

DHAKA TODAY

Cultural function

The inaugural ceremony of a four-day long cultural function, organised by Dhaka Christian Kalyan Sangha, will be held with Land Minister M Shamsul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Church Community Centre, Tejgaon. Time: 9.00am.

Federation auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Meeting

The first convening meeting of Media Network for Sustainable Development (MNSD) will be held. Venue: House-33, Road-4, Dhanmondi. Time: 12.00pm.

Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of a two-day programme, drawn by the Clinical Psychology Department of Dhaka University and the Bangladesh Clinical Psychology Association on the occasion of the World Mental Health Day 2002, will be held. Venue: Teachers Students Centre. Time: 4.30pm.

Lions clubs

The installation and charter presentation ceremony of Lions Clubs of Dhaka South, Dhaka Agargaon West and Dhaka Anodip will be held. Venue: Mohanagar Community Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Film festival

A week-long Japanese film festival, organised jointly by the Embassy of Japan and Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh, will begin. On the opening day, a film titled 'Haven sent' will be screened. Venue: Institute of Modern Languages auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 4.30pm.

Workshop

A workshop on 'The prospects and problems of the export of medicine', organised by the Association of Regulatory Affairs of Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9.00am.

Rotary meeting

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: RAOWA Club, Mohakhali. Time: 1.30pm.

Chess competition

The inaugural ceremony of the 4th National Chess Competition of visually impaired children, organised jointly by the Bangladesh Chess Federation in cooperation with the Inter Life Bangladesh Disability Programme, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Chess

Film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two Spanish films titled 'Jamon, Jamon' directed by Bigas Luna and 'That Obscure Object of Desire' directed by Luis Bunuel. Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm and 8.00pm respectively.



Thundershowers likely

Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 21 degree Celsius at Siramangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:35 pm today and rises on Sunday at 5:55 am tomorrow.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evenin). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Auction Notice

Old & declared as condemned spare parts of Kurigram District Police Department transports and old & declared as condemned materials of Police Line Departmental Store will be hereby sold in auction as it is where it is basis. The auction programme will be held on 20-10-2002 at 10-00 AM at the Police Line.

Police Super Kurigram



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting of the Dhaka City Chhatra League (North) in the city yesterday.

'Preserve snakes to maintain ecological balance'

BSS, Dhaka

The speakers at a lecture session yesterday emphasised the need for preserving snakes, including venomous ones, as they are contributing to ecological balance by eating rodents and playing a positive role in food security and plant protection.

They described snakebite as a problem of poor people and urged all to address it.

The Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the UNDP organised the lecture session on 'Venomous Snakes' at National Press Club.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury presided over it while eminent zoologist Dr. Ali Reza Khan of Dubai Zoo delivered the lecture.

Former Environment Secretary and Chairman of Environment and Development Alliance (EDA) Syed Marghub Murshed, Dr. Mahfuzul Haque of Environment Ministry, Prof MA Fayed of Chittagong Medical College, Prof Zaker

Hossain, Prof Badrul Amin Bhuiyan, Dr Atiqur Rahman, FEJB members Shamima Chowdhury, Badiul Alam, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Sheikh Enamul Haque and DK Fuad Hasan took part in the discussion.

Dr Reza Khan said that there are over 2,500 species of snakes in the world. And only 20 per cent snakes are venomous.

About 90 species of snakes are found in Bangladesh and only 28 species, including 12 types of marine species, are venomous.

But, he said, due to absence of appropriate living condition, the number of snakes in the country is decreasing fast.

Prof. MA Fayed said that about eight thousand people suffer from snakebites every year in Bangladesh and out of them, 20 per cent victims die without proper treatment.

Quoting a study, he said 45 per cent of snakebite victims are farmers and 23 per cent are housewives.

Stressing the need for raising awareness about snakes, Prof.

Fayed said myths and superstitions spread by the quacks had profound influence on the people.

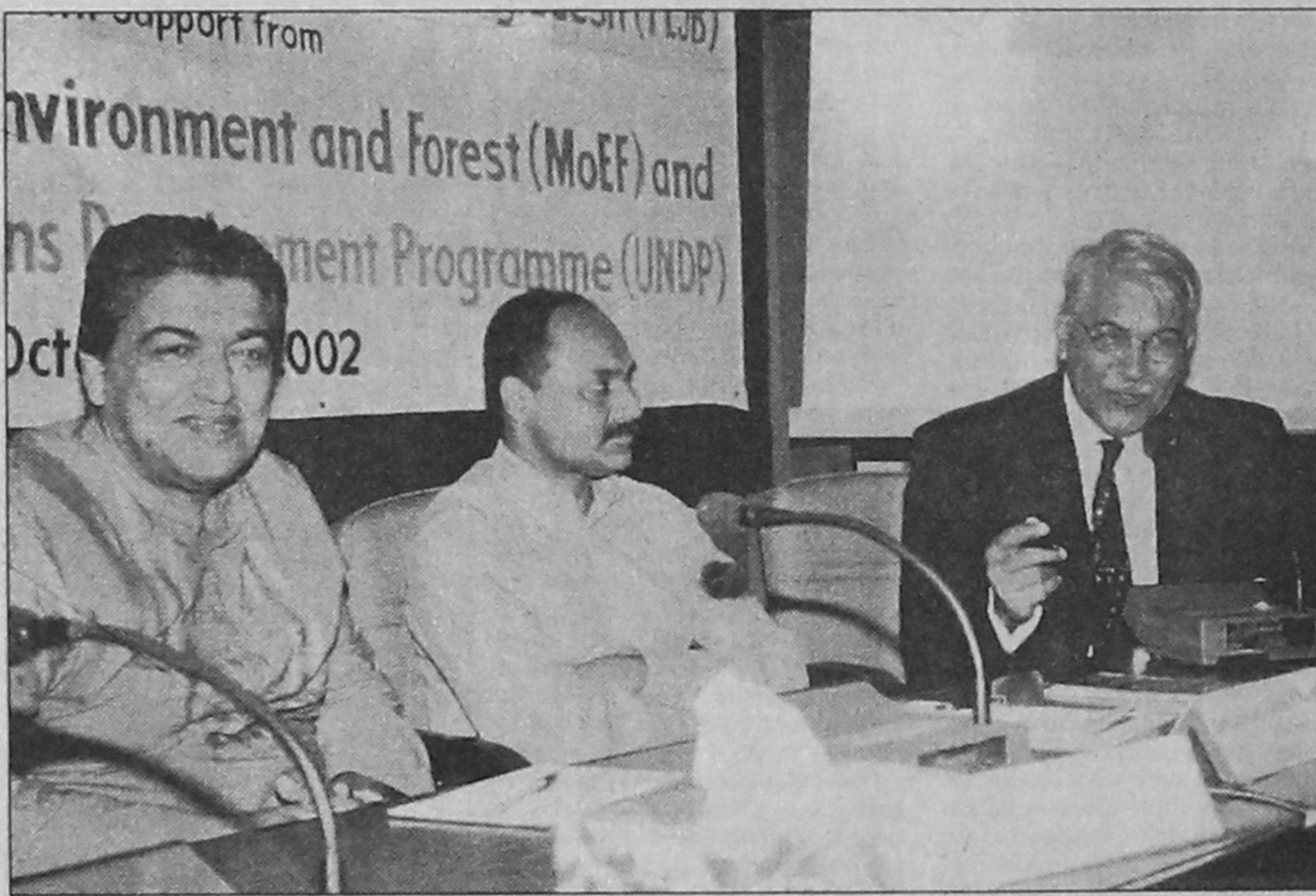
Syed Marghub Murshed emphasized the need for raising awareness about the problem of snakebites and called for addressing the issue of health management and post-bite medicare.

Prof. Zaker Hossain said that there are many myths about snakebite which are false and baseless. Snakes never drink milk and they do not give attention to charmers' flute. People are afraid of snake, so they kill snakes as soon as they see any, he added.

