

DHAKA TODAY

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of holy Quran in English will be held with President AQM Badrudduja Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Osmany Memorial auditorium. Time: 11.00am.

Workshop

CARE Bangladesh will organise a workshop on 'Livelihood Monitoring and Poverty Profile of Northern Bangladesh'. Venue: BRAC Centre INN, 75 Mahakhali. Time: 9.00am.

Training course

The 4-day training course organised by Worldwide Immigration Services on 'Land Management' will begin. Venue: 83, Siddheswari Circular Road. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

In observance of holy Ashura, Dhaka City Unit of Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a discussion. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Talk

The Baha'i Community of Dhaka will organise a talk on 'Importance of Baha'i Laws on Marriage'. Venue: National Baha'i Centre, Shantinagar. Time: 7.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Population Research, Environmental Conservation and Economic Development' by Prof.

Ementus AKM Kafiluddin will be held. Venue: NIPSOM auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Athletics

The annual athletic competition of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board will be held with Post and Telecommunication Minister Barrister Md. Aminul Haq as chief guest. Venue: Mahakhali playground. Time: 9.00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW Seminar

A two-day international seminar on 'The need of Environmental Conservation for Sustainable Development in Third World Countries' will begin with Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

Discussion

United Nations Information Centre will organise a discussion on 'The Possible Role of Bangladesh towards the Development Efforts of Afghanistan'. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 4.00pm.

Meeting

National Policy Advocacy Cell of Samata will organise a meeting on 'Poverty Alleviation and the Rights of the Landless People'. Venue: YWCA auditorium, 3/23 Iqbal Road. Time: 3.00pm.

Defendant threatens judge

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Extra police force was deployed on the Judge's court premises in the city during the trial for the security of a Second Assistant Judge, court sources said yesterday.

The police force was deployed after Judge Sheikh Golam Mahub sought the assistance of the police as a defendant made a threat to him.

On February 3, Judge Golam Mahub gave a judgement and a decree in a civil suit against Alauddin-al Masum who threatened the judge.

Masum and his gang were seen roaming at the courtroom and around the residence of the judge, sources said.

Following the judge's request for security, a police contingent led by SI Mohammad Arshad was deployed at the courtroom during the trial on March 12, 13 and 14.

In the suit, it was alleged that Masum rented a shop in the Masskelima Super Market at Farmgate in the city, but he later claimed the ownership of the shop by making forged documents.

Shashanka Shekhar, owner of the market, filed a civil suit against Masum with the second judge's court.

After cross-examination of the witnesses of both the parties, the court gave the judgement and decree on February 3.

In its order, the court said that defendant Masum tried to become the owner of the shop by making forged documents.



Dhaka Theatre brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark its week-long drama festival and the Gram Theatre council. The festival began at the Mahila Samity auditorium yesterday.

Political will, consensus a must for sustainable development

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday underscored the need for political will and consensus leading to strengthening local government institutions for sustainable development, poverty alleviation and empowerment of women.

They unanimously pointed out that without having an honest political will, the local government institutions would never be able to achieve the goal for sustainable development.

The speakers also suggested establishing transparency and accountability in union parishad level organisations and eliminating bureaucratic influence on the local government.

Organised by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), the workshop titled 'Local govern-

ment and mobilisation of local people and resources towards sustainable development" was held at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration Management (BIAM) in the city.

Dr. Atiur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), in his keynote paper recommended for decision-making authority of local government, access to resources and built-in mechanism for people's participation.

He also said local governments should have constitutional coverage against any of the bureaucratic and political onslaughts.

Local governments should work with other spheres of the government and other major groups to help achieve sustainable development, he added.

Dr. Atiur said the elected members of local authorities are very reluctant to impose fresh taxes, for they think that it will make a dent to their popularity.

He said fiscal decentralisation and devolution of financial authority to local government have not yet been explored in the country.

There is a huge potential for financial decentralisation which will lead towards an equitable development, he added.

Dr. Atiur said a decentralised governance with enough scope for people's participation can facilitate better management of local environment and at the same time encourage equity-based development.

A sharp focus on the living condition of hard-core poor will automatically trigger a process of development that is pro-environment, he added.

At the workshop the participants also held a lively debate on holding of local government election without any political influence.

A group said that there should not be any political influence in the local government bodies while some others advocated for allowing political parties to use their banner in the election.

"Political parties fought for mother language, earned freedom for the country and ousted autocratic regime. If the political parties could achieve success in the past, they would also be able to do good for the people," said Hasanul Huq Inu, General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD).

Badiul Alam, country representative of the Hunger Project, said there is no tool to bring accountability and transparency in local government.

