

NEWS SNAPS

Bus fare in all routes of Barisal raised

UNB, Barisal  
Bus fare in all internal routes of Barisal has been raised by Tk 1-10 causing frequent altercations between the transport workers and passengers.  
In addition, bus fare in the highways, including Dhaka-Khulna route, has also been increased by Tk 10-20. Barisal Divisional Road Transport Owners Association recently announced to raise bus fare from first January (Tuesday) due to increase in fuel price. Meanwhile, Launch Owners Association at a meeting also decided to increase fare in 28 internal river routes from Tuesday.

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Comilla

Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice No : 41/E.E. of RHD Road Division, Comilla during 2001-2002.
- Name of work : Construction of Centry-Post at RHD Office Compound, Shaktala & repairing of labour shed at Road Researchers Laboratory Office Compound Middle Asrafpur, under Road Division, Comilla, during the year 2001-2002.
- Estimated cost : Tk 1,04,553/-
- Earnest money : Tk 2091/- in B.D/Pay Order in favour of E.E. RHD, Road Division, Comilla.
- Name of office where tender bids will be received : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Comilla & office of the undersigned.
- Name of office of availability of tender bids : Office of the undersigned/E.E. RHD Road Divn. B.barial/ Chandpur/Planning & Design Divn, Comilla & S.D.E's office under this Division.
- Time allowed : 20 (twenty) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Last date of selling of tender bids : 9-1-2002 up to office hours.
- Last date of dropping of tender bids : 10-1-2002 up to 12-30 PM.
- Date, place of opening of tender bids : 12-1-2002 in the office of E.E. (RHD), Comilla.
- Date of lottery : 13-1-2002.
- Charge to : 168-RBF.
- Ref. of approval of estimate : E.E. RHD, Road Circle Comilla's Memo. No. 2391 dated 22-10-2001.
- Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "E" general category of (RHD) contractor.

Md Abdul Wadud  
Executive Engineer, RHD,  
Road Division, Comilla

DFP-31854-27/12  
G-2372

Gazipur PWD Division  
Tender Notice

Tender No: 59/2001-2002

- Name of work : Construction of Dhaka Central Jail at Kashimpur in the district of Gazipur (Sub-head: Construction of pump house and electric sub-station building with generator room for jail No. II) during the year 2001-2002.
- Estimated cost : Tk 17,14,769/-
- Earnest money : Tk 34,500/-
- Time allowed for completion of the work : 120 (one hundred & twenty) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Price of tender schedule (documents) : Tk 775/- (seven hundred and seventy-five) per set only.
- Place of selling & receiving tenders : (a) Office of the undersigned & as well as by the Executive Engineer, Mirpur PWD Divn/Savar PWD Divn/Manikganj PWD Divn/SB Nagar PWD Divn 1/II/III, Mohakhali PWD Divn/Eden Bldg PWD Divn/Dhaka PWD Divn/II/III/IV, City PWD Divn/Medical College PWD Divn/Motijheel PWD Divn/Azimpur PWD Divn/ Maintenance PWD Divn/ Resource PWD Divn/Narayanganj PWD Divn/Munshiganj PWD Divn/Narshingdi PWD Divn/ Sherpur PWD Divn/Jamalpur PWD Divn/ Mymensingh PWD Divn/ Kishoreganj PWD Divn/Netrakona PWD Divn/ Tangail PWD Divn/ Executive Officer Arboriculture PWD Divn/ Executive Engineer (Staff Officer), PWD, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka.  
(b) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Chittagong/ Rajshahi/ Khulna PWD Zone.  
(c) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka.
- Last date of selling : During office hours up to 12.01.2002.
- Date of receiving & opening of tender : Up to 12.00 Noon on 13.01.2002 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM.
- Eligibility of contractor/firms to compete in the tender : Category applicable as per financial limit of approved enlisted contractors of Public Works Department.
- To compete in the tender pre-conditions, terms and conditions, with special terms and conditions along with relevant informations are laid down in the tender schedule which may be seen accordingly.
- The undersigned reserves, the right to reject or accept any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer  
Gazipur PWD Division  
Gazipur

DFP-31748-26/12  
G-2366

Students of RU English Deptt confronting session jam

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Most of the departments of Rajshahi University (RU) have successfully reduced session jam, but the students of English Department are confronted with two to three year session jam much to the frustration of some 600 students.  
In the honours course, there are two batches old and new for every year. Student of Masters course of the session 1997-98 will appear at the final examinations on December 31, 2001. But the students of Masters course of 1997-98 session of all other departments have already completed their examinations.  
Student of Honours course of 1996-97 session are also going to appear at the Honours final examination on January 10, 2002. Moreover, Honours part II examination of 1998-99 session is going to be held in the first week of January, 2002. When their results will be published in a matter of uncertainty.  
Session jam in this university has been reduced to a

large extent after all the department were given the autonomous status in 1994. There are some session jam free departments including Genetics and Breeding, Public Administration, History, Physics and Geography and Environmental Science.  
The teachers blamed the student unrest and unscheduled closure for session Jam. But the students attribute the teachers' reluctance and dilly-dally attitude in holding examinations for the jam.  
Most of the teachers do not finish classes in stipulated time and the teachers are engaged in various organisational activities during class-period while the number of teachers in the department is only 13, some of them remain on leave for months together.  
When contacted, Professor AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiqui, the incumbent chairman of the department, he told this correspondent that all the teachers agree on the questions of reducing session jam. The teachers are now trying their best to reduce session jam from the department, he added.

No progress in Murad murder case

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

One month has already passed, but the mystery of Murad Chowdhury murder is yet to be unveiled.  
Recently this correspondent visited Khaliajuri and interviewed some local people who told him that the floating body of Murad Chowdhury was found in Dasspara beel (water body) on December 5 and an unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Khaliajuri Police Station in this connection. But police could not arrest the killers of Murad as yet.  
Local people disclosed that Murad Chowdhury was a BNP activist before the general election of October 1. But during the election he worked for Awami League (AL).

According to local people's statement, some BNP activists allegedly took Murad to the house of Lalmia Talukder, president of Khaliajuri upazila BNP where they allegedly beat him mercilessly and strangled him. After the killing the alleged killers threw the dead body of Murad in Dasspara beel early in the morning.  
When this correspondent contacted with Khaliajuri police, they told him that according to local investigation report it was a murder case. The Second Officer of Khaliajuri police station Kamal Pasha also told this correspondent that they could not arrest the alleged killers as yet though they learnt from secret information supplied by the locals that it was a political killing.

Highway robbery on rise in 16 northern dist

UNB, Naogaon

Highway robbery is on rise at different areas of 16 northern districts due to lack of necessary manpower and inaction of law enforcers.  
Over 25 robberies were committed on various roads in these districts just before Eid or soon after the Eid. Police, however, admitted that some 12 robberies were committed during this period.  
Passengers and transport workers said that most of the robberies took place during nighttime. In most cases, the bandits decamped with booty after mercilessly beating up coach drivers and passengers, they added.  
The armed robbers also beat up truck drivers and helpers and looted their valuables at gunpoint. The truck owners generally do not lodge cases to avoid unnecessary harassment by police.

Over 100 families hostage to terrorists at Dilalpur in Natore

UNB, Natore

More than 100 families have become hostage to terrorists while dozens left home failing to meet their demand for tolls.  
The desolate situation has been prevailing at village Dilalpur in Lalpur upazila on Natore for the last three months. The victims are known supporters of opposition political parties.  
Terrorists allegedly under the wings of the ruling BNP have been demanding tolls ranging from Tk 5,000 to Tk 20,000 for each family. In some cases, they are even asking for the young daughters of those families.  
Jalal, 37, Babul, 30 and Rasheda Begum, 50, who have taken shelter in other villages told that they fled home in village Dilalpur failing to meet the demand of "Bhashan Bahini," a terrorist group that allegedly emerged with the change of government.  
They said terrorists demanded tolls from many families in the village who were known to have supported Awami League during the October 1 general election in 2001. In case of failure to pay the fixed amount, the terrorists came up with demand for young girls of the family.

None could harvest paddy without paying tolls to Bhashan Bahini, which is active in the area with blessings from the ruling party, alleged Jalal, a well-to-do farmer. "Young girls are afraid of coming out of home for fear of the terrorists," he said.  
A 70-year-old peasant, Noor Mohammad, was mercilessly beaten for failing to pay Tk 5,000 to the terrorists, said a witness.  
The latest victim of the extortionists in the family of Khandaker Nizamuddin. On December 24, Bhashan Bahini demanded Tk 20,000 or Nazmunahar, a college going daughter of Nizamuddin. Finding the situation difficult, Nazmun's mother Sayera Begum, 52, agreed to pay, but sought time.  
On Dec 25, she informed the Lalpur police in the morning. Police came, inquired about the complaint and returned in the afternoon.  
With the police gone, the terrorists attacked the house of Nizamuddin and looted all available cash and other goods in his absence. When the inmates tried to resist, the terrorists assaulted Sayera Begum and her two daughters, Shamsunnahar, 22, and Nazmunahar, and beat them with iron rod. Left wounded, the victims were taken and admitted to the

hospital.  
Sayera Begum told that her husband, Nizamuddin, is a sailor by profession and remains out of home most of the time. Her eldest son, Rashed, serves in Bangladesh Air Force. Two other sons, Morshed and Babla, are already away from the village for fear of Bhashan Bahini.  
Police admitted the incident and arrested Delbar in this connection. But the leader of the terrorist group, Bhashan, remained at large.  
Villagers said repression and oppression were not new in the area. Only the ugly hands of oppression change with the change of government. They suffered almost similar repression during the Awami League rule. Now the sufferers under the previous regime are taking revenge.  
While exchanging views on law and order situation in the area on Dec 28, Police Super Nazrul Islam faced a volley of questions about the condition in Dilalpur. He said police have launched a strong campaign to mop up the culprits involved in terrorism and extortion.  
Local MP and State Minister for Sports Fazul Rahman Patal has directed them to arrest terrorist leader Bhashan by any means, added the police super.

Steps sought to reopen Pabna Medical College

UNB, Pabna

Pabna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) has been lying in abandoned condition for long 20 years much to the frustration of the people of Pabna.

PMCH was established in 1979 on the land of Pabna Mental Hospital premises, 3-km south from the district headquarters and Director of the Mental Hospital was

appointed principal of the college. Over 200 students were admitted into the college in two batches, but they were shifted to the country's other medical colleges as the then military government stopped its functioning in 1982.

Scenes from enchanting Kuakata

PHOTO FEATURE: A K M MOHSIN



Kuakata, where one can watch the sunset and sunrise from the same spot in the southern coast of Bangladesh. Its bounty of nature attracts many to explore its beauty, despite a tedious journey on bad roads and crossing five rivers by ferry boats from Patuakhali, a distance of about 32 miles. Inhabited mainly by Rakhaines, whose ancestors settled there to escape persecution back home in Arakan, Myanmar (formerly Burma) in the 18th century, Kuakata drew the name from a well set up to meet the shortage of water, which still exists under a canopy. An abundance of fish offshore attracts a large number of fishermen who turn their catch into dry fish, drying those under the sun on the shore. This is, of course, a source of bad smell that make tourists' life a bit difficult. Another source of foul smell is the leftover from processing fish right on the beach, which is also an eye sore. Picture shows (1) the general scene of the beach, (2) some fishermen processing fish on shore after landing the catch which attracts seagulls for the leftover, (3) while four others process big sea fish for drying, (4) a fisherman pulling a fish on shore from the boat, (5) a bronze made Buddha is seen at the local pagoda of the Rakhaines who are Buddhists, (6) water reservoirs and (7) a Rakhaine lady is seen with a child in her lap.

Step to ensure fair price of paddy, rice

UNB, Jessore

Government has decided to procure Aman paddy at a price three times higher than the price of the previous year from the farmers to ensure its fair price during the current season in Jessore.  
Official sources said that last year most of the farmers failed to get fair price of their produce as the government bought only 1,486 mts of paddy.  
This year government will buy 4,045 mts of paddy directly from the growers and 4,837 mts of rice from the millers during the current season.  
Price of per ton paddy has been fixed at Tk 8,000 while rice at Tk 12,500. Specific amount of rice and paddy will be bought from each of the eight upazilas of Jessore.  
Two procurement centres each in sadar and Sharsha upazilas already started purchasing paddy and rice since December 7 which will continue till February next.  
According to officials, 586 mts of paddy and 1152 mts of rice will be procured from sadar, 282 mts of paddy and 423 mts of rice from Abhoyagar, 395 mts paddy and 409 mts of rice from Bagherpara, 391 mts of paddy and 498 mts of rice from Chogachhia, 396 mts of paddy and 699 mts of rice from Jhikargachha, 300 mts of paddy and 519 mts of rice from Keshabpur, 449 mts of paddy and 584 mts of rice from Monirampur and 886 mts of paddy and 553 mts of rice from Sharsha upazilas.

Crimes on alarming rise

UNB, Dinajpur

Crimes like killing, acid attack, rape, snatching and robbery are on alarming rise in Dinajpur marking the deterioration of law and order.  
According to officials assailants killed 13 people while six women were raped and two others sustained acid burn injuries in separate incidents in last two and a half months till December 25.