

Under a project to ease waterlogging, temporary dams have been built on the canals that connect to Karnaphuli river. But these dams will stop rainwater from reaching the river quickly, making waterlogging much worse. The bottom right photo shows the connecting point between Tekpara canal and the river, while the rest are of Kalabagicha. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Drinking water crisis hits Barishal dwellers

Groundwater level drops by 15ft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Barishal City dwellers are facing an acute crisis of drinking water, and the problem has become more severe as groundwater level has dropped in the summer. "Ground water level in Barishal has dropped by 15 feet," said Mynul Islam, executive engineer of public health engineering department's Barishal office. "For the last three to four years, water levels reduce to 40 feet in the summer," he added, "Excessive extraction of groundwater may be one of the main causes of this drop." Thirty wards of the city, specially slum areas, are now facing the crisis of drinking water. Hand pumps are no longer supplying water, and most people are collecting water from pump house or from other residents who have access to deep tubewells. Bithi, who lives in the stadium-adjacent slum area, said she collects drinking water from half a kilometre away. "The water crisis is continuing. We are trying to solve the problem. We have already arranged vans for

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'Unemployment forcing people to go abroad risking lives'

Dr Kamal says following death of Bangladeshis in Mediterranean boat capsized

UNB, Dhaka

In the wake of death of dozens of Bangladeshis in Friday's boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea in Tunisia, Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said it is shameful for the nation that people are taking a risky voyage to go abroad for employment.

In a statement, he said, "Travelling abroad by Bangladeshis in search of jobs has become a regular affair. It's a matter of shame for the nation that people are leaving the country for lack of employment."

He said united efforts are needed to resolve all national problems, including the that of unemployment.

Dr Kamal and his party general secretary Reza Kibria also expressed deep sorrow over the death of the Bangladeshis in a boat capsized on their voyage.

A total of 37 Bangladeshis, among others, are feared dead in Friday's boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to reach Italy from Libya.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen on Sunday said "30-35 Bangladesh nationals" might have died in the boat capsized, while 14 Bangladeshis have already been rescued among 51.



Man held for making 'crores' in digital fraud

CID probe finds dubious business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police arrested a man on charges of embezzling a huge amount of money by conning investors and clients under the guise of digital marketing.

The accused -- Abdus Salam Palash, 27, owner of Rex IT Institute -- was arrested from Bashundhara Residential Area around 10pm on Friday, said Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of CID, at a press briefing in the capital's CID headquarters yesterday.

"It appears Salam has misappropriated around Tk 200 crore from investors and clients under pretense of outsourcing, graphics design, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), website design, digital marketing, and online transactions."

A car, Tk 6.71 lakh in cash, five laptops, and banking documents were seized from his apartment and office in Dhanmondi.

Following a number of complaints, the CID launched an investigation into Palash's businesses and found the allegations to be true, Molla Nazrul said.

Hailing from Chandraganj of Lakshimpur, Palash started Rex IT Institute with a few partners in 2017. The institute supposedly provides training to people on outsourcing, graphic design, SEO, web design, and digital marketing.

"The company lures investors into the digital world using free marketing techniques. Then they provide lucrative offers of paid marketing through social media platforms."

"They would offer 50 percent to 100 percent return on investment to investors in the company. Over 5,000 trainees at the company were convinced to invest in this manner," Molla Nazrul said.

"Apart from trainees, many businesspersons also invested in the company with the prospect of more profits," he said.

Palash also opened a fake website named advertgold.com, which looked similar to adverten.com, a full-service advertising and marketing agency, the official said.

In primary interrogation, Palash reportedly admitted to his involvement in the crime.

"Investors needed a PayPal account for global online transactions. As PayPal has no operations in Bangladesh, investors use his American PayPal account which gave him the opportunity to embezzle the money," the CID official added.

A case was filed against Palash with Dhanmondi Police Station for money laundering and forgery.

