

Colossal crop loss due to storm in 3 dists

By Staff Correspondent

The storm that swept over Jhenidah, Madaripur and Jessore districts like other places in the country on October 28 flattened crops and vegetables, much to the frustration of farmers.

The storm came as a blow to people as they were trying to recoup their losses caused by the devastating floods that hit the southwestern region.

Our Jhenidah correspondent says: Three main crops in the district of the current season have been damaged by the storm, causing about Tk 32.13 crore loss, official sources said.

The storm damaged Aman paddy valued at Taka about four crore on 400 hectares of land, banana on 300 hectares worth Taka 3.75 crore and vegetables worth Taka 1.95 crore on 200 hectares of land in Sadar upazila. Tk 4.57 crore Aman paddy on 500 hectares of land, Tk 5.10 crore banana on 400 hectares and vegetables worth Tk 2.10 crore on 200 hectares of land in Shalakkupa, Aman paddy worth Taka 1.80 crore on 200 hectares, banana valued at Taka 2.75 crore on 200 hectares and Tk 41 lakh vegetables on 150 hectares in Hartinakunda, and Tk one crore Aman paddy on 250 hectares, banana worth Taka 2.75 crore on 250 hectares and Tk two crore vegetables on 200 hectares in Kalganj.

Farmers in Moheshpur and Kotchandpur upazilas were yet to start cultivating crops. All most entire crops in the two upazilas were damaged by flood earlier.

When asked, officials of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said they were yet to receive the exact statistics of the loss.

Abdus Sattar, a farmer of village Hazampara under Shalakkupa upazila, said he cultivated banana on three bighas of land this season, but eighty per cent of the crop were damaged by the storm.

Jhenidah is widely known as banana and vegetables producing area in the country. At least 40 per cent of the total production of the district are sent to Dhaka.



A recent cyclonic storm has damaged crops on a vast tract of land in Jhenidah district. Photo shows a farmer at village Hazampara under Saikkupa upazila observing his banana plants which were badly affected by the storm. —Star photo

Barisal, Faridpur, Khulna and other places of the country.

UNB from Madaripur says: Crops on 50,000 hectares of land were damaged in four upazilas of the district in the storm.

At least 12 people were injured in house-collapse in Kalkini upazila. The injured were treated at local health center.

Over 1,000 semi-pucca houses in Rajoir, Kalkini, Shibchar and Madaripur upazilas of the district were damaged in the storm.

Aman paddy and vegetables on vast tracts of land have been damaged by the storm and rainwater.

Another report from Jessore says: Various crops, including vegetables, worth over Tk 205.35 crore were damaged by flooding, storms and torrential rains, affecting about 1.5 lakh farmers of the district.

Officials said some 1.5 lakh

mts of winter vegetables were supplied to various parts of the country from the district last year alone. But this year the chances have been diminished by the natural calamities.

Gushing waters from rivers Ichhamati, Bedona and Kodla in India, rainwater and storms caused extensive damage to crops on 90,922 hectares of land in the district.

Transplanted aman on 45,590 hectares of land, aman seedlings on 2,675 hectares and vegetables on 5,000 hectares were damaged in natural calamities this season.

Meanwhile, local Agriculture Extension Department has allocated over Tk 2.25 for agriculture rehabilitation programme beginning this month.

Another report from Manikganj adds: Two pontoons displaced during the last week's cyclone are yet to be salvaged causing prob-

lems to the passengers.

Launch owners said they have informed the matter to BIWTA to reset those but no measure has yet been taken.

When contacted, a BIWTA official said they lack ship and fuel to conduct the salvage operation of the pontoons.

As a result, hundreds of the travelers are getting onto the launches risking their lives.

BSS from Narsingdi adds: The storm damaged huge crops including Aman paddy, banana, papaya and vegetables.

The local agriculture office estimated that Aman in 896 hectares, banana in 867 hectares, papaya in 179 hectares and other crops in 325 hectares were damaged.

The storm also damaged more than 200 kutcha houses and uprooted a good number of trees in the district.

Tk 24 lakh land dev tax misappropriated

Tahasildar suspended in Natore

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Nov 5: An incident of misappropriation amounting to Taka 24 lakh land development tax at Natore Municipal Land Office has leaked out creating tension in the district administration.

The concerned Tahasildar was suspended on October 23 in this connection.

Tahasildar Golam Maola of Natore Municipal Land Office had allegedly been misappropriating the land development taxes, given by the Roads and Highways Department, the Telephone and Telegraph, the District Sports Association, the Public Works Department and different other government organisations, for last six years.

Generally, these organisations pay off their taxes through crossed cheque. Golam Maola used to use an illegal account in a local branch of Sonali Bank for misappropriating the cheques. About Taka 24 lakh has been misappropriated from the land office so far since 1994, it was learnt.

The amount of misappropriated money may rise to some extent, said a member of the two-member investigation committee, formed to look into the matter.

As the investigation process started, Golam Maola returned about Taka 4 lakh.

Meanwhile, many earlier allegations regarding misappropriation of government revenue against Golam Maola have never been taken into account for reasons unknown to all.

Unabated erosion in Manikganj, Noakhali

Erosion by the rivers Padma, Jamuna, Meghna, Kaliganga, Ichhamati and Dhaleswari has taken an alarming turn in Manikganj and Noakhali districts, reports agencies.

Rivers Padma, Jamuna, Kaliganga, Ichhamati and Dhaleswari running through the district, eroded over 1,500 acres of land rendering some 2,000 families homeless in last one year.

Some 500 educational institutions and worship places, including mosques and temples, and two markets went into the gorges of the rivers during the period.

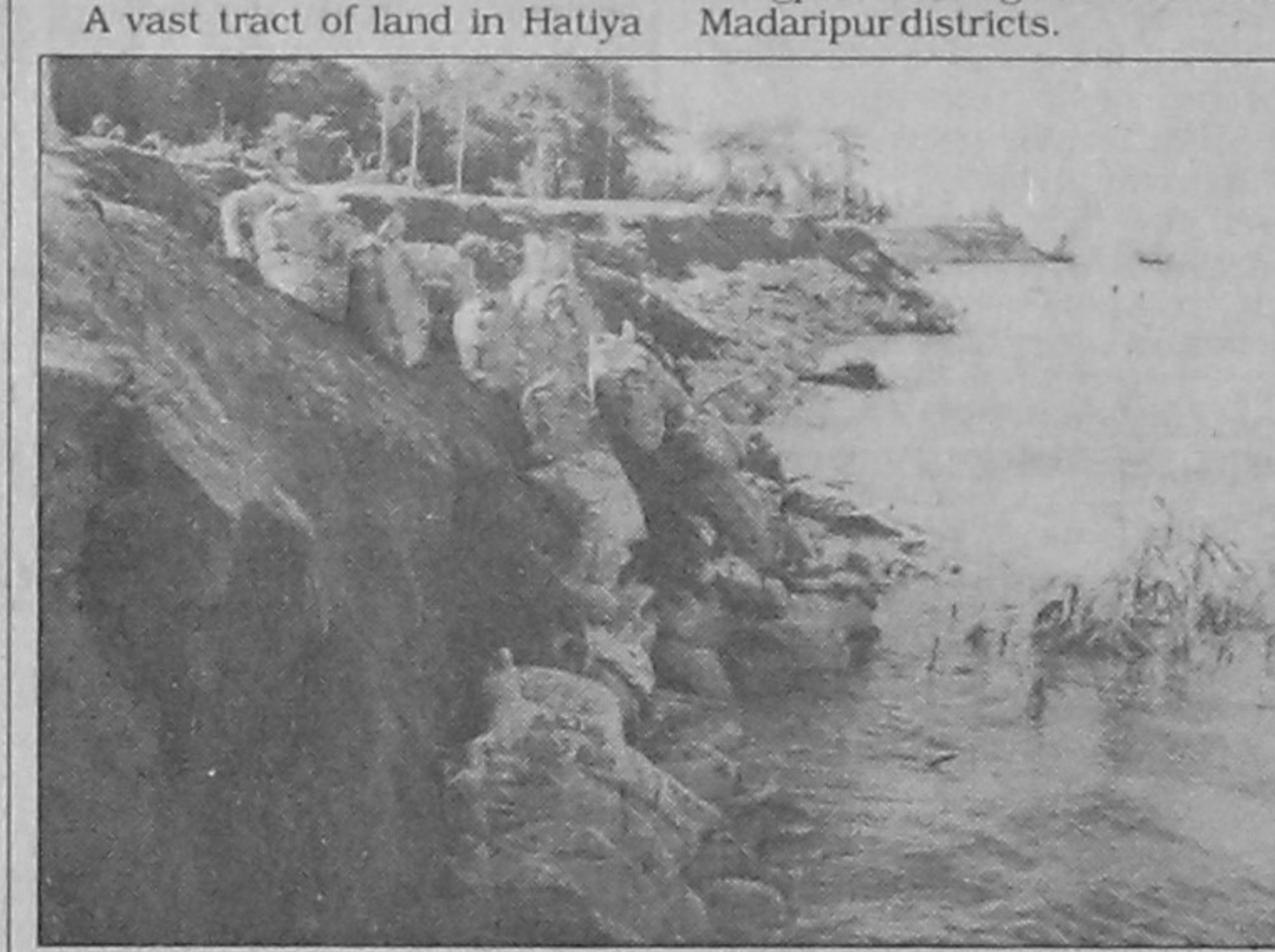
Besides, standing crops on 37,000 acres of land in seven upazilas of the district were washed by floodwaters.

Upazila-wise breakup of the croplands: Sadar-4,346 acres, Satura-1,976, Ghor-4,965, Daulatpur-4,970, Singair-1,408, Harirampur-4,960 and Shibhalaya-5,595 acres.

Officials said some 5,000 homesteads were damaged either by flood or river erosion affecting 7,000 families in the district during the period.

Of the homesteads, 2,800 were damaged in Horirampur upazila, 220 in Ghor, 200 in Daulatpur and 10 Shibhalaya upazilas.

Government distributed some 29 mts of rice and 50 tins of biscuit among the affected people during the period, according to the officials.



Meghna erosion is going on unabated at Haimchar in Chandpur district despite Bangladesh Water Development Board's (BWDB) effort to save the Chandpur Irrigation Project (CIP) by dumping sand bags along the river bank. —Star photo

A threat to bio-diversity

MADARIPUR, Nov 5: Trading of snails is brisk in Sadar and Rajoir upazilas. Its indiscriminate catching is posing a threat to bio-diversity, reports BSS.

Some people of the low-income group are engaged in catching snails in the two upazilas to earn their living. Snails have good demand with the shrimp farmers, who use these as feed for shrimps.

Businessmen from the shrimp farm areas of Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira come to these two upazilas where snails are available in abundance. Due to its high demand, people of all ages are seen searching for snails in local ponds, canals and paddy and other crop fields. People collect snails worth about taka 90 in a nearly five-hour hunt a day.

The quantity of catches goes up during the rainy season when more snails are found, they said.

"I earn enough from snail business to maintain my family easily," said Ayub Ali of Mostafapur village in Sadar upazila.

The representatives from shrimp farms buy snails from the catchers visiting every corner of the remote villages by engine boats. They take the snails by trawlers and trucks to Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts.

Snails, which breed naturally in the country, eat up insects, including leeches, from paddy fields, thus protecting the environment.

News snaps



First installation ceremony of the Sylhet divisional committee of Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association was held recently befittingly in Sylhet. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury was the chief guest on the occasion. —Star photo

Workshop

BOGRA, Nov 5: A two-day national workshop titled Post Cocoon Technology was held here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Over 100 officials and NGO representatives, including APCTT Coordinator Mukul Ahmed from India and Deputy Secretary of Science and Technology Ministry Dr Rafiqul Islam, attended the workshop organised by Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT). Chaired by Prof Hosne Ara Begum, the workshop urged public and private organisations to come up with more effective programmes to revive the lost glory of the country's silk industry.

Housewife killed in road accident

BARGUNA, Nov 5: A housewife was killed in a road accident at Chunarhali in Amtali upazila on Patuakhali-Kuakata road on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Joynab Bibi, 35, of Kukua village died on the spot as she was knocked down by a speeding bus. In another incident, Abdur Rahim of Chola Bangla village in the upazila was beaten to death allegedly by his brother-in-law over a land dispute on the same day. Separate cases were filed.

Bountiful groundnut production

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 5: Some 254 mts of groundnut were produced in eight upazilas of the district this season, returning smile on the faces of beleaguered farmers, reports UNB.

Officials said, groundnuts were cultivated on 37 hectares of land in Pakundia, 18 hectares in Kotiadi, 8 hectares in Bajipur, 20 hectares in Kuliarchar, 32 hectares in Bhairab and 15 hectares in Hossainpur, Karimganj and Sadar upazilas. The bountiful production of groundnut has been attributed to favourable weather and proper use of fertilisers and pesticides.

Cigarettes seized

NARSINGDI, Nov 5: A truck, carrying 740 cartons of Benson and Hedges cigarette worth about Tk 4.5 lakh, was seized from Ghoradia area in the town on Thursday, reports UNB.

Although the truck driver managed to escape, police arrested his helper Abul Kalam. Acting on a tip-off, Kgtwali police chased the Dhaka-bound truck from Chittagong and seized it with the help of local UP chairman Aftabuddin Bhuiyan. A case was filed.

Phensidyl bottles recovered

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 5: Officials of Narcotics Control Department aided by police in separate raids recovered 205 bottles of phensidyl from three houses at Laxaipur in Bhairab during the last one week, reports UNB.

They also recovered two sacks of empty bottle, some label and materials for making phensidyl. Acting on a tip-off, they recovered 95 bottles of phensidyl from the house of Liakot Ali, 50 bottles from Mujibur Rahman's house and 60 bottles from the residence of Nurul Islam Mia. None was, however, arrested during the raid as the drug traders sensing police presence fled away.

Schoolgirl commits suicide

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 5: A schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison over family feud in Adamjinnagar area here Friday morning, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Laily, 13, daughter of Jamal Uddin of the area. After taking poison Laily was rushed to local hospital where she died later. The body of the victim was handed over to her relatives after postmortem. A case was filed with Shiddiganj thana.



President of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries greeting the Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, David Preston during his visit to the Chamber on October 30. Afterwards the High Commissioner held a meeting with the business and industries leaders. —Star photo

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন
প্রধান কার্যালয়
২৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

রব্বিন দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণের জন্য পুনঃ দরপত্র

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশনের ২০০১ইং সনের জন্য ২,২০,০০০টি রব্বিন দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে সুখাত ও সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রথম শ্রেণীর প্রেসমুহ থেকে নির্মিত/নির্মিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে নির্ধারিত সিডিউলে বায় বিশেষতঃ সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অত্রই প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে ৬-১১-২০০০ইং থেকে ৯-১১-২০০০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রধান কার্যালয়ের নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী দপ্তর থেকে প্রতি সেট (অফেত্তযোগ্য) ন্যূন ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্যে কাজের সিডিউল সম্বন্ধে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ১৩-১১-২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১টা পর্যন্ত সকল দরপত্র সংস্থাপন বিভাগে স্বিকৃত টেন্ডার বাস্তব ফেলগত হবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১১-৩০ টায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ থাকেন) খোলা হবে।

