

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Artisans in the Dark

by Shahrier Khan

A Bangladeshi woman can almost never resist a venarashi. It's gorgeous, artistic and expensive. It also symbolises dignity. But the people who are making this saree, are very poor; most of them uneducated and are non-artistic in their living styles. They are, in fact, slum dwellers. The slum area located at Mirpur Section No 10 to 12 is completely different from other slum areas of the Dhaka city. Unlike other slums this area is occupied mostly by artisans who have been in this trade for long. This slum is famous for making venarashis, zamdanas, katans etc.

Making these sarees became a way of livelihood for them since the Pakistan days. Bihari weavers, who by family tradition were experts in making such sarees set up their small scale cottage industries in this area ever since. It is now claimed that there are as many as 3500 such cottage industries in Mirpur area alone.

If you go around this area, you will see weavers, young and old, tending threads in long lines beside the main road. After dyeing the expensive silk threads, they spread them for drying. Inside the area you'll see shabby looking tin-shed houses by hundreds. Look in and you will see weavers at work. These actually serve as factories.

I met Nadim in one such factory. He was knitting threads on the handmade weaving machine. It is only 10. They said that learning to make a saree starts from childhood. Nadim, although a junior, can do a big part of a saree, but the complex finishing job is done on a separate machine by an elderly person. Nadim is an apprentice, his monthly salary is 200 Taka.

Riazuddin's factory is rather large. He owns 24 weaving machines. There are 24 skilled workers, 24 apprentice helpers and four women workers working in his factory. He makes expensive venarashis costing 8000 Taka apiece. He also makes relatively cheaper ka-

tans costing 1800 Taka each. His worker may earn 1200 Taka for making one venarashi.

Making one such saree, however, takes a long time. A factory may spend three days to finish one saree in one weaving machine. And a saree may have to go through three to four types of machines to be completed. In case of a venarashi, a weaving machine can hardly produce 3 sarees in one month.

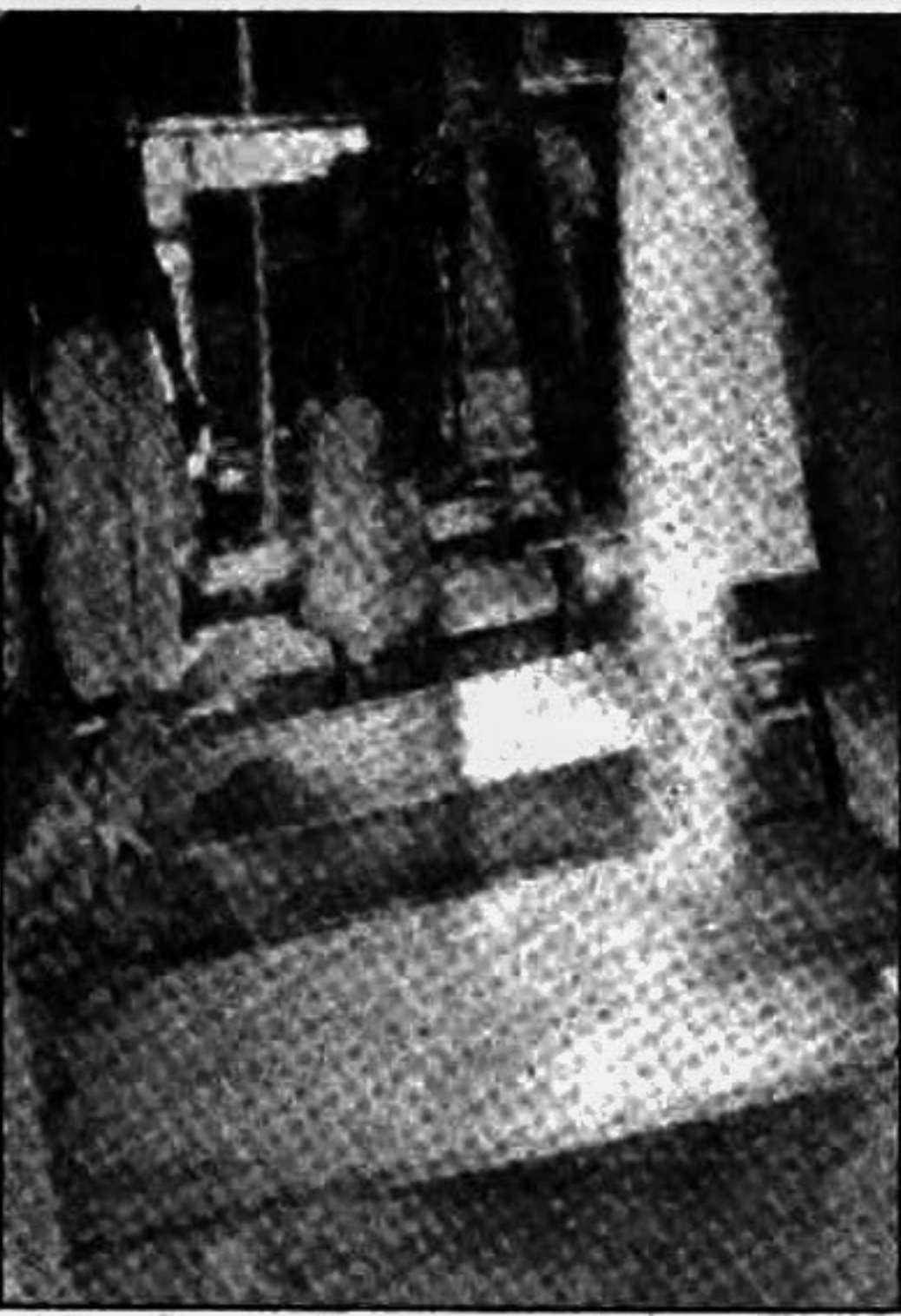
Making these sarees are indigenous in all senses, except for the thread. The weaving machines are all locally made. Mechanics learned to make these machines from their forefathers.

