

Boro harvest begins in Sylhet, Kishoreganj, Netrakona haors

No dent in retail prices

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Harvest of Boro paddy has started in haor areas of Sylhet, Kishoreganj and Netrokona districts. But the small arrival of paddy in markets is yet to make any dent in retail prices of rice.

Boro transplanted earlier on higher lands are being harvested. Full swing harvest will begin in 7-10 days, farmers and agriculture officials said.

In Sylhet, farmers in low-lying areas of Sunamganj and Habiganj are worried because the crop may be lost or damaged if there is flood or hailstorm in about two weeks, reports our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet.

The crop position in greater Sylhet is by and large good, according to Additional Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Sylhet region Ruhul Amin. "We are getting reports of a good crop," he said.

Farmers in some areas like South Surma and Balaganj in Sylhet; Tahirpur, Dera, Jagannathpur and Sunamganj Sadar upazilas in Sunamganj district have started harvesting the crops.

Ruhul Amin said Boro was cultivated on 4,61,658 hectares in Sylhet division—66022 in Sylhet, 49200 in Moulvibazar, 105300 in Habiganj and 18,11,46 hectares in Sunamganj. The area in Sylhet under Boro this year about 25,000 hectares more than last year. The yield may be 12,32,000 tonnes of rice, he added.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent reports: Boro harvest in the district started yesterday at Nallar Haor in Methamoin and some other haors at Itma and Austogram upazilas on



Mithamoin agriculture officials at a field on Thursday as farmers start harvesting Boro paddy.

PHOTO: STAR

Thursday.

Haors in the district have taken a festive look as hundreds of boats carrying labourers are coming from Aricha, Narayanganj, Dhaka and some other parts of the country. Thousands of labourers come from Pabna, Jamalpur, Sirajganj and from northern districts during the harvesting period, farmers said.

Farmer Roton Kumar Mithamoin said wages are higher this year. Labour charge per acre is Tk 2500 to Tk 2700 now against last year's Tk 1300-1500.

Paddy was sold at Tk 680 to Tk 700 in local markets.

DAE sources in Kishoreganj said 1, 66,637 hectares were brought under Boro cultivation with a production target of 6, 11,780 tonnes. The target may exceed, DAE Deputy Director MA Baten told this correspondent.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: Harvest of local variety of Boro paddy has started on higher lands in haor area in the district.

Harvest of hybrid Boro may start in full swing within 25 to 30 days, farmers said.

Prices of rice came down by Tk 15 to 30 per maund in different wholesale markets but there was no impact in the retail markets where coarse varieties were selling at Tk 34 to 36 fine varieties at Tk 40 to 42.

Coarse rice was selling at Tk 1260-1300 per maund in wholesale, markets. Farmers were selling the newly harvested paddy at Tk 625-650 per maund.

Netrakona DAE sources said, 166135 hectares were brought under Boro in 10 upazila of the district.

MULADULI RICE SCAM

Departmental case against accused officials soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Food directorate will file a departmental case against the four officials who are now detained on charge of misappropriating 158 tonnes of rice from government-run Muladuli CSD godown.

On March 16, Ishwardi police arrested them following a criminal case filed by district food department and the case was later handed over to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The accused officials are Muladuli CSD godown manager Md Sirajul Islam, Godown in-charge Rafikul Islam, block supervisor Mofizul Haque Khan Mojlish, sub inspector of food department Sayed Halim Kabir.

Another accused in the case, labour union leader Akhter Hossain is still absconding.

"Following a departmental inquiry, we sent a report to the food directorate last week. The process is on file a departmental case against them in the head office," Pabna district controller of food Md Jahangir Alam told this correspondent over phone.

Tk 20 lakh stolen rubber seized, 4 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized six tonnes of stolen raw rubber at Ghatail upazila in Tangail district and arrested four persons.

Acting on a tip-off a Rab team led by its deputy assistant director Mohammad Faruque stopped a Dhaka-bound truck from Modhupur at Ghatail at around 4am and seized the raw rubber, Rab sources said.

The seized raw rubber, worth about Tk 20 lakh, might have been stolen from Chandpur rubber garden in Modhupur, Rab sources said.

The arrestees persons are Yousuf Ali of Amlitala in Modhupur; Nur Nabi of Jaler Shahar in Savar, Mohammad Moteab of Arun Khola in Modhupur and truck driver MA Malek of Bhadrachal in Sirajganj.

