

Integrated efforts needed to fight arsenic problem

UNICEF official says at launching of arsenic mitigation campaign

UNICEF, Dhaka yesterday underscored the need for developing community based integrated and concerted efforts to fight arsenic, a chemical contamination in the groundwater aquifer which posed a serious threat to 85 million people, mostly in rural areas, for ensuring safe drinking water, reports BSS.

UNICEF has proposals for initiating a massive campaign and mobilisation programme to stop people consuming contaminated water from red marked tubewells right now. It also has suggestions for using drinking water through alternatives like pond-water harvesting, rain water harvesting, pond-sand-filters and some other sources.

What is important now is to mobilise people not to consume contaminated water. And at the same time it has become an urgency to fight the 'silent disaster' collectively and concerted. Shahida Afzar, UNICEF Country Representative, told a function at Manikganj yesterday morning.

The function was organised

to ceremonially launch a Community Based Safe Water Supply and Arsenic Mitigation Project at Manikganj Sadar Thana.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner of the district Shaikh Mazharuddin, the launching ceremony was addressed by Chief Engineer of DPHE Alhaj Mohammad Quadruzzaman, UNICEF Representative Collin David, Rotarian Iftekharul Alam, Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan, Dr Asim Kumar Chowdhury of Dhaka Community Hospital, Executive Engineer of DPHE Aziz Mollah and ISDCM programme director Jahangir Kabir.

The project has jointly been undertaken by ROTARY-Bangladesh Water Project Committee and the Rotary Clubs of Manikganj, Dhaka Central, Dhaka Mid City and Dhaka in collaboration with UNICEF Dhaka.

Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) is extending technical assistance to the project, while Integrated Service for Development of Children and Mothers (ISDCM)

is implementing it with a fund of Taka 4,851,800 (95,133 US dollars).

Experts said the presence of arsenic in Bangladesh's groundwater and neighbouring Indian province of West Bengal is a unique geological phenomenon and has occurred as source rocks containing arsenic from the Himalayas eroded into the plains of the region thousands years ago.

The scope of arsenic contamination in the country became evident in the early 90s and the government, with supports from UNICEF, initiated a nation-wide random sample survey to detect arsenic in existing tubewells in 61 districts out of total 64.

Like many other upazilas, Manikganj Sadar upazila is one of the worst affected areas in the country. Out of the total number of tubewells examined in the upazila, 28.3 per cent has been to be found contaminated by arsenic, while 66.5 per cent detected free of contamination. However, tests of all tubewells are yet to be completed.

'Govt firm to ensure people's safety'

FENI, May 12: State Minister for Planning Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir has said the government is pledged to ensure safety and security of life and property of the people, reports BSS.

"For this, the government as well as the nation want to see the execution of the verdict of the trial of Bangabandhu's killers," he said adding, "Begum Khaled Zia and Shaikhul Hadis clique does not want it."

He was addressing as the

chief guest a public meeting at the Munshirhat Ali Azam High School ground in the district yesterday. Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports Zainal Abedin Hazari was the main speaker. Local elite Abdul Gafur was in the chair.

Dr Alamgir said Begum Khaled Zia and the Shaikhul Hadis clique was in fact conspiring to impede the process of executing this historic verdict.

BCL leader ransacks shop at DU hall

By DU Correspondent

A ruling party-backed student leader ransacked a grocery shop of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall of Dhaka University and beat up the shopkeeper for asking him to pay up his dues at the shop.

Witnesses said Azad, vice-president of the hall unit of BCL and a resident of room no 112 of the hall came to the shop to buy a packet of Wheel power detergent.

When the owner of the store, Joynal asked him to pay for the detergent pack as well as his dues at the store, he ransacked the shop. Asad is a final year student of the Social Welfare Department.

Different shopkeepers at the hall say that he buys goods from them on credit regularly and never pays his dues.



Karmajibi Nari, an organisation for working women brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killing of a labourer at Savar EPZ recently.

