

# BRAC to import hybrid paddy seeds this month

BRAC becomes the first NGO to import hybrid paddy seeds in the country.

Anumul Alam, Deputy Executive Director of the country's leading non-government organisation, told The Daily Star that BRAC would import hybrid paddy seed 'GB4' from China this month.

Thus would be the fifth hybrid rice variety being imported in the country. Earlier on September 9, 1998, the government gave permission to four private companies, for the first time, to import hybrid paddy seeds.

"Government permitted us to bring in seeds of rice hybrid from abroad but we have to grow the seeds locally by 2001 for sale in the domestic market," explained Alam.

The government allowed the private companies to import seeds on condition that the importers have to produce those locally by 2001.

The importers of hybrid paddy seeds are Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Ltd., Gauges Development Corporation, McDonald Bangladesh Private Ltd., and Mallika Seed Company. They imported Alok 6201, Amar Sri 1, Loknath

503 and 'CNSG 6' hybrid varieties respectively. First three varieties are from India while the last one is from China.

BRAC has signed an agreement with Hitech Seed of Sichuan, China, for importing one metric tons of foundation seeds of GB4 hybrid paddy.

"Five Chinese expert are also coming to Dhaka next month to impart training on hybrid seed production. We'll have our field trials at Bhaluka, Mymensingh," said Alam.

Since 1998, BRAC has been marketing hybrid paddy seeds 'Alok' imported by ACI.

When contacted, FH Ansary, Executive Director of the agro-business wing of the ACI, told this correspondent that BRAC would continue to market a substantial volume of ACI's hybrid paddy seeds in the domestic market.

BRAC said it marketed 204 MT of hybrid rice seeds in 1998 and 477 MT in 1999.

Besides, BRAC also produced 1340 MT of rice seeds of high yielding varieties (HYV) in 1999-2000. It has set a production target of 3000 MT of HYV rice seed for 2000-2001.

BRAC is using HYV varieties released by the Bangladesh

Rice Research Institute (BRRI) in producing the paddy seeds.

Alam said BRAC has signed memorandum of understandings (MOUs) with different public sector research institutions, including BRRI, BARI and BINA, for cooperation in seed development, technology transfer and agricultural extension.

Though BRAC has been in seed business for over three years now, it came under criticism for crop failures in different parts of the country, allegedly because of low-quality seeds.

Alam defended his organisation, saying that "Seed is a factor in crop production. But success in production depends on many other factors like soil moisture, land fertility, proper timing and application of fertiliser."

He, however, said that BRAC paid Tk. 20 lakh to the affected farmers last year as compensation for crop failures in onion.

"We got that consignment of onion seeds from ACI," Alam added.

Last year, BRAC sold vegetable seeds worth Tk nine crore. In addition, BRAC deals in wheat and maize seeds.



Housing Public Works Department organised a *Habitat Fair* at the Ramna Park premises yesterday ahead of World Habitat Day today. Picture shows a visitor at a stall taking a closer look at a building model. — Star photo



## Bangla Academy

Dhaka-1000

### Employment Notice

Applications are invited from the interested candidates for appointment to the post of a Project Director on purely temporary basis in the project for publishing book on Liberation War of Bangladesh: Documents & History.

Serial No	Name of post	Pay-scale	Number of post	Eligibility to fill up the post
1	Project Director	9500/- 12100/- 13750/- gross monthly	1	a) Masters Degree with honours in Literature/History/Sociology/Political Science. b) At least second class/division in all higher examinations starting from Secondary School Certificate examination or its equivalent. c) At least fifteen years experience in research or experience as a university teacher. d) Administrative experience. e) PhD degree/higher training in the concerned field will be given preference. f) Should have remarkable research book/essay (Research book/essay on the topic of Liberation War of Bangladesh). g) Age 45 years or above. h) Age and educational qualification are relaxable for specially eligible and experienced candidate.

- Will have to apply in prescribed form of Bangla Academy. This form will have to be purchased on payment of non-refundable Taka 100.00 (one hundred) in cash from Bangla Academy.
- Applications will have to be deposited in the office of the undersigned by 22/10/2000 during office hours.
- Certificates of all examinations passed, testimonial, one copy of character certificate from a first class gazetted officer, citizenship certificate from chairman of union council/pourashava/ward commissioner and 3 (three) copies recent passport size photographs attested and sealed by a gazetted officer will have to be submitted with application.
- Candidates in service will have to apply through proper channel. The candidates will have to mention the name of the post legibly on the envelope.
- No daily allowance or conveyance allowance will be given to candidate for appearing at written test/viva voce test. The Bangla Academy authority reserves the power to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.
- Applications with error/incomplete applications will be regarded as rejected.

DFP-23323-26/9  
G-1711

**Director**  
Establishment, Planning & Training Division  
Bangla Academy, Dhaka

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food  
Strengthening of Early Warning and Food Information System Project  
22, Topkhana Road  
Dhaka-1000

No. MOF/EW/Ad-1(1) Employment/98/200

Dated: 24/09/2000

### Advertisement

Applications are invited from qualified Bangladeshi candidates for the following temporary post of the project entitled "Strengthening of Early Warning and Food Information System."

Post & Pay	Required Educational Qualification & Experience	Age Limit
Accountant-1 (One) Salary: 5300/- (Consolidated)	Master degree in Accounting. Experience desirable.	30 years

Requirements for the post are provided below:

- The post are purely temporary and meant for the project period only.
- Candidates in service will have to apply through proper channel. Age limit is relaxable for departmental candidates and the candidates who are in Government service.
- 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photograph and copies of all educational and experience certificates duly attested, character certificate from 1<sup>st</sup> class gazetted officer and Nationality certificate from the local City Corporation/Pourashava/JP Chairman/Commissioner should be enclosed with the application.
- Application in plain paper stating name, father's or husband's name, present & permanent address, home district, educational qualification, experience, training, age (as on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2000) and nationality etc. address to the Project Director, Strengthening of Early Warning and Food Information System Project, 22, Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000. Application should be reached on or before 15/10/2000. No application by hand or post will be accepted/received after the stipulated time.

DFP-23343-26/9  
G-1707

Project Director

## Metropolitan

### Independence Memorial Museum to be set up in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 1: The newly floated *Sudhinaota Smriti Trust* (SST) will set up an Independence Memorial Museum in the port city of Chittagong where from the proclamation of independence was first read out in 1971, reports BSS.

According to a project concept paper prepared by the trust the museum will be enriched with all documents, facts and history of the country's War of Liberation.

As part of the project, the trust will also carry out a thorough research to evaluate the contributions of freedom fighters so the next generation could learn about the genocide and brutality perpetrated by the Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War.

The trust, a conglomerate of freedom fighters and people of different professions belonging to the pro-liberation camp, will make a complete list of the war criminals, unearth the clandestine misdeeds of their aides and forge a movement for their trial.

Member secretary of the trust Nasir Uddin Chowdhury.

Int'l Day of Older Persons observed

By Staff Correspondent

As the mortality rate of the country is decreasing, the government is under pressure to launch projects for the elderly people, speakers said yesterday at a programme marking the International Day of Older Persons.

Department of Social Services held a programme at the Social Welfare Building premises in the city's Agargaon area yesterday in observance of the day. Minister for Food Amir Hossain was the chief guest and State Minister of Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain was the special guest at the programme.

"Today is the UN declared International Day of Older Persons. Our slogan for the day is to build a society for all ages. Our government has already initiated schemes for establishing six 'Shantinivas,' (homes for the elderly people) at six divisional cities of the country," Minister of Food said in his speech.

Earlier a colourful procession was brought out from the IDB Bhaban in the city's Agargaon area at 10am which paraded different city streets. A good number of elderly people, both men and women, participated in the day's programmes.

The next meeting will be held on October 9 at Sonargaon Hotel as usual, the release added.

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hury said.

It will also conduct extensive survey on identification and digging out the killing spots, mass-graves and front-line fields, he said adding that memorial plaques will be erected on those places.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been proposed to be the chief patron of the trust which comprises 25 members with Prof. Anupom Sen as its Chairman.

The other patrons of the trust are valiant freedom fighters commander of sector-1 during Liberation War Major (Rtd) Rafiqul Islam (Bir Uttam), Labour and Employment Minister M.A. Mannan, Civil Aviation and Housing Minister Engineer Moshtarak Hossain and Chittagong City Mayor A.B.M. Moizuddin Chowdhury.

Informatics offers BSc course thru' PurpleTrain.com

Informatics Institute Bangladesh will launch its Bachelors of Science program soon through Purple Train.com, a web portal that provides e-education, says a press release.

Informatics is affiliated with University of Portsmouth for its Bachelors program. It is a 1-year course which has to be completed subsequently after the diploma and advanced diploma courses. The Bachelors program is conducted through cyber campus.

Currently there are about 23,000 users enrolled for various courses through Purple Train.com. By combining innovative technology with world-class training content, Purple Train.com offers individuals and companies a high value, quality and effective online education and training solution.

**Rotary News**

**Weekly meeting cancelled**  
The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North will not be held today due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

The next meeting will be held on October 9 at Sonargaon Hotel as usual, the release added.

**Tuition**  
Mahbub, Computer Engineering Boardson (No-torcedamian) II-O/A, VI-XII (Gulshan, Banani) E-mail: [cmahbub@rajbabu.edu](mailto:cmahbub@rajbabu.edu) > 7118816 C-1010

Phone: 8110114, 9120553

### Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

(পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যায় হউন)

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> class mechanical & electrical contractors for the undermentioned works.

Name of work

Amount of estimated cost

Date & time of receiving tender

Tk 1,82,206/-  
16.10.2000  
upto 12-00 Noon

Tk 1,50,020/-  
-Do-

Tenders will be opened on the same day of receiving tender of 2-00 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.

Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka & all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed descriptions will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address:

Mirpur, Dhaka

WASA-PI-301/2000

DFP-23046-21/9

G-1708

Woman strangled to death by husband in Lalbagh

By Staff Correspondent

A young woman was strangled to death, allegedly by her husband, at their shanty in the Islambagh slum in city's Lalbagh area yesterday.

Police recovered the body of the 22-year old woman at around 9 am, after being informed about her death by neighbours.

"Kamala, the young woman, locked into an altercation with her husband Khokon on Saturday night and at one stage of the quarrel, was strangled to death by him," neighbours said.

They found her body in the morning and informed Lalbagh police.

Ismail, Kamala's brother, told the police that she hailed from Charshampur of Mitali in Barisal but that he was not aware that she had got married.

Neighbours told the police that the Khokon and Kamala had introduced themselves as a couple when they moved into the slum.

A case has been lodged with Lalbagh police.

3 killed in bus, truck collision on Dhaka-Sylhet highway

NARSINGDI, Oct 1: Three persons were killed and 30 injured when a Dhaka-bound bus collided head-on with a truck at Shubpur on Dhaka-Sylhet highway today, reports UNB.

Police said the accident took place at about 1 pm at Kundrapara in Shubpur upazila, some 13 km off the district town. All three victims, who could not be identified yet, died on the spot.

Thirteen of the injured persons were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Eleven of them were identified as Noorjan, 30, Faruque, 28, Nirmala, 60, Tanjila, 2, Rafeza, 40, Mofazzal, 28, Shahjahan, 25, Ali, 28, Asadullah, 26, Jasim, 32, and Rashedul, 22.

"Condition of five of those sent to DMCH is critical," one of the attending physicians here told UNB.

The rest were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital. The bodies were also sent to the same hospital for autopsy.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers managed to escape. A case was filed with Shubpur police.

**Flat Sale**  
A Luxurious flat of 1923 Sft. at Regent Villa, Flat # C-2, House # 74, Rd. # 18, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka is on sale. Genuine buyers to contact

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