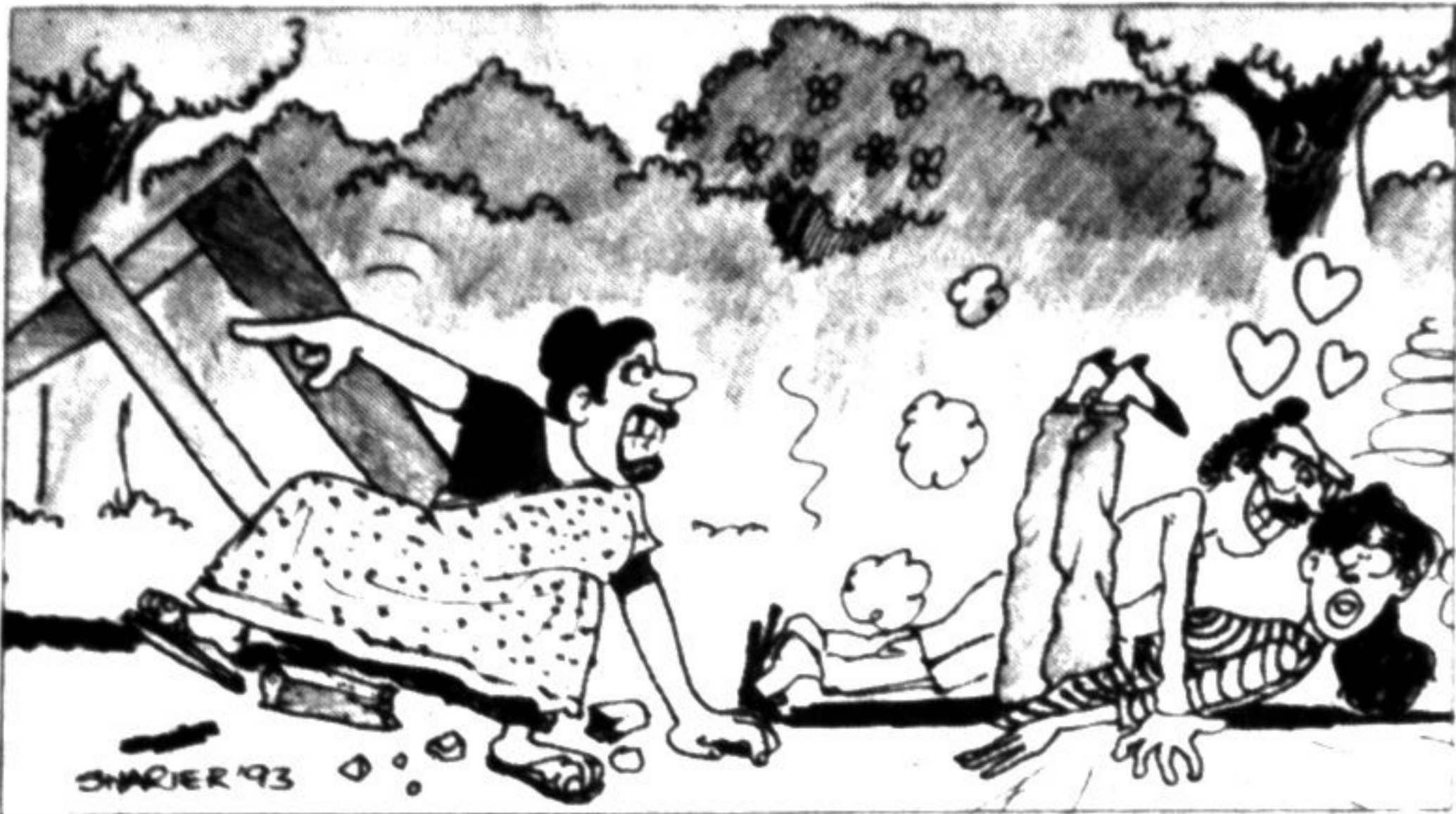


Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Undiminishing Influence of Bench

by Neil Ray



One can perhaps ignore a chair or even a table but hardly a bench. For many schools in villages of this god-forsaken land, a bench continues to remind its indispensability either by its modest presence or by its very absence. By presence, because it is reckoned to be a precious facility to enjoy, and by its absence, because that way it never ceases to haunt the minds of both the students and the teachers of those unfortunate schools.

Yes, the pathetic picture brought out in sharp contrast to the favoured city schools convinces even the ardent supporters of the on-going education programmes that the village schools without benches and all other implements necessary for the purpose are fighting a losing battle against the monster called ignorance or illiteracy. A bench is just a symbol.

For many however this may conjure up both sad and relishing memories of the childhood. How humiliating it was and still is to stand on the bench for an unseemly offence. The teacher orders to stand up on the bench and his student wholeheartedly wishing the teacher's head for wrongly accusing or pronouncing the heavy punishment for a light offence. At least that is how adolescence views things, specially when the docile class-mates of the opposite sex are enjoying the humiliation, which the corners of their eyes do not fail to betray.

Benches have a hundred and one practical uses in villages. In the summer, they become a veritable bed lined one after another. And as in classes, the front or best ones yield to the most eligible competitor. Apart from their versatile

uses in villages, the benches are left quite a substantial portion of space even in the university — albeit in an improved shape. But not before coming out of the university does a bench really mean so much to one's life. Young men and women waiting anxiously for their turn in an endless procession of 'in-and-out' of the room that decides their fate shows how important it is to have a room in the few benches left outside for hundreds or even thousands of candidates.

One of the TV dramas showed how the same candidates meet again in their quest for the 'golden deer' that a job today is. But there was at least the romantic relief of a young man and woman finding in each other their match. In real life too this may happen but only rarely. However, the competition for job is no exaggeration.

A bench would have been a poor thing indeed, had it not taken such a centre place of politics as in the British Parliament or in the system of judiciary in many countries following the Westminster's parliamentary democracy. The opposition and treasury benches bear the name following the British tradition. The judges of high court or supreme court benches decide so many intractable disputes and even pronounce the last words on one charged with the most bizarre crime. And who does not know that the two benches in parliament make laws for the nation to follow for pursuing peace and happiness? A bench's elevation to such a height has done one wonderful job in that the ingrained student in everybody learns upto the last.

Britain donates 50 thousand pound to ICDDR,B

The British High Commissioner Peter Fowler, CMG, visited the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) and handed over a cheque amounting 50,000 pounds sterling (Taka 30 lakh) to Dr Dilip Mahalanabis, Acting Director of ICDDR,B yesterday, says a press release.

The funds are to help ICDDR,B clinically manage the unexpected increase in the number of patients in the centre's Dhaka and Matlab hospitals.

The epidemic is caused by a new strain of vibrio, the 'Bengal' vibrio to which the entire population is susceptible. The hospitalisation rate at the diarrhoea treatment centre in Mohakhali has surpassed all previous records during the current epidemic season.



The US Assistant Secretary of State Ms Robin Lynn Raphael called on the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razaque Ali at latter's chamber yesterday. — PID photo

Dago Shering calls on Khaleda

The visiting Bhutanese Cultural Affairs Minister Dago Shering called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the yesterday morning, reports UNB.

During the meeting, Begum Zia said, good relations prevail among the SAARC countries and we want to develop it further, specially in the fields of trade and commerce.

The Bhutanese Minister mentioned the export of fruits from Bhutan to Bangladesh.

Exchange of various delegations such as cultural teams will further strengthen the relations between the two countries, Shering said.

9 Foreign Ministry officials promoted

Nine Foreign Ministry officials in the rank of Director have been promoted to Director General, official sources said. Tuesday, reports UNB.

Four of them — Abdullah Al Hasan, Kazi Afzalur Rahman, Akramul Kader and Ashraf-uddoula — are now posted in the country's missions abroad. Five others are working in the ministry. They are Rafique Ahmed Khan, Jahangir Sadat, Jamil Majid, Shafiqullah and Moinis Ali Khan.

Make farmers aware of benefit of crop diversification: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the party workers to make the farmers aware of the benefit of crop diversification to attain the target of food autarky, reports BSS.

She was talking to the leaders of Naogaon district BNP led by its president Alamgir Kabir MP who met her at Sugandha office yesterday night.

Begum Zia underlined the need for strengthening the party base at the grass-root level for implementing the development programmes initiated by the present government. She said the party members who were

dedicated to the uplift of the teeming millions, should go to the rural people to make them conscious about their own development.

The Prime Minister said the workers should involve themselves in the development programmes including afforestation, education, family planning and women uplift for the success of the government programmes.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Golam Rabbani MP and Naogaon BNP General Secretary Jalal Ahmed Bakul were present, among others, on the occasion.

Construction works of BSCIC industrial units to begin by Dec

Construction works on industrial units at Hosierey Industrial Estate of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), at Narayanagar will begin by December, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in a meeting between Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan and representatives of the Bangladesh Hosierey Samity at his office Tuesday.

The meeting resolved that allocation of plots among the industrialists will begin within a few days and the allottees be allowed to start their factory construction by December.

State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan, Industries Secretary A H M Abdul Hye and BSCIC Chairman Moniruzzaman Chowdhury were present.

Moyeen suggests establishment of UNPA

State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan has called for establishing a new body styled as the United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) to enrich the world body through the contributions from the public representatives of the countries of the globe, reports BSS.

Speaking at a forum at the United Nations Dr Khan strongly argued for setting up UNPA by the time the world body celebrates its 50th anniversary of establishment so that UN resolutions could be enriched by the contributions of people's representatives, according to a message received here Tuesday from New York.

He said time has come for a renewed look into the United Nations which 'basically stands for the peoples of the world and not necessarily for the governments alone.'

UNESCO's regional centre to be set up in Dhaka

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said that Bangladesh was going to contest for the appointment of external auditor for the UNESCO.

He said that the UNESCO Director General had principally agreed to set up UNESCO's regional centre in Dhaka.

A total of seven nations which included both developed and developing countries are in the race, he told BSS on return from Paris after attending the 27th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Sircar led the six-member Bangladesh delegation at the conference which began in the French capital on October 25. The Bangladesh Education Minister who was elected one of the vice presidents of the conference, presided over the first working session.

Sircar, in his deliberations to the conference, made several proposals for the development of education through improvement of infrastructural facilities and sought UNESCO's assistance for the overall upgrading of education sector.

Eradication of illiteracy from the country by the turn of the century, creation of more vocational training centres and training of teachers for both schools and colleges were emphasised by the minister. He informed the conference that Bangladesh was implementing a programme of offering stipends to girl students from six to ten in non-urban areas and plans to bring all rural schools under its fold by 1997.

The minister sought UNESCO's assistance to supply books, papