafiz, WHO's National Programme Officer conducted the proceedings of the press conference.

Judicial

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On an average, a civil matter takes about five years from filing to decision in a District Court. In some cases, 15 to 20 years can elapse before a decision by the appellate court is received, it pointed out.

"A perverse result of this is the intentional use of the courts to delay paying for utilities like electricity and other services."

The report said the existing code of conduct for Bangladesh's judges is difficult to uphold when salaries range from about 100 US dollars per month for an Assistant Judge to 400 dollars per month for the Chief Justice of Bangladesh.

Housing allowance and other benefits add approximately 50 per cent to the compensation package.

By pricing the services of its judiciary at levels that are equal to or below that of clerical staff of the private sector, the system encourage corruption," the Bank said.

"Higher salaries alone will not dispel dishonesty, but, international experience shows that together with improved career prospects, promotions, better working conditions and increased budgets, respectable wages help create an environment for sustainable reform."

The WB said while additional recruitment might help, improved incentives, automation and simplified administrative procedures are more likely to broaden judicial coverage and reduce the case backlog.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the ARCO Forum at John Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University at Boston on Wednesday. — PID photo

Gandhi's grandson arrives today

Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi arrives here today on a week-long visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During his first ever visit here Gandhi will deliver speech on his book "Revenge and Reconciliation: Understanding South Asian History" at Jahangirnagar University on April 8. Rajmohan Gandhi will also present a keynote speech on "The Continuing Relevance of Gandhi's Ideas for Social Action in South Asia" on April 9 at CIDRAP Auditorium at 1 pm at a function jointly organised by ADAB and PROSHIKA.

The grandson of Mahatma Gandhi will visit Noakhali on April 10 and during his over night stay he will attend several programmes to be organised by LIBERAL SHANGA and PROSHIKA.

Prior to his departure for New Delhi on April 12, Rajmohan Gandhi will attend a discussion session with journalists and media men.

3 bills passed

Parliament yesterday passed three bills including one for setting up environment courts in six divisional headquarters, reports UNB.

According to the Environment Court Bill, 2000, judges of these courts will be appointed in consultation with the Supreme Court.

The two other bills are the Forest (Amendment) Bill 2000 and the Bangladesh Environment Protection (Amendment) Bill 2000.

Chehlum

The chehlum of Rokeya Firoz (Jewel) will be held after Asr prayers at her residence at 63 Laboratory Road today, reports UNB.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

JS session prorogued

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Fazle Rabbi of JP faction termed the absence of the BNP and its allies unfortunate.

Although it was a private members' day, yesterday's agenda contained government business including six bills, three of which were passed.

The three bills were on setting up of green courts and amendments to two laws relating to conservation of forests and protection of environment.

Rabbi, who is also a whip of JP, protested the arrangement saying it curbed the rights of private members. But the Speaker said the agenda prioritised private members' business as provided in Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure.

The much-awaited Zila Parishad Bill was introduced in the House yesterday, seeking constitution of elected local government bodies at district-level.

Two other bills concerning development and management of water resources and setting up of a water development agency were also tabled on the day. All the three bills were sent to parliamentary standing committees on relevant ministries for examination and to report back in one month.

The lone private member's bill was introduced and sent to the relevant parliamentary body for scrutiny. Dewan Farid Gazi of the ruling Awami League moved the bill seeking mandatory provision for hanging portraits of Father of the Nation at all offices of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies and Bangladesh missions abroad. It also seeks punitive action against officials defying this.

Four opposition-sponsored bills -- two regarding parliamentary seats reserved for women and one each concerning election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker and double membership of parliament -- were included in yesterday's agenda. But the bills, which came in the House for the second time in the session, could not be introduced as their architects in BNP and JP were absent.

But a government bill on

women's reserved seats was not moved although the law minister earlier spoke about its introduction in the 17th session. A number of other bills were also in the pipeline before the session began on March 28. Parliament Secretariat sources said.

The House also resolved four private members' resolutions, all of which were withdrawn following assurances from the ministers concerned. Two other resolutions could not be resolved due to absence of the ministers concerned while another could not be placed as the BNP member concerned was absent.

Earlier on Wednesday, parliament passed the bill bringing major changes in the controversial Public Safety Act.

Ershad

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Firoz Rashid told this correspondent that the party chief during his visits will make all efforts to intensify the current one-point movement and strengthen the party.

Meanwhile, Khaleda Zia will begin a three-day visit to Cox's Bazar district on April 9. She will address public meetings and wasside meetings in four thanas -- Chakoria, Maheshkhali, Ukhla and Ramu.

The BNP chief will visit Monirampur in Jessore on April 17 and Kalaroa in Satkhira on April 18. BNP sources said Khaleda Zia would visit a number of other districts and her programmes are being finalised.

Top party leaders like Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will accompany the party chief.

Jamaat and Islami Oikya Jote have also decided to go for election preparations while continuing the anti-government movement.

Jamaat sources said party chief Gohar Azam and other central leaders will start visiting different parts of the country shortly.

IOJ chief Azizul Haq will visit Sylhet on April 29 and its Secretary General Fazlul Haq Amini visit Brahmanbaria sometime this month.

প্রশিকা মানবিক উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র

প্রশিকা ভবন, আই/১-গ, সেকশন ২, মিরপুর ২, ঢাকা ১২১৬

তৃণমূল জনসংগঠনের সদস্যদের জন্য ব্যবহারিক বয়স্ক সাক্ষরতা প্রথম পর্যায়ের উপকরণ মুদ্রণের নিমিত্তে প্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রেসের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। নিম্নে উপকরণের বিপরীতে মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংখ্যা দেওয়া হলো।

ক্রমিক নং	আইটেম	সাইজ ও গাজ	পৃষ্ঠা	প্রতি প্রেসের মুদ্রণ সংখ্যা	মোট প্রেস	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অক্ষেরথযোগ্য)
১.	আমাদের লেখাপড়া প্রথম পর্যায় (প্রাইমার)	৮ ১/২" x ১১"	১১২	১,১২,৫০০	৪ (চার)	৫০০/-
২.	আমাদের লেখাপড়া অনুশীলন	৮ ১/২" x ১১"	৬৪	২,২৫,০০০	২ (দুই)	৫০০/-
৩.	আমাদের লেখাপড়া চার্ট	১৫" x ২০"	৭২	১৮,০০০	১ (এক)	৫০০/-
৪.	আমাদের লেখাপড়া ফ্লাস কার্ড	৮ ১/২" x ১১"	৯৬	৭২,০০০	১ (এক)	৫০০/-

কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের দিন থেকে ৪৫ দিনের মধ্যে উপকরণ সরবরাহ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। একই প্রেসকে একাধিক আইটেমে দেওয়ার বিষয় সম্পূর্ণভাবে প্রশিকার এখতিয়ারভুক্ত। একাধিক আইটেমে সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্রদাতাকে প্রশিকার নির্বাচিত আইটেমেই মুদ্রণ করতে হবে। একাধিক প্রেসের দ্বারা একটি আইটেমে মুদ্রণের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্রে উদ্ধৃত দরই অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সম্পাদন করতে হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে দরপত্র খোলার পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে স্বপ্রণোদিত হয়ে সম্মতিপ্রদ প্রদান করতে হবে।

পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ১৩ এপ্রিল ২০০০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রশিকার হিসাব বিভাগ থেকে দরপত্র ফরম জমা করা যাবে। দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৯ এপ্রিল সোমবার বিকেল ৩.০০ টায়। ঐ দিনই বিকেল ৩-৩০ মিনিটে সকল বা যে কোনো অংশগ্রহণকারীর উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

একই মালিকানা সম্পূর্ণ চালু অবস্থায় কমপক্ষে একটি ডাবল ডিমায়ে ও একটি ডিমায়ে মেশিন নেই এমন কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানের দরপত্র প্রদানের প্রয়োজন নেই। অনিবার্য কারণে দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও দরপত্র খোলার দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে (শনিবারসহ) তা সম্প্রসারিত হবে। প্রশিকা কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোনো অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রয় বিক্রয় সংগঠক