Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

#### Schools in Dhaka

Recently, I went through the cover story of the November issue of PUR-PLE magazine. I came to know many surprising facts about our schools-private and public. Many amused me but most were frustrating.

Until then my experiences were related to my school-going children's daily plight of going to their school at Dhanmondi and coming back home. My job is to drop them at the school gate and my wife's to bring them back. Our daily struggle with the CNG and cab has never been sweet to recall. Piles of rubble or a running sewer pit or an open drain are parts of my memory. A gas burner with large frying pans with 'paratas' on them or hawkers vending summer delicacies at the school gate, the horn loving cars, rickshaws crammed at the gate and ies at all, while 54% of the libraries blisters and rashes. I finally cars clustered all around the school were all a familiar sight. We always ask ourselves why there was no school bus, no safety concern, and no decency and why everyone keeps on increasing school fees; ties for junior classes only. Ninetyasking for tissue and toilet papers one percent schools manage their Mr. M Seraj

आमि कि दुलिए नाति

यामि कि सुनिए मारि

Our mother tongue has a permanent place in

our hearts. We paid a very high price to achieve it.

No one can overlook the enriched literature and

and fear of stripping Bangla of its grace. Bangla is

the language of 230 million people which makes

it the 4th-5th largest native language in the

world. There are too many malpractices in the

society these days that are tarnishing Bangla's

In our country, we do not take pride in Bangla

the way we should. There is a common notion

among the public that it is 'good' to speak some

language other than Bangla---especially Eng-

lish. I doubt whether anyone can proudly say

that "I speak 100% Bangla without using a single

English word." Sad, but true! What is worse is

that people do not lament this. Rather, to many,

I write this letter out of a felling of insecurity

tradition of Bangla.

image.

ब्रिडि-५५

services they ought to provide. Primary and secondary schools life saving techniques and only 6% really suffer from lack of efficiency and long time planning. The issue revealed many facts about our schools. It is painful to know that only one in every five schools has transports facilities. The parents are left in total despair to find a cab or rickshaw while the more fortunate drive their cars thus occupying the road just to drop one child while thirty to fifty children could be carried by a single school bus. It is thus a complete shame that only one in every 42 students has access to school transport. Twenty percent schools operate with no librarhold only 50 to 300 books.

kindergarten to graduation have to go to private teachers? Only 60% of the schools have playground faciliat the beginning of each year. But database manually. No schools Engineer and agroentrepreneur

जामात डारेश्वत त्र त्राक्षाता । 1 क्या कियाती

ছिलि श्रंता गण गायित जया-जड़ा 1 किन्याती

व्यामात्र (प्रानात्र (प्रमात् त्रिक् ताक्षाता (फक्यप्रति)

Place of Bangla

after reading an article in that have sick rooms within their premagazine, many other things mises while only 20 percent have concerned me. Schools in Dhaka contact with nearby clinics to are not equipped with many vital accommodate emergencies. None of them teach their students basic schools have trained personnel to handle physical emergencies. What surprised me the most was that only 24 out of 68 schools were even willing to answer questions asked by the magazine, considering them to be Gestapo!

A lot of thanks go to Purple magazine and its reporters who laboriously worked and revealed many facts, which would otherwise have been unknown to us.

We sent our children to schools and they came back home without complaints except on one occasion when my son came back with decided to survey his classroom Why do almost all students from and found that it is a mere concrete room with a tin-roof with no insulation underneath. This is apparently a very common occurrence in the junior classes.

it is a matter of pride to insert English words

Popular computer applications are being

given Bangla interface these days. A great piece

of news for us indeed! But it would be even better

if it were done more accurately. 'Copy', 'Cut',

'Paste', 'Tool', all have been directly adopted into

the Bangla version. Wouldn't it enrich our own

language if Bangla terms were used instead? A

combined team of linguists and programmers

own culture and language, and not copying

Dept. of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

A sign of a developed nation is promoting its

জাফর আহাম্মদ খান

প্রকল্প পরিচালক

०८६८८६६ धनाकः

GD-62

should do the job perfectly well.

University of Duisburg-Essen

while speaking.

Ruhi Al Jawwad

Germany

# Assassination of Benazir Bhutto

The assassination of Benazir Pakistan come true. Bhutto is an attack on those Arafat Hasan people who want to see pro- MBA student, IUB gressive, modern and eduleader. Having read her autoagony she had to go through but I was even more astounded by the fact that despite difficulties her will to bring change to Pakistan remained undiminished.

Benazir Bhutto had to go through pain of such enormous magnitude that it can not be explained, nor can any other person feel it.

