

Indisciplined pry instt

From Jahangir Alam

NETRAKONA, Sept 11: Netrakona Primary Training Institute (PTI) is beset with manifold problems including shortage of instructors, office staffers and lack of proper management.

Posts of one superintendent, four instructors, one head assistant, two MLSS and one teacher for the experimental school of PTI have been lying vacant hampering academic and administrative activities of the institution severely.

Post of the superintendent has been lying vacant for two months.

In absence of a Superintendent, Netrakona PTI has become an ungaurded institution for the last two months. Trainees of PTI are mostly indisciplined. They do not bother about the administrative rules. There are rules that if any female trainee leaves her hostel or boundary wall of PTI, she must take permission from the Superintendent and her name should be entered in the movement register. Not only that female trainees cannot move anywhere after the sunset.

But during the last two months it has been observed that female trainees are moving freely outside the PTI boundary wall without permission of the authority. Female trainees are moving without entry of their names in the movement register. It has also been observed that female trainees remain in the town till 10 pm to 11 pm which is strictly prohibited in the rules of this institution.

Vagabond youths of the locality enter into the PTI boundary wall every now and then and make obscene remarks to the female trainees.

Female and male trainees enter into each others hostel every now and then.

Acute scarcity of drinking water prevails in the female hostel. Female borders have to bring drinking water from the tubewell of the male hostel. The lone tubewell for female trainees is out of order for a long time. Many cracks have developed on the roof of the male hostel. The floors are flooded even in light rain. There is no recreational facility in both the hostels. There are no facilities for games and sports. The institute is situated in a low-lying area which usually goes under water during the rainy season.

Instructors of the PTI are divided into two groups. The last examination was held 15 days ago where the trainees were seen copying openly in front of the very nose of instructors. The instructors played the role of silent spectators. The magistrate also came to the examination hall just half an hour before the end of examination.

An instructor of PTI told this correspondent on condition of anonymity that Assistant Super Abu-Bakar Siddiki who is In-Charge of Superintendent is not fit for the post. He has totally failed to control the situation here and solve the problems. So a superintendent is necessary immediately, otherwise the situation may deteriorate further, he added.

Local elite have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps in this regard.



(Far left): Partial view of the main building of Netrakona Primary Training Institute (PTI) (Middle) Female hostel with no boundary wall where boarders feel insecure due to frequent harassment by local vagabonds (Far right) Male hostel with cracked roof where boarders suffer a lot even in slight rain. --Star photo

Kushtia flood worsens

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 11: Many areas in Daulatpur, Bheramara, Mirpur, Khoksha and Kumarkhali upazilas have gone under water with water level in the Padma and Garai rivers rising, making at least eight thousand people marooned.

Besides, more than 10 thousand acres of croplands have been submerged and some 3,000 houses damaged.

Water level in both the rivers started rising sharply from September 2. Water level of the Padma was recorded 13.78 metres at Harding Bridge point while 11.78 metres at Goral Railway Bridge point on September 6. The Padma rose by 8 cm at Harding Bridge point on Friday.

According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Dhaka, the Padma was flowing 60 cm above the danger mark at Pankha while 20 cm at Bhagayakul and 15 cm at Goralanda on Friday.

Growing rice in water level has caused panic among people residing along the banks of the river. Many people in flood

affected areas have failed to shift their belongings to safer places. Ferry services in Bheramara-Paksey route are facing difficulties because of frequent shifting of jetties due to abrupt rise in water level.

Three unions of Bheramara, eight unions of Daulatpur, two unions of Khoksha and two unions of Mirpur upazilas have been affected, causing sufferings to some one lakh people. The worst affected unions are Bahadurpur, Junaidaha and Mokaripur of Bheramara upazila while Chilmari, Adabaria, ARIA, Praggur, Boalia, Ramkrishnapur, Philipnagar and Mandia in Daulatpur upazila. Some five thousand people in Sagarkhali embankment area in Mirpur upazila are facing water-logging due to absence of sluice gate.

River Goral has become furious following sharp rise in water level in the last few days. The river now is threatening rail tracks on the western side of Goral Railway Bridge.

Erosion takes its toll

52 villages vanish in 50 yrs

NARSINGDI, Sept 11: About 52 villages in sadar and Raipura upazila went into the gorge of the mighty River Meghna over the last 50 years rendering thousands of people shelterless, reports UNB.

These villages in 12 unions of the upazilas located along the banks of the river were vanished since 1950s, official sources said.

Apart from this, around 40,000 acres of cultivable and 10,000 acres of non-cultivable land went into the river during the same period, they added.

The vanished villages in Raipura upazila including Char Aralia, Kattakhali, Bottoli, Rajnagar, Batakandi and Bagakandi of Char Aralia union; Nilaxma, Balurdhom, Birgaon, Horipur and Amirabad of Nilaxma union and Srinagar, Baghaikandi, Sayedabad, Rangpur and Fakirgram of Srinagar union.

Other villages of the upazila are Mirjachar, Jalupara, Kalimbeel, Baratek, Balurchar, Tatpara, Borhati and Santipur villages of Mirjachar union; Char Madhua and Bir Char Madhua of Char Madhua union; Jamadarbari of

Banshgari union and Chanpur village of Chanpur.

In sadar upazila, the villages include Karimpur, Rasulpur, Jagatpur, Srinagar, Baushia and Bagargot in sadar union; Narajpur, Chogriapara and Bagerchar of Narajpur union; Alokballi, Muradnagar, Khudadila, Boshkhali and Bakharnagar of Alokballi union; Char Dighaldi, Jitrampur, Anathrampur and Doani of Chardighaldi union; South and North Charvashania, Bangarchar, Dorichar and Panchami of Pakirchar union.

The homeless families took shelter on khas or high lands or in houses of their relatives and have been passing their days in great distress. Many pauper families moved to the capital city and other towns and are maintaining their livelihood engaging in rickshaw pulling and other odd jobs.

Meanwhile, erosion continued unabated in the district and many people are being rendered homeless every day. The affected people urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the erosion.

Tidal surge

Water scarcity in offshore islands

SANDWIP, Sept 11: An official delegation led by cabinet members on Tuesday visited the tidal surge battered offshore islands of the Bay of Bengal including different worst affected areas of Hatia and Sandwip, reports BSS.

Minister for Labour and Employment MA Mannan, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader made a whirlwind visit to the tidal surge affected areas on Tuesday afternoon.

Members of the delegation visited remote areas and was briefed by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Biswanath Banik at upazila headquarters here. The UNO said the tidal surge hit the island and adjoining parts of the Bay in the midday of August 29. At least three people were killed and 45,000 people were made homeless, he said.

The local administrator said 10-kilometer flood and tidal surge protection dyke were completely damaged while saline entered into 3,000 ponds creating scarcity of pure drinking water.

He said hundreds of people took refuge in the cyclone shelters during the tidal surge and members of 6,000 families are returning to their homes as the situation started improving gradually.

He said local administration has distributed Taka 20,000, 13 metric tonnes of rice so far among the affected people.

Officers of Hatia Island informed the delegation that over 50,000 people were affected by the tidal surge that hit more than 50 square kilometers of the island.

They said at least 9,990

houses were damaged in this coastal Hatia Island. The local administration has distributed 21,590 metric tonnes of rice and Taka 30,000 and foods worth Taka 26,000.

A delegation of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS) also visited various off-shore islands on Tuesday to assess extent of damage wreaked by tidal surge.

An IFRCS delegation member told that at least six people including five children died in Sandwip island alone while over 35,000 people were made homeless after a severe high tide that lashed Sandwip and other islands. He said IFRCS would launch special programmes in the tide-hit areas that include Sandwip, Hatiya, Monpara, Mosheshkhali and Kutubdia islands.

Head of delegation of IFRCS Bob Mckerrrow observed that severe river erosion and associated flooding have been devouring homes.

IFRCS sources said some 12,000 people took refuge in the cyclone shelters built by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) with assistance from British Red Cross.

Meanwhile, the inter-governmental panel on climate change has expressed caution that rise in sea level would be one meter by the year 2100 following the global warming. SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC) has also cautioned that sea level along the Bangladesh coast is rising by about three millimetres a year.

The coastal people affected by the recent tidal surge told that they have never seen such big surge excepting the ones in the year of 1970 and 1991.

Erosion threatens Hasnapara

BOGRA, Sept 11: Hasnapara in Sariakandi upazila has been under threat of erosion as the large portion of a spur-dam in the area was devoured by the River Jamuna on Friday, reports UNB.

Water Development Board constructed the 120-meter long spur-dam at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore five years ago to protect the area from river erosion.

Officials said a 14-km part of the dam from Devdanga to Kamalpur in the upazila eroded away rendering hundreds of families homeless in last few days.

Meanwhile, district administration distributed 8 mts of rice among the erosion-hit people.

BSS from Barisal says the month of B'adra in Bangla calendar is always followed by torrential rain, tidal surge, cyclone and swelling of water level every year.

This year it has not violated the tradition in the southern region of Barisal division. The rise of water level and severe water surge washed away at least 300 'Jhau' trees in the forest which were planted for beautification of Kuakata sea beach.

Besides, over 100 coconut and date trees have also fallen beside the shore of the Bay of Bengal in this period. Two shops were also razed there and 15 yards of seashore was also washed away by the thrust of the severe wave within 36 hours. On the other hand, one shop of Milan Mian of a small market eroded in the sea due to heavy surge there. The coconut and date trees along with other valuable trees planted for green belt on the bank of the sea were uprooted in eight miles long areas. Over three hundred 'Jhau' trees near Hosainpara village were uprooted and washed away in the sea.

The people of Kuakata urged upon the government to take necessary steps for saving the area from the erosion.

Meanwhile, over one hundred cows and buffaloes were washed away in the sea from Laldia Char areas near off-shore areas of Barguna district due to heavy rise of water there suddenly. The fishermen of fishing trawler rescued 23 cows from the sea.

The low lying areas of Barguna district were submerged due to heavy swelling of water level in the last six days. The water level rose three to four feet than the normal time at Laldia Char, Techdia Char, Padmar Char and some other Char areas near sea shore in the period. The cattlehead washed away from there. Meanwhile, a family of Kutubnagar of Jhalakathi district eroded suddenly due to erosion of the River Sugandha on Friday due to severe rise of water level there. Haron, Hemayet and Jasim were rescued and sent to hospital for treatment.

A silent revolution

GAZIPUR, Sept 11: Gazipur awaits to be declared an "illiterate free" district in the next few years after two years of silent revolution here with enlistment of the last of the illiterate man as a literate person, reports BSS.

The stage is set for the formal announcement from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the people here are now keenly waiting for the event on September 23.

Of the total literate people, 1,74,890 are women and the remaining 150,757 are men including children and juvenile.

The last 325,647 illiterate persons, aged between 11 and 45 years, were detected through a baseline survey (house to house) before starting the Total Literacy Movement (TLM) here under a campaign titled, 'Arunujal Gazipur from Kaliganj Upazila'.

The TLM is a part of government's programme to literate 3.44,00,000 people aged between 11 and 45 by the year 2002.

At present the rate of literacy is 62 per cent in the country. The TLM under a project involving Taka 11,01,75,000 was launched in Gazipur district to literate the number of illiterate persons. Of the total amount, Taka 691,91,000 was spent to achieve the target and implement the entire spectrum of activities by June 2000.

A 33-member committee headed by Deputy Commissioner supervised the implementation of the progress during the period. "We have been able to literate all the 325,647 persons detected as illiterate of the total 18 lakh population in the district within two years," Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur Mohammad Shamsul Huq said.

He said 14,000 teachers gave basic education to the illiterate people in 45 unions and 2 municipalities here within a six-month to one-year period.

The district administration authorities engaged a teacher to run a centre comprising of 30 illiterate people.

At the end of six-month basic education, examination was held in each centre to enlist the illiterate in the literacy list.

"The percentage of success in the examination is 95-99 per cent and those who could not succeed were asked to reappear in the examination after giving them education for a three-month period," Shamsul Huq said.

Talking to this correspondent Abdus Subkur, 43, of Maona village of Sripur Upazila, who already completed basic education under TLM, said, "I had to face many problem in the past to maintain accounts of my vegetable business. Sometimes I was cheated by the customers in selling my goods."

Now I can read and write and am able to maintain account of my business, he said. Another worst victim of illiteracy Abdul Gani Miah, 35, of Sripur, who had to travel to wrong destinations by bus at several times, said, "I can read the sign board and I do not have to face any problem in travelling."

A report from Rangamati says: Preparations are a foot to launch Total Literacy Movement (TLM) here, under the name and style 'Bonolata Rangmati', to eradicate illiteracy very soon.

Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati Hill districts, Abu Haidar Sardar disclosed this, while delivering his speech as president in a discussion meeting, held at Rangamati Municipality Auditorium, in observance of International Literacy Day, 2000 on September 8.

He sought cooperation of all concerned to make the TLM a success.

