



With the Eid round the corner, hundreds of home-bound people queue up at the ticket counters at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday to buy advance tickets.

## Blood pressure epidemic looms

REUTERS, London

A third of the world's adult population - more than one billion people - will suffer from high blood pressure by 2025, scientists predicted yesterday.

About a billion people around the globe were afflicted with high blood pressure or hypertension, the most important preventable risk factor for heart disease and stroke, in 2000.

But in the next 20 years the number is expected to soar by about 60 percent and three-quarters of cases will be in developing countries.

"By 2025 we project that the number of adults with hypertension will be 1.6 billion," Dr Jiang He, of Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, told Reuters.

Cardiovascular disease is already one of the top killers in most countries and accounts for 30 percent of all deaths worldwide.

In the first study to estimate the total burden of hypertension in the world, the Tulane scientists compiled published research on regional and national figures from 1980 to 2002 to estimate the current worldwide and future prevalence.

In 2000, 333 million adults in developed countries and 639 million in poor nations had hypertension. The

report estimates prevalence in developing states -- where it is set to rise by 80 percent -- will account for most of the predicted increase.

### BRUNT OF BURDEN IN POOR COUNTRIES

"More than half of hypertension patients are living in developing countries now. By 2025 an even higher proportion will be in economically developing countries," He, an epidemiologist, explained.

"Cardiovascular disease will become the most serious public health challenge in developing countries."

Latin America and the Caribbean had particularly high prevalence of hypertension, according to the research published in The Lancet medical journal.

During recent decades, cases of high blood pressure have remained stable or decreased in wealthy nations, but have risen in poor nations because of lifestyle changes and the fact that people are living longer.

He and his team said developing countries consider infectious diseases as their most important health problem and do not focus prevention efforts on chronic illnesses.

Research has shown that reducing weight, salt and alcohol consumption,

eating more fruits and vegetables and increasing exercise can reduce hypertension.

The researchers believe developing countries should follow the example of wealthy nations which have established national programs to prevent and treat high blood pressure.

"Our study gives a serious warning to health policy makers in developing countries and world organizations. They have to pay serious attention to hypertension and hypertension-related chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease," said He.

"They have to pay attention now."

### Death anniversary



Today is the 20th death anniversary of Abdul Hai, a journalist and litterateur, says a press release.

He was the editor-in-chief of the daily *Muhammad* and editor of the daily *Meitrat*.

A mild mahfil will be held at Bangabhaban Staff Quarters Mosque after Asr prayers.

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## RHD Tender Invitation Notice Bogra Road Division, Bogra

1. Employer	Ministry of Communication.
2. Agency	Roads and Highways Department.
3. Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Bogra Road Division, Bogra.
4. Procuring entity code	Not use at present.
5. Procuring entity district	Bogra.
6. Invitation for	Repairing Bailey Bridge.
7. Invitation reference No	05.
8. Date	01-01-2005.
9. Procurement method	Open tendering method (as per the Public Procurement Regulation-2003).
10. Budget & source of fund	Annual Development Program of 2004-2005 GOB.
11. Development partners (if applicable)	Code No 5-5041-5450-7021 & 5-5041-8013-7021.
12. Project/programme code	Repairing, supplying, fitting fixing & repairing Bailey Bridge at 3rd, 7th & a 8th km of Sultanganj (Lichutola)-Bagbari-Gabtoli Road Project/repairing, supplying & fitting fixing of diff part of steel decking Bailey Bridge at 8th, 15th, 16th, & 18th km of Bogra-Shariakandi Road Project.
13. Project/programme name	As stated on SI No 23.
14. Tender package No.	Repairing of steel decking Bailey Bridge.
15. Tender package name	Up to office hours of 06-02-2005.
16. Tender publication date	Up to 12:00 Noon of 09-02-2005.
17. Tender last selling date	On 09-02-2005 at 12:15 PM.
18. Tender closing date and time	Road Division, Bogra.
19. Tender opening date & time	a. Name and address of the selling tender document (principal)
20. a. Name and address of the selling tender document (principal)	a. Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gaibandha/Joyphur.
b. Selling tender document (others)	b. Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Bogra/Sherpur/1st Line Workshop-Sub Division, Bogra.
c. Receiving tender document	a. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Bogra Road Circle, Bogra.
d. Opening tender document	b. Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra.
21. Eligibility of tenderers	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra on 09-02-2005 at 3:00 PM.
22. Brief description of goods or works	Any individual(s)/firm(s) who fulfill the qualifications criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) and other conditions of the tender(s) document(s).
23. Brief description of related services	Repairing of steel decking Bailey Bridge.

Lot No.	Description and location of works	Tender security	Time completion	Price of tender documents
87.	Repairing, supplying, fitting fixing & repairing Bailey Bridge at 3rd, 7th & a 8th km of Sultanganj (Lichutola)-Bagbari-Gabtoli Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 2004-2005.	Tk 8,000/-	20 (twenty) days	Per page x 2/- + 30/-
88.	Repairing, supplying & fitting fixing of diff part of steel decking Bailey Bridge at 8th, 15th, 16th & 18th km of Bogra-Shariakandi Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 2004-2005.	Tk 2,500/-	15 (fifteen) days	Per page x 2/- + 30/-
24. Name of official inviting tender	Md Abdul Hossain Pramanik.			
25. Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RHD.			
26. Address of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra.			
27. Contracts details of official inviting tender	Tel No: 051-66304, Fax: 051-66304.			
28. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	1. In under any unavoidable circumstances tender documents selling, receiving & opening disturbed, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.			

**Md Abdul Hossain Pramanik**  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
(Current Charge)  
Road Division, Bogra.

## President given red carpet reception in Saudi Arabia

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed was given a red carpet reception when he arrived in King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jeddah on Thursday night, according to a message received yesterday.

Governor of Jeddah Prince Mishal Bin Majed Bin Abdul Aziz received the president at the airport. A smart contingent of the Royal Guard of Saudi Arabia gave him a guard of honour.

The president and the Saudi prince exchanged pleasantries and expressed their determination to cement the ties between the two countries.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Major General (retd) S M Iqramul Haque and Consul General of Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah Ashraf Uddin were also present.

Later, President Iajuddin was taken to the Royal Conference Palace in Jeddah in a royal ceremonial motorcade from the airport. He will stay at the palace till January 16 and leave for Makkah on January 17 to perform Hajj.

He will also undergo a medical check-up during his stay in Saudi Arabia.

The fire fighters extinguished the blaze after a struggle for two hours.

Twenty-three houses and a shop were gutted in a fire at Madhya Halishahar in the port city in the early hours of yesterday.

An electrical short-circuit sparked off the fire at Wasilpara Jamai Colony at around 2.15am and caused an estimated loss of Tk 6 lakh, fire service sources said.

The fire fighters extinguished the blaze after a struggle for two hours.

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