

## News

Henceforth our regular items 'What's on Today, Tomorrow', 'Weather', 'Here & There' will be published on Page 8.



### Qulkhwani of Gen Chisti today

The qulkhwani of Major General Nazirul Aziz Chisti will be held today at 4 pm at his house No-30, Road No-16, Block-B, Banani residence, says a press release.

Gen Chisti died of heart ailments on Monday at CMH. He was 67.

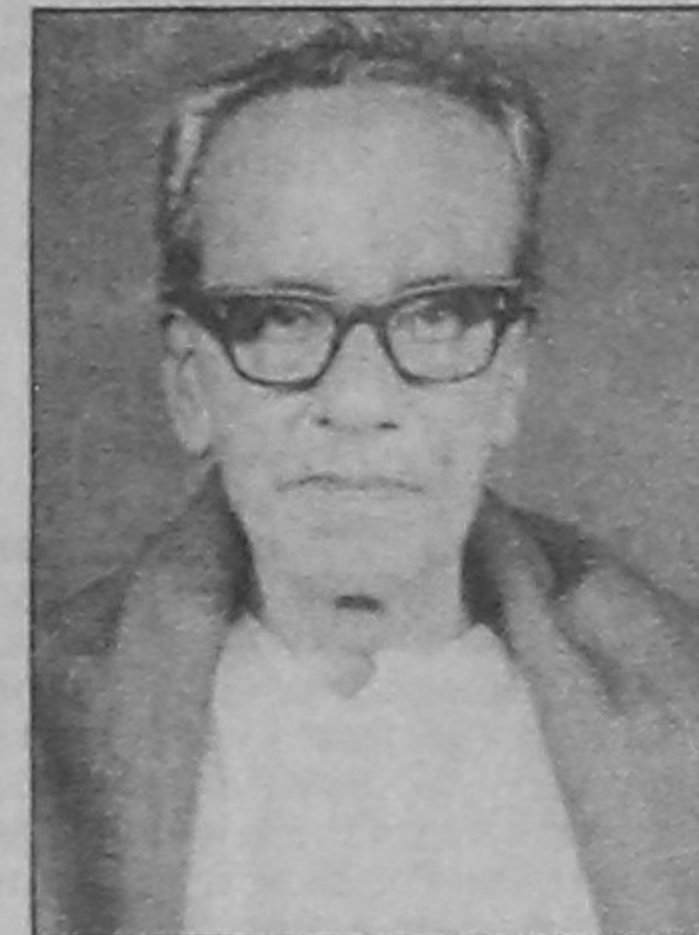
He was buried at the Banani Military Graveyard. His namaz-e-janaza was attended, among others, by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muzaffar Rahman, ministers, high civil and military officials.



### Death anniversary of Justice Ibrahim today

The 34th death anniversary of Justice Ibrahim will be observed today with due solemnity, says a press release.

In observance of the day, wreaths will be placed at the graveyard of the late justice. Milad mahfil will also be held and food will be distributed among the destitutes.



### Death anniversary of Mukundalal Sarkar today

The 21st death anniversary of Mukundalal Sarkar, a revolutionary and veteran of the anti-British movement, will be observed today, reports BSS.

Sarkar was born in 1909 at Dhamarayer Bari village under Gopalganj district.

During his long political career, he helped create a strong resistance against British Imperialism and actively took part in the peasant movement against the then Zamindari system.

Special prayers will be held at 5 pm today at 170, Free School Street residence of his second son, Manindranath Sarkar, columnist and an executive of the Rangs Group. Similar programmes will be held at his village Dhamarayer Bari and Muksedpur in Gopalganj district.



The third death anniversary of M Abdur Rahim, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries, will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held after Magrib prayers at his 41/1 Dillu Road, New Eskaton residence to mark the day.

## Hyundai Cement signs 2 deals to increase production

Star Business Report

Hyundai Cement yesterday signed two deals with a view to adding a new plant with a production capacity of two lakh tonnes per year to its existing capacity for four lakh.