Mango harvest to begin May 15

Rajshahi district administration sets schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

District administration in Rajshahi yesterday scheduled the date for beginning mango harvest on May 15, although growers in orchards say mangoes would not ripe until at least the end of the month.

Mango growers can harvest Guti variety of mangoes from May 15 and other varieties successively.

The harvest date for Gopalbhog mangoes was fixed on May 20; Ranipasad and Laxmanbhog on May 25; Khirsapat or Himsagar on May 28; Lengra on June 6; Amrapali, Fazli and Surma Fazli on June 16; and Ashwina varieties on July 1.

The date for harvesting three varieties of Guti, Gopalbhog, and Laukhna or Laxmanbhog were fixed at least five days earlier than last years, Rajshahi's Deputy Commissioner SM Abdul Kader said.

Guti mangoes were harvested on May 20 last year, Gopalbhog on May 25 and Laxmanbhog on June 1, he said.

The announcement came after the district administration held a meeting at the DC's conference room, where they faced pressure from public representatives and mango producers to set the harvest date ahead of time.

Most public representatives and mango producers present at the meeting opined for not setting any date. They argued that all mangoes do not ripe at a time, and ripening of the fruit depends on the weather.

"In case of continuous heat wave that is currently sweeping over the region, the mangoes will ripen quickly," said Shawkat Ali, a mango producer and Bhaya Laxmikul union



'Guti' variety of mango, far from ripening. The photo was taken on Saturday.

chairman. "And in case of rainfall, the ripening will delay," he said.

Officials of Department of Agricultural Extension, Rajshahi Fruit Research Centre and a few mango producers, however, opined for setting a date. They said it was necessary for checking unlawful practices of harvesting unripe mangoes and ripening those using chemicals.

The DC then told the audience that if the mango producers do not want to set a date of harvest, mango growers are likely to witness frequent drives of the mobile courts to orchards.

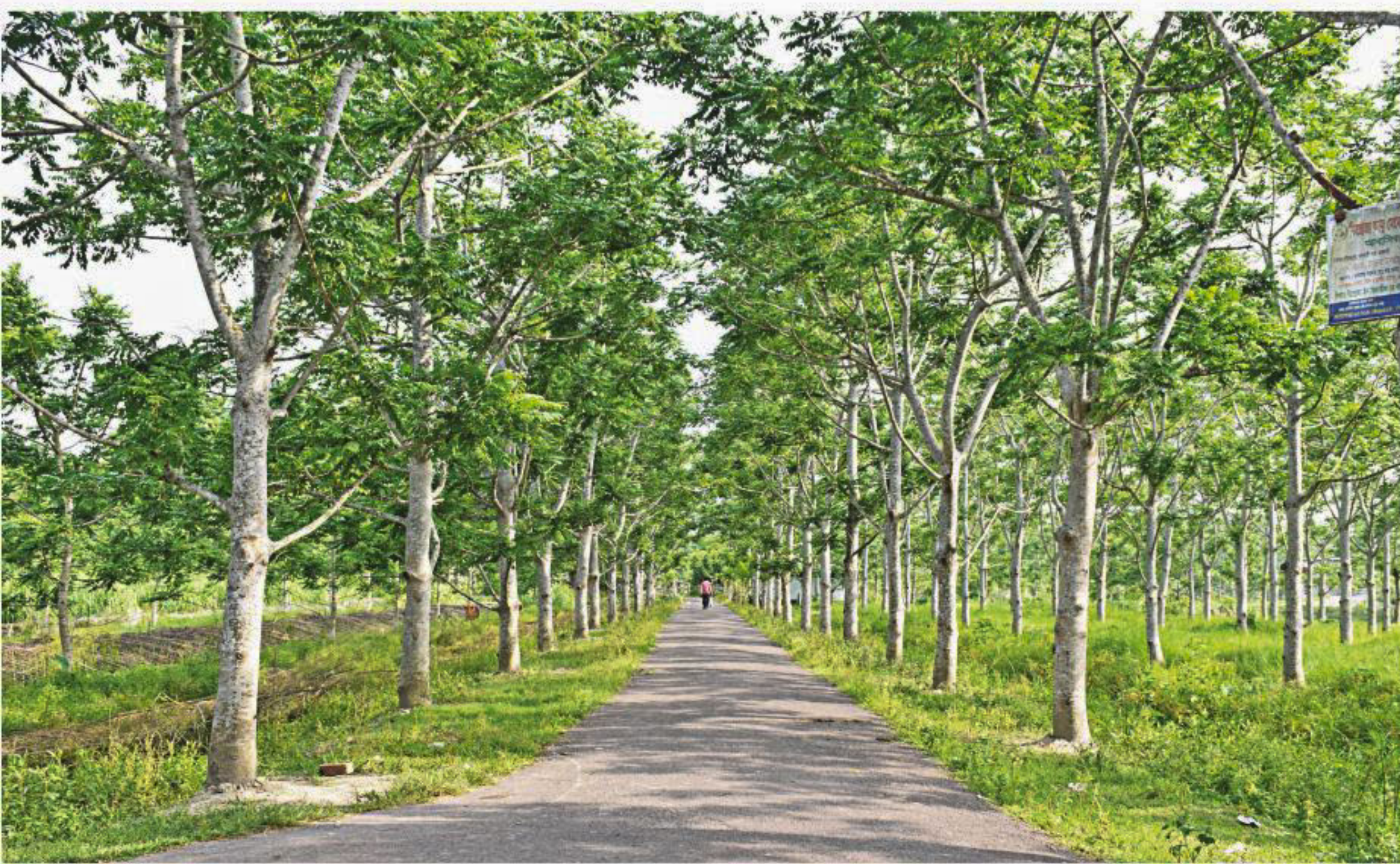
At this, the opposing mango producers drew back from their demand, and proposed that they would agree if the dates are set a few days ahead of time. They argued there are many mango trees that are ready