The threads with which the sarees are made are expensive. The silk threads come from Japan and Korea. Weavers buy it from the local wholesalers. One kilogram of Japanese non-twisted silk thread costs 2000 Taka and one kilogram of twisted silk thread costs 2400 Taka. These threads are used for both the base and finishing jobs. In some sarees Rajshahi silk is also used, but only for making base of a saree. This thread costs 1200 Taka per kg. Shahib Babu, manager of a factory said that Bangladeshi silk is not very good for the finishing job.

The designing of a saree is done by a separate set of people. They also live in the same community. Uneducated, they have good aesthetic sense. They design from various graphs selected

by the weavers on a series of cards. These cards are no bigger than 8 by 3 inches.

When a saree is made, they sell it to the local wholesalers or individual customers. A local wholesaler may buy a saree for 4500 Taka and sell it to a shopowner for 5000 Taka. When the saree is finally sold to a customer the price may just be doubled. Huge profits are made by the middlemen and shopowners. But a weaver's income may hardly exceed Taka 3000 per month.



Cottage industry without patronisation: Venarashis being made at a Mirpur shanty house

## Dhaka to implement SAARC action plan on human rights abuse

A delegation of Human Rights Organisations of the SAARC countries, now visiting Bangladesh, called on State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda at his office here Thursday, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation are Suhil Pyakurel, Co-ordinator of the Informal Sector Service Centre of Nepal, Mr Zia Ahmed Awan, President of the Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid of Pakistan and Pius d Costa of the Commission for Peace and Justice.

During the discussion the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights and President of the Bangladesh Mahila Atijibi Samity Advocate Sigma Huda was present.

The visiting delegation discussed and exchanged views with the State Minister for Food various aspects of implementation of human rights in Bangladesh.

The State Minister for Food and founder and Ex-Secretary General of the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights Nazmul Huda told the delegation that help and assistance would be extended for upholding the human rights in Bangladesh at all spheres including governmental and non-governmental levels.

Nazmul Huda assured on playing bold role of Bangladesh in implementing the recently declared joint action plan of

various human rights organisations of SAARC countries aimed at stopping the inhuman activities like trafficking of women and children across the international borders.

Various human rights organisations of SAARC countries met here on August 28 and through a declaration of joint action plan has appealed to the government of the SAARC countries to take appropriate measures for eradicating all inhuman activities and stopping trafficking of women and children through international borders.

### TV Saturday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran Programme Summary
- 5.15 Recitation from the Triptak
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Sports World
- 5.55 Cartoon Film - Gligance Planet
- 7.05 Banashart: Folk songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Chenasur: Songs programme
- 9.00 Sangeet Prabaho
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama Series: Dallas
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Closing

### Aminul Islam indisposed

Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) KM Aminul Islam, a former minister, Chairman, Bikrampur Foundation and chief patron of Bikrampur Samity, is now undergoing treatment at UCLA Medical Centre, Los Angeles (USA) after successful open-heart surgery. Mr Abdul Jalil Bikrampur, a social worker of Bikrampur in a statement, has urged the people to pray for the early recovery of Mr Islam.