In her death Pakistan and indeed the greater South East Asian bloc suffer an irreparable loss.

May her dreams of a progressive and developed

cated leaders in the forefront The end of an unsuccessful of politics. As a young man I dynasty! For the last thirty have taken a great deal of plus years, the country has interest in her journey been out of control and if through life as a young woman someone thinks it can be fixed in a hurry, he will be up for a biography years ago, I was big surprise. I question Ms. astounded by the pain and Bhutto's political farsighted-

It seems she was more interested in power than anything else.

Bidyutpal Sarkar One-mail

I am very sad indeed at the tragic end of the Daughter of the East. Ms. Bhutto, who never lost, hope has paid the ultimate price for her political conviction. Maybe not all agreed with her and I think her killing constitutes a major setback to democracy in Pakistan. Having sacrificed her life,



she has proved that it wasn't a long exile, rather it was her her desire for power that made dream to see Pakistan becom-

her come back to Pakistan after ing a democratic country.

Mr. A.N.M. Nurul Haque, a col-

May her soul rest in peace. Golam Faruque On e-mail

### Forestry graduates

In most of the developed countries, forests are managed by professional foresters who typically require a 4-year university degree in forestry and a professional licence to practise forestry. In Bangladesh, nothing of that sort seems to have a place, especially with the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)the lone government agency that has lately earned so much of ill-repute due to unbridled corruption amongst its rank and file.

arcane policy in recruiting its recruiting only forestry graduates entry level officers - the Assistant as its officers. Conservator of Forests (ACF) who join the department through the Bangladesh Civil Service Exam (Forest Cadre) with a traditional master's degree from such disparate disciplines as botany, chemistry and zoology. Following recruitment, they undergo a condensed one-year-training in forestry that is inadequate, to say the least, for attaining the required knowledge and motivation in forestry. That's why we see so many of them becoming corrupt within a short while.

Therefore, the government after the floods and the cyclone. must think of recruiting professional foresters with formal edu- tion, these agitations will not be of

cation and training in forestry and much use except to disrupt the more importantly, with the motivation to becoming one in an effort to break the vicious cycle of corrupt practices within the BFD. Fortunately, three public universities have been producing graduates with a 4-year degree in forestry. I am sure these graduates with their technical knowledge and motivation can help the BFD become a responsible steward of our dwindling forest resources.

I certainly hope that the adviser in-charge will look into The BFD still maintains an the issue as to why the BFD is not

> Abu M. Nurullah, Ph.D. Forest Management Specialist Washington State Dept, of Natural Resources Olympia, WA 98540

The AL front organisations' plan for agitation is indicative of a fundamental distance these organisations have from the plight of common people, who are looking for nothing more than employment and food, especially

If recent trends are any indica-

lives of common folk on the streets, and further tarnish our already bad image as an economic, political, administrative, and ecological basket case.

The authorities should do everything they can to contain these sabre-rattlers and miscreants, and the people should make it clear in no uncertain terms that we will no longer make any compromise on our economic well-

release of their leader or anybody 16 lakh families, damaged crops else before the holding of a free of 4.62 lakh acres of farmland, and fair election, I would have to killed 4.68 lakh cattle-heads, ask them, why? Where is the ravaged 12.08 lakh homesteads, connection between suspects in razed 1355 educational instituextortion and corruption cases, tions to the ground, destroyed and the holding of elections? If 1654 bridges & culverts and 848 they are innocent, they will be kilometers of road and ruined released through the due pro- 800 dairy & 2000 poultry farms. In ing.

filled by other, hopefully more ing. About 30% of Sundarbans, competent individuals, and we the world's largest mangrove want to see a change for the forest, has been damaged. better. The status quo and political musical chairs between the two main political parties are the reason why we're so socially and politically backward. Iftekharul Haque On e-mail

#### Need for national austerity

umnist of The Daily Star in his article published on December 4, 2007 has very rightly advised the government to be serious about austerity to overcome the fallout of cyclones, floods and rising oil prices. It is not difficult to underif we just have a close look at the devastation of the cyclone Sidr As for the unconditional that has affected 69 lakh people of fact as days are passing, more The leadership vacuum can be destruction & damage is surfac-Though the total economic loss caused by cyclone Sidr is yet to be assessed, primary estimate reveals that it would be billions of dollars.

> Donations and aids are coming from friendly states & interna-

tional agencies in addition to the encouraging response from within the country. But the government will not be able to meet this challenge only by the donations & aids received and promised. So, Mr. Nurul Haque has urged the government to announce a national austerity programme to check all unnecessary spending in government stand the gravity of the situation offices. In this respect, I would like to urge this interim government to come forward to impose some austerity measures also for the general people of the country. A few of them

> -Two meatless and one no-fish days in a week.

-Strictly control the number of guests entertained in socialfunctions & ban all sorts of light-

-One weekly day of private car-free roads when people will use public transports only.

-Impose a nominal surcharge (that will go to the Chief Adviser's relief fund) on all mobile phone

National austerity can save the nation from a subsistence crisis that is looming in the horizon. Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque Khalishpur, Khulna

General Manager

Telephone: 0821-715768

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ভুমারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প

নং-াবা	বএস/বাঃকৃ	ঃতঃ-২০০৭/৫(১৩)ক্রয়/ উ			পত্ৰ বিজ্ঞপ্তি	তারিখঃ ০১/০১/২০০৮ই		
(5)	মপ্রণালয়/বি	<i>ব</i> ভাগ	2	পরিকল্পনা	মন্ত্ৰণালয়/পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ।			
(२)	সংস্থার নাম		2		পরিসংখ্যান ব্যরো।			
(0)	The second second second second	সন্তার নাম	40		কৃষি ভ্রমারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প।			
(8)	THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 I	সন্তার জেলার নাম	3	ঢাকা।				
(0)	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	প্রে আহ্বান	0	ঃ বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ভ্যারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্পে ব্যবহারের জন্য কম্পিউটার টেবিল ও চেয়ার সরবরা				
(6)	দরপত্রের ন	R	ঃ বিবিএস/বাঃকৃঃভঃ-২০০৭/৫(১৩)ক্রন/২০০৭-০৩		9-00			
(9)	তারিখ		0	3 03/03/20071				
(4)	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধ		3	উনুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।				
(8)	বাজেট ও ব		ঃ উনুয়ন বাজেট, জিওবি।					
(30)	প্রকল্পের বে		3	60601				
(22)	প্রকল্পের নাম		3	ঃ বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ত্রমারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প।				
(32)	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নং		1 2	३ ०० (श्राष्ट्र)।				
(30)	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম		3	আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়।				
(38)	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ		1	1401				
(50)	-		1 3	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1				
(56)	THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	ণর শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	3	र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र				
(86)	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা		1	৩০ জানুয়া	রি ২০০৮ বেলা ০২.৩০ ঘটিকা।			
(30)	ক) দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান		2	া বাংলাদেশ কৃষি তমারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৭ম তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।				
	খ) দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান		:	বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ত্মারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৭ম তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।				
	গ) দরপত্র খোলার স্থান		:	ঃ বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ত্মারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প বাংলাদেশ প্রসংখ্যান বাংলা				
(4))	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা		9.8	সংশ্রিষ্ট কাজে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী, আমদানিকারক, সরবরাহকারী এবং উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ। অগ্রহী দরদাতাদের যথায়থ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএনসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ, ভাটে রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদ এবং অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে।				
(२२)	যালায়ালের		ঃ কম্পিউটার টেবিল ও চেয়ার সরবরাহ।					
(20)	CO. Marine Co.	উলের মূল্য	ঃ ৪০০.০০ (চারশত) টাকা মাত্র।					
	मंग्रे मर	THE STREET, ST		স্থান	জামানতের পরিমাণ	artisment		
(28)	0)	কম্পিউটার টেবিল ও চেয়ার ক্রয়		ঢাকা	২৫,০০০.০০ (পচিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র	কার্যসম্পাদনের সময় কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তির ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে		
(20)		বানকারীর নাম	ঃ ভাফর আহাম্দে খান।					
(२७)		বানকারীর পদবী	ঃ প্রকল্প পরিচালক।					
(২৭)	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা		1	ঃ বাংলাদেশ কৃষি তমারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৭) তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।				
(5%)	যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা		2	কোন নং-৯১১৪৯১০, জাতু নং-৯১১১০৬৪, E-mail-agricensus.bbs@gmail.com				
	বিশেষ দুষ্টব্যঃ  ক) বাজেউপ্রাপ্তি সাপেকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান কর							

## Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute Savar, Dhaka-1341

Invitation for Tenders

No: BLVPRO/Tender/2007/68 Date: 02/01/2008 Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers for supplying of chemicals & reagents Project name Conservation and improvement of native sheep through community farming and commercial farming-(Component-A, Research) Source of fund Invitation of tenders No. 8 BLVPRO/Tender/2007/68 02/01/08. Tender name Supply of chemicals & reagents. Time for completion of 60 days from the date of delivery Notification of Award. Eligibility of tenderers Registered Bangladeshi suppliers/local agents. Price of tender document Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) only nonrefundable. Amount of tender security Tk. 15,000/= (fifteen thousand) Name and address of the Accounts Section, Bangladesh office(s) Livestock Research Institute, Selling tender document Savar, Dhaka. Name and address of the The office room of the Executive office(s) Engineer, Bangladesh Livestock Receiving tenders Research Institute, Savar, Dhaka. Name and address of the Bangladesh Livestock Research office(s) Institute, Savar, Dhaka. Opening tenders Last date and time for January 27, 2008 up to 12.00 selling tender document 13 Last date and time for January 28, 2008 up to 4.00pm. tender submission 14 Date and time for tender January 28, 2008 up to 2.15pm. opening 15 Place of pre-tender meeting Not applicable. (optional) 16 | Special instructions The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders prior to acceptance without assigning any reason whatsoever. Brief description of goods The related descriptions for the procurement of chemicals & reagents would be available in

tender documents.

Dr. Md. Ershaduzzaman

Project Director

Phone No: 7791695

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## Bangladesh Bank

Invitation for Tender

Tender No.02/2007-2008 Date: 26-12-2007 Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide contractors/construction firms for stripping & renewing plaster, providing polyvinyl distemper to wall & ceiling and renewing synthetic enamel paint to interior doors &

for completion of work ility of tenderers		Bank staff quarters, Upashahar, Sylhet.  120 (one hundred twenty) days.  This invitation for tender is open to all having following eligibilities:-  (a) General experience: Minimum period of general experience in the sin nature of works shall not be less than 05 (five) years.  (b) Experience of similar work: Satisfactorily completed at least two sin	
for completion of work		Stripping & renewing plaster, providing polyvinyl distemper to wall & ceiling renewing synthetic enamel paint to interior doors & windows at Bangla Bank staff quarters, Upashahar, Sylhet.  120 (one hundred twenty) days.  This invitation for tender is open to all having following eligibilities:-  (a) General experience: Minimum period of general experience in the sin nature of works shall not be less than 05 (five) years.  (b) Experience of similar work: Satisfactorily completed at least two sin	
for completion of work ility of tenderers	::	120 (one hundred twenty) days.  This invitation for tender is open to all having following eligibilities:-  (a) General experience: Minimum period of general experience in the sin nature of works shall not be less than 05 (five) years.  (b) Experience of similar work: Satisfactorily completed at least two sin	
ility of tenderers	;	This invitation for tender is open to all having following eligibilities:-  (a) General experience: Minimum period of general experience in the sir	
		(a) General experience: Minimum period of general experience in the sir nature of works shall not be less than 05 (five) years.      (b) Experience of similar work: Satisfactorily completed at least two sir	
		(b) Experience of similar work: Satisfactorily completed at least two sin	
		joint stock company of Bangladesh during last 05(five) years. The tende shall have to furnish certification in this respect from officers not below the rof Executive Engineer or equivalent.	
		(c) Turnover: Minimum average annual turnover during last 05 ye preceding the date of submission of the tender shall not be less than Tk (sixty-five) lac.	
		(d) Liquid assets/credit facilities: Minimum liquid assets/credit facilities s be Tk 10 lac.	
(handanda d		(e) Shall meet all other criteria, terms & conditions as specified in ten document (as per form-w2).	
of tender document	1:	Taka 2,000.00 (two thousand) only.	
nt of tender security	1:	Taka 50,000.00 (fifty thousand) only.	
Name and address of the office selling tender document		<ol> <li>Engineering Department, Bangladesh Bank, Sylhet. (The primary place).</li> <li>Common Service Department, Head Office, Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka. (Tsecondary place).</li> </ol>	
Name and address of the office receiving tenders		<ol> <li>General Manager, 2nd Floor of Office Building, Bangladesh Bank, Sylhe (The primary place).</li> <li>General Manager, Common Service Department, Head Office, Banglade, Bank, Dhaka. (The secondary place).</li> </ol>	
Name and address of the office opening tenders		General Manager, 2nd Floor of Office Building, Bangladesh Bank, Sylhet.	
Last date and time for selling tender document		04/02/2008 during office hours.	
Last date and time for submission of tender document		05/02/2008 up to 10.30am.	
Date and time for opening tenders		06/02/2008 at 10.30am (The primary place). (Intending tenderers or their authorised representatives are allowed to atten	
Special instructions		Bangladesh Bank, Sylhet reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	
Brief description of the works		The work consists of:  Stripping & renewing plaster, providing polyvinyl distemper to wall & ceiling ar renewing synthetic enamel paint to interior doors & windows etc.	
		ription of the works :	