



Visitors admiring a calligraphy composition on display at the solo calligraphy exhibition at the National Museum yesterday.

— Star photo

## Drug price should be de-regulated, but without making any compromise on quality

Speakers at roundtable on drug pricing

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable discussion meeting said that the pricing of the locally manufactured drugs in the country lacks synchronisation and there is no justification of price regulation in the globalised free-market economy.

Speakers at the roundtable on 'Drug Pricing: Situation in Bangladesh and People's Stand,' argued that the pharmaceutical companies are operating a monopoly trade by taking advantage of the regulated price list of drugs enforced by the current 1982 Drug Control Ordinance.

They said that by and large it is noticed that there is no transparency in import of the raw materials of drugs and dispensation of the manufactured products.

Some speakers strongly felt that there should be no compromise in ensuring the quality of drugs to reduce its prices.

Speaking on quality improvement of drugs, a speaker

said, 'There should be no difference in quality of drugs manufactured either in USA or in Bangladesh because it involves the same human being all over the world.'

Other speakers were highly critical of price regulation of 'essential' drugs. They asked, what is the justification behind classification of 'essential' and 'non-essential' drugs?

Kazi Shahidul Alam, Director of 300-bed Shaheed Suhrawardi Hospital said, 'Most of the drugs have no efficacy and the 1982 Drug Control Policy is nothing but an eye-wash.'

Referring to price control of the 117 essential drugs, Barrister Md Jahir asked, 'Why all drug should not be under the control? After all, it's a matter of public health.'

Referring to global open-market system, Prof Anu Mohammad of Jahangirnagar University said, 'We should see drug as a product and not

merely as drug. And in the context of global open-market system we should de-regulate prices of drugs and give the pharmaceutical companies scope to practice free-market system.'

Editor of Financial Express Moazzam Hossain referring to enforcement of drug prices, said, 'Who can guarantee enforcement of prices. It is simply not practical. We should rather, strongly focus on improving quality of drugs and strictly enforce it.'

Others who also spoke were Dr Humayun Hye, former health consultant of World Bank, Mohammad Samad of Dhaka University, Mosharaf Hossain MP and Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, MP.

Dr Quasem Chowdhury of Health Action Forum, the organising body, moderated the roundtable. The roundtable was held at the National Press Club yesterday.

Referring to price control of the 117 essential drugs, Barrister Md Jahir asked, 'Why all drug should not be under the control? After all, it's a matter of public health.'

Referring to global open-market system, Prof Anu Mohammad of Jahangirnagar University said, 'We should see drug as a product and not

## Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES Re-Tender Notice

No. DACPM/90-01/2000

Dry Lease of DC-10-30

Biman Bangladesh Airlines invites offers (tenders) for dry lease of one DC10-30 Aircraft for 3 years with specifications as given in the tender schedule, to be delivered in Biman Bangladesh Airline's livery at Dhaka at the earliest. Tender to be submitted based on the terms and conditions as detailed in the tender schedule.

2. Airlines/Operators/Owners of Aircraft/Leasing Company having Aircraft of its own can only participate in the tender. Biman will not deal with any agents/brokers during the process of evaluation and finalization of the lease contract.

3. The basic requirement for the leased aircraft as per the tender schedule will be as under:

(a) DC10-30 Aircraft

(i) Year of manufacture must not be earlier than calendar year 1978.

ii) Configuration: 30 Business, 244 Economy Class seats; Total 274 seats (Minimum)

iii) Engine: GE CF 6-50C2

4. The offer should be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes, one for technical specifications and another for financial offer, addressed to the General Manager Planning, Bangladesh Biman, Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh latest by 1200 hrs BST (0600hrs UTC) on or before 20 June 2000 and same shall be opened immediately after closing time in presence of bidders if any. Offers/bids can also be submitted through DHL/Courier Service on or before the closing date.

5. Tender schedule containing detailed specifications and terms and conditions will be available in Biman Head Office, Balaka, ZIA, Dhaka and in Foreign Stations of Biman on all working days during office hours from 3rd June, 2000 on payment of USD 100 (one hundred) or equivalent foreign currency (non-refundable). In case of purchasing the tender schedule from Bangladesh the amount will be BDT 5125/- (Five thousand one hundred twenty five only) (non-refundable).

6. Bidders who have submitted bid for DC10-30 vide our Tender Notice No DACPM/90/2000 may not submit fresh bid in case they consider that their earlier submitted bid remains valid.

7. Biman Bangladesh Airlines reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offer(s) partly or wholly at any time and or stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and no claim shall be acceptable in this regard.

General Manager Planning (ACTG)

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Public Works E/M Division-3, Dhaka

Dated: 22-5-2000

Memo No-2387

## Tender Invitation Notice No 53/1999-2000

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 in sealed envelopes are invited from special class-I/class-I (combined)/class I for E&M work/2nd class contractors enlisted with Public Works Department and have the VAT Registration Book for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received till 12:00 Noon on 13-6-2000 during office hours in the tender boxes kept at the office of Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3, Dhaka and Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka and tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of tenders or their nominated candidates (if anyone remains present). Tender schedule, form and terms and conditions etc can be purchased from the offices of Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3, Dhaka and Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours on payment of usual Taka 425/- (four hundred twenty-five taka) in cash (non-refundable) latest by 12-6-2000. Security money at the rate of 2% (two per cent) of the estimated cost, part-I and at the rate of 2% (two per cent) of the quoted cost in the form of Bank Draft/PO/SDR/CD from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh Bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-3, Dhaka will have to be deposited with each tender. Contractor himself or his authorised person can purchase tender by producing all necessary papers including registration book for enlistment. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earliest money	Time fixed for completion of work
1)	Digging of deep tubewell of 3" diameter including other related work at 8 important fire stations in Dhaka metropolitan city, supply of 10 Horse Power submersible pump motor set, supply, installation and other related work for water lifting from the proposed deep tubewell under Mondol Para Fire Station in Narayanganj.	Part-I, Tk 1,70,741/64 Part-2, cost quoted by contractor.	Part-I, at the rate of 2% (two per cent) Part-2, at the rate of 2% (two per cent) cost quoted by contractor.	30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order.

**Bimal Kumar Kundu**  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works E/M Division-3  
Segunbagicha, Dhaka  
Phone: 9555305

## Metropolitan

### All measures to protect interest of investors to be taken: Jalil

SAVAR (Dhaka), June 3: Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil today said the government will take all possible measures to protect the interest of investors as well as workers through upholding the national interest, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting of the investors in export processing zone areas at Dhaka EPZ the minister said the government has been providing special incentive to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

The minister said the government is determined to ensure the right of workers along the interest of investors. Industrial production must be increased through maintaining good relations between management and workers, he added.

Some investors of EPZ areas and Executive Chairman of

Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) Brig M A B Siddiq also spoke at the meeting.

Referring to the contribution of EPZs in attracting investment, the minister said the government is setting up several other EPZs and industrial parks at different places of the country to attract more FDI.

Some investors referred to the existing congenial investment friendly environment in EPZs and urged the government to maintain it. Workers and employees of EPZs are getting better benefit in comparison to areas and the BEPZA is always monitoring their welfare, they added.

Earlier, the minister visited Yangon High Tech Sportswear Industries Ltd in DEPZ and expressed his satisfaction over the factory management.

নথি: মেগাসিটি ঢাকায় মার্বাসিক ও বাণিজ্যিক বহুতল ভবন নির্মাণ কর্তৃজুরুরী?  
অস্তরাজন  
REHAB  
রিয়েল এক্টেট এন্ড হাউজিং এসোসিয়েশন অব বাংলাদেশ  
৩০০০. শনিবার



Participants at a roundtable on highrise building in Dhaka city organised by Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

## Pollutants threatening marine ecosystem in Chittagong Environmentalists warn at seminar

CHITTAGONG, June 3: Around 1300 tons of toxic solid and liquid waste, discharged from the port city each day in absence of sewerage system, fall into the Bay of Bengal through the river Karnaphuli causing serious threat to the existence of marine fish resources, reports BSS.

It has stressed that the thrust of the budget has to be on the measures to turn the Dhaka city into a terrorism-free, pollution free, where the poor and the have-nots would get the benefits of social justice and democratic culture.

At a rally on Friday presided over by the city chief of the CPB Ashraf Hossain Ashu, the speakers called for drastic change in the present Mayor-oriented administrative system by ensuring participation of people in the whole functioning pattern.