(ক) সিডিউল সম্বন্ধকারী প্রেসের মালিক অথবা লিখিত ক্ষমতা প্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি হতে হবে এবং সিডিউল ন্যায়ের জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদন করতে হবে।

(খ) উপরোক্ত সংখ্যক ক্যালেন্ডার নির্ধারিত সময়ে মুদ্রণ করতে সক্ষম, এমন প্রেসের প্রয়োজনীয় মেশিনপত্র এবং জনবল আছে সে সম্বন্ধে নিশ্চিত হওয়ার পর সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তর হতে সিডিউল সরবরাহ করা হবে। এতে কোন ওজর আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

কোন কারণ না দেখিয়েই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ/টেন্ডার কমিটি সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ডিএফপি-২৬৫৯৯-০১/১১
শফিকুল ইসলাম খান
জি-১৯৫৫
সহকারী জেনারেল ম্যানেজার-সংস্থাপন।

Child crushed under bus wheels

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, Nov 5: A four-year-old child was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus on Monday here.

Eye witnessed said Asadulla, son of Rahmat Shiekh of village Kosundi in Sadar upazila met the tragic end of his life on Magura-Kamarkhal road.

A Dhaka-bound passenger bus fell on the boy when it skidded off the road. The boy, who died on the spot, was playing in a roadside place.

Roads on RU campus in bad shape

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Nov 5: The roads of Rajshahi University campus are in pitiable condition, reports BSS.

The road known as Paris Road leading to residential halls for girl students, the road from Binodpur to Meherchandi area, Central Library, University Railway Station road leading to Fine Arts Departments have become unfit to easy movement of pedestrians particularly during the rainy season. Besides, roads along different residential halls for

students (Madar Box Hall, Suhrawardy Hall, Sansuzzoha Hall, Zia Hall and Habibur Rahman Hall) are also in the same condition.

Meanwhile, the roads have no arrow indicating various roads causing inconvenience to the new comers to the campus. Only during holding of admission tests the authorities make temporary arrangement for arrow and head indicator but the authorities concerned do not solve this problem on a permanent basis.

The mayor committed to improve the condition of roads before the advent of rainy season when he met Prof Syeedur Rahman Khan, Vice Chancellor, Rajshahi University in Mareh last.

M Abdur Rahim, Chief Engineer of Rajshahi University said the City Mayor took the responsibility to reform the roads of the campus. If the situation does not improve, the Rajshahi University authorities will start the work soon.

Another earlier report says: A massive development work in infrastructure sector under the fifth five-year (1999-2002) plan are going on in full swing in the Rajshahi University campus. The development work, at a cost of nearly Taka 390 million (39 crore), is continuing on the campus.

Under the development work the construction of 4-storied Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall is being constructed to solve the prevailing accommodation crisis, which is covering on an area of 1,22,770 square feet at a cost of Taka 40 million (4 crore) only.

The construction work of another 4-storied science building at a cost of Taka 20 million and 72 lakh has started some days ago. It covers an area of 60,000 square feet. It is the 4th science building with Central Science Laboratories, Department Laboratories, Science Laboratories and a number of institutes.

The construction of another Dean complex at a cost of Taka 10 million and 80 lakh covers an area of 26,000 square feet with Dean's office, lounge and seminar room.

Moreover, the work for infrastructure development of the Agriculture Faculty in the university at a cost of Taka 11 crore under 1999-2002 are also going on.

Besides, the construction of three residential buildings will start on the Rajshahi University campus soon.

Onion seed crisis in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 5: Onion cultivation in the district is facing a setback due to scarcity of seeds.

Many farmers could not collect seeds as inclement weather during harvesting last year caused damage to the standing crop.

Farmers said dealers are selling seeds at exorbitant prices. Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO) officials said seeds are not being sold directly to the farmers as per government order.

Farmers alleged Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has not shown any interest in setting up of demonstration plots of onion this season.

