

Prospects of new Chinese hybrid rice bright

JULIUS RIPON

The prospects of a hybrid rice from China, locally known as Sonar Bangla-1, are bright in the country.

The new rice variety grew well in the current Boro season, field reports suggest.

This is one of the four foreign varieties import of which was permitted by the government in 1998. The government also made it a condition that the importers should grow the seeds locally within 3 years. Later, the deadline was extended further.

"We are trying hard to grow the seeds locally as its import might not be allowed in the future," said Mojibur Rahman, one of the proprietors of Mollika Seed Company

that imported the Chinese variety. It also cultivated it in around 25,000 acres of land.

Apart from the Chinese variety, the private seed traders also imported three hybrid rice varieties from India.

The first home-grown hybrid rice, developed by the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BIRRI) last year, is also being used by the farmers for the first time in the current Boro season.

Growers of the Chinese variety in Sirajganj district told a group of newsmen during their recent visit to the area that they are expecting bumper production this year.

Alhaj M A Hamid of Vella Bari Tetulia village under Shahjapur upazila harvested an average of 95

to 100 maunds of paddy from each acre of land.

Mohammad Afzal Hossain of the same village said that the hybrid rice production of this year is almost twice the production of BR-28 and BR-29.

Other farmers of the village said that it takes 130 to 135 days to grow the paddy.

They expressed their satisfaction over the fact that the variety Sonar Bangla-1 yields maximum output in a short duration and with less production cost.

It is more profitable than other ushi paddy like BR-28, BR-29, they added.

Traders at Ullapara bazar said the hybrid rice has a good demand in the market.



Finance Minister Saifur Rahman speaking at a workshop on 'Budget and Budget Reporting', organised by the Bangladesh Parliament Journalists Association and Economic Reporters' Forum, in the city yesterday. On his left is David E Rees, CEO of Citibank, NA.



Nasimuddin, a former Ansar commander, receiving a certificate at the Kurigram Zila Ansar-VDP conference recently. He was awarded for his courageous role in last year's border skirmishes on Roumari frontier.

Miscreants threaten JPC general secy

BSS, Dhaka

Unidentified miscreants on Sunday night threatened the General Secretary of the Jatiya Press Club and News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Swapna Kumar Saha and demanded extortion from him.

The miscreants made three telephone calls to Swapna's residence after midnight on Sunday night and demanded Tk two lakh from him as extortion.

A General Diary (GD) was lodged with Dhanmondi thana yesterday in this connection.

2 BCL activists assaulted on DU campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The activists of the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) assaulted two workers of its rival organisation, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The BCL activists, Eshan and Parvez, are the resident students of Mohsin Hall. The two came under attack in front of the Central Library of the university.

Sources said the attackers are the activists of F Rahman Hall unit of JCD. They also took Ehsan to the F Rahman Hall by a rickshaw but freed him later.

The other victim managed to run away. He went to the TSC and informed the BCL activists and leaders about the incident.

Later, the leaders lodged a written complaint with the vice-chancellor demanding punishment of the attackers, Zia and Asad.

Following the complaint, the authorities temporarily expelled Zia, a student of 3rd year of Philosophy Department, sources said.



FBCCI member Kamal killed in road accident

MA Kamal, former member of the executive committee of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), died in a road accident near Dhaka EPZ on Saturday. He was 62, says a press release.

He was buried at Banani graveyard on May 26.

He is survived by wife, a daughter and two sons.

His *qulhuani* will be held at his residence at Road No. 3, House No 3, Sector-1, Uttara after Asr prayers on May 30.

President, vice-president, members of the Board of Directors of FBCCI and officers and staff of FBCCI have expressed condolence at his death.

In memory of MA Kamal, a *milad mahfil* and *doa* will be held after Asr prayers on June 1 at the FBCCI auditorium.

New Lions Club Dist Governor

Ln. Aminul Islam Miah was elected the District Governor of Lions Clubs International, District-315-B2 in its 9th annual convention held in the city recently, says a press release.

A renowned social workers and former Asstt. Inspector General of Police, Aminul Islam was awarded several times in recognition of his services.



Child artists performing a dance number at a function marking the 103rd birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the Nazrul Academy in the city yesterday.

Effective tobacco control law demanded

UNB, Dhaka

The anti-tobacco campaigners yesterday urged the government to formulate an effective tobacco-control act with a provision for filing of lawsuit by any sufferer against the tobacco companies.

"The citizens must have the right to file suit against tobacco companies as in the developed countries," Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury said while presenting the keynote paper at a roundtable.

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2002, to be observed around the globe on May 31, Bangladesh Tamak Birodhi Jote (BTB) organised the roundtable on "Tobacco Control Act" at the National Press Club in collaboration with the Manash and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM).