In response to different questions from the participants, Dr Ali Reza said that no animals are enemies of human being, not even the snakes. In all respects, snakes are very useful animal.

He advised the people not to consult any quack in case of snakebite.

Quamrul Chowdhury said snakebite is a health problem especially in rural and flood-prone areas in Bangladesh. He stressed the need for awareness campaign to address this problem.



Zoologist Dr. Ali Reza Khan delivers a lecture on 'Venomous Snakes' at National Press Club in the city yesterday. The Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh organised the event.

Khoka greets Hindu community

BSS, Dhaka

Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday greeted the Hindu community on the occasion of their largest religious festival Durga Puja.

In a statement, Khoka, who is also the fisheries and livestock minister and president of Dhaka City BNP, hoped that the festival would establish bonds of friendship and unity among all.

C'wealth Youth Programme meeting concludes

UNB, Dhaka

The three-day meeting of Regional Advisory Board (RAB) of Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), Asia Centre concluded in the city yesterday.

Various recommendations adopted at the RAB meeting would be placed at the next meeting of Commonwealth Ministers for Youths to be held at Botswana in May next year.

RAB meeting, which is usually held before the meeting of Commonwealth Ministers for Youths, elaborately discussed implementation and progress of the decisions taken at the previous meeting. Matters relating to youth problem in this region and its solution also came up for discussion.

A total of 39 representatives of seven countries - India, Maldives, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Brunei and host Bangladesh - took part in the RAB meeting.

Chaired by director general of youth development department SM Wallur Rahman, the concluding meeting was addressed, among others, by youth and sports secretary Nurul Huda, deputy secretary general of commonwealth secretariat Florence Mugasha, chief of youth affairs unit of the secretariat Ignatius Takwira and Munako Munamwalye of Youth Caucus

and regional director of CYP, Asia Centre, Raka Rashid.

Speakers at the meeting mentioned to take up pragmatic and new steps for youth development in Asia region.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the RAB meeting here on Wednesday.

9 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered nine firearms, one other weapon and eight bullets from across the country during the last 24 hours ending at 6.00 am yesterday.

They also arrested 1,491 people, including an identified criminal, during the period, a police headquarters press release said.

Of the arrested, 641 were police-wanted and 834 accused in different under-investigation cases.

Fifteen persons were arrested in connection with the arms recovery and police filed eight cases against them under the Arms Act.

Of the firearms, Mymensingh and Kushtia districts police recovered two each and other districts unit recovered the rest.

The arrested identified criminal is Mohammad Nasiruddin alias Chhotu Nasir of Dhaka city, the release added.

New committee of BCL JU unit announced

JU CORRESPONDENT

A new committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit was announced on Wednesday, says a press release.

Mahbuba Nazmina Zebin and Ismail Hossain Shiraji have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the new committee for one year.

Mohibur Rouf Shaibal has become the organising secretary.

The committee was formed at a council meeting of the BCL at the central office in the city.

With BCL President Liaquat Shikdar in the chair, General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu conducted the meeting.

Abducted girl rescued in Tangail

UNB, Tangail

Police rescued a kidnapped schoolgirl from Baruha village in Sadar upazila on Thursday afternoon, hours after her abduction.

Police said some 4-5 miscreants picked up Rahima Akhter, 14, a student of class eight, on her way to school in the morning and whisked away in a microbus.

On information, police raided the village and rescued the girl in the afternoon.

Police later arrested two of the kidnapers, Hashmat Alam and Aminul Islam of Dhalan village.

In another incident, two alleged kidnapers were caught ransomed from Elenga bus terminal on Tuesday while fleeing in a microbus after kidnapping a schoolgirl.

The miscreants were identified as Aslam and Morshed. They were handed over to police.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AKM Abdul Aziz, former director of the National Institute of Mass Communication, died yesterday at the age of 61.

He is survived by his wife and two sons. He was buried at Azim-pur graveyard.