for early harvest. Khairul Islam, a mango orchard owner of Godagari upazila who was present at the meeting, said his mangoes would not be ready for harvest before end of May.

"None of my Gopalbhog and Khirsapat mangoes will ripe in the next 20 days," Anisur Rahman, a mango grower of Bagha told this correspondent when contacted yesterday.

He, however said those who have very old mango trees are likely to witness early ripening of the fruit, but those mangoes also need at least a week more to be ready for harvest.

He said he is likely to harvest his Khirsapat mangoes after Eid in early June, while Lengra variety would be harvested two weeks after that.



Amra (hog plum) trees will bear fruits soon. Wholesalers will start collecting those in the Bangla month of Sraban and continue till Kartik. Barishal is famous for the fruit. The photo was taken at Himanandakathi village in Jhalakathi yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

ACC quizzes five DGHS officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday quizzed five officials of Directorate General of Health Services, including its Director General (DG) Abul Kalam Azad over irregularities and misappropriation of government funds regarding buying furniture for Cox's Bazar Medical College.

The others are: Line Director Abdur Rashid, Programme Manager Md Yunus, Deputy Programme Manager Kamrul Kibria and Chief Assistant Abdul Malek.

A team led by Deputy

Blogger Ananta Bijoy Das remembered in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Blogger and science-writer Ananta Bijoy Das, who was hacked to death in broad daylight in Sylhet by a group of assailants on May 12, 2015, was remembered in Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

Marking Ananta's death anniversary, his friends and well-wishers organised a programme at his memorial on the spot in Subid Bazaar area where he was murdered.

The monument, "Gyaner Jyoti Chorabe Ananta, Anantakal" (Ananta will radiate the light of knowledge for eternity), was unveiled on May 12, 2016 and since then, the day has been observed at the monument.

People from all walks and several organisations offered flowery tribute to the monument and observed silence in his remembrance.