— Star photo

'Govt working for development of newspaper industry'

BANDARBAN, May 12: Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday said the government has been relentlessly working for flourishing the newspaper industry to ensure freedom of speech, reports BSS.

"As per its election pledge, the government is taking steps to strengthen the regional newspapers," he said this while addressing the local journalists at Bandarian Press Club here.

Presided over by president of the club Mohammad Osman Gani, Local lawmaker Bir Bahadur, President of Rangamati Press Club A K M Moksed Ahmed and Mohammad Badsha Miyan took part in the discussion.

Referring to the negative news-publishing attitude of the newspapers in the country, Prof Sayeed said that the news should be presented only as news.

"Objective and constructive news should be published keeping in mind the national interest," he said.

The state minister said the newspaper industry must sustain the competition of electronic media resulted from the fast development of information technology, he added.

Prof Sayeed said the government has enhanced the total budget of advertisement to Taka 17 crore from Taka 13 crore at the time of the BNP government.

Rotary News

North West Meeting

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today at the Dhaka Club Ltd, Ramna, Dhaka (Guest House Restaurant) at 5:30 pm, says a press release.

Members have been requested to attend on time.

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today at 1:30 pm at Dhaka Club Ltd, Shahbag in the city, says a press release.

Rtn PDG M Jamaluddin PHF will speak on Low Cost Shelter. Rotarians are cordially invited to attend for fellowship and make-up.

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Non-govt teachers welfare trust to sanction funds for 3000 soon

Monetary benefits from the non-government Educational Institution Teachers-Employees Welfare Trust will be paid off to 3,000 of the applicants within next three months, reports UNB.

The announcement was made yesterday through press release issued by secretary of the Trustee Board of the Fund Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed.

Over 7,000 applications have been submitted for sanctions from the fund for retired and deceased teachers and employees.

Disbursement of benefits to

the teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges and madrassahs was inaugurated through handover of cheques to the fund by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 29.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the teacher and employee representatives on the Board of Trustees of the Fund will be held on May 14 at the office of vice-chairman of the Board Dr Ayesha Khatun, also Director General of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education. Applications will be sorted out at the meeting, said the news release.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Science & Technology
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
No. MST/IS-4/Furniture-5(1)/99/ Dated: 14-01-1407 BS/27-04-2000

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide manufacturer/supplier firms for purchasing one imported, foreign, superior quality iron safe for use of the Ministry of Science & Technology. Tender schedule can be purchased at Tk 100/= (one hundred) per set from the office of the Senior Assistant Secretary, Section-4 of the Ministry, Room No. 17, Building No. 6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka up to office hours of 28-05-2000. Tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept at the chamber of the Deputy Secretary (Room No. 918) of this Ministry by 3-00-PM of 28-05-2000. The tenders received will be opened on the same day at 3-15 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

2. It may be mentioned here that the authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Md. Mubihul Hossain
Senior Assistant Secretary
Phone No. 8612439

DFP-10769-7/5

G-885

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)
Road Division, Madaripur

RHD Ferryghat Lease Quotation Invitation Notice

- Quotation Notice No : 2/EE/MRD/1999-2000 (2nd call).
- Name of work : Lease quotation including lubricant & fuel cost of Kazirtek Ferryghat at the Aral Khan river on Madaripur-Shariatpur-Bhedarganj-Chandpur Road under Madaripur Road Division from the date of agreement to 30-6-2000 during 2000-2001.
- Estimated cost : Quoted rate.
- Earnest money : 10% (ten per cent) of the quoted rate.
- Those who can participate in the lease bidding : All contractors enlisted with Roads & Highways Directorate/Govt/Non-Govt/Autonomous Organisation /experienced lessee/ & bonafide Bangladeshi solvent citizens.
- Offices from where the quotation form can be purchased : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Madaripur/Faridpur/Gopalganj/Shariatpur/Rajbari/Barisal/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Road Sub-Division, Madaripur/Bhangar/Assistant Engineer (R&H), 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Madaripur.
- Offices where the quotation forms will be received : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Additional Chief Engineer (R&H), Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Road Circle, Faridpur/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Madaripur.
- Last date of selling quotation form : 22-5-2000/8-2-1407BS up to office hours.
- Date & time of receiving quotation form : 23-5-2000/9-2-1407BS up to 12-30 minutes and quotations in sealed condition will be opened from the quotation box on the same day at 12:45 minutes.
- Date, time & place of opening quotation : Quotations will be opened on 25-5-2000/11-2-1407BS at 10:00 minutes at the office chamber of Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Madaripur.