Political will, consensus and decentralisation of power is a must for the empowerment of local government, he added.

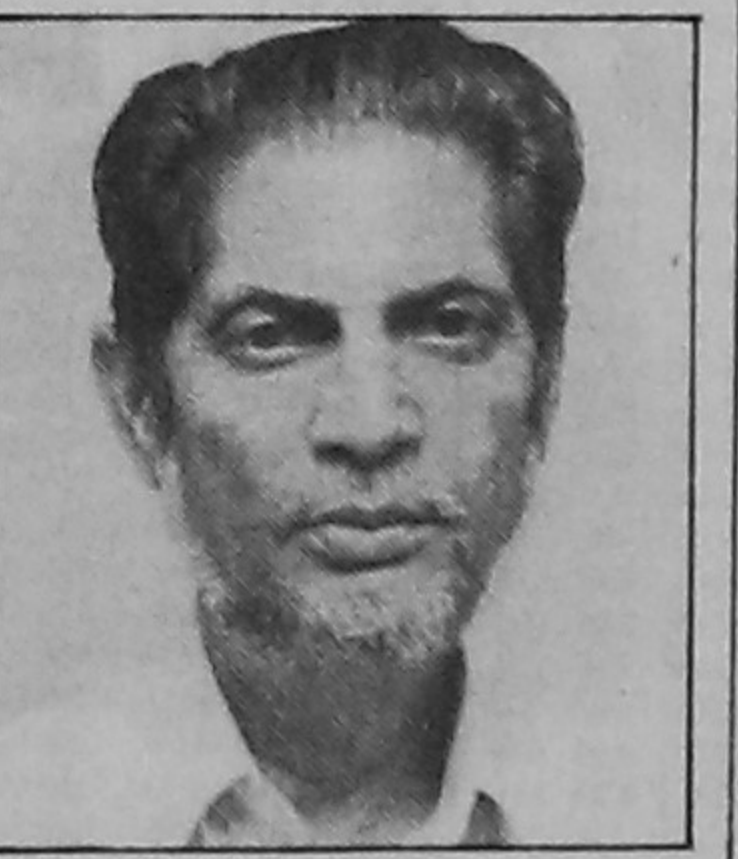
Empowerment of local government will not be achieved if the mechanism for controlling elected representatives of the local government remains in the hand of non-elected bureaucrats, said Abdul Matin, a representative of a NGO.

He said most of the laws enacted during colonial rules were meant for suppressing uprising in the subcontinent and those are being followed for long.

Tofael Ahmed of Public Administration Department of Chittagong University said legal reform is a key to strengthening the local government.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University in his presidential speech said if we want to empower people then we have to decentralise the power.

Dr. Harun-ur-Rashid of Dhaka University, Neelufar Banu, Abdul Hasib, Jahanara Huq and Fatema Zahora also spoke on the occasion.



Khalilur Rahman passes away

Khalilur Rahman, chairman of Crescent Group of Companies and a CIP, died at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday morning.

His body has been kept at the mortuary of BIRDEM Hospital. Among his seven children, three sons and two daughters are at present residing in the United States.

His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held after they arrive in the country.

'Political commitment needed to ensure gender equality'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the women in the country showed signs of progress in the past decades, there are still many obstacles to their rapid advancement towards gender equality.

There should be more changes in social and economic perceptions to bring about a real and lasting improvement of the status of women in the society.

This was viewed in a key note paper presented by Dr. Khaleda Salauddin of Women for Women at a workshop on 'Empowering women for sustainable development in Bangladesh'. The workshop was organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad in the city yesterday.

Dr. Khaleda in her paper blamed the country's electoral system for discriminating women.

"Reservation of seats for women in parliament is an affirmative step but their selection indirectly makes them vulnerable," she said adding "Often such women are selected who can hardly speak independently about gender equality, women's empowerment and other related issues".

Dr. Khaleda said political and social commitments are needed to achieve gender equality. She suggested compulsory gender training for politicians and bureaucrats and reconstruction of gender stereotypes through proper education and advocacy.

The key note paper recommended for an apex organisation to mobilise women at grassroot level for strengthening their movement.

The paper also focussed on other impediments to achieving economic empowerment of women.

These include rigid gender division of labour, lack of access to assets, low level of education and skills, lack of participation in economic decision making and unfavourable working environment.

Dr. Khaleda observed that alleviation of poverty can be achieved only through a pro-women and pro-poor oriented development programmes. "Empowerment of women must be a key thrust in sustainable development", she added.

Dr. Khaleda however lauded the existing national and international policies which according to her are favourable towards empowering women by involving them in the development process. "Although women are now aware of their rightful place in the family and society, a vast majority of them are still fighting just for their survival," she commented.

She underscored the need for more actions for empowering women to meet the challenge of the twenty-first century.

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF in Kushtia

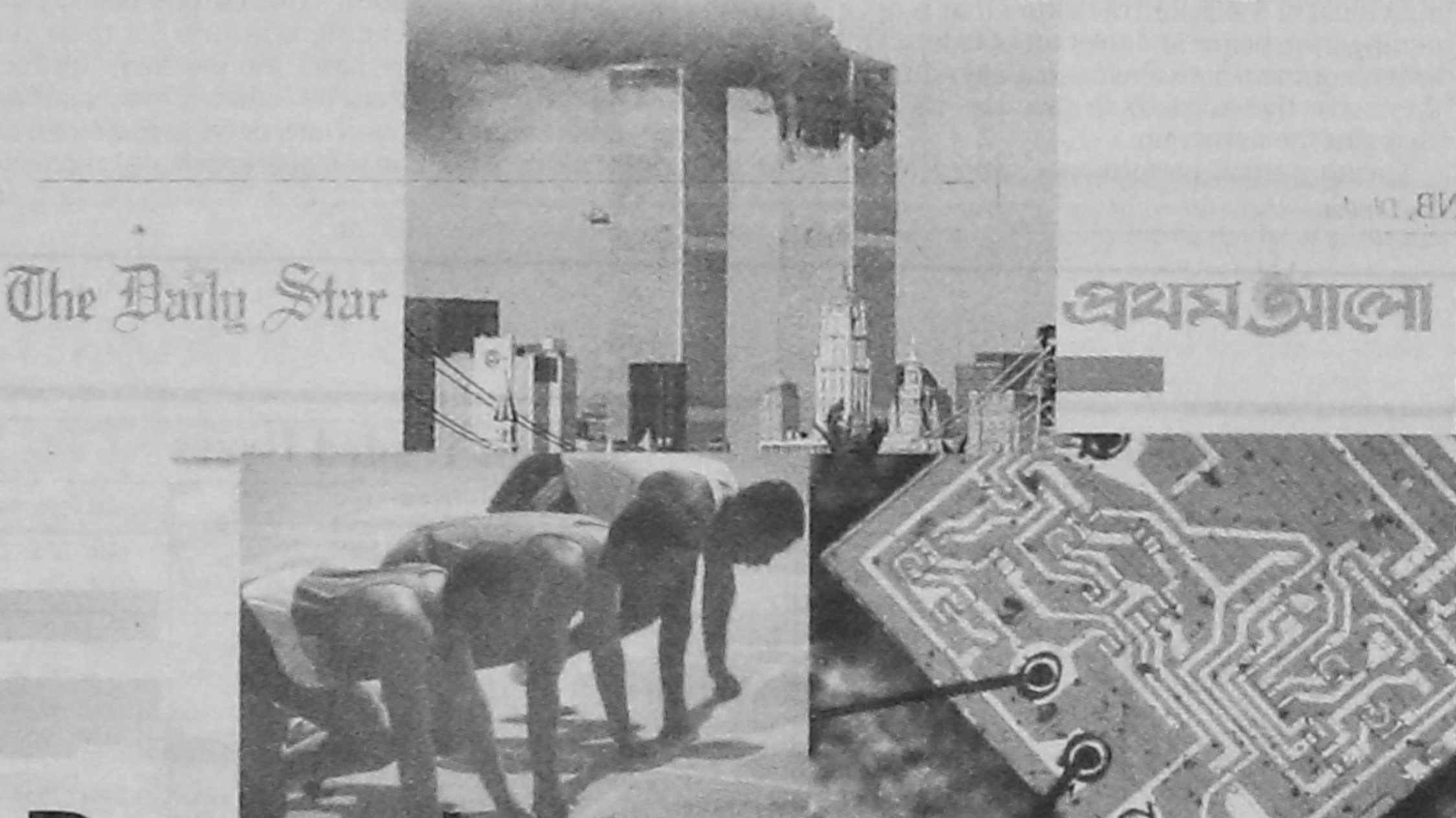
UNB, Kushtia

Bangladeshi national was gunned down by Indian border guards at Jamalpur frontier in Daulatpur early yesterday.

BDR sources said BSF men from Indian Nasirpara camp opened fire on Babul Mondal alias Babu, 40, near border pillar No. 35 at about 2 am.

Another Bangladeshi villager, Saidul, was shot dead by BSF in the same area on March 10.

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WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely in Mymensingh and Sylhet regions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period. Met Office said predicting day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 15.0 degree at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.09 pm today and rises at 6:05 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	21.6	38	39
Chittagong	35.5	20.9	44	53
Rajshahi	33.5	19.4	59	34
Khulna	34.0	19.5	41	50
Barisal	33.4	18.8	51	49
Sylhet	32.7	18.3	60	43
Cox's Bazar	35.1	24.1	52	63

নোটিশ

১৯৯০ ইংরেজির অর্থস্বর্ণ আইনের ৫(ক) ধারা মাননীয় যুগ্ম জেলা জজ অর্থস্বর্ণ আদালত, সিলেট অর্থস্বর্ণ মোকদ্দমা নং ২২/২০০০ ইংরেজি

উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিঃবাদী

— বনাম —

মোঃ আলতাহুর রহমান গংবিবাদী

প্রতি,

১। মোঃ আলতাহুর রহমান ২। মোঃ হাবিবুর রহমান ওরফে সিরাজ, পিতা - মৃত হাজী কলমন্দর আলী ৩। রওশন আরা বেগম, স্বামী - মোঃ আলতাহুর রহমান, সাং - শাহা সিকন্দর, পোঃ আঃ লালাবাজার, থানা - সদর, জেলা - সিলেট ৪। মেসার্স আলতাহুর রহমান, স্বত্বাধিকারী, মোঃ আলতাহুর রহমান, সাং - শাহ সিকন্দর, পোঃ আঃ লালাবাজার, থানা - সদর, জেলা - সিলেট।বিবাদীগণ।

যেহেতু,

অত্র মোকদ্দমার বাদী উত্তরা ব্যাংক ১৫-১০-২০০০ইং পর্যন্ত তাহাদের পাওনা ২৮,৮৬,০০৪/= টাকা দাবী করিয়া অত্র মোকদ্দমা দায়ের করিয়াছেন এবং যেহেতু বারবার সমন দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও আপনারা তাহা গ্রহণ করিতেছেন না, সেহেতু আপনাদিগকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে আপনারা স্বয়ং কিংবা এডভোকেট মারফতে অত্র আদালতে উপস্থিত হইয়া লিখিত জবাব দাখিল করিবেন। আপনার অনুপস্থিতিতে অত্র মোকদ্দমা একতরফা মতে চলিবে।

অদ্য সন ২০০২ সালের ৩/৩ইং তারিখ আমার স্বাক্ষর ও আদালতের মোহরযুক্ত মতে দেওয়া গেল।

আদেশক্রমে
সেরেস্তাদার
যুগ্ম জেলা জজ অর্থস্বর্ণ আদালত, সিলেট।

Sadharan Bima Corporation
Establishment Department
Head Office
33, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Contractors/Firms for the following works having past experience as mentioned below:

Monthly Servicing of window and split type Air Conditioning system.

Experience : Two years past experience of similar work in any organization having at least 30 nos Window Type Air Conditioner.

The interested bidders may apply for issuance of tender documents along with experience certificate upto.

Tender Schedule will be sold to the qualified bidders upto 24th March, 2002 during office hours from the office of the undersigned on payment of Taka 250/= (Two hundred Fifty) non-refundable respectively.

Tenders duly filled in will be received upto 12.00 noon on 27th March, 2002 and will be opened on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Corporation reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

MD. NAZRUL ISLAM
Manager

SBC/PR/Tender-02/02

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Directorate of Public Health Engineering, Dhaka Division
12/D, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
Memo No. 540(60)/PHE-DD Dated: 28-2-2002

Tender Invitation Notice

Separate tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Directorate of Public Health Engineering's 2001-2002 financial year enlisted & renewed 'D' (special) class contractors/firms for sinking of Tara deep tubewell & No. 6 deep tubewell and 'A/D' class contractors/firms for sinking of Tara tubewell & shallow tubewell & resinking of shallow tubewell in different upazilas under Public Health Engineering, Dhaka Division under Annual Development Programme during 2001-2002 financial year under countrywide Rural Water Supply (GOB-4) Project. Information regarding tender can be known and the tender purchased at prescribed price (non-refundable) from office of the undersigned, Executive Engineer, Directorate of Public Health Engineering, Munshiganj & Executive Engineer, Directorate of Public Health Engineering, Mechanical & Electrical Division, Dhaka during office hours up to 23-03-2002. Tenders will be received simultaneously in tender box kept at the office of the abovementioned offices up to 1:00 PM of 24-03-2002. The tenders received taken together will be opened on 27-03-2002 at 11:00 AM in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers or their representatives.

Other information including group list of tender can be seen & known from the abovementioned offices during office hours.

Md. Asadul Huque
Executive Engineer
Directorate of Public Health Engineering
Dhaka Division, Dhaka.

DFP-5869-11/3
G-686