### Obituary

Bangladesh Government College Teachers Council at a meeting in Dhaka Friday consoled the death of its Vice-President, Associate Professor Zowadur Rahim, reports UNB. Presided over by Moazzem Hossain Khan, the meeting prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family. Secretary General of the Council Ali Akbar Khan Doller and others spoke on the occasion, said a press release.

### Reimposition of ban on cigarette ads urged

The Smoking and Intoxicant Preventive Human Service Association (SPHSA) has demanded reimposition of ban on advertisements on cigarettes in the newspapers.

The organisation in an urgent meeting on Friday expressed resentment at the government's decision to allow advertisements on cigarettes in newspapers. It said though the decision was not reported in newspapers the advertisements on cigarettes started appearing in newspapers from April, 1991.

Secretary General of SPHSE Md Bahezuddin Ahmed Farid and Vice Chairman Haji Md Selim spoke at the meeting which was presided over by Chairman of the organisation Khandker Soltaman Ahmed Kamal.

### City AL Working Committee meet today

A meeting of the Dhaka City Awami League Working Committee will be held today (Saturday) at 4 pm at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. An extended meeting of the unit will also be held at the same venue at 6:30 pm, says a press release.

### Gitayan founding anniversary

A cultural function, marking the 7th founding anniversary of Gitayan, a musical school at Uttara Model Town, was held at the school premises Friday evening, reports BSS.

The function was attended by a cross section of people. Prizes were distributed to the best students of different branches of music of the school.

The Gitayan is run by Sataya Saha, a noted composer and his wife Romola Saha.

### Newsman robbed

Asgar Kabir Belal, Executive Editor of 'Apar Saptahik' was attacked by some armed youth at Orphanage Road late Thursday night, according to a press release, reports BSS.

The press release said the armed youth snatched away Belal's wrist watch and his money bag while he was returning to his Bakshibazar residence from the press after midnight.

### Weather

#### Day temperature may rise

Rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over the country. Day temperature is likely to rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The highest temperature of 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded on Friday at Bogra while the lowest of 22.8 degree at Mymensingh. The sun sets on Saturday at 6-18 pm and rises on Sunday at 5-40 am.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activity likely to increase.

The temperature and humidity of some towns and cities on Saturday were:

Town/city	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.0	27.4	87	72
Chittagong	32.2	25.5	73	75
Rajshahi	34.6	25.6	86	86
Khulna	31.6	26.2	86	78
Cox's Bazar	30.6	25.0	92	85
Sylhet	34.6	24.2	76	70
Rangpur	34.7	27.5	81	88
Srimangal	34.6	24.5	86	90
Bogra	34.8	27.1	74	78
Barisal	32.0	25.0	75	74

### What's on today...

**Dainik Dinkal republication ceremony**  
The republication ceremony of the Bengali language daily newspaper 'Dainik Dinkal' will be held today (Saturday) at 10 am at the Purbani Hotel in the city.  
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the function as the chief guest. Ministers Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury Maj Gen (ret'd) Majid-ul-Haque, ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, MK Anwar and Shamsul Islam Khan will be present on the occasion.  
Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Sheikh Razzak Ali will be in the chair.  
The daily will reappear regularly from tomorrow (Sunday) under the management of Jatiyabadi Prokashana Limited, a BNP-patronised publishing house.

**Reception to Comilla MPs**  
Comilla Zila Jano Kalyan Samity will accord reception to the members of parliament (MPs) elected from the Comilla district at a function at the National Press Club auditorium today (Saturday) at 4.30 pm.  
Commerce Minister MK Anwar MP will attend the function as the chief guest while the State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain will be the special guest.  
The reception has been organised in honour of 13 MPs including the two ministers. Samity President Fazlul Huq Khan will be in the chair.

**Lions Club BD meeting**  
The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lions Club of Dhaka Oriental will be held today (Saturday) at 5.30 pm at the Managing Director's chamber of the United Commercial Bank Limited.

### ...and tomorrow

**Tamuddun Majlish founding anniversary**  
The 44th founding anniversary of Tamuddun Majlish will be observed tomorrow (Sunday).  
In observance of the day, a discussion meeting to be followed by a cultural function will be held at the Central Public Library auditorium in the city at 4 pm.  
Former Justice Abdur Rahman Choudhury will attend the discussion as the chief guest. The discussants include Shahed Ali, Askar Ibne Shaikh, Sanaulah Noori, Ashraf Faruki, Farmanullah Khan, Mohiuddin Khan, Faruk Mahmud, Hassan Abdul Quayyum and Ruhul Amin Khan.  
Principal Dewan Mohammad Asraf will preside over the discussion.

## Promotion of literacy a must for uplift

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder has said the government is committed to establish a people-oriented and corruption-free administration to bring about a harmonious development in the country, reports BSS.  
The Minister was addressing a public meeting at Gangachara near Rangpur Thursday. BNP Central Committee member, Dr Shah Emdadul Huq and local leader Alhaj Rahim Uddin also spoke on the occasion.  
Abdus Salam Talukder said the present government is pursuing a production-oriented policy in line with the ideals of shaheed president Ziaur Rahman. He said, Zia's ideals for people's welfare have transcended the barriers of time.  
The LGRD Minister said the government believes that no meaningful and sustainable development of the society could be conceived without appropriate efforts for promotion of literacy in the country. He recalled that the government of shaheed president Zia succeeded in enlightening 40 lakh people with education under a much-acclaimed programme of mass-literacy in a period of only 18 months.  
The present government is true to its commitment to the nation and is consistently working for implementation of its pre-election pledges, he said adding that some of the major pledges have already been implemented by the government in its short tenure in office.

### BNP founding anniversary tomorrow

The founding anniversary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be observed on September 1, a BNP press release said Thursday, reports BSS.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder has called upon the party units to observe the day in a befitting manner through hoisting party flags and arranging milad mahfils, discussions and public meetings.

In the city party flag will be hoisted in the BNP central office. In the morning, the mazar of the Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, who is the founder of BNP, will be visited by the party leaders and workers at 9 am while a public meeting will be held at Manik Mia Avenue at 4 pm.

Party Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will deliver important speech in the meeting, which will also be addressed by other central leaders of the party.

### 138 nabbed on various charges in city

Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested 138 persons in connection with various crimes during the last 24-hours ending Thursday.

Meanwhile, a special squad of the Detective Branch recovered a stolen motor-bike and arrested two persons in this connection. Upon confessions of an arrested person, Delwar Hossain alias Sabur, police raided the house of one Abul Hossain in the Param village of Munshigonj thana on Wednesday last and recovered a stolen motor-bike (Chatto Metro-Cha 1808) from the house. Police arrested the son of Abul Hossain, Maksud (15), from the spot.

Mirpur police recovered a country-made gun and one round of ammunition from near the Shaorpara Bazar.

Lalbagh police arrested one person with a foreign-made revolver from west Islambagh on Wednesday. Abdullah alias Abdul (18) was arrested when he along with several other persons were trying to force a complainant, Salcha Begum to withdraw the case lodged against him with Lalbagh police.

### One commits suicide in city

A young man allegedly committed suicide on Thursday night in Mohammadpur.

Police said the body of Ashraf (22) was recovered from the house at B-22, Block-E, Zakir Hossain Road. He allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan rod of the house.

The reason behind the suicide could not be known.

An unnatural death case has been filed with the Mohammadpur Police. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

## All help to develop doctors' talents, expertise assured

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Friday called upon the doctors community to put in their best efforts to provide proper treatment and health-care to the ailing people with the spirit of Bangladeshi nationals, reports BSS.

He said with the establishment of democracy, the doctors will get vast opportunity to serve the distressed humanity.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of the head office of

the Doctors' Association of Bangladesh here. Presided over by Prof A K M Quamruzzaman MP, President of the Association, the function was also addressed by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, and Secretary, General of the Association Dr Atiqur Rahman.

Badruddoza said the doctors must realise the fact that the country has given them a lot and it is high time for them to serve the country. The government would do everything possible for the doctors com-

munity so that they could develop their talents and expertise in the days ahead.

The Health and Family Welfare Minister said the government has already taken steps towards solving the professional problems of the doctors. He urged the doctor's to provide all possible help and cooperation for improvement of health services of the country.

The meeting was followed by a milad mahfil.

Later the Minister formally inaugurated the office of the association.



Film star Rani casting her vote in the election of the Film Artists Association at FDC on Friday. — Star photo

## Dhaka, Delhi to exchange information on smugglers

The three-day border coordination conference between Bangladesh and India ended in Sylhet Thursday, reports BSS.

The Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles and the Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) for Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland frontier level conference began here on August 27, according to a BDR press release.

Discussion related to anti-smuggling, law and order situation of border areas, trespass, violation of border guide line cattle lifting, land disputes, kidnapping, dacoity, killing, maintenance of border pillars and allied matters figured prominently among other subjects.

After deliberations on the issues both the sides agreed to take stringent measures, in order to further secure their respective frontiers with a view to apprehending criminals.

Both the forces also decided to exchange information regarding smugglers and their affiliated organizations in respective areas.

Minor irritants were also ironed out and it was also decided that regular border meeting must be held at sector and battalion levels between the respective two forces in order to solve matters requiring immediate attention.

The conference ended with the understanding that from now on Bangladesh Rifles and the Border Security Force would further strengthen their efforts in keeping their respective borders free from crime and disorder.

### Seminar on socialism concludes

The two-day seminar here at the Engineers Institution on "There is no alternative to socialism for the emancipation of the people of Bangladesh" concluded here Friday, reports BSS.

Abdur Rouf presided over the concluding session of the seminar, sponsored by Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (ML).

In a statement on Friday they demanded scrapping of the recent pact signed for running goods trains between the two countries till removal of trade imbalance between Bangladesh and India.

## BCU calls for movement against terrorism

The two-day meeting of the National Council of Bangladesh Chhatra Union concluded on Friday.

A press release of Chhatra Union said the meeting called for building up an effective students movement against terrorism, reaction and communalism with the spirit of the War of Liberation and the democratic movement.

The meeting expressed concern at the developments in the Soviet Union.

It said absence of socialist Soviet Union in global politics would hamper balance which would be disastrous for a developing country like Bangladesh. The meeting observed that many countries including Bangladesh could not shake off colonial yoke without the presence of strong Soviet Union in global politics.

The meeting expressed concern at the repressive decisions against Soviet Communist Party.

The meeting demanded withdrawal of false cases against Chhatra Union President Nasir ud Doza, union leaders Abraham Lincoln, Md Atiq, 60 student leaders of Rajshahi University and other leaders and workers of the organisation.

It also demanded opening of all closed educational institutions including Dhaka and Rajshahi universities, solving stalemate in Chittagong University.

Chhatra Union General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince, Organizing Secretary Kazi Sajjad Zahir Chandan and central and district leaders spoke at the meeting which was presided over by organisation's President Nasir ud Doza.

## ML demands removal of Indo-Bangla trade imbalance

Muhammad Aynuddin and MA Salam, ex-President and ex-Secretary General of Bangladesh Muslim League have expressed resentment at the non-settlement of bilateral problems between Bangladesh and India during Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman's visit to India.

In a statement on Friday they demanded scrapping of the recent pact signed for running goods trains between the two countries till removal of trade imbalance between Bangladesh and India.

**National Broadcasting Authority (Radio)**  
Maintenance Section  
House No 72, Road No 7A (New)  
1st floor, Dhanmondi R/A  
Dhaka - 1209.

## Tender Notice

National Broadcasting Authority (Radio) invites tenders in sealed cover for repair/over hauling/servicing of the following two partially and one completely defective Air Conditioning Plant of Radio Bangladesh, Rajshahi from the real and experienced contractors/repairing firms as per schedule available from the Office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days.

Description	Quantity	Last date for submission of tender	Cost of Tender documents (Non-refundable)
Daikin Water Cooled packaged Air Conditioners Model No UCZOEAYE, 3-Phase 400V, Capacity-15 ton. Each, Gas Charging, fre on-D F-22, 15KG in each, Manufacturer - DAIKIN HOGYO CO LTD, JAPAN.	3 (three) Nos	18-9-91	Tk 100/- (Taka one hundred) only (Non-refundable)

The above tender will be received by the undersigned up to 11 am on the date mentioned above and will be opened on the same day at 11-30 am in presence of tenderers, if any. Tender documents may be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days on production of a treasury challan depositing Tk 100/- (Taka one hundred) only as cost of the tender schedule under the Head "40-Broadcasting, Information and Publication (A3-34) Ka-Radio Miscellaneous Receipt-1991-92."

No Tender documents will be sold on the date of the opening of the tender. Tenderers will be liable to pay Bank Draft 1/2% of the quoted price as earnest money (refundable) in favour of the Director General (Radio), National Broadcasting Authority, Dhaka.

Interested tenderers may go to Broadcasting House, Radio Bangladesh, Rajshahi and physically check the Air Conditioning Plants before submission of tenders.

This authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or its parts or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. No tender documents will be sold or received through postal service.

DFF(G)-9857-28/8  
G-465  
MAHBUBUR RAHMAN  
Senior Engineer  
for Director General.