DFP-11031-8/5

G-886

Executive Engineer (R&H)

Sarak Bhaban

Madaripur

Khaleda's 'no' to PM's offer a violation of norms: Khasru

COMILLA, May 12: Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said the BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia violated the democratic practice and norms by rejecting the offer of a dialogue on appointment of a new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), reports BSS.

"Differences of opinion in a democracy is nothing new. Equally politicians should show respect to democratic norms," said the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister yesterday while addressing a public meeting, organised by Kotwali Thana Awami League, at Chowra High School ground here.

Presided over by President of Kotwali Thana Awami League Ali Akbar, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Joint Secretary General of Bangladesh Awami League Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, State Minister for Shipping Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Finance Secretary of the party Yusuf Abdullah Harun, Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, MP and

local leader Prof. Khorsheed Alam. Pointing to the BNP leaders, Khasru said no good could be done to people joining hands with the fallen autocrat and the defeated forces of 1971.

Awami League central leader Paltu said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to curbing terrorism from society and eradicating poverty.

Yusuf Abdullah Harun said the government is sincerely working for the economic emancipation of the people through introduction of old age allowances, husband-abandoned women allowances, and implementation of Ashrayan Project and setting up of Employment Bank in the country.

Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury Maya said the opposition are conspiring against the government being afraid of its successes. He said no conspiracy would be able to stop the trial process of the killers of Bangabandhu.

The venue and time, however, will remain unchanged, said an official handout yesterday.

The districts are: Dhaka, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Faridpur, Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Pabna, Khulna, Jessore, Kushtia, Barisal and Patuakhali.

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Dhaka-1206

Notice for Appointment of Tailor Contractor for 2000-2001 Fiscal Year

- Sealed tenders are invited from expert contractors for manufacturing uniforms for the officials and sailors of Coast Guard for 2000-2001 fiscal year. Proposed contractors should have two years experience in sewing work in the Army, Navy, Airforce, BDR, Ansar and VDP and experience certificate regarding this will have to be submitted with the tender. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the Headquarters of Coast Guard on 21st May, 2000 till 1200 hours and will be opened the same day at 1300 hours in the office of the undersigned before the participating contractors (if anyone remains present). Individuals willing to know about the details description of work of the tender are requested to procure the schedule after contacting the office on all working days excepting holidays from 0900 hours to 1200 hours.
- Mentionable that, the working dress and ceremonial dress of sailor will have to be changed/modified at the cost borne by the tailor contractor. Apart from this, separate materials required for bushcoat etc like — cloth for lining, bakram padding, cloth for pocket, button, hook, chain etc will have to be supplied by the tailor contractor.
- Earnest money at the rate of 2% of the estimated cost in the forms of Pay Order/Bank Draft (refundable) from any scheduled bank in favour of the Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard will have to be deposited with the tender. Otherwise, tenders will be treated as outright rejected.
- When the tender will be final, security at the rate of 5% of the estimated cost (refundable) in favour of the Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard will have to be deposited.
- Interested tenderers must submit the under mentioned papers with the tender:
a) Bank solvency certificate.
b) Certificate of previous experience.
c) Income Tax/VAT certificate.
d) Just renewed Trade Licence.
- The appointed contractor will have to employ one tailor assistant with sewing machine each in Chittagong and Khulna Zone.
- Contractors will be allotted a suitable place for conducting the sewing work. But he will have to pay bills for gas, electricity and water.
- The authority reserves the power to accept/reject any tender submitted without assigning any reason.