### CPB suggests more allocations for slum dwellers in DCC budget

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has pleaded increased allocations for the slum dwellers and the working class people in the upcoming budget of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), reports BSS.

It has stressed that the thrust of the budget has to be on the measures to turn the Dhaka city into a terrorism-free, pollution free, where the poor and the have-nots would get the benefits of social justice and democratic culture.

They have threatened to go for a tougher action programme in future if the Act is not abolished.

### Selim to attend Global Conference on Health Promotion

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim left the city yesterday for Mexico to attend the Global Conference on Health Promotion, scheduled to begin on June 5, reports UNB.

Health Minister of the government of Mexico in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) organised the conference, which will be attended by the Health Ministers of 21 developing countries.

The Health Minister is expected to return home on June 16, said an official handout.

### FOR SALE

A modern Cold Storage of 5000 M/T capacity located at Munshigong with full running condition for sale.

Interested parties may kindly contact Mr. Mahmud. Telephone No. 8914298

as the chief guest.

Superintending Engineer of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin presented keynote speech in the seminar, presided over by (CEJU) president M Nasirul Haq.

Speaking on the occasion,

the mayor advocated for planned development of the city in order to protect the ecological balance.

Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police A T M Md Hudaibul Haq Chowdhury said around 55,000 motorised vehicles ply in the city of which 16,000 tempo and auto-rickshaws are solely responsible for the discharge of black smoke causing air pollution.

The CMP commissioner quoted a recent survey and dis-

closed that the traffic police posted in the road are the worst affected of this dangerous air pollution and added that around 98 per cent sergeants die of asthma and chest disease.

Participating in the seminar, chairman of the CDA Col M M K Z Jalalabadi said, Chittagong is blessed with hills and sea and he pleaded for stop of felling of trees, cutting of hills, and preservation of ponds, and other wetlands for maintaining the ecological balance.

Chairman of the Chittagong WASA Capt. M Jakaria underscored the importance of using surface water to meet the demand of the drinking water of the masses instead of the growing trend of using underground one which he described as a threat to environment.

## Eating Out

The Most Exclusive Restaurant  
In the country  
Come and Experience

**Shobnoj**  
OUTSIDE CATERING, TAKEAWAY, LUNCH BOXES  
House #53, Block #B, Kamal Attaturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213  
Phone# 870225, 872679 Fax # 880-2-881202

### Coaching

We teach English Medium students from std -1 to std-VIII with special care.  
Please contact: 988-0833.  
C-528

### Tuition

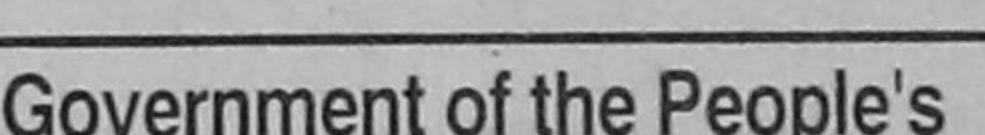
B.A (DU) student wants to teach English Medium students (1-6) and O-Level (Commerce).  
Duldu: 9666457. C-529

### HOUSE TO LET

A MODERN THREE STORED BUILDING HAVING ABOUT 1,600 SFT IN EACH FLOORS WITH MODERN AMENITIES, SEPARATE GARAGES, STAFF QUARTERS AND BIG LAWN IN FRONT IS READY FOR RENT. FOREIGN COS. & ORGANIZATIONS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, NGOs S. AND GOVT. ORGANIZATIONS PREFERRED. PLS. CONTACT MR. KHALLUR RAHMAN, 1/13, HUMAYUN ROAD, MOHAMMADPUR, TEL: 405522 OR MR. ASIAM KHALEEL TEL: 8915044

**Sajna** An Exclusive Restaurant  
Serving full range of Indian dishes. Also available  
• OUTSIDE CATERING • TAKEAWAY • PARTY FACILITIES  
House # 10, South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212  
Tel: 8811684, 8812458 Fax: 880-2-8828802. E-mail:sajna@citechco.net

**SANTOOR**  
Symphony of Dining  
House No. 2, Road No. 11 (New), Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Telephone: 8123336, 9128737



Call for outside catering

Call for outside catering