The arrestees persons and the seized rubber were handed over to Ghatail police.

Chandpur Forest Beat Officer filed a case with Ghatail police station.

Community police sell rice at Tk 25 a kg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha district community policing committee yesterday began rice sale at Tk 25 per kg to help the ultra-poor people in remote areas of the district.

Mobile teams will continue selling 500 kg rice to 250 destitute families every day in remote village areas in seven upazilas of the district till harvesting of Boro crops.

Gaibandha Superintendent of Police Mollah Nazrul Islam inaugurated the programme on the premises of district community police office.

Gaibandha district policing committee earlier opened another sales centre at its office premise to sell rice at Tk 25 per kg on January 27.

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Steps soon for education in mother tongue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor Barrister Devashish Roy yesterday said the government will take step to introduce primary education in mother tongue for the 13 indigenous communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

This is mandatory as per Article 33 of CHT Peace Accord, 1997 and Article-3 of Parbaty Zila Parishad Act, 1989, he said.

The government should ensure primary education of all indigenous children in their mother languages, he said while addressing a discussion meeting organised by Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC), held at the Tribal Cultural Institute (TCI) to mark the International Language Year. KHDC Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura presided over the function.

He sought cooperation of all including the civil society and NGOs to introduce primary education through mother tongue.

This will increase literacy, decrease school dropout rate and held flourish individual culture of different communities.

Pahela Baisakh festivities begin in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The five-day traditional indigenous cultural programme marking Pahela Baisakh began in Khagrachhari yesterday with great enthusiasm in district to mark the Bangla New Year 1415 at district Khagrachhari.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) organised the inaugural programme at the Tribal Cultural Institute (TCI) in hill town.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura inaugurated the festivities observed by all indigenous communities like Tripura, Marma and Chakma in their own traditions.

The programme began with Baen (weaving competition) held at TCI with participation of indigenous women.

A colorful rally, joined by several thousand people including Bangladeshis, marched the main road of the town.

Different cultural organisation



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful rally celebrating Biju festival marches a road of Khagrachhari town yesterday.

including Marma Aikka Parishad, Marma Unnayan Sangsad, Tripura Kallayan Sangsad, Zila Shilpakala Academy, Hill Moon Cultural

Group and Hill Touch organised cultural programmes patronised by KHDC and Khagrachhari district administration.

2 held while stealing 50,000 primary textbooks

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Joint forces yesterday caught a upazila primary education office staff and a truck driver when they were trying to take about 50 thousand primary school textbooks from the education office store room at Noyarhat in Lalmonirhat town without any official order.

The arrestees are Shahidul Islam, office assistant cum store-keeper of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila primary education office, and truck driver Selim Reza.

As Shahidul Islam and Selim Reza were loading in a truck about 50 thousand primary school textbooks from the store room of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila primary education office in Lalmonirhat town, locals asked them about the matter, but they did not give any reply, police said.

Local people informed Lalmonirhat municipality chairman Mosharof Hossain Rana, police station, deputy commissioner and joint forces of the matter.

Joint forces caught the two red-handed and called Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila Primary Education Officer Anwarul Islam, but he failed to say anything about the 'transfer' of textbooks.

Joint forces handed over the two

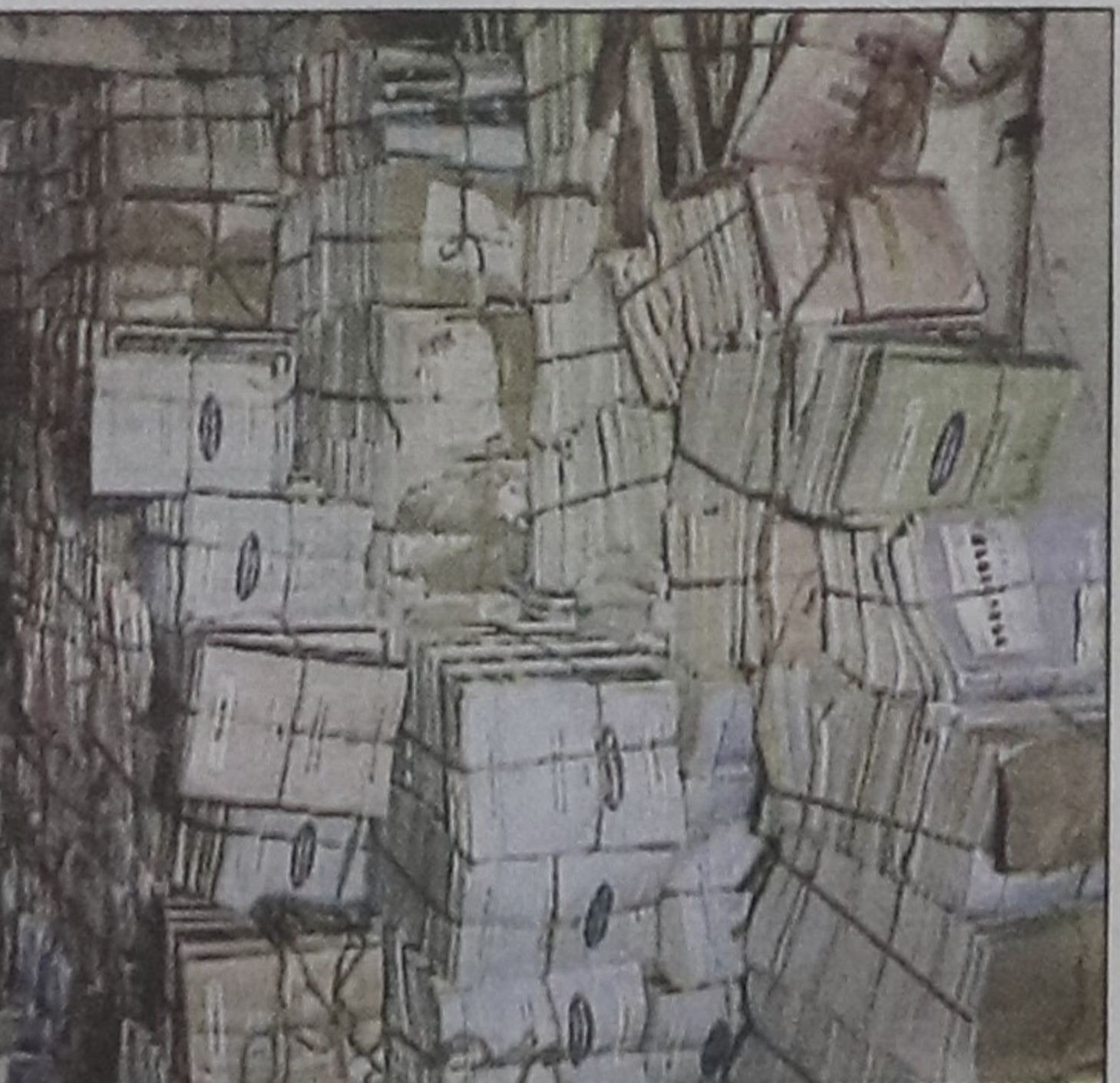


PHOTO: STAR

Part of the books that were being stolen from Lalmonirhat upazila education office yesterday.

arrestees to Sadar Police Station.

Local people said office assistant Shahidul Islam had already sent three more truckloads of books from the store room in month last.

Driver Selim Reza told police

that Shahidul Islam hired him for carrying one truckload of books from the Lalmonirhat store room to Barisal. Shahidul had told the driver that the books would be taken to Barisal as per government order, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Fine arts students of Rajshahi University busy with their artworks at the institute to welcome Pahela Baisakh.

Withdraw explanation letter for write-up

120 RU teachers demand

RU CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and twenty teachers of Rajshahi University have demanded immediate withdrawal of the letter that asked for explanation and document on the subject-matter of a newspaper write-up by a social work department teacher.

"We the teachers have expressed solidarity with social work department Assistant Professor Rabiul Islam's opinion in the write-up published in the Janakantha on March 15," the teachers said in a statement on Thursday.

On last Monday, social work department Assistant Professor Rabiul Islam received a letter from RU authorities that asked him for 'detailed explanation and documents' about the subject matter of his opinion published in daily Janakantha on March 15.

In his write-up titled 'RU teachers' arrest, release and RU administration', Prof Rabiul criticised the RU authorities' role for release of the convicted teachers and students in connection with campus violence on August 22 and 23 last year.

The RU syndicate in their meeting on March 30 reviewed the teacher's opinion and consequently

RU acting Registrar Prof Muhammad Sahfi on Saturday issued the letter asking explanation and documents about the write-up.

Expressing deep concern over the letter, the RU teachers in their written statement on Thursday said the RU authorities issued the letter to harass the teacher concerned and it meant mental torture for him.

Such an act is an attack on fundamental right and freedom of expression, they said.

They demanded that RU authorities immediately withdraw the letter and establish a congenial educational atmosphere on the campus.

Signatories to the statement include Progressive Teachers Society Convener Prof Abdus Sobhan, RU former Vice Chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Prof Mizan Uddin, Prof Anando Kumar Saha, Prof Abul Kashem, Prof Mahabubur Rahman, Prof Fayekuzzaman, Prof Muklesur Rahman, Prof Julfikar Matin, Prof Anik Mahmud, Prof Jalal Uddin, Prof SM Abu Bakar, Prof Shaquinnabi Samadi, Prof Jannatul Ferdous, Prof Golam Sabir Sattar Tapu, Prof Entajul Haque, Prof Muhammad Nurullah, Prof Sayen Uddin.

Retired airport security guard faces ACC case

Owns Tk 5cr houses in Dhaka, 80 bighas of land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A retired security guard of Zia International airport faces an ACC (Anti Corruption Commission) case for hiding wealth.

Abul Kalam Azad, who retired last year owns a luxurious house worth about Tk one crore at his village in Damodar in Kaligonj upazila in Jessore and two other multistoried buildings at Mahakhali and Kawla in Dhaka, built at a cost of about Tk 5 crore.

Monjur Morshed, assistant director of Jessore ACC, filed a case with Kaligonj police station against Azad on Wednesday, ACC sources said.

Besides, he has a garden on 30 bighas in his village and has purchased 30 bighas of cultivable land.

He has another 20 bighas of land at his father-in-law's village in Khele Rajapur under Bagar Para upazila in Jessore district.

Kalam is hiding. His family sources said he joined as an airport security guard in 1970.

They said they get about Tk one lakh house rent per month.

Asked about his source of income, they said he earned money through business but declined to give details.



Biman Flight Catering Centre বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টার

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA, BANGLADESH, PHONES: 8914700-4, CABLE: AIRBANGLA, SITADAC XGBG, FAX: 880-2-8913006, E-mail: admin@bfcc.com.bd
Ref. DACHY/001/2004/124 Date: 24-01-2008

Invitation for International Tender

No. 12/2008

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism.
02	Agency	Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.
03	Procuring entity name	Central Purchase Committee, BFCC.
04	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
05	Invitation for	Procurement of Refrigerated Aircraft Catering Hi-Lift Van for BFCC.
06	Invitation Ref No. & date	DACHY/001/2004/124 DTD. 24-01-2008.

KEY INFORMATION

07 Procurement method Open tendering method.

FUNDING INFORMATION

08 Budget and source of funds BFCC own funds.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

09	Tender package No.	Individual.
10	Tender document selling date	From 15-04-2008 to 25-05-2008.
11	Price of tender document last selling date	25-05-2008.
12	Tender closing date and time	Date: 26-05-2008. Time: 1200 hrs BST
13	Tender opening date and time	Date: 26-05-2008. Time: 1400 hrs BST

14 Name & address of the office(s) selling tender document (principal)
Address:
a. Manager Finance, Biman Flight Catering Centre, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka.
b. Asstt. Manager, Cash & Banking, Balaka Bhaban, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Dhaka.
c. Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st floor 12-storied govt office building), Room No. 205, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

15 Selling tender document (others)
Finance Manager, Biman, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, London, Rome, Jeddah & Riyadh.

16 Receiving tender document
a. BFCC premises, ZIA, Dhaka.
b. Biman Medical, Farmgate, Dhaka.
c. Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st floor 12-storied govt. office building), Room No. 205, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

17 Opening tender document
BFCC Conference Room, ZIA, Dhaka.
Legal tenderer or their authorised representative is only permitted to attend in the tender opening meeting.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

18 Eligibility of tenderer This invitation for tenders is open to eligible tenderers from all countries except for any specified in the TDS (tender data sheet).

19 Brief description of goods or works Procurement of Refrigerated Aircraft Catering Hi-Lift Van.

20 Price of tender document (Tk)
BDT 1000/- or US\$ 15.00 per set (non-refundable).

21 Name of official inviting tender Jamaluddin Talukder

22 Designation of official inviting tender Manager Maintenance, BFCC.

23 Address of official inviting tender BFCC, ZIA, Dhaka.

24 Contact details of official inviting tender 8914700-4 Ex-39 & 11 Biman Flight Catering Centre. Fax-8913006

25 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. If tender opening day happens to be holiday, or any unavoidable circumstances, the next normal working day will be treated as valid date for dropping and opening the tender.

26 Tender schedule and other related information will also be available at Biman website: www.bimanair.com for ready reference.

GD-1711 Manager Maintenance, BFCC

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সংস্থাপন মন্ত্রণালয়
সরকারি যানবাহন অধিদপ্তর
সচিবালয় লিংক রোড, ঢাকা

অকেজো গাড়ি বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারি যানবাহন অধিদপ্তরের অধীন সরকারি সড়ক পরিবহনের বিভিন্ন মেইক ও মডেলের ৩৫টি (পূর্বের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তির অধিকৃত ০৫টি সহ) অকেজো যোথিত গাড়ি "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য অগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট থেকে (বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক) সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

পরিবহন কমিশনার, সরকারি যানবাহন অধিদপ্তরের বরাবরে যে কোন তফসীল ব্যাক থেকে ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফিসের ব্যাংক) জমা করে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে আগামী ০৮/০৫/০৮ তারিখ (বৃহস্পতিবার) পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালে সহকারী পরিচালক (সড়ক) ও হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা, সরকারি যানবাহন অধিদপ্তর, সচিবালয় লিংক রোড, ঢাকা এর নিকট হতে অকেজো গাড়ি বিক্রয়ের শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রী করা হবে না। সিডিউল ক্রয় বাতীত কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের পর অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিনিধানের পক্ষে মনোনীত ব্যক্তি কেন্দ্রীয় পরিবহন পুল গ্যারেজে গাড়িগুলো দেখতে পারবেন। যে কোন দরপত্রদাতা এক বা একাধিক বা সকল গাড়ির জন্য একটি সিডিউলে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন। দরপত্রগ্রহণের সাথে উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% বায়নার টাকা (আনুমানিক) (ফেরতযোগ্য হিসাবে) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে পরিবহন কমিশনার, সরকারি যানবাহন অধিদপ্তরের অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের জন্য দরপত্র বাগ (১) পরিচালক (সড়ক), সরকারি যানবাহন অধিদপ্তর, সচিবালয় লিংক রোড, ঢাকা এর অফিসে রাখতে থাকবে। অগ্রহী দরদাতাগণ আগামী ১১/০৫/০৮ তারিখ রোজ রবিবার দুপুর ১৩০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বাগসমূহে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন। উক্ত তারিখে উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) অপরাহ্ন ১৪০০ ঘটিকায় পরিচালক (সড়ক) এর কক্ষে দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

শেষ আত্বাহর হোসেন
ভারপ্রাপ্ত পরিচালক (সড়ক)
সরকারি যানবাহন অধিদপ্তর

তারিখ-১৭০০

2 held while stealing 50,000 primary textbooks

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Joint forces yesterday caught a upazila primary education office staff and a truck driver when they were trying to take about 50 thousand primary school textbooks from the education office store room at Noyarhat in Lalmonirhat town without any official order.

The arrestees are Shahidul Islam, office assistant cum store-keeper of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila primary education office, and truck driver Selim Reza.

As Shahidul Islam and Selim Reza were loading in a truck about 50 thousand primary school textbooks from the store room of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila primary education office in Lalmonirhat town, locals asked them about the matter, but they did not give any reply, police said.

Local people informed Lalmonirhat municipality chairman Mosharof Hossain Rana, police station, deputy commissioner and joint forces of the matter.

Joint forces caught the two red-handed and called Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila Primary Education Officer Anwarul Islam, but he failed to say anything about the 'transfer' of textbooks.

Joint forces handed over the two

Part of the books that were being stolen from Lalmonirhat upazila education office yesterday.

arrestees to Sadar Police Station.

Local people said office assistant Shahidul Islam had already sent three more truckloads of books from the store room in month last.

Driver Selim Reza told police