Re-Tender Notice for Supply of a Heavy Duty Plain Paper Copier

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from genuine and experienced suppliers (having valid Trade Licence, Experience Certificates, Tax Identification Number, Solvency Certificate from any scheduled bank) for supply of a Plain Paper Copier for Controller's Office of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology as per specifications described in the tender schedule. Tender schedule incorporating terms and conditions may be purchased by the genuine suppliers with a cash, non-refundable, amounting to Tk. 300.00 (Three hundred) only from Sonali Bank, University Branch, Sylhet on a formal request in tenders letterhead pad addressed to the concerned manager of the bank on or before 14-11-2000 during banking hours. Tender should be dropped on the tender box placed in the Treasurer's Office, Administration Building No-2 of the University by 12:00 Noon on 15-11-2000. The offers shall be opened at 12:10 PM on the same day in presence of the bidders (if any).

All tenders must be accompanied by earnest money 2.5% of the total quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Registrar, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet without which the tender would be rejected.

The University authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Md. Saliquur Rahman Chowdhury
Controller of Examinations

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited
Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh
Cable: TICON Dhaka
Fax: 880-02-8911177

INTERNATIONAL TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF 30,000 TELEPHONE SETS (SIEMENS MODEL: EUROSET 805)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide International Manufacturers/Foreign and Local Suppliers/Local Agents against TSS LTD's International Tender No. FP/IT/2K-2K1/3149 dated 02.11.2000 for procurement of 30,000 telephone sets (Siemens Model: Euroset 805) in SKD conditions.

Tender schedule along with terms and conditions can be obtained by intending bidders of the tender from the Sr. Accounts Officer at the above office at Tongi as well as from the office of the Secretary, TSS-Board of Directors, Room No. 7, PMG Building, Ramna, Dhaka-1000 on payment of Tk. 3,000.00 (Taka three thousand) only (non-refundable) in cash for each schedule during office hours. This will be financed from Cash Foreign Exchange. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

Tender offers/bids are to be submitted in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes. All the papers/documents/earnest money in response to the terms and conditions, technical specifications as well as signed tender documents are to be submitted in 1(one) envelope marked "General, Commercial & Technical Offer" with name and address of the bidder on it. The price quotation is to be submitted in another envelope marked "Financial Offer" with name and address of the bidder on it.

One tender box shall be kept in TSS Factory at Tongi and another tender box in the office of the Secretary, TSS-Board of Directors for dropping sealed tender/offers/bids. Tenders may be dropped only on 18.12.2000 up to 12:00 hours in any one of the tender boxes kept at the above two places. Tender offers/bids are to be submitted in triplicate. All the papers/documents/certificates/earnest money in response to the terms and conditions, technical specifications as well as signed tender documents are to be submitted along with offer for 30,000 telephone sets (Siemens Model: Euroset 805) in the sealed envelope and address of the bidder on it. Tenderer(s)/bidder(s) must have to submit 2(two) samples of telephone sets quoted by them along with the offers. Both the tender boxes at the above two places shall be closed at the same time at 12:00 hours on 18.12.2000. After closing the tender box kept in the office of the Secretary, TSS/BOD, Room No. 7, PMG Building, Dhaka-1000 shall be brought to TSS Factory at Tongi, and then both the tender boxes shall be opened at 14:00 hours on 18.12.2000 in TSS Factory at Tongi in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives, if they remain present.

Immediately after opening of the above tender boxes, the sealed envelope marked "General, Commercial & Technical Offer" will be opened and details of the bidders as well as submitted papers/documents/certificates/earnest money/samples are to be checked/noted. After technical scrutiny/evaluation as well as successful test, only the technically accepted bidders will be invited to attend the opening of the other envelope marked "Financial Offer" at a fixed time and place. The envelope marked "Financial Offer" of the non-qualified bidders will not be opened.

Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations, either partially or wholly without assigning any reason thereof.

Md Zahurul Islam
Deputy General Manager (F&C)
Telephone No. 9802334

GD-1014