

# Special policy needed to draw investment in Uttara EPZ

Only 8 out of 154 plots allotted in five years despite its strategic location, business leaders say

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Business leaders in greater Rangpur have demanded a 'special industrial policy' for the moga-prone area to attract investment in Uttara Export Processing Zone (Uttara EPZ) and create jobs.

Uninterrupted power supply at subsidised rate, reopening of Syedpur airport for cargo flights and Chilahati-Holdibari rail link can boost local and foreign investments in Uttara EPZ and other viable spots in the country. The products can find good markets in eastern Indian states, Nepal, Bhutan and even China, they said.

President of greater Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mostofa Azad Chowdhury also suggested soft bank loan for investors Uttara EPZ.

The 13-15 per cent interest now charged by commercial banks is too high, which should be 8-10 per cent, he suggested.

"A special industrial policy can bring momentum in Uttara EPZ which can play a very important role in development of the moga prone region," he said.

The Uttara EPZ with an area of 230 acres was commissioned at Sangoli village in Nilphamari district in 2002 with an initial target to create employment for 50,000 people. But the EPZ could not draw the expected investment.

Out of a total of 154, only eight plots have so far been allocated to eight investors, EPZ sources said.

One of these, Uttara Sweater Manufacturing, a Chinese owned company, produces good quality sweaters for export. It employs to 1400 people.

Kapric Electronics Ltd' a joint Indo-Bangla venture producing electrical capacitor provides employment to 200 people. Quest Accessories produce garments accessories and Northern Poly Industries produces polythene and



The lone export processing zone in the northern region, Uttara EPZ, is free from hustle and bustle as it has failed to attract investors despite having all infrastructural facilities.

Sunflower produces agricultural tools. Another garments factory - KP International is coming up.

Messers Diaz Spinning and Knitting Mill Ltd got a plot last month to set up a sweater factory and may go into production soon to provide jobs to 525 people.

Talking to this correspondent, many investors said they lost interest to invest in Uttara EPZ due to lack of pipeline gas supply, which increases production cost.

US expatriate Parvez Khan, owner of KP International, said there are lots of investors but they should be attracted. Parvez, a man from Nilphamari, said there are many prospective Bangladeshis in US who want to invest in the country. He

said his knitting and agrobased industry would run without gas.

EPZ officials said the Uttara EPZ is suitable for investment in over 20 types of industries like electrical and electronic goods, software, engineering goods, leather products, pharmaceutical products, medical instrument, plastic moulded products, jewellery and musical instruments.

Project Director (PD) of Uttara EPZ Abdul Alim however said industries can be run by furnace oil and electricity.

Alim said rent for factory space is only 1.25 dollars per square metre, which is almost half the amount in other EPZs in the country.

He also claimed that good

communication network and peaceful atmosphere are added attractions for Uttara EPZ.

He firmly said that labour cost here is 25-30 per cent less than in the other EPZs. The government is considering a proposal to exempt Jamuna bridge toll charge in transporting goods from the EPZ.

Nilphamari Chamber vice-president Abdul Wahed suggested immediate cargo sevice from Syedpur airport to attract more foreign investment.

He said the distance between Chilahati in Bangladesh and Holdibari in India is only 11.34 kilometres, of which, 8.10 kilometres are in Bangladesh territory. This rail link can be reopened with little cost.

## Indo-Bangla talks on Kurigram border dispute begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A four-member Indian delegation today sits with their Bangladesh counterpart to settle down demarcation on border areas in the district.

The Indian team led by Director (Land Records) of Assam province in India Sayed Itikhar arrived in Kurigram yesterday to attend the four-day meeting.

Director General of Land Record of Bangladesh Mahfuzur Rahman will lead the Bangladesh team.

The meeting will take place at the hall room of Terre de Homes in Kurigram.

The main purpose of the meeting is to settle the demarcation between Bangladesh and India, said the deputy commissioner of Kurigram district.

The two teams will visit border areas from Fulbari to Roumari in the district and settle the demarcation issue.

## Khulna WASA acting MD appointed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Additional Divisional Commissioner Begum Shamima Sultana was given the responsibility as acting managing director of Khulna Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) with effect from yesterday.

LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Md. Anowarul Iqbal will inaugurate Khulna WASA on Wednesday to fulfil a long-felt demand of the people of Khulna city.

Preliminary works of Khulna WASA began yesterday at Khulna City Corporation office with 154 officials and employees.

The daily demand for water in the city with 15 lakh people has been estimated at three crore gallons.

Now, KCC supplies only about 40 per cent of the demand through its 60 tubewells, 3000 hand-driven tubewells and 6000 shallow tubewells.

There are 225 kilometres of pipelines in the city, said acting Mayor Moniruzzaman Moni.

Khulna WASA will meet the total requirement if funds can be made available in time, he said.

## Fertiliser crisis affects Boro in Kishoeganj

38,422 MT urea supplied against demand for 42,669 MT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Farmer Shamsul Huq said he went to Alongjuri union of Itna upazila eight times but did not get any fertiliser.

He lanted Boro in four acres of land in Dhuldia Beel in Itna upazila, which need fertiliser now. He did not get any fertiliser as he is not on the list in Alongjuri union because he is a resident of nearby Karimganj upazila with lands in the Bhuldia Beel.

Aminul Islam, a teacher of Alongjuri Government Primary School in Itna said he got only 600 kilograms of urea against a requirement of 1100 kgs for his 12 acres of Boro land.

He also needs at least 600 kg TSP but got only 60 kgs, he told this correspondent during a recent visit to Boro fields in Haor areas.

Same is the situation in other haor areas in Kishoreganj district.

This correspondent talked to at least 50 farmers who said they are not getting required quantities of fertiliser due to short supply and alleged mismanagement in distribution.

They alleged that they may miss their production targets for the third consecutive year, mainly due to fertiliser crisis now.

Boro is the lone food crop in Kishoreganj Haor areas. The crop was damaged in last two seasons due to flood and 'cold injury' during winter.

In Bhairab upazila, farmers at a recent press conference at the local press expressed resentment over fertiliser crisis. They were cooled down by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer by assuring adequate supply of the input.

About 500 farmers from Abdullapur union in Austogram upazila in an application to Kishoreganj Deputy Commissioner Sultan Ahmed alleged that they did not get any fertiliser in January and that their Boro crops are being

affected now for this.

Transplantation of Boro seedlings in Haor areas started in January but many farmers did not get any fertiliser till now, they alleged.

Farmers alleged that the crisis was created mainly due to mismanagement in distribution process. Farmers who do not live in Haor areas have not been listed for fertiliser, they said.

The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) made lists of farmers in Haor areas in May and June when landowners living elsewhere were not included, they said.

During the visit, it was found that at least 407 acres of Boro land owned by Jirati farmers were deprived of fertiliser only in Alongjuri union of Itna upazila. Farmers having land in Haor areas living elsewhere are locally called Jirati.

AED block supervisor in Alongjuri union Md. Pabon Ali also acknowledged that many farmers were not on the lists prepared in May and June.

AED sources said that in last season Boro production target in six haor upazilas was 4,07,598 tonnes but the yielded was 3,02,558 tonnes.

A total of 1, 58,567 hectares of land were brought under Boro cultivation in the district this year.

Farmers said, they may not get the targeted production this year also if the fertiliser crisis is not resolved right now.

Deputy Director Abdul Baten of Kishoreganj AED however said there was no crisis of fertiliser in the district.

Other AED sources said they got 38,422 tonnes of urea against the demand for 42,669 tonnes.

They however said Jirati farmers were being listed for fertiliser. There is no sanction for Jirati farmers but they are trying to manage fertiliser for them, the officials said.



## Transfer Barnali gang rape, murder case to STT

BSEHR demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Khulna chapter of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) has demanded transfer of the sensational Barnali Ghosh gang rape and murder case to Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Barnali Ghosh, a student Khulna Government Azam Khan Commerce College, was gang-raped and killed on the night of June 20 last year at her Chitra village in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat district.

Police recovered her skeleton on July 11 last year from a ditch behind the house of Jai Munshi of the same village.

Her father Bipul Ghosh filed a case on the same naming Manoj Biswas and Sujit Halder alias Raju and some unidentified others as accused for killing his daughter after gangrape.

Police during investigation arrested five persons including Rampal Sadar Upazila Parishad chairman Jamil Hasan Jamu. Two out of five arrestees - Muktar Hossain and Wazed Sheikh - made statements to court under Section 164 of CrPc confessing to their involvement in the gangrape and murder.

They confessed Barnali Ghosh was killed by pouring acid on her body after gangrape.

OC of detective branch of Bagerhat district police submitted charge sheet to court on February 18 accusing 13 people. Seven out of 13 charge-sheeted accused are still absconding while six others are in Bagerhat jail.

BSEHR president advocate Abdul Majid in his press statement on Saturday said the absconding accused are threatening the complainant with death if withdrawal of the case.

## Abduction bid foiled, Indian held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An Indian was caught by local people while he was trying to abduct a grocery shop owner at Samanbhag tea garden in Baralekha upazila in the district Saturday night.

Local people also recovered a country made gun, a cocktail and some chilly powder from them.

The Indian gang tried to abduct grocer Gonesh Madrazi when he was closing his shop at about 11 pm to go home. As he screamed, emergency bell of the garden was rang that drew nearby people. They caught alleged abductor Kanti Bikash Chakma. His accomplices fled away.

He later told Baralekha police that he was from Chikachhera in Karimganj in Assam state of India.

## JOB REGULARISATION

# RU 4th class staff stage sit-in

RU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred controversially appointed fourth-class employees of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the Senate Bhavan demanding immediate regularisation of their jobs, campus sources said.

During the sit-in, the employees wore black badges and held a rally. Speakers urged the chief adviser of the caretaker government and the university authorities to take necessary steps for regularization of their jobs.

They said their families consisting of at least 200 members were living in misery.

They announced an agitation programme which included wearing of black badges on Sundays and Wednesdays and silent procession on the campus on Saturdays and Thursdays.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Aminul Islam, Masud Rana, Haidar, Shamim, Saiful and Amirul.

When contacted, vice chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain said he is unable to say anything about their job regularisation.

The university authorities appointed 544 third and fourth-class employees against 255 vacant posts allegedly in gross violation of the university rules sometime in April 2004.

In face of agitation by the employees, the authorities regularised jobs of about 300 employees during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat coalition government.

Later, the High Court stayed the recruitment following filing of a case by a lawyer named Abu Aslam.

## Khagrachhari Ananda Mela begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A fortnight long Ananda Mela will begin here today.

At least 300 stalls were erected at the fair's college gate venue to display various products of indigenous communities including bamboo and cane-based cottage industries, fair committee sources said.

The entire area was tastefully decorated to attract a large number of visitors.

## Wife killed for dowry

A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

A housewife and mother of two children was killed for dowry allegedly by her husband at Argarhat of Daipukuria union in Shibganj upazila yesterday, police and victim's family sources said.

The victim is Tajkera Khatun, 35, wife of Habibur Rahman. They were married about 15 years ago. After the marriage, Habibur Rahman demanded dowry amounting to Tk 5,000 from his wife. As her family could not fulfill his demand, he started torturing her. On the fateful night, he allegedly tortured wife for whole night. She died at around 7 next morning. Police recovered the body.

Victim's husband and in-laws fled after filing of a case with Shibganj police station by Abdus Sobhan, father of the ill-fated woman.

### RE-TENDER NOTICE

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW)																
2	Agency	ICDDR,B																
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B																
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka																
5	Invitation for	Equipment and Miscellaneous items for Hospital Patient Care Activities.																
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Ref. Shapom/Has-3/13-06/2007/460, dated: 20-11-2007																
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (NCT)																
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB																
9	Development Partner	Not Applicable																
10	Project/Program Name	Post Flood Medical Supplies																
11	Tender Package Number & Name	Package No. 08/02, Post Flood Medical Supplies																
12	Tender Publication Date	3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2008																
13	Tender Last Selling Date	17 March, 2008																
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	18 March, 2008 Time: 11:00 Hours																
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	18 March, 2008 Time: 11:30 Hours																
16	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address - Selling Tender Document Treasury Unit, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Hospital Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka. - Receiving Tender Document Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka. - Opening Tender Document Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.																
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) The tenderers shall be Sole Agent and Sole Distributor (ii) All prices shall be on Local Currency (Taka) (iii) Tenderers/Suppliers shall have minimum 01 (one) year of experience in supplying particular items. (iv) Tenderers may submit price quotation either for individual lot or for any combination of lots and prices quoted shall correspond to 100% of the items and quantities specified for each lot.																
18	Identification of Lots, Tender Security, Completion Time and Price of Tender Document	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Lot No.</th> <th>Identification</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Tender Security Amount in BDT (by Pay Order / Bank Guarantee)</th> <th>Completion Time</th> <th>Price of Tender Document (in cash)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Lot-2</td> <td>Hospital Equipment</td> <td>ICDDR,B 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh</td> <td>Lot 2. Hospital Equipment : Tk. 18,000.00</td> <td rowspan="2">25 (twenty five) days</td> <td rowspan="2">BDT. 1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lot-3</td> <td>Miscellaneous</td> <td></td> <td>Lot 3. Miscellaneous : Tk. 24,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	Lot No.	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in BDT (by Pay Order / Bank Guarantee)	Completion Time	Price of Tender Document (in cash)	Lot-2	Hospital Equipment	ICDDR,B 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh	Lot 2. Hospital Equipment : Tk. 18,000.00	25 (twenty five) days	BDT. 1,000	Lot-3	Miscellaneous		Lot 3. Miscellaneous : Tk. 24,000.00
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Lot-3	Miscellaneous		Lot 3. Miscellaneous : Tk. 24,000.00															
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Syed Saiful Hasan																
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Senior Manager, Procurement & Materials, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh.																
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh																
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: (8802)8860523-32 Fax: (8802)8811686 E-mail: shasan@icddr.org																
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.																	

**icddr,b**  
KNOWLEDGE FOR GLOBAL LIFESAVING SOLUTIONS

Syed Saiful Hasan  
Senior Manager  
Procurement & Materials

## Plum promises fortune for five friends

ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS, Manikganj

Initiating a plum cultivation project with modern agriculture technology on six bigha of land six months ago, five friends in Singair upazila in Manikganj are expecting a profit of Tk-10 lakh this year as they have already started reaping the fruit.

The five friends -- college teacher Jilal Ahmed, journalist SM Akash, servicemen Mosharaf Hossain, Sarwar Jahan and Azizur Rahman -- undertook 'Project-Agro-5' for cultivating Baukul and Applekul at Joymontop village in the district on August 29 last year.

Jilal Ahmed gave six bighas of land to the project for Tk-50,000 per year. They planted 300 saplings of Baukul and 300 saplings of Applekul, which they bought from Agriculture University in Mymensingh for Tk 100 at per.

The five friends look after the farm work by rotation.

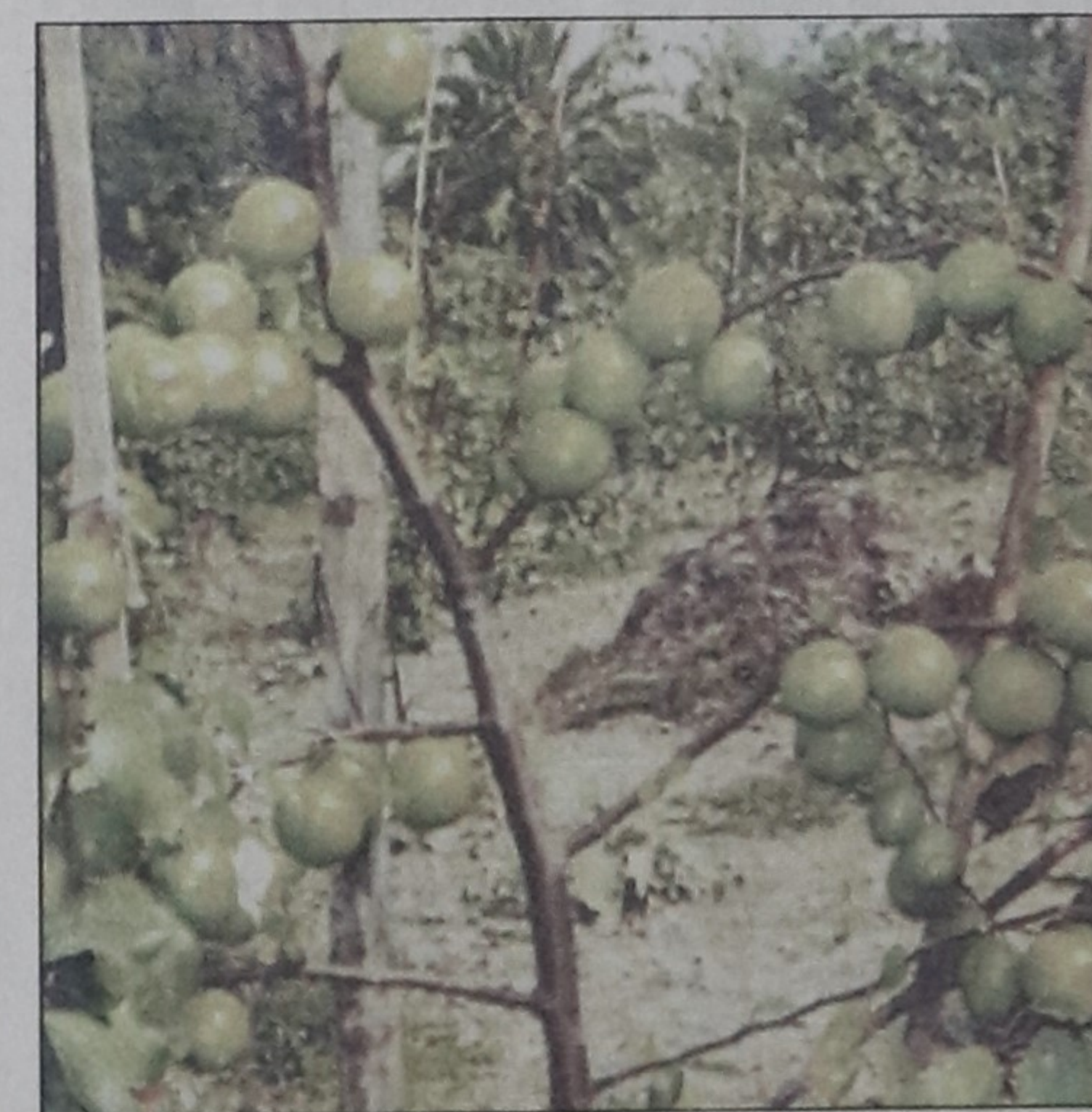
Tk 2 lakh has been spent for hiring and preparing the land, buying saplings, planting and nursing them, fencing and paying the labourers, they said, adding that reaping of Baukul has already started and it is selling at Tk120-150 per kg.

The bright coloured tasty fruit weighs between 90 gram to 150 gram and a plant bears 10-15 kg fruit.

Within a week or so, reaping of Applekul will start, they said.

They expect to get about Tk 13 lakh from selling the fruits, having a profit of over Tk 10 lakh this year.

Inventor of Baukul-1 and professor of Horticulture Department of Bangladesh Agriculture University in Mymensingh, Dr MA Rahim recently visited the Agri-5 project. Senior scientific officer of Horticulture Research Centre of



Ripe Baukul in the orchard under Project Agro-5 in Singair upazila in Manikganj district.

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Ferdousi Islam Ivy and Abul Kalam Azad of Azad Hybrid Nursery also visited the project.

Project member SM Akash said they are trying to plant eggplant, bottle gourd, pumpkin, sweet pumpkin, green chilli, cauliflower and henna trees on the same land.

Jilal Ahmed said they have plan to extend the project area to 16 bighas of land next year. Talking to journalists, Baukul-1

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর  
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০

### ফ্রান্সের গীমে মিউজিয়ামে প্রদর্শনীর জন্য নির্বাচিত প্রত্নসম্পদের বিশেষ প্রদর্শনী

ফ্রান্স থেকে ফেরত আসা ৪২টি এবং ফ্রান্সে প্রদর্শনীতে প্রেরণের উদ্দেশ্যে নির্বাচিত বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর, প্রত্নতত্ত্ব অধিদপ্তর এবং বরেন্দ্র গবেষণা জাদুঘরের ১৪৩টি সহ সর্বমোট ১৮৫টি প্রত্ননিদর্শনের একটি বিশেষ প্রদর্শনী জাতীয় জাদুঘরের লিনীকান্ত ভট্টশালী অস্থায়ী প্রদর্শনী কক্ষে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ৩ মার্চ ২০০৮ বিকেল ৩-৩০টায় প্রদর্শনীর উদ্বোধন করবেন মহিলা ও শিশু, প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা এবং সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় উপদেষ্টা রাশেদা কে চৌধুরী।

প্রদর্শনীটি ৩ মার্চ থেকে ৯ মার্চ ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত জাদুঘরের সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী দর্শকদের জন্য উন্মুক্ত থাকবে। জাতীয় জাদুঘর, প্রত্নতত্ত্ব অধিদপ্তর ও বরেন্দ্র গবেষণা জাদুঘর যৌথভাবে এই প্রদর্শনীর আয়োজন করছে এবং স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠান তাদের নিজ নিজ দায়িত্বে নিদর্শনাদি প্রদর্শন করবে।

প্রদর্শনীতে সকলের জন্য আন্তরিক আমন্ত্রণ।

জাদুঘরের সময়সূচিঃ  
শনিবার-বুধবার সকাল ৯-৩০ থেকে বিকেল ৪-৩০ পর্যন্ত  
বৃহস্পতিবার বন্ধ  
শুক্রবার বিকেল ৩-৩০ থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৭-৩০ পর্যন্ত

প্রয়োজনে-  
৮৬১৯৩৬-৯ মহাপরিচালক  
জিডি-১০৩৫ বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are invited from bonafide manufacturers/ dealers/distributors & Suppliers for supply and install for the following Equipments & Accessories of Pan Pacific Sonargaon. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

Sl.No.	Name of the items	Quantity
01.	Luggage Trolley	03 nos.
02.	Money Counting Machine	01 no.
03.	HP LaserJet Printer	06 nos.
04.	HP Large Format Printer	01 no.

Interested bidders can obtain tender schedule from the Purchasing Department up to March 12, 2008 during office hours on payment of Tk. 300.00 each item (non-refundable). The quotations will be received up to 2:30 p.m. on March 13, 2008 and will be opened on the same day at 3:00 p.m. in presence of the bidders, if any.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel. (880) 2 8111005, (Extn : 4164)

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