This year's slogan of World No-

Tobacco Day is "Tobacco-Free Sports: Play it Clean."

Chaired by Executive Director of DAM Kazi Rafiqul Alam, the function was also addressed, among others, by Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, Prof Nurul Islam, former IGP Dr M Enamul Huq, Brig Shahjahan Hafiz, Dr Abu Obayed M Mohsin, Shamsuzzaman and Dipankar Goutam.

The roundtable was told that about 11,000 people die of various tobacco-related diseases every day around the world.

Citing World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics, the keynote paper showed that 60 per cent male, in Bangladesh, are smoker, while 15 per cent are female. "It is now proved beyond doubt that tobacco kills and also causes many a disease like cancer," it said.

The anti-tobacco campaigners

'Ban smoking in public places immediately'

BSS, Dhaka

Scores of debaters in a kaleidoscopic non-traditional display of fiery speech here on Sunday urged authorities concerned to enforce immediate ban on smoking in public places.

Participants of the National Debate Exhibition-2002, mostly students and young professionals, made the appeal at British Council auditorium here. Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) organised the function with assistance from the British Council.

The debaters also urged authorities to take stringent action against all forms of criminal activities.

Some 50 renowned debaters from 30 schools, colleges and universities and couple of debating veterans now serving as professionals in different field took part in the exciting speech tournament that attracted a huge audience amid inclement weather.

The day-long National Debate Exhibition-2002 accommodated seven formats of debate that includes United Nations model of debate, traditional model, "Barogri" model, normal parliamentary model, Australasian model and Worlds model.

criticised the propaganda of tobacco industries for banning Under-18 smoking habit, saying that the media hype would rather tempt the juvenile into having a taste of the forbidden fruit.

So, they called upon the government to slap a prohibition on tobacco advertisements and also to impose high taxes on it.

"Smoking definitely have adverse effects on stamina and energy," the keynote said and called upon the younger generation to keep away from smoking.

Dr Ratan, who is president of anti-tobacco organisation Manash, said if the tobacco users spent 69 per cent of their tobacco expenditure on food, 350 children out of 700 who died of malnutrition could have been saved.

Phone facilities at lower installation charge soon

Minister tells NBJF seminar in city

BSS, Dhaka

The government will soon provide telephone facilities at a much lower installation charge considering the necessity of rapid growth of the Information Technology sector in the country.

Minister for Post and Telecommunications Barrister Aminul Haque said this while addressing as the chief guest a seminar on "National Budget and Regional Development" organised by the North Bengal Journalists Forum (NBjF) at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

"In the current process of globalisation, tele-communication sector is one of the most vital fields, where Bangladesh must keep pace with other countries of the world," he said.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood, whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Rezaul Bari Dina and former Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed attended the seminar as the special guests. Dr Shafiq Uz Zaman, Professor of the Department of Economics of Dhaka University presented a keynote paper in the seminar.

Sonali Bank Chairman Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Advisory Editor of Dainik Ittefaq Akhter-ul-Alam, Chief Adviser of ATN Bangla Television Channel Saiful Bari, Senior Assistant Editor of Dainik Jugantar Khandakar Ali Ashraf, Senior Assistant Editor of Janakantha Abdul Matin and Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mahbulul Alam Mukul, among others, took part in the discussion on the keynote.

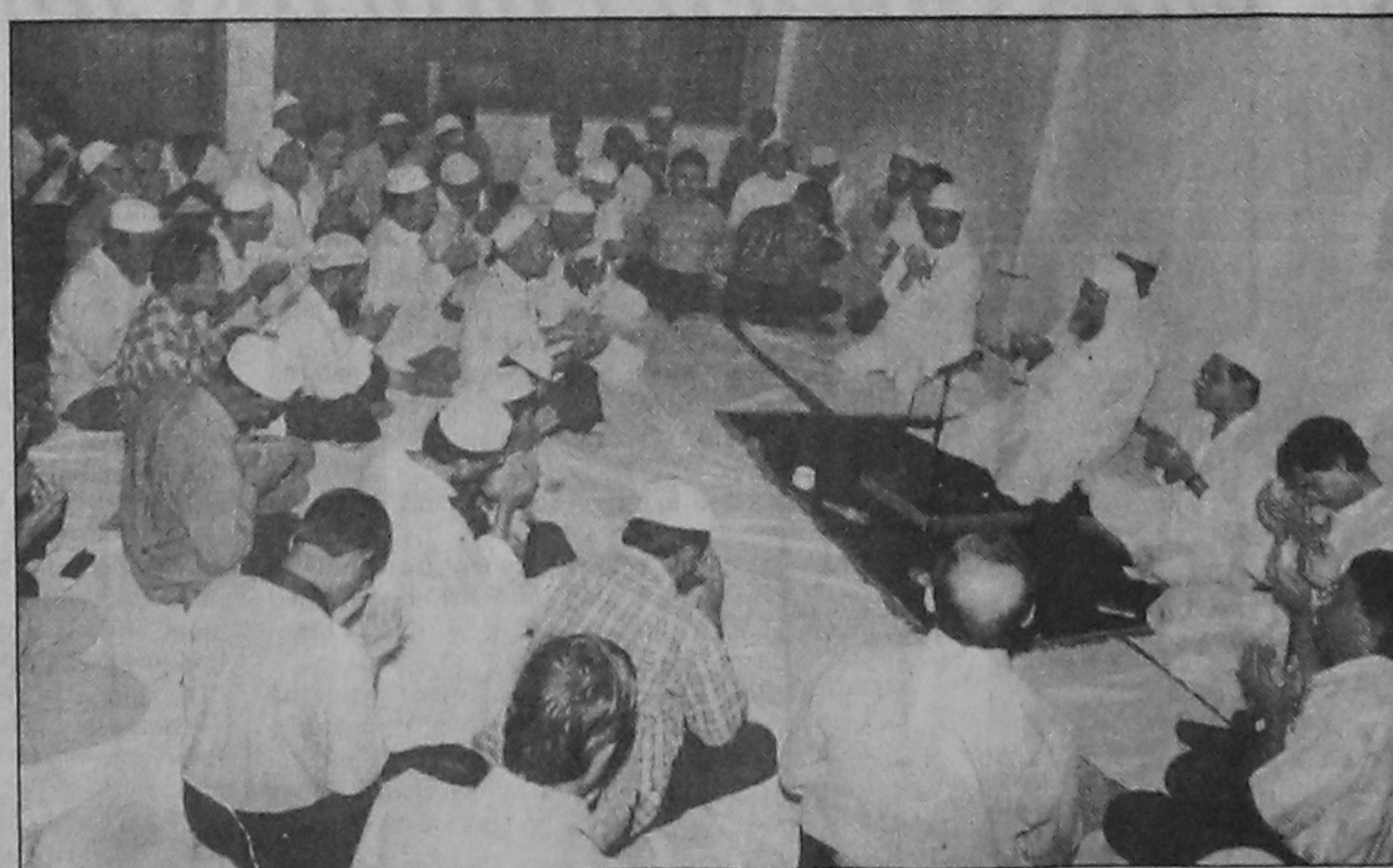
NBJF president Mokarram Hossain presided.

Aminul Haque said the installation charge of each telephone connection would be Tk 5,000 at upazila level and Tk 8,000 at district level from July next. In Chittagong and Dhaka, he said the installation charge of each telephone connection would be Tk 10,000 from December next.

The minister said Internet facilities had already been extended to the country's 43 districts and expressed the hope that the total 64 districts would be brought within the Internet network by December next. "As this is the age of Information Technology, we do not want to lag behind in this sector," he said.

On the development of Northern Bangladesh, he stressed the need for concerted efforts and greater awareness among all for the rapid progress of the region. The government is aware of the needs of the Northern Bangladesh, he said, adding "We are contemplating supply of power and gas to the northern districts."

Mokarram Hossain, in his presidential speech, thanked the guests and the keynote speaker for their valuable suggestions for the development of the Northern Bangladesh.



A milad mahfil was held at the National Press Club in the city on Sunday on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

DHAKA TODAY

Safe Motherhood Day discussion

A discussion meeting will be held on 'Safe Motherhood Day' with Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Maternal and Child Health Training Institute, Azimpur. Time: 11.00am.

Discussion on Zainul

The Shilpakala Academy organises a discussion to mark the death anniversary of Shilpakarya Zainul Abedin. Venue: Academy gallery. Time: 5.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The Amar Prakashani organises the publication ceremony of 'Ora Aasbe' by Abul Kashem Chowdhury. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.30pm.

DAB discussion

The Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will hold a discussion to mark the death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman with Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

Samajbadi Chhatra

The Samajbadi Chhatra Jote will open its two-day-long national council. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University. Time: 11.00am.

WEATHER TODAY

Heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls may occur at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions during this period, Met Office said.

Country's highest temperature 32.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Saikhira and the lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Jessore. The sun sets in the capital today at 6.40 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 am.

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	27.7	21.4	85	78
Chittagong	26.8	21.5	78	77
Rajshahi	29.0	23.0	78	93
Khulna	31.0	-	-	-
Barisal	30.5	21.0	91	75
Sylhet	27.5	21.5	-	-
Cox's Bazar	30.0	23.5	85	77

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Facilities Department, Ministry of Education

Bogra Zone, Bogra

Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 10(T)/Polytechnic/EE/ED/Bog/2001-2002 Dated: 16.5.2002

Sealed tenders through Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from Facilities Department enlisted A-1 class contractors for the work vertical extension of Academic Building at Bogra Polytechnic Institute under the project titled "Modernisation of 20 Existing Polytechnic Institutes & Establishment of 18 New Polytechnic Institutes."