M A Hye Bhuiyan

Commander BN

On behalf of the Director General

DFP-11100-8/5

G-884

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Dhaka WASA Tender Notice
পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন

Tenders are invited from 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes enlisted civil contractors of Dhaka WASA for the undermentioned work.

Name of work	Amount of estimated money	Date and time of receiving tender
1. Installation of 100 mm diameter water line on Ibrahimpur bylane	77,252/-	22-5-2000 till 12:00 noon
2. Installation of 100 mm diameter water line on Rayerbazar Post Office Road bylane	45,739/-	-do-

Tenders will be opened the same day at 2:00 pm of receiving tender before the tenderers or their representatives (if anyone remains present).

Schedule of tenders will be available in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone Offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Address: "WASA Bhaban"
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka
WASA-PI-153/2000
DFP-10456-3/5
G-883

AKM Zafarullah
Project Director
Interim Project-4
Dhaka WASA

Gaibandha Pourashava
Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II
ADB Loan No: 1376 BAN (SF)
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Infrastructure Implementation Section(IIS)

Memo No LGED/XEN/Gaibandha/2246 Dated: 2-5-2000

Tender Notice No-35/1999-2000

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under ADB Loan No-1376-BAN (SF) towards the cost of Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-2 for 22 pourashavas. The undersigned intends to take up different types of works under the said credit as shown below under the 1999-2000 (FY), implementation programme. Sealed tenders for implementation of the works are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No-2911 and as per additional terms & conditions as appended in the tender document from the pre-qualified contractors of Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II.

Interested contractors may obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hours on all working days up to 23-5-2000 from any of the offices (i) The Project Director, Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II, LGED Bhaban (Level-7), Argagao, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, (ii) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi, (iii) Dy Commissioner, District Gaibandha, (iv) Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Gaibandha, Head of IIS, PIU, Gaibandha Pourashava, (v) Executive/Assistant Engineer, ESFOS, PIU, Gaibandha Pourashava, (vi) Thana Engineer, Sadar, District: Gaibandha, on cash payment as shown in the notice (non-refundable) after obtaining written approval from the respective offices for purchase of tender documents on showing documentary evidence of their contractors licence. Tenders will be received by the abovementioned offices up to 2:00 hours on 24-5-2000. No tender will be accepted beyond this time and tenders will be opened at 2:30 hours on the same day in the receiving offices by the officers-in-charge in the presence of the tenderers, if any.

Interested tenderers may collect necessary information regarding tender and work from the abovementioned offices during normal office hours on all working days. Tenders must be accompanied by all relevant papers and Earnest Money @2% (two per cent) of the estimated cost of the work in favour of XEN, LGED, Gaibandha.

Copy of VAT registration certificates must be enclosed along with the bid. Both Income Tax & VAT in respect of each payment will have to be paid by the contractor as per prevailing rules and regulations of the Government of Bangladesh. Tender without VAT registration certificate will be rejected. Tenderer shall quote rate on overall percentage basis above at per below the estimated cost of the tender. Tender with quoted rates more than 5% (five per cent) higher than the estimated cost must accompany itemwise detail analysis of rate of each item without which tender will be rejected.

Standard bid document prepared by consultants like DHV, AQUA, RPMC & PEC for tendering of STIDP-II is applicable for this tender. Elected/selected contractors firm will be made a formal agreement with this document.

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Tender not complying with the stipulated conditions will be treated as nonresponsive and will be rejected.

Sl No	Package No	Name of the package	Estimated cost (Tk)	Earnest money (Tk)	Cost tender document (Tk)	Completion time for work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	GBD-15-99004	Const of cover slab drain St from Circular Rd to Masterpara KB Rd drain	Tk 702300/=	Tk 14046/=	500/=	60 days.

Chairman
Head Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Gaibandha Pourashava

DFP-10981-8/5
G-882