Meanwhile, 18 non-government organisations have been working under the supervision of Semi-formal Education Director, in Kalkhali upazila, to make literate every illiterate living there, at a cost of Taka 1.5 crore.

UNB from Meherpur reports: International Literacy Day was observed here in the district with much enthusiasm on Friday. A rally led by the Deputy Commissioner was brought out in the town with the participation of students of schools and colleges. Later, a discussion and a cultural function were held at local Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

News snaps

Farmer electrocuted

SHERPUR, Sept 11: A farmer was electrocuted last week in front of the Power Development Board office at Sribordi upazila, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Abu Shama, 35, a resident of Satani para Mathuradi village came in contact with live wire on the ground when he was going for fishing amid light rains.

Several hundred people laid siege to the PDB office after the accident accusing its officials responsible for the death of Abu Shama. Soon came police and brought the situation under control. PDB officials fled the office in the face of public outrage. A UD case was lodged with police in connection with the death of Abu Shama.

160 youths get loan

RANGPUR, Sept 11: Employment Bank disbursed loan amounting to Tk 67.66 lakh among unemployed youths of the district in last one year, reports UNB.

Officials said some 160 youths received the loan to invest in projects like dairy and poultry farms for their self-employment. The bank also realised its outstanding loan totaling Tk 6.65 lakh during the period.

Robber arrested

FARIDPUR, Sept 11: An alleged road pirate was arrested from Ghopghat village in Madhukhali upazila Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said villagers caught Chand Ali, 35, of Mastandapur village red-handed when he along with his five associates was committing dacoity in a night coach on Faridpur-Jessore highway. He was later handed over to police. A case was filed.

LGED implementing schemes

MADARIPUR, Sept 11: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been implementing four development projects here at a cost of Taka 40.50 lakh in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The projects include construction of different rural roads. Of the total work, 80 per cent work has already been completed and the rest will be completed by the current month. After completion of the work, local people would be benefited through these development projects.

Smuggled goods seized

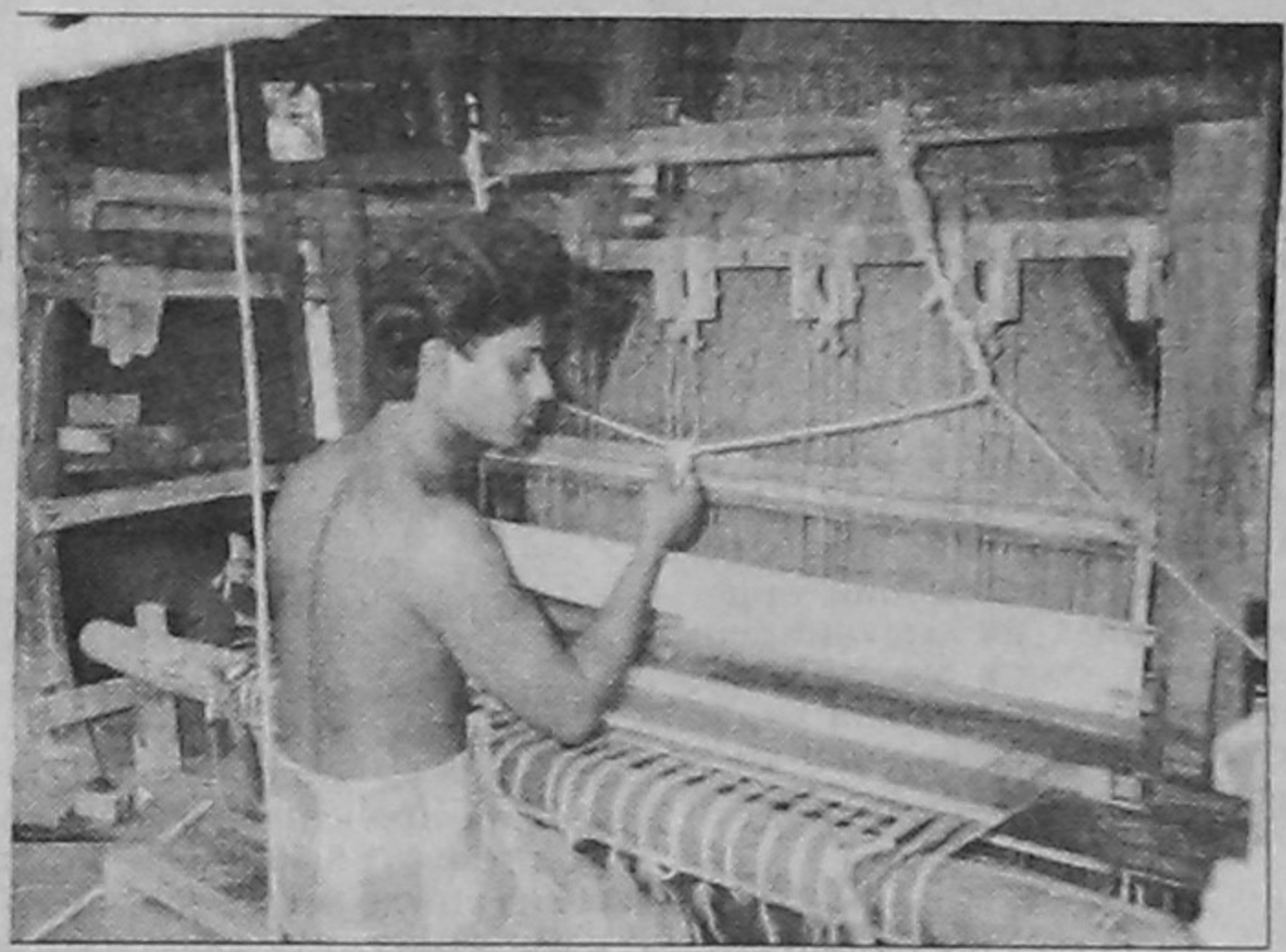
JOYPURHAT, Sept 11: Bangladesh Rifles in separate raids recovered Indian contraband goods worth over Tk 46.95 lakh and arrested six alleged smugglers from three northern districts last month, reports UNB.

The contraband, recovered from border areas of Joypurhat, Dhamoirhat village in Naogaon and Hakimpur upazila in Dinajpur included sugar, salt, cumin seed, apple, onion, molasses, manure, fertilizer, saree, cosmetics, bicycle, eggs, steel materials, spare parts, cattle, medicine, tempo and phensidyl. The border security personnel also seized huge Bangladeshi goods while being smuggled out to India.

Seminar on road accident

KHULNA, Sept 11: A two-day seminar on road accident concluded at Khulna Medical College on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Orthopedic Society and World Health Organisation jointly organised the seminar. Khulna Divisional Commissioner MA Taher inaugurated the seminar, which was presided over by KMC Principal MA Hannan. The speakers stressed on strict observance of traffic rules to minimise traffic mishaps. Prof Abdus Samad Sheikh, Prof Kazi Shahidul Alam, Prof Farooque Reza Awlad, Dr Lutfar Rahman and Deputy Commissioner Azhar Ali took part in the seminar.



Tangail is famous for sarees. But the handloom industry here has been facing the threat of ruination. Such is the situation due to dearth of capital, price-hike of thread and dye and also due to lack of marketing facilities, local weavers say. Government should come forward to rescue this traditional industry.

Highway robbery

JESSORE, Sept 11: Highway robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh from the passengers of a coach in broad day light on Jessore-Magura highway Sunday, reports UNB.

Police source said the gang travelling in the guise of passengers took control of the Benapole-bound bus from Dhaka after it crossed Bainer crossing in Magura town at 2pm. They got down from the bus at Shimakhali Bridge in Shaikhia upazila after looting valuables and cash, including US dollar, from the passengers. The dacoits also injured three passengers when they tried to resist them from fleeing. Witnesses said the gang fled towards Magura riding a microbus that was following the bus. Most of the passengers were going to India. A case was filed.

Fugitive arrested

KUSHTIA, Sept 11: Police arrested a fugitive from a house at Barokhadi village in Sadar upazila recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the house of Asmat Ali and nabbed him. Asmat was wanted in a murder case. In another drive, police arrested a ringleader from a house at Sadipur in Daulatpur upazila. The arrested man was identified as Imadul. He was accused in a number of abduction cases.

Training course

GOPALGANJ, Sept 11: A three-day training course on rural maintenance programme concluded at Tungipara on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Rural Development and Cooperatives Division in collaboration with CARE organised the course. Presided over by UNO Masud Siddiqui, the concluding session was addressed, among others, by Nazim Akhter and Laik Ali Bishwas. The participants were given training on strategies to resolve problems in village arbitration, formulate budget and implement projects.

Two muggers held

COMILLA, Sept 11: Police arrested two alleged muggers from Monoharpur area in the town on Tuesday on charge of snatching a gold chain from a woman, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Helal Mia and Ahsanullah. Police said the muggers waylaid the woman, Seltina Akter, of Banshpur village in Barura upazila, on way to Comilla Medical Centre and took away her gold chain.

After hearing her cry, local people rushed to the spot and caught them red handed. Later, they were handed over to the police. A case under Public Safety Act was filed with the police.

Businessman killed in road accident

BARISAL, Sept 11: A young businessman was crushed under the wheels of a truck at noon on Saturday when he was knocked down by it at Torkey Bandar, reports BSS.

The victim, Shekhar Banik, 30, met the tragic end immediately after stepping down from the driver's compartment of the truck he rented to carry goods. Shekhar went to Torkey Bandar under Gouranadi upazila to purchase goods. He had a cash money of Taka two lakh in his pocket. After he died on the spot, the money was looted. The body was sent to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police lodged a case with Gouranadi police station.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)

Gazipur Road Division, Gazipur

R&H Tender Invitation Notice

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are invited.

1. Tender Notice No	07/RDG 2000-2001.
2. Name of work	Work of widening of road by flexible pavement on various KMs of Banani-Tongi-Joydevpur Road under Gazipur Road Division during 2000-2001 fiscal year. Divided into 7 (seven) groups.
3. Estimated cost	As per group list.
4. Earnest money	As per group list.
5. Eligibility of contractors	As per group list.
6. Time fixed for completion of work	As per group list.
7. Head of expenditure	As per group list.
8. Offices where tenders will be available	Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Gazipur Road Division, Gazipur/Dhaka/Manikganj/Narayanganj/Munshiganj/Narsingdi/Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Bridge Design Division, Eastern Zone/Monitoring & Evaluation Division, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division, Tongi/Joydevpur.
9. Offices where tenders will be received	Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Gazipur Road Division, Gazipur/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division, Tongi/Joydevpur.
10. Last date and time of selling tender	24-9-2000 till office hours.
11. Last date and time of receiving tender	25-9-2000 till 12.30 PM.
12. Last date and time of preparing list of tenders received by respective receiving offices	25-9-2000 at 12.45 PM (sealed envelopes cannot be opened by the concerned receiving offices). These will have to be sent in sealed conditions to the office of the undersigned. Those envelopes will be opened after collecting in sealed condition from respective receiving offices in the office of the undersigned as per prescribed regulations on 26-9-2000 at 10.00 AM.
13. Date and time of lottery	01-10-2000 at 1.30 PM.

Group List

Group No	Name of work and location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit	Eligibility of contractors
1 (one)	Work of widening of road by flexible pavement on the 25 th (Ch from 500 to 1000m western side) KM of Banani-Tongi-Joydevpur Road under Gazipur Road Division during 2000-2001 fiscal year.	Tk 29,91,393	Tk 59,828/-	35 (thirty-five) days	'A' to 'C' general categories of contractors.
2 (two)	-do- -do- on 33 rd (Ch 00 to 1000m eastern side) KM -do- -do- work.	Tk 38,39,182/-	Tk 76,784/-	40 (forty) days	-do-
3 (three)	-do- -do- on 33 rd (Ch 00 to 1000m western side) KM -do- -do- work.	Tk 38,70,545/-	Tk 77,411/-	40 (forty) days	-do-
4 (four)	-do- -do- on 34 th (Ch 00 to 500m eastern side) KM -do- -do- work.	Tk 19,19,505/-	Tk 38,390/-	30 (thirty) days	'A' to 'D' general categories of contractors.
5 (five)	-do- -do- on 34 th (Ch 00 to 500m western side) KM -do- -do- work.	Tk 19,19,505/-	Tk 38,390/-	30 (thirty) days	-do-
6 (six)	-do- -do- on 34 th (Ch 500 to 950m both side) KM -do- -do- work.	Tk 62,17,960/-	Tk 1,24,359/-	45 (forty-five) days	'A' to 'B' general categories of contractors.
7 (seven)	-do- -do- on 29 th (Ch 00 to 340m) and 34 th (Ch 465m to 40m) KM-- reconstruction work of road by flexible pavement after breaking the middle rigid pavement.	Tk 83,08,182/-	Tk 1,63,164/-	60 (sixty) days	-do-

Mohammed Bayazid
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Gazipur Road Division, Gazipur.