- Amount of earnest money : At the rate 2% of the estimated cost.
- Estimated cost : Tk 50,04,246/-.
- Last date & time of selling tender : 08.06.2002 (up to office hours).
- Last date & time of submitting tender : 09.06.2002 (up to 12-00 Noon).
- Date & time of opening tender : 09.06.2002 (at 2-00 PM) (in presence if any of the tenderers).
- Offices where tender document to be had at : Office of the Chief Engineer, Facilities Department, Shiksha Bhaban, Dhaka office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bogra & office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra, Pabna, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Rangpur, Kurigram, Dinajpur & Panchagang Zone and office of the Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra District, Bogra.
- Offices where tender document to be received at : Tender documents will be received in tender box kept at the office of Chief Engineer, Facilities Department, Shiksha Bhaban, Dhaka office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi office of the Executive Engineer, Bogra, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Rangpur, Kurigram, Dinajpur & Panchagang Zone & Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra in their presence & at Deputy Commissioner's office, Bogra by his representative.
- Earnest money : Earnest money must be submitted with each tender in the form of DD/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of "Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra Zone, Bogra."
- Purchase price of tender document per set : Tk 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable).
- Time limit for completion of work : 10 (ten) months.

- Tender document can be purchased by obtaining permission to purchase tender document on production of original copy of the undemanded papers to the proper authority and attested photocopy of the said papers should be submitted with the tender.
 - Contractor's original licence book including up-to-date licence renewal certificate.
 - Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate.
 - VAT registration certificate (10-digit).
 - Certificate on satisfactory completion of similar work worth minimum one third of the value of this Department under a single work order from Executive Engineer.
- In case the work of any group is stopped or cancelled or name of any institution changed, under any circumstance, the contractor cannot claim any financial benefit.
- The tender of the participating contractor/contractors' firm will be treated as cancelled outright if any wrong information is furnished while filling in the "Eligibility Evaluation Form."
- Income tax & VAT will be deducted against each bill as per govt. rules.
- Tender will be treated as cancelled outright if the rate is quoted at more than 5% (five per cent) below the estimated cost. The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-13087-21/5
G-1481

Executive Engineer
Facilities Department, Bogra Zone, Bogra

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)

Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra

(R&H) Tender Invitation Notice

- Tender Notice No : 35(thirty-five)/2001-2002.
- Name of work : Group-A: Supply of Reflecting Sheet for safety of traffic movement at different roads of Road Division, Nilfamar under (R&H) Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra during 2001-2002 financial year (work order will be issued subject to receipt of fund).
Group-B: Supply of spare parts for Ittefaq roller & JM roller of Road Division, Nilfamar under (R&H) Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra during 2001-2002 financial year, (work order will be issued subject to receipt of fund).
Group-C: Supply of spare parts for Seed roller & Baby roller of Road Division, Santahar, Bogra under (R&H) Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra during 2001-2002 financial year (work order will be issued subject to receipt of fund).
Group-D: Repair including engine overhauling of Bedford truck No. Rangpur-Ta-4456 of Road Division, Gaibandha under (R&H) Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra during 2001-2002 financial year (work order will be issued subject to receipt of fund).
- Estimated cost : As per schedule.
- Earnest money : 2% (two per cent) of the estimated cost through any one of Bank Draft/Pay-Order/CD etc in favour of Executive Engineer (R&H), Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra, encashable at Sonali Bank, Adamdighi Branch.
- Time limit for completion of work : 25 (twenty-five) days from the date of issuing work order).
- Eligibility of tenderer : (R&H) Directorate's 'A' to 'C' general class & Workshop Circle, Bogra's 'D' general class and Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra's 'E' general class contractors.
- Offices where tender to be sold from : Executive Engineer (R&H), Workshop Division, Santahar/Rajshahi/Ferry Division, Bogra/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Workshop Sub-Division, Santahar, Bogra.
- Offices where tender to be received at : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Workshop Circle, Bogra/Executive Engineer (R&H), Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra/Rajshahi/Ferry Division, Bogra.
- Last date of selling tender : 04-06-2002 (during office hours).
- Date & time of receiving tender : 05-06-2002 up to 12.00 Noon.
- Date & time of opening tender box : 05-06-2002 at 12.30 PM.
- Date & time of opening tender after collecting all tenders in sealed condition by the undersigned : 09-06-2002 at 11.00 AM.
- Date & time of holding lottery (if required) : 09-06-2002 at 1.00 PM.

DFP-13087-21/5
G-1481

Md Saber Ali
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra.