

Teesta Bridge turned risky by allowing heavy vehicles

A CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Thousands of commuters cross the age-old Teesta Bridge everyday risking lives as the leaseholder turns it vulnerable to collapse any time by illegally allowing heavy vehicles for 'extra money'.

Known as the doorway to Lalmonirhat and Kurigram, it was constructed as a 2100-foot railway bridge over Teesta River in Lalmonirhat Sadar in 1901.

But after placement of wooden sleepers in 1978, light vehicles started crossing the bridge following an agreement between Bangladesh Railway and the Roads and Highways Department.

Later in sheer violation of the agreement, heavy vehicles including ten-wheeled lorries also started crossing the bridge, eventually shortening its lifespan.

Usual time of the bridge, which was hundred years from construction, expired seven years ago.



The age-old Teesta Bridge.

PHOTO: STAR

Now people of the two districts travel through the age-old bridge amid risk of accident as movement of heavy vehicles caused damage to the wooden sleepers, turning it unfit for movement of vehicles.

Leaseholder of the bridge allegedly 'gain extra' profit for allowing heavy vehicles to ply the bridge.

The leaseholder gets Tk

25 as toll money against per vehicle that is loaded up to eight tonnes but he allegedly receives Tk 500 to 600 as toll money against each vehicle loaded over ten tonnes or ten-wheeled vehicles.

Violation of the restriction on heavily loaded vehicles is done especially at night in collusion with some policemen and a section of railway

staff who get a share of the illegally earned money at Teesta bridge, sources said.

The Lalmonirhat railway divisional engineer, Masudur Rahman told The Daily Star, "As the bridge leaseholder allows heavily loaded or ten-wheeled vehicles for additional toll money, wooden sleepers on the bridge got damaged before the expiry time. The employees recruited by the leaseholder arrange the illegal dealing mainly at night."

"Pressure on the Teesta railway cum road bridge will be reduced after completion of the under construction road bridge to the east of the railway bridge. Construction of the road bridge over Teesta river is scheduled to end in September this year," he said.

Abdul Hakim, leaseholder of the bridge, however, denied the allegation of taking additional toll money for allowing heavily loaded vehicles to cross the bridge, violating restriction.

Missing youth found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Body of a youth, who went missing on January 19, was found on a Boro field at Roshunpur village under Ranishankoil upazila on Tuesday night.

Villagers found the body of Panjab Ali, 30, son of Idris Ali, at about 8:00pm and informed the police. Police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Victim's elder brother Yusuf Ali filed a murder case with Ranishankoil Police Station the same night accusing four people. He alleged that Panjab was murdered as a sequel to previous enmity over a disputed land.

Later, police conducted a drive and arrested three people—Ataur Rahman, Prodhan Tudu, and Afaz Uddin, of Roshanpur village in the upazila.

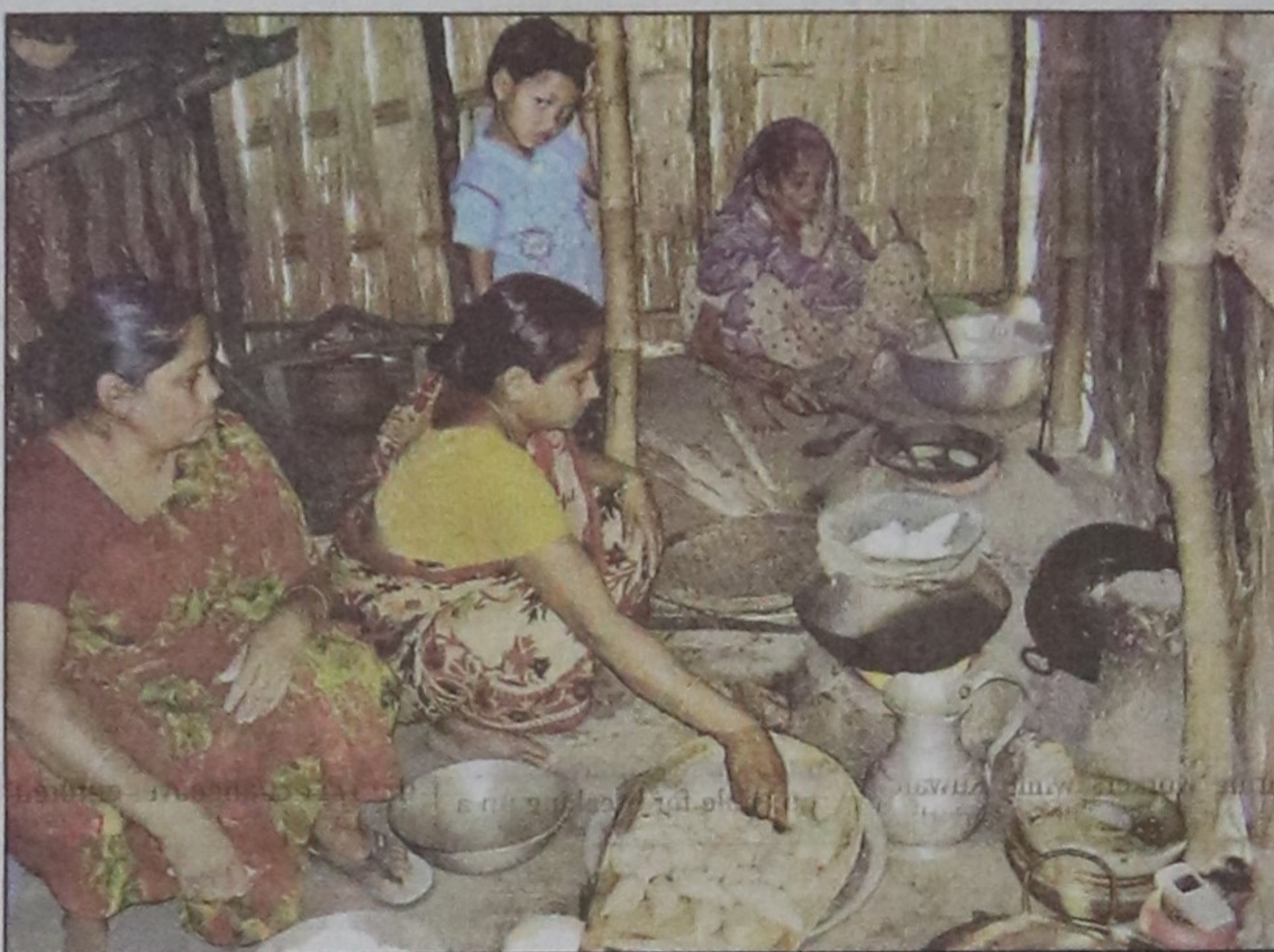


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Winter is on the wane. But the season for delicious *pithas* (indigenous cakes) is yet to be over at Boalmari in Faridpur.

Erratic power supply hits Boro farming in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Boro cultivation is facing setback due to erratic power supply in the district.

Although it is the peak time for boro farming, farmers cannot prepare seedbeds which is posing a threat of crop failure.

Power supply position in the district turned worst in the last one month as local stations are not getting adequate supply from the national grid. Frequent load shedding has become a routine affair in Gaibandha and adjoining districts.

Everyday power remains off for long 10-12 hours, hampering cultivation and affecting studies of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees.

According to local Power Development Board (PDB) officials, power is being supplied through five feeder transmission lines to Gaibandha district. The

requirement of power supply is 16 megawatt (MW), whereas only 6-7 MW is available a day. Sometimes, the supply even comes down to only 2 MW.

Not only the agriculture sector, power cut is adversely affecting trade and business in the district. Production in the factories and mills declined due to power shortage.

Local PDB sources said the authorities set up two giant transformers for smooth supply of power, but one of the transformers remained out of order for long. There is no move for its repair, they said.

Gaibandha district units of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal yesterday brought out a procession to protest erratic power supply and frequent load shedding. They paraded main streets of Gaibandha town and demanded immediate improvement of power supply situation.

DEATH IN ACCIDENT SPARKS PROTEST Highway blocked, vehicles attacked in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Angry people put up a barricade on the Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway snapping road communication for about an hour on Tuesday night.

They blocked the highway placing logs on it following death of a woman in a road accident in front of the new building of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) at about 9 pm.

Salma, 28, wife of Mahabubur Rahman, a BDR personnel, was crushed under wheels of a speeding truck on the spot when she was returning home by a rickshaw along with her daughter Mom, 8, who sustained injuries, police said.

People beat up two traffic policemen for what they said their failure to sieve the vehicles after the incident. They also damaged two Rajshahi University staff buses, two

buses, two minibuses, a private car, an oil tanker, an auto rickshaw and a pick up van.

Of the injured, Havilder Moniruzzaman, 42, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition.

The agitators chased police and journalists when they went there to perform their duties. Chase and counter chase between police and agitators continued for half an hour.

Later, a large contingent of police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

After a while, police arrested the truck driver and his helper from Katakhal area in Rajshahi city.

Then agitated people withdrew their barricade. Police recovered the body and sent it to RMCH for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous workers walked down a 10 kilometre path to carry this giant trunk of a tree from a remote forest at Doliya in Matiranga upazila towards Khagrachhari town due to poor transportation facilities.

RU BCL DEMANDS Probe ex-VC's corruption

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Rajshahi University unit yesterday demanded investigation into alleged corruption, nepotism and politicisation of administration by former vice-chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain, former pro-vice-chancellor Prof Mannunul Keramat and former proctor Prof Enamul Haque.

The demand came from a rally held in front of the Central library premises in the morning. It was addressed, among others, by BCL university unit general secretary Ayeen Uddin, assistant secretary Majedul Islam Apu, and BCL leaders Uzzal, Niaz, prince and Masud.

The BCL leaders also demanded immediate removal of RU acting registrar and treasurer for their alleged link with BNP and Jamaat and exemplary punishment to the proctor as he imposed restrictions on holding cultural programmes on the campus during the four-party alliance rule.

BCL RU unit alleged that former VC and pro-VC appointed around 1000 BNP-Jamaat men as teachers, officers and employees violating the university rules and demanded removal of all political appointees. They urged the government to immediately appoint a full-fledged vice-chancellor for smooth functioning of the university.

Earlier, the BCL took out a procession on the campus.

Cattle disease in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least eight cattle including milk cows died and 30 others were attacked with Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), a viral disease of cattle that broke out in an alarming form in Jhhowdanga, Tujalpur and Rajbari areas in Sadar upazila last week.

Worried cattle owners told this correspondent that they already brought the matter to notice of the District Livestock Department officials on time but to no effect.

The symptoms of the disease is that sick cattle do not take solid food due to high temperature, salivation from mouth, blister formation in tongue and around gum and ultimately die, cattle owners said.

Joint forces destroy poppy fields near Myanmar border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Joint forces have launched a special operation to destroy poppy fields in the areas near the border with Myanmar.

About 300 army and BDR personnel along with paratrooper commandos took part in the operation on Tuesday, official source told.

Security sources confirmed the operation, but did not give details.

According to a local source, the paratroopers were dropped on some spots in deep forest area of Sangu reserved forest by military helicopters on Tuesday while army and BDR members reached the area a day before.


A BDR official seeking anonymity told this correspondent that joint forces have started combing each inch of land from Thanchi to Alikadam at Sangu reserved forest to destroy poppy fields.

"Eight to 10 criminal groups rule the whole poppy cultivation in the vast areas of the border and force the villagers to grow the plants," said a local leader of Remakri Union under Thanchi upazila.

Apru Mong, acting chairman of Tindu Union Parishad, said Sangu reserved forest contains 82,008 acres of khas land. Most of the land is covered by dense forest. Taking advantage of dense forest, criminals from Myanmar, India and Bangladesh take shelter in the forest and carry out illegal activities.

Soi Aong Khumi, a village chief (Karbari) of an indigenous village said the criminals get facility to cultivate poppy as there is no villages in the area.

Poppy cultivation can be stopped if the government arranges settlements for indigenous people and sets up security camps in the reserve forest area, he added.



Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
E-Mail: info@dgd.gov.bd
Web: www.dgd.gov.bd

Tender/Re-Tender Notice


1. Sealed tenders are invited in local/foreign currency from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firm) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army":

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a.	3. Robin Brand Generator RGX-2400, Qty-16 Nos. 4. Non Tac Fax Machine T-301, Qty-04 Nos (4 th time)	15-2-2009	05-3-2009	08-3-2009	Local/ Foreign	214/2088/ P-2
b.	Spare parts for Radio Set PRC-1099 and Radio Set FSG-71M, Qty-09 Lines (7 th time)	15-2-2009	05-3-2009	08-3-2009	Local/ Foreign	214/2088/ P-2

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office hour between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/09/2775
GD-765

Major
For Director General



তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
১০৫, কালী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২১৫
ফোন: ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭-৬৮, ৯৫৬৩৬৭০, ৯১১২১৩৫-৪২, ৯১১৯২১০
ফ্যাক্স: ৯৮০২-৮১১০০০১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১।	মহাপাত্র/ভিত্তিক	বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও বর্জ্য সম্পদ সরবরাহ/জ্বালানি ও বর্জ্য সম্পদ বিক্রয়।
২।	সহজ	বাংলাদেশ সৈন্য, পাস ও বর্জ্য সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)।
৩।	প্রাকৃতিক একটি	কিডস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড।
৪।	কাজের নাম	ঢাকা-নোয়াখালী মহাসড়ক ও গাং-বরিশ উত্তর বিনোয় ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল ইকোপার্ক ডিকার্ডেস পল্ট্রি ৮ ^ম ব্লকের ৫০ প্লটস/১৫০০ ২.৪৬ হেক্টর পাস পাইপ লাইন নির্মাণের কাজ।
৫।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	পল্ট্রি/৯৪/১৩/১৫ই মেম্বর ও উদ্ভা/২০০৮-২০০৯/৩০ তারিখ ০৯:০২-২০০৯।
৬।	প্রাকৃতিক একটি	সিলেক্টেড: সিলেক্টেড ইন্ডোপাস পল্ট্রি/৯৪/১৩/১৫ই মেম্বর ও উদ্ভা/২০০৮-২০০৯/৩০ তারিখ ০৯:০২-২০০৯।
৭।	অর্থায়নের উৎস	নিজস্ব অর্থায়ন।
৮।	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১২-০২-০৯ ইংরেজি ২৪-০২-০৯ তারিখ পল্ট্রি সকাল দশটায় সকাল ১:০০ ঘটিকা ইংরেজি ১০:০০ ঘটিকা পল্ট্রি ও সময়
৯।	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৬-০২-০৯ তারিখ ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পল্ট্রি।
১০।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৬-০২-০৯ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা উপস্থিতি সভা/প্রতিনিধিত্বের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ থাকেন)।
১১।	ক) দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	ক) বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ, কিডস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোং লিমিটেড, ১০৫, কালী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা। খ) কিডস গ্যাস, পেট্রোবাংলা, পেট্রোবাংলা, ৩ নং কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা। গ) বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ, বাগেরা, ১০/এ-বি, নিম্নেবর্তী সার্ভিসের বোর্ড, শাহজালাল টাওয়ার, মতিবাস, ঢাকা। ঘ) দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণের স্থান ক) পাইপ লাইন নির্মাণ বিভাগ, কিডস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোং লিমিটেড, ১০৫, কালী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা। খ) গ্রান্ড ক্যান্টিন, পেট্রোবাংলা, পেট্রোবাংলা, ৩ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা। গ) গ্রান্ড ক্যান্টিন, বাগেরা, ১০/এ-বি, নিম্নেবর্তী সার্ভিসের বোর্ড, শাহজালাল টাওয়ার, মতিবাস, ঢাকা। ঘ) মহাপাত্র/ভিত্তিক (পল্ট্রি ও উদ্ভা) এর দরপত্র, গ্রান্ড ক্যান্টিন, কিডস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোং লিমিটেড, ১০৫, কালী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা।
১২।	ক) দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	কিডস গ্যাস অথবা পেট্রোবাংলার আরওয়েল অ্যান্ড গ্যাস কোম্পানীতে ২০০৭-২০০৮ সালের অতিক্রান্ত ১৩/১৪ স্টেপার পাস পাইপ লাইন নির্মাণকারী প্রকল্পের।
১৩।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	১২:০০:০০ (দুই ঘণ্টা) মাত্র।
১৪।	দরপত্রের প্রায়শঃ	১২:০০:০০ (দুই ঘণ্টা) মাত্র।
১৫।	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	৩০ (ত্রিশ) শতাংশ মাত্র।
১৬।	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার নির্দিষ্ট তারিখে সরকারি ছুটি বা অনিবার্য কারণবশত বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যক্রমে উপস্থিতিতে স্থান ও সময়ে উপস্থিতি দরপাত্র/প্রতিনিধিত্বের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ থাকেন) দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।	
১৭।	অর্থায়ন কোন কার্য দর্শনো বাহিরেই যে কোন অর্থায়ন সকল দরপাত্র বাস্তব অর্থায়ন যে কোন দরপাত্র গ্রহণ করিলে অর্থায়ন সন্তোষ প্রাপ্ত।	

গ্যাস অফুরন্ত নয়। গ্যাসের চুলাটি কাজ শেষে নিভিয়ে ফেলুন।

প্রকৌঃ মোঃ রুহুল আলম
উপ-মহাবাহুল্প
টিউব লাইন নির্মাণ বিভাগ
ফোন- ৮১১৯২১০

তিতাস/জানসেডো-৮/৩/২০০৮-০৯
তারিখ- ৭/৩/০৯



PHOTO: STAR

Artists dancing, left, and singing at a cultural function at Pabna Town Hall Tuesday night. The programme was held as part of a month-long Ekushey book fair.