

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The House that Death Visited

by S Bari

Apart from the two little guard houses at the gate, it looks like any other house on the street. Bougainvillea is draped becomingly over the verandah, a dishevelled garden bakes in the sun. But here and there a bullet hole scars the wall, a reminder that death visited this house — and never left.

The house on Dhanmondi's road number 32, where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed in 1975, remains a shell of a home, a memorial to neglect more than anything else. A few half-hearted guards, a few unkempt young men flipping idly through the sports pages, and inches of sad dust fill the house where Bangladesh's bloody history of presidential assassination began.

Mujib's emotional contribution to the independence of Bangladesh is considered by many as equal to if not greater than his political role. As a symbol of the war, he rallied Bengalis around a common purpose. Increasing disarray in his administration and disastrous weaknesses in his economic and political decisions combined with the growing power of the army led to a brutal massacre of Mujib and nearly his entire family. Early that morning of August 15th, the large brick residence was shaken by gunfire. And the man without whom, arguably, Bangladesh would have remained a subjugated nation fell to his death on the steps of his own home.

Little has been done in 17 years to preserve this historical building. Leader of the Opposition, Mujib's daughter Hasina is heir to the property. Plans are on the desk for a memorial museum, to be run by a body called the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust. Gaztul Huq, an advocate who is involved in the progress of the plan, said in a telephone interview that work has been in progress for 2 years.

The interior is being redone to look the way it did when Bangabandhu lived here", Huq informed the Daily Star, "and for this we consult people who knew the house well." The bullet holes throughout the establishment, from the stairs to the library and bedrooms, will remain in place. Reconstruction is minimal; the main job is restoration. Architect Rabul Hossain is in charge of the operations, which are expected to take another 6 months.

A film on the Liberation War will be screened regularly. The museum will house a library of Mujib's own documents and books. His personal belongings, clothes and otherwise, are to be on display. Huq hopes to have tapes recounting Mujib's life and times available for visitors to hear.

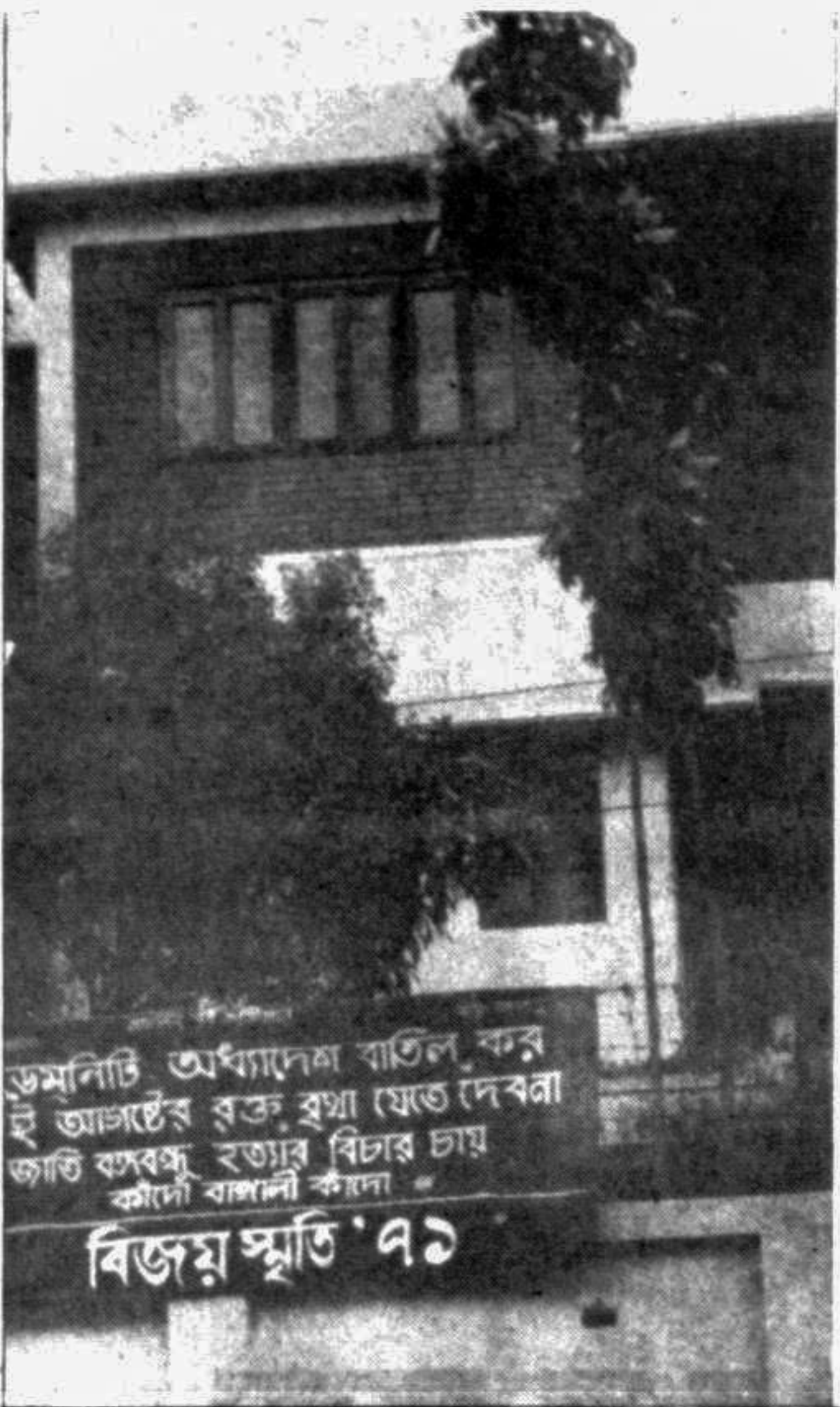
Such ambitious plans sound somewhat belated. Huq claims this is a national fault. "We don't cherish our heritage," he regrets. "This is our history, like it or not. We politicize things. But we can't deny that Mujib is bound inextricably to the history of Bangladesh."

Funding is also a factor, according to Huq, though he is reluctant to discuss the expense of the museum. Entrance fees will be nominal, to meet maintenance costs.

To the visitor, it is obvious that neglect is more at play here than funding or politics. For however long it takes for the museum to materialize, the house remains cloaked in oblivion.

Surely a little more cleaning and care in the interim period are not beyond the party's or the Trust's means. The steps where Mujib fell are dusty, the flowers in front his portrait wilted and dry. A flag is laid on the staircase, a jarring gesture. Little plaques of glass cover what are said to be his bloodstains. The air reeks of callous indifference and hollow words.

An national historical site, this house deserves better. Perhaps a little sweeping, a little dusting, and fewer ambitious plans? The museum, due to open early next year, is a laudable step. Till then, the Trust should do some serious housecleaning.



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's house at Dhanmondi

Seminar on South Asia 'Get together and help solve problems'

A call went out from an international seminar entitled 'South Asia and the Changing Global Order', organised by the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) in the city Thursday for the South Asian countries to get together and help solve each other's problems, says a press release.

Barrister Mainul Hossain, Chairman, Board of Editors, Daily Ittefaq and the New Nation formally inaugurated the day-long seminar as the chief guest. Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, Chairman CDRB, presided.

Barrister Mainul Hossain in his address said, "Time is now appropriate for taking a fresh look at the concept of regional cooperation among the nations of South Asia. He underscored the need for addressing the bilateral issues of contention to foster meaningful regional cooperation."

The inaugural session was followed by four separate sessions, in which four keynote papers were presented by Dr. Zillur Rahman Khan, Professor and Chairman, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, USA, Professor Syed Anwar Husain of the Department of History, Dhaka University, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, Chairman, CDRB and Dr Atiur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

These sessions were chaired by S A M S Kibria, former UN Under Secretary General, UN and Executive Secretary, ESCAP, S M Ali Editor, The Daily Star, Dr. M. Rashiduzzaman, Professor Department of Political Science, Glassboro State College, New Jersey, USA and Chowdhury A K M Aminul Huq, former Member of the Advisory Council to the Acting President of Bangladesh and former Secretary, IRD, respectively.

The Cultural Committee constituted on the occasion of coming SAARC summit at a meeting Thursday discussed in detail possible cultural programmes to be staged during the meet here in December, reports UNB.

This was the second meeting of the body, held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum in the chair, said an official hand-out Thursday night.

The members of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) will hold a discussion meeting with the Ambassador of the Saudi Arabia in Bangladesh tomorrow (Sunday) at 3 pm at the Dhaka Chamber conference room.

The inauguration programme of the Eastern Bank Limited will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at 11.30 am at the Jiban Bima Bhaban, 10 Dilkusha C/A.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia will inaugurate the function as the chief guest. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will be present as the special guest.

The Bangladesh Association for American Studies (BAAS) will hold a day-long seminar on "The crisis of democratic transition in Bangladesh and the American model of democracy" tomorrow (Sunday) at 9.30 am at the German Cultural Centre auditorium.

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S A M S Kibria speaking at a seminar organised by CDRB in the city yesterday. Also seen in the picture Dr Zillur Rahman Khan (left) and Dr Atiur Rahman (right). — Star photo

CAB demands appointment of 'consumer ombudsman'

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) has demanded enactment of a suitable 'package law' to preserve the consumers' right, reports UNB.

The association at its annual general meeting here yesterday described the existing laws related to the consumers as 'faulty and incomplete' and suggested that they be amended and incorporated in a package law.

It also demanded that 'Refrain from holding BAUCSU polls'.

By Staff Correspondent

The Five-party alliance and the Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) unit of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) at a joint meeting held in the city Thursday demanded of the authorities to refrain from holding the BAU Central Students Union (BAUCSU) polls until a congenial atmosphere restored on the campus.

Held at the Five-party's Topkhana office, the meeting chaired by Rashed Khan Menon MP, observed that the BAU authorities was stuck to their decision of holding the elections on August 16 with an 'ill-motive to facilitate the ruling party's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir win the polls although all other student organisations had boycotted it.

The meeting expressed its grave concern over, what it said, deteriorating situation at the BAU due to the authorities' conspiratorial role regarding the BAUCSU polls. The university authorities must shoulder all the responsibilities of any unwanted situation if arise out of holding the polls on August 16, it warned.

Five-party leaders including Hasanul Haq Inu, Khlequzzaman, Nirmol Sen, A F M Mahbubul Haque and Nayeem Jahangir attended the meeting.

Zee TV makes debut today

Zee TV announced yesterday that it will make its 'debut' at 9 pm with a preview package of what is in store for viewers, says a press release.

The preview programme will be broadcast on the STAR TV's general entertainment channel STAR Plus, pre-empting Si Elsewhere which was scheduled for the time slot.

Women's role in politics underscored

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum yesterday called upon the women especially the educated ones to join politics to give it an institutional shape, reports BSS.

She was addressing the 3rd installation ceremony of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North-East here. Presided over by the President of the Club Saridah Hasa Alamgir, the function was also addressed by International Inner Wheel Representative Bul Bul Alam and Chairperson of District-328 Lutfia Kamal.

The state minister said women of the country contributed lot in the different democratic movements. However, she observed that this sacred contribution was not evaluated properly.

Students urged to uphold social values

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday urged the students to put in their best efforts to uphold the values of the society and make it free from corruption and exploitation, reports BSS.

The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the reunion of the alumni of Motijheel Ideal School at the auditorium of the Engineers' Institute yesterday.

The function was attended, among others, by Lutfar Rahman Khan, State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation

SAARC cultural body discusses programmes

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What's on today . . .

Photographic exhibition
Drik Picture Library, Autograph and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will jointly hold a photographic exhibition 'Anno chokhe dekha' today (Saturday) at 5 pm at the Shilpakala Academy gallery.

. . . and tomorrow

DCCI talks with Saudi envoy
The members of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) will hold a discussion meeting with the Ambassador of the Saudi Arabia in Bangladesh tomorrow (Sunday) at 3 pm at the Dhaka Chamber conference room.

Eastern Bank inauguration programme
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Seminar on democracy
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AIDS prevention possible thru' mass awareness

RAJSHAHI, Aug 14: Deputy leader in parliament Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury today stressed the need for creating public awareness about the killer disease AIDS to prevent its spread, reports BSS.

He was addressing a discussion on AIDS at Rajshahi Medical College auditorium.

The deputy leader said, no vaccine against the virus and no curative treatment had yet been discovered and so ultimate fate of the disease was hundred per cent mortality. Still the disease is preventable

and it can be achieved by creating public awareness about AIDS, he added.

Dr Chowdhury said the physicians could play a significant role in disseminating various informations among the people about AIDS.

The function was also addressed by Professor A K Samsuddin Siddique, national focal point on AIDS and Dr Mostafa Kamal, national programme manager, AIDS.

Dr Mostafa Kamal presented the key-note speech in the discussion and explained the modes of transmission of AIDS virus which are sexual contact, contaminated blood transfusion and use of contaminated needles and infected mother to baby. He also discussed elaborately the present status of AIDS in Bangladesh.

Earlier Prof Chowdhury went to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital to see Dr Tofazzal Haque and others, victims of an unfortunate incident, and enquired about their medicare.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu accompanied him during the visit.

717 held on various charges

The police forces during their 24 hours raid throughout the country ending last afternoon arrested 717 persons on various charges and recovered 53 illegal fire arms and 757 rounds of ammunition according to a police press release in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The fire arms includes 25 pipe guns, 22 guns, three rifles, two revolvers and one pistol.

During the same period 252 persons were arrested and 33 illegal fire arms and 733 rounds of ammunition were recovered in Chittagong range by the police.

In Khulna range 128 persons were arrested and 16 arms were recovered during the same period.

Death condoled
Deputy Leader of the House in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury has expressed shock at the death of Syed Hossain Mansur, a former MP of BNP, reports BSS.

In a condolence message here on Thursday, Prof Chowdhury said the country had lost a sincere elder politician with the death of Syed Hossain Mansur. This loss was irreparable, he said.

The Deputy Leader of the House prayed for peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Student leaders deny attack on procession

Student union leaders of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University on Thursday denied their involvement in Wednesday's attack on a procession, reports UNB.

Some students of the hall allegedly pelted stones on a procession of Bangabandhu Parishad when it was passing through the front road of the dormitory on Wednesday afternoon.

In a statement hall union Acting VP S M Nazrul Islam and Acting GS Mohammad Shahinuddin alleged that the processionists without any provocation threw stones and cocktails at the hall.

The leaders said following the attack of the Awami League activists, window panes of at least 27 rooms were damaged and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Shamim Ahsan Sohel suffered injury.

DU Physics dept viva voce begins Aug 17

The viva voce for the second year honours students of the Physics department at Dhaka University, under course system, will begin on August 17, reports UNB.

Students have been asked to get detailed schedule from the office of the department, a press release said.

Jamiruddin buried

Jamiruddin Ahmed, former Secretary of Land Administration and Land Reforms, was buried at the Banani graveyard yesterday, reports BSS.

Earlier, his namaj-e-janaza was held after Jumma prayer at Iqbal Road Jame Masjid, Mohammadpur.

Ahmed died of heart attack Thursday at Suhrawardy Hospital. He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of friends and relations to mourn his death.

Qulshwant for the deceased will be held Sunday at his residence at 2/8 Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur.

BTV Saturday

5-00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
5-10	News in Bangla
5-20	Recitation from the Geeta
5-25	Documentary film Cartoon film : Care Bears Family
6-00	Mati O Manush
6-30	Banshari
7-05	News in Bangla
8-00	Prabaha
8-30	Shatabdir Prante Danrye
9-00	News in English
10-30	Drama series : Dallas
11-30	Khabar/The news
11-40	Sunday's programme summary
11-45	Closing



Folksong competition-92, an anti-smoking programme of ADHUNIK held at Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light or moderate rain or shower is likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Sylhet, Jessore, Dhaka and Faridpur while weather remains mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. The Met office forecast, weather is likely to deteriorate in next two days, and may improve after another five days.

The maximum temperature of 35.0 degree Celsius was reported from Comilla and Sylhet yesterday (Friday) and the minimum of 23.1 degree was reported from Frlhet.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.32 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.34 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	33.2	28.0
Chittagong	34.0	25.0
Rajshahi	34.0	26.4
Khulna	32.1	26.4
Jessore	33.1	26.4
Sylhet	35.0	23.1
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5
Dinajpur	34.3	26.5

Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation

Eastern Wood Works
185/A, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide and interested manufacturer/supplier firms for supply of the undermentioned goods.

SL No.	Goods in demand	Price per schedule	Date of receiving tender	Date of opening tender	Earnest money
1	Various kinds hardware goods	75.00 (seventy five) (non-refundable)	31-8-92 by 12-00 Noon	31-8-92 at 12-15 hours	2% of total quoted value
2	Various kinds polish materials	50.00 (fifty) (non-refundable)	do	do	do

The tender will be received through tender box up to 12-00 Noon on 31-8-92 in presence of the Tender Committee of this project in the tender box kept at the office of the Manager (Coordination), Directorate of Finance, BFIDC, 73 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka and the office of the undersigned and opened on the same day at 12-15 hours in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

Tender schedule will be available from (1) Cashier of this project, (2) Cashier, BFIDC, 73, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka during office hours up to 30-8-92 at the stated price (non-refundable). No schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender. Current trade licence, current Income Tax Clearance Certificate, current bank solvency certificate should be submitted with the tender. 2 1/2% (two and half per cent) of total quoted value in the tender should be submitted as earnest money with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of "Asstt. General manager, FIDC, Eastern Wood Works, Tejgaon, Dhaka". Bank Draft/Pay Order should be from scheduled bank.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

FIDCOR: 09/92-93
DFP(G)14981-9/8
G-1001

Mohammad Abul Qasem
Asstt General Manager
Phone: 600825