The new project will be partly financed by Industrial Promotion and Development Company (IPDC) in exchange for preference shares in Hyundai Cement (Bangladesh) Company Ltd, and the new unit will be built by Hyundai Engineering and Construction Company Limited of Korea.

A signing ceremony was held at the ballroom of the Hotel Sonargaon yesterday to formalise the agreements.

In the two part signing ceremony, an agreement was signed by Ramit Budhraj, the Chief Executive Officer of Hyundai Cement, C M Alam, Managing Director of IPDC for financing of the 3rd unit of Hyundai cement plant. A second agreement was signed by Ramit Budhraj and K W Cho, General Manager, Hyundai Engineering and Construction Company Limited for construction of the new production unit.

Ambassador of Switzerland Walter Gyger, Charge d'Affaires Giambattista Mondada and the Consul of the Korean Embassy HS Lee were present at the ceremony.

Cement consumption in the country has been growing continually over the last few years. The demand of cement is expected to reach to 4.5 million tonnes in the current year.

### Block 9

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nite period.

Sources said that the disagreement over equity sharing was an issue of a joint venture agreement involving these three companies and it was not directly an issue of the PSC which basically outlines how gas would be shared by the government and the oil companies.

Tullow was originally selected as the best bidder for blocks 9 and 11 back in October 97 on the basis of its exploration programme that seeks to drill 10 exploratory wells in each of these blocks in the first three years. However, local experts and foreign oil companies termed Tullow's work programme as impossible.

However, due to growing criticism questioning Tullow's financial abilities, the government invited Chevron and Texaco to strike a partnership in the block.

## PM opens bridges

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development drive through inauguration of the new bridges, Hasina told the function.

She said her government, since assumption of office, has been putting importance on development of communications infrastructure.

The Department of Roads and Highways has so far completed construction of 2532-km metalled roads and 1419-km brick-soling roads. The bridges of combined length of 20,946 meters have been constructed on different roads.

Besides, 8,450-km metalled roads, 10,846-km rural roads and 3094 bridges and culverts have been constructed by the LGED.

The Prime Minister explained her government's transportation infrastructure development plans under which roads and bridges are being built to link with the planned Asian Highway.

As part of this plan the Prime Minister recently laid the foundation plaque of 'Syed Nazrul Islam Bridge' at Bhalrab and the 'Paksey Bridge' on the Padma.

She said the foundation of

## Kulsoom under house arrest

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spokesman for Mrs Sharif.

From his jail cell in the 16th Century Attock Fort, Sharif referred to himself as a 'hostage'.

'This day, one year ago the constitution of Pakistan was violated in the dark of night under the shadow of guns,' Sharif wrote in a statement published in the English-language daily newspaper The News.

'Democracy was uprooted and in its place tyranny and rank cruelty were planted,' Sharif said. 'The people's elected prime minister was made a hostage and consigned to an isolated cold dungeon.'

In eastern Punjab province police and troops swept through Multan and Bahawalpur areas throughout the night arresting about 65 workers of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League.

Police officials in eastern Multan said that most of the men who were arrested were members of the youth wing of Sharif's party and would be released either Friday or Saturday.

They said the arrests were to prevent protests.

Last March the military government banned public protests and political meetings saying it would destabilise the country and hamper army attempts to reform the economy, electoral process and clean up the endemic corruption.

But human rights groups in Pakistan and abroad have been



Chief Executive Officer of Hyundai Cement (BD) Co Ltd Ramit Budhraj (3rd from L) shaking hands with General Manager of Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd K W Cho (2nd from R) after signing an agreement at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. Also seen in the picture are (From L) Financial Consultant of Holder Bank Peter Thomas, Managing Director of IPDC C M Alam and K J Yoo (Extreme R) of Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd.

## Rao jailed for 3 years

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ment' for the three counts against them, and an additional three years under the Prevention of Corruption Act, ordering them to be served concurrently. He also imposed fines of 100,000 rupees (dhs 2,175), in lieu of an additional six months.

They were released on 200,000 rupees (dhs 4,350) bail until November 8, giving them a chance to appeal.

The judge also ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation, the equivalent of the FBI in the United States, to file bribe-taking charges against the four lawmakers who received the 16.8 million rupees (dhs 365,000) in bribe money. One of them had helped the prosecution and was the main witness in the case.

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled that the four had parliamentary immunity from prosecution. But Bharihoke said the men's bribe taking occurred outside Parliament.

Rao came out of the courtroom surrounded by lawyers and armed commandos who protect him because of his former high office. A special guest house in South Delhi was being prepared for his imprisonment, the Press Trust of India reported, because it is believed he would be in danger if he was sent to a regular prison.

The 'rigorous imprisonment' that the judge imposed usually means fewer privileges and a substandard class of prison.

Rao was born into a poor farmer's family and is an accomplished linguist and fiction writer

in three languages. His ascension to high office was as surprising in political circles as his conviction. He entered Parliament in 1977, and served as Indira Gandhi's foreign minister and home minister in the 1980s.

He didn't even run for Parliament in 1991, but was put forward by the dominant Congress party after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. He was the first prime minister from India's south and the first one, other than a member of the Nehru-Gandhi clan, to complete a full five-year term.

His tenure as prime minister was marked by growing prosperity and the historic opening of India's Soviet-style economy. His latter years, however, were marred by scandal. Since leaving office he was also prosecuted, but acquitted, in a forgery case. The state is appealing the acquittal.

Known as 'the silent sage' for his noncommittal style, Rao once told his detractors, 'Not to take a decision is also a decision.'

Rao's attorney, RK Anand, had argued that the state did not prove the former prime minister himself had paid the bribe. The lawyer for Singh, the former home minister, told the judge it was a case of extortion, and the governing party had no choice but to pay the money.

'This kind of corruption is a plague which is contagious,' prosecutor RN Tiwari said Wednesday in the sentencing hearing. 'Corruption is opposed to democracy, affects the economy and destroys the cultural heritage.'

## Hasina-Clinton talks

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ion, saying it would depend on the 'kind of discussion' and 'Washington's queries' about the gas issue.

Dr. Samad brushed aside speculations that Bangladesh is under pressure from US to agree to gas export. 'There is no such pressure,' he said and blamed the press for 'highly imaginative' reports on US principal assistant secretary for international affairs of the US Department of Energy Calvin Humphrey's repeat visit to Dhaka.

He linked Humphrey's unscheduled trip within 72 hours of his five-day visit to Dhaka to 'some payment problems by Petrobranga to US oil companies.'

Added Shaif Sami: 'We don't feel that the Bangladesh-US relations and interactions are guided under pressure. We may have different perceptions on different issues, which could be resolved through discussions.'

'We've a long agenda on issues of national priority,' the foreign secretary said about Hasina's 45-minute discussion with Clinton to be held at the US president's Oval Office in the White House. 'But investment is one of our top priorities.'

He said the prime minister would raise the demands for duty- and quota-free access of Bangladesh's readymade garments to US market, extradition of the convicted killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

sharply critical of the military's approach calling it heavy handed. In a report released this week, the New York-based Human Rights Watch accused the military of widespread human rights abuses.

Much of the criticism was reserved for the military's arrest of former politicians and officials without laying charges.

Sharif and several of his closest colleagues have been in jail since the coup.

### Mourning Day at DU on Oct 15

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University will observe Mourning Day on October 15 in commemoration of students, employees and guests killed in a tragic accident at the Jagannath Hall in 1985.

Programme lined up to mark the day include hoisting of black flag and the university flag at half mast in the main buildings and all halls of the university and mourning procession by students, teachers, officials and employees at 6:30 am. The procession will be brought from the Aparaajoy Bangla and will end at the monument on the campus where wreaths will be placed and a one minute silence will be observed. Special prayers will be held by Hindu, Buddhist and Christian students at Jagannath Hall.

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partners of Bangladesh and ERD Secretary Dr Mashur Rahman. UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Jorgen Lissner, who attended the briefing, announced 100,000 dollars in humanitarian aid for the flood victims. 'The money would be in grant for emergency aid for the flood victims,' he said.

Lissner, Zhao and ADB Resident Representative in Dhaka Phiphi Suphaphiphat denied press reports that development partners of Bangladesh were dissatisfied at the government failure to present a need assessment for post-flood rehabilitation programme at a meeting with them on Wednesday.

The meeting took place between the government and the representatives of World Bank, ADB, UNDP and some other UN agencies.

The ERD Secretary also denied that the development partners expressed dissatisfaction.

He had asked for the maximum sentence saying 'the most rigorous punishment which is applicable for these crimes' should be given as a deterrent. 'The high office they have held should not come in the way of getting a fitting punishment.'

The case involved payments to four lawmakers of the regional Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party in return for their support of the ruling Congress party in the vote of confidence on July 28, 1993.

Rao, whose government had 251 seats in the 528-member lower house, won by a margin of 14 votes.

Arguing that it was good for India in the long run for Rao to have remained in power, Anand said, 'You have to see how the economy of the country has benefited and see also the decline from '96 to today.'

Buta Singh's attorney, Rajindra Singh said, 'It's not a case of paying bribe. It's a case of extortion at the point of a gun. To prevent yet another election, they (the government) had to make a decision.'

'Political blackmail happens all the time,' he said, comparing the cash payment to reports that current Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee is about to roll back oil price increases to keep a member of his coalition from withdrawing his support from the government.

'What choice did Rao have?' Rajindra Singh said. 'It was under these dire circumstances of an atrocious nature that the money was given.'

## Pulin Dey cremated

CHITTAGONG, Oct 12: The mortal remains of late Prof Pulin Dey, elderly politician and presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League was cremated at his village home Dhalghat in Patiya upazila here this afternoon with state honour, reports BSS.

Earlier, the body of the late leader covered with national flag was taken to his village home from city residence under police escort this noon.

Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University (CU) Prof Abu Yusuf, leaders of different political parties, political colleagues, admirers, relatives and people of all walks of life attended the nonagenarian bachelor leader's funeral.

The mortal remains of the revolutionary leader was kept for sometime at the courtyard of his native home at Dhalghat where he passed his boyhood and inspired for movement against British colonial rule led by Master Da Surya Sen.

A contingent of district police presented guard of honour and gave salute to the late leader who played an active role in the Liberation War in 1971.

Minister Mosharraf Hossain placed wreaths on behalf of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Cabinet while Minister M A Mannan placed on behalf of Bangladesh Awami League on the coffin of Pulin Dey. Later, as a mark of respect to the memory of late leader wreaths were placed on his coffin by different political, social and cultural organisations including Chittagong University, Ganatantrik Party, Chittagong North district Awami League, Mohila Awami League, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Chhatra League, Paliya Foundation and a local club Udayan Sangha founded by the late leader.

## Dhaka jail

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accommodation capacity of about 2600, officials said adding that congestion in all the jails across the country is increasing every day.

According to the proposal, a four-storey building will be constructed inside the Dhaka Central Jail and also a new visitor's room, the sources said. The new building will have a capacity of accommodate about 1000 prisoners.

Asked whether this increase would bring about any significant difference, officials answered in the positive. They said they were also planning certain other measures for reducing congestion in jails. However, they would not disclose the measures immediately.

At least 1000 visitors swarm the visitor's room every day, the sources said adding that it gets over crowded and creates inconvenience since it can accommodate six people at a time.

Congestion not only poses security threat in the jails, but also causes health hazard to its inmates, the sources said.

Asked if they were considering to increase capacity of other jails, a meeting source avoided a direct reply saying, 'Let us first start with this one.'

## No market for gas

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as vast offshore, and central and western part of Bangladesh. Therefore, future exploration activities will require necessary incentives to encourage IOC activities, added Budden, President and Managing Director of Unocal Bangladesh Ltd, at an informal meeting with journalists at his office in the city.

The proven and probable recoverable reserves within the discovered fields except the Moulavibazar according to Petrobranga is 16.2 TCF and out of which 92 per cent (14.8 TCF) was discovered by IOCs and 8 per cent (1.4 TCF) by Petrobranga, Bapex and OGDC.

Although the number of fields discovered by IOCs and Petrobranga is close (12 and 10), the IOCs contribute 92 per cent of the country's total gas reserves. This means IOCs took the major risk of drilling in the offshore and other areas where the exploration activities are very difficult due to absence of any infrastructure, he added.

'This also explains why Petrobranga's success ratio is much higher than IOCs as Petrobranga normally did not take the risks like IOCs,' the Unocal president stated.

## IJC

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tive with cheaper and more durable synthetic materials. The 25-member body was formed under an agreement initiated by the UNCTAD in Geneva.

About 10 million people depend on jute industry directly or indirectly, some sources pointed out.

## Bangladesh to get Tk 203cr Danish grant

Bangladesh will receive 282.00 million Danish kroner (equivalent to approximately Tk 203 crore) as grant from Denmark under two separate agreements signed yesterday between the two governments, reports BSS.

## Rift in BNP ranks

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movement strategy and tougher action programmes before the Ramadan.

But Khaleda Zia accepted suggestions of the liberal party leaders and rejected the idea of such a meeting at the moment. She also turned down the idea of tougher programmes before the Ramadan saying that the current movement might be affected if there is no continuation of agitation programmes.

Besides, the hardline BNP leaders' move to form a central committee of JCD comprising 'non-students and armed cadres' also fell flat due to strong opposition from a group of top ranking liberal leaders.

Khaleda Zia, who apparently agreed to approve the JCD central committee headed by Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Shahabuddin Laitu, finally rejected the hardliners' proposal as some influential leaders threatened to resign from the party.

Earlier, the BNP chief had suspended all activities of JCD central committee on July 7 following a gun battle between two factions led by Pintu and Laitu which left one person killed on the Dhaka University campus on July 2.

Sources said BNP hardliners and their allies in the three other parties have suggested Khaleda to announce a series of action programmes including Dhaka siege on November 7 from the joint public meeting at Dinalpur tomorrow.

But the liberal leaders argued

that it would not be wise to start a 'wildcat movement' and a major programme just a few days before the Ramadan.

They reminded Khaleda Zia of the first summit meeting of chiefs of the four parties on November 30 last year and told her it had failed to create much impact because it took place on the eve of the Ramadan.

'The liberal leaders have suggested continuing the party's on going mass contact up to the Eid and then intensifying the current movement by taking up a series of action programmes. The BNP chief has asked the hardline leaders to prepare for a militant movement after the Eid,' one source said.

## Nov 7 rally

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demonstrations across the country on October 24 to protest the government atrocities on opposition activists.

The programmes are likely to be announced from a joint public meeting of the four parties at Dinalpur tomorrow. BNP Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat Ameer Golam Azam and IJC chief Azizul Haq will address the meeting.

Meanwhile, BNP sources said the party is planning a three-day road march from Dhaka to Sylhet on October 25-27. The other parties have no such plan.

## Jail killing

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Ahmed Sharful Hossain, Lt Col (Retired) Abdul Aziz Pasha, Col (Retired) Abdul Majed, Capt (Retired) Mohammad Kismat Hasem, Capt (Retired) Nazmul Hossain, Dafadar (Dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah, and Dafadar (Dismissed) Mohammad Abul Hasem.

Four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, A H M Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali were brutally killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Then DIG (Prison) Abdul Awal filed the Jail Killing Case November 4, 1975 under Section 302/34 of the Penal Code.

The case was transferred to CID on September 10, 1996.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a charge sheet against 23 accused including former president Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed and former secretary Mahbubul Alam Chashi after two years of investigation.

Mushtaque and Chashi were exempted from the trial because they died earlier.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam, Special PP Anisul Haq appeared for the state while Advocates Hazi Nazmul Islam, Abdul Majid Munshi Sanaulah Miah and Anwar Zahid Bhuiyan for the accused.

## Israel

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'This is a crime. Let the world see what Israel does to us,' said Aheed Zeidan, a Palestinian ambulance driver.

As part of its wide-ranging response, Israel clamped an internal closure on the West Bank, meaning Palestinians could not leave their communities. The army said it was amassing large forces near Ramallah, and tanks were stationed outside the city.

The crisis erupted this morning when the Israeli soldiers inadvertently made a wrong turn and ended up near the center of Ramallah, a scene of daily battles between Israeli troops and Palestinian rioters.

The soldiers were detained by Palestinian police and immediately rushed to a nearby police station. Rumours quickly spread that the Israelis belonged to an undercover army unit that tracks Palestinian fugitives, a claim the army has denied. More than 1,000 Palestinians surged toward the police station, some chanting 'Death to the death squads,' witnesses said.

Palestinian forces tried to keep the mob at bay, but about 10 men broke through a second-floor window where the Israelis were held. TV footage showed the attackers emerging from the station with blood-covered hands.

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## Nobel

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Prize winner will be named Friday in Oslo, Norway.

'It was nice to be able to surprise everybody,' Horace Engdahl, the head of the academy, said, denying any geographical or political consideration in making the choice.

'Gao Xingjian is a great writer, a renewer of both prose and drama... he is a writer who has universal knowledge to offer readers all over the world,' Engdahl said.

Guenter Grass won last year's prize as one of the most prominent authors to emerge from a group of young intellectuals who set out to revive German literature after the Nazi era.

The Nobel Prizes are funded by a trust set up in the will of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. Nobel said the literature prize should recognise an author whose work moves in an 'ideal direction' without specifying exactly what he meant. Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf will present the prizes as always on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.



## Tender Notice

Name of supply: Grounding rod supply. Eligibility of contractors: Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers with requisite eligibility. Cost of tender: Taka 100/- (non-refundable). It will have to be deposited in the form of Pay Order in favour of Deputy-Director (Accounts), RAO/CES, PDB, Chittagong. Place of availability of tender with date: Tender can be purchased from the office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, PDB, Chittagong/Superintending Engineer, Ctg Metro (East), PDB, Chittagong/ Agrani Bank, Reazuddin Bazar Branch, Chittagong till 25/10/2000. Date of receiving and opening tender: Sale & Distribution Division, Pathar-ghata, Station Road, PDB, Chittagong on 26/10/2000 at 12-00 Noon and tenders will be opened the same day at 12-30 PM before the tenderers presence (if anyone remains present). Other terms and conditions as mentioned in the schedule and all rules and regulations must be followed properly. Estimated expenditure: 74,800/- taka only.

### Executive Engineer

Sale & Distribution Division, Pathar-ghata PDB, Chittagong.

Biddyt/ Jano-650(3)/2000-2001 DFP-24270-9/10 G-1782



## Tender Notice

Name of work: Solution to the problem of voltage drop at Kundagram Bazar and repairing work of 11 KVA & 04 KV Line and Maintenance Work under Dupchachia electric supply. Eligibility of contractor: All classes of contractors of PDB. Cost of tender: 200/- (two hundred) taka (non-refundable). It will have to be deposited in the form of BD in favour of Deputy Director (Accounts), RAO, PDB, Bogra. Place of availability of tender with date: With the written permission from Additional Chief Engineer, Distribution Zone, Northern Zone, PDB, Rajshahi/Office of the Superintending Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle, PDB, Bogra/ Executive Engineer, Distribution Division, PDB, Bogra. Tender can be purchased from Pubali Bank Ltd., Satmatha (New Market) Branch, Bogra till 22.10.2000. Date of receiving and opening tender: In the offices mentioned (except bank), in the office of the undersigned till 23.10.2000 at 12-00 Noon and tenders will be opened the same day at 12-30 PM in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present). Estimated expenditure: Taka 1,91,706/60 only. Other terms and conditions as mentioned in the schedule and all rules and regulations must be followed properly.