His kulkhwani will be held at his KM Das Lane residence after Asr prayers on Sunday.

India constructs five spars Teesta Barrage under threat

UNB, Nilphamari

India has constructed five spars one km upstream of the Teesta river threatening the existence of Teesta Barrage, the largest irrigation project of Bangladesh.

Officials said the Bangladesh-India joint embankment is located at Kaliganj frontier village in Dimla upazila and the Indian authorities had so far constructed five spars one km upstream of the embankment.

"Now water from the Teesta river directly hits six points of the barrage, intensifying erosion in the area," said an official preferring anonymity.

Meanwhile, some 20,000 families in 11 mouzas of the upazila have taken shelter on an embankment as they lost their homesteads in the river erosion.

One-third of Dimla upazila has already disappeared into the river and the embankment on its right-bank is also under threat.

An expert at Bangladesh Water Development Board said if the Indian authorities succeeded in their efforts to change the flow of the river, the Tk 2000-crore Teesta

Barrage project would lose its effectiveness.

Local office of the Water Development Board has put forward a plan to the concerned ministry seeking funds for construction of five spars at the vulnerable points to check erosion.

Although the ministry has approved the proposal, but it could not yet provide any funds for implementation of the project.

One year of gov't Special prayer held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Nationalist Olama Party arranged a milad mahfil and special prayer at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Juma prayers yesterday marking the one year of the BNP-led alliance government in office.

At the beginning of milad, Olama Party convenor Syed Nazibul Basher Maizbhandari thanked the musallis on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for their cooperation in running the country during the last one year.

Among others, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan and Olama Dal member secretary Maulana Shah Muhammad Nesarul Haque attended the milad.

Special prayers seeking divine blessings for the welfare of the country as well its people were also held after the milad.

Tk 15 cr Swedish loan for dev

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive an additional amount of 25 million Swedish Kroner, equivalent to approximately Tk 15 crore, from Sweden as soft loan for infrastructure development.



A science fair was held at Bangladesh International School (BIS) yesterday. Quarter Master General Major General Md Aminul Karim, and Col Sahahuddin Ahmed, chairman, governing body of the school, were present as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Feni Road Division, Feni

Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 from "A" to "D" special category enlisted contractors of RHD eligible as per financial limits and jurisdiction of enlistment.

- 1. Tender Notice No : 05/2002-2003 (FRD).
2. Name of work : Construction of RCC box culvert at diff. km of diff. roads under Feni Road Division during the year 2002-2003 of 5 (five) groups as per group list.
3. Name of offices : Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong Division, Chittagong/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Feni/Noakhali/Lakshimpur/Planning & Design Divn, Comilla/Planning Division-1 (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka and all Sub-Division under Feni Road Division.
4. Name of offices : Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong Division, Chittagong/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Noakhali Road Circle, Noakhali/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka & Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Feni.
5. Last date of selling : 23-10-2002 Eng/8-7-1409 Bang. during office hours only.
6. Last date of receipt : 24-10-2002 Eng/9-7-1409 Bang. up to 12-30 PM.
7. Time and date of opening of tender : 27-10-2002 Eng/12-7-1409 Bang at 11-00 AM.
8. Time and date of lottery : 30-10-2002 Eng/15-7-1409 Bang at 11-00 AM.
9. Description of work : As per group list

Table with 7 columns: Group No, Name of work with location, Estimated cost, Earnest money, Cnty of contr, Time for comp work, Tender price. Rows include construction of R.C.C. box culverts at various locations.

বিতরণ-১। যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত দর কম/ বেশি হইতে পারে। আনুষ্ঠানিক দরপত্র সম্পাদনের সময়ে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত প্রাক্কলন অনুযায়ী সংশোধন করা হইবে।

Md Harunur Rashid Executive Engineer, RHD Feni Road Division, Feni

DFP-24347-5/10/02 G-2178

Advertisement for Nyaanabala Tibb (NIT) featuring a logo and text in Bengali. It describes a health program and provides contact information for Dr. Habibur Rahman.