Sylhet city Councillor Rezwan Ahmed, Sammilito Natya Parishad President Mishfaq Ahmed Mishu, General Secretary Rajat Kanti Gupta, Bangladesh Paribesh

Andolon (Bapa) Sylhet's General Secretary Abdul Karim Kim, and Gonojagoron Mancha Sylhet's Spokesperson Debashish Debu was present among others.

During the programme, speakers demanded that the case be transferred to a special tribunal and said justice must be served promptly without any delay.

Ananta, a banker by profession, was also editor of local science magazine "Jukti" (logic).

He was attacked in Subidbazar area near his residence, on his way to work. Banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team claimed responsibility online for the murder.

His brother Ratneshwar filed the murder case, accusing unidentified persons. Later, the case was transferred to CID which pressed charge against six persons on May 9, 2017.

So far, trial proceedings of the case have started through recording testimony of the complainant, on May 7 this year.

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ইডিসিএল)
 ৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
 ঢাকা-১২০৮, বাংলাদেশ

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
০২	সংগঠনকারী সংস্থার নাম/দপ্তর	ঃ এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
০৩	প্রকল্পের নাম	ঃ গোপালপল্লী এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর তৃতীয় শাখা কারখানা স্থাপন প্রকল্প
০৪	স্মারক নং	ঃ ইডিসিএল/পিডি-গোপালপল্লী/সিএনএফ/এজেন্ট নিয়োগ/২০১৯/১০৫ তারিখঃ ০৭/০৫/ ২০১৯ইং
০৫	কাজের ধরণ	ঃ আমদানীকৃত যন্ত্রপাতি/যন্ত্রাংশ/কার্টামালামাল খালাস, পরিবহন, লোডিং, আনলোডিং।
০৬	সংগঠন পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
০৭	বাজেট ও অর্থের সংস্থান	ঃ জিওবি।
০৮	দরপত্র কাজের নাম	ঃ সি এন্ড এফ এজেন্ট নিয়োগ (সমুদ্র, স্থল ও বিমান বন্দর)।
০৯	নিয়োগ কাল	ঃ ২০১৯ সাল ও ২০২০ সাল।
১০	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	ঃ ১৩ মে ২০১৯ ইং।
১১	দরপত্রের বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ ১০ জুন, ২০১৯ ইং (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১১ জুন, ২০১৯ ইং বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১১ জুন, ২০১৯ ইং বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম	ঃ এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড ৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।
১৫	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়া ও খোলার স্থান	ঃ এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড ৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।
১৬	দরদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	(ক) সি এন্ড এফ এজেন্ট হিসাবে একই ধরণের কাজে দরপত্র দলিলের নির্দেশনামায়া/শর্তনামায়া যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে।
		(খ) আর্থিক সক্ষমতার স্বপক্ষে দলিলাদি।
		(গ) হালনাগাদ কাস্টমস এজেন্টস লাইসেন্স।
		(ঘ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স।
		(ঙ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ পত্র।
(চ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট।		
১৭	দরপত্রের মূল্য (প্রতি সেট)	ঃ ৪,০০০/- (চার হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক পে-অর্ডার "প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ইডিসিএল (তৃতীয় প্রকল্প), গোপালপল্লী" এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে।
১৮	প্রাক দরপত্র সভা (স্থান, সময় ও তারিখ)	ঃ স্থানঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকের সভা কক্ষ। সময়ঃ ১১:৩০ মিনিট। তারিখঃ ২৬ মে, ২০১৯ইং।
১৯	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত	ঃ দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ "প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ইডিসিএল (তৃতীয় প্রকল্প), গোপালপল্লী" এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে ইস্যুকৃত ১০,০০,০০০/- (দশ লক্ষ) টাকার (ফেরতযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার, দরপত্র এর সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
২০	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বর্জনের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
২১	নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হবে।	

অধ্যাপক (ডাঃ) এহসানুল কবির
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
ইডিসিএল (তৃতীয় প্রকল্প), গোপালপল্লী
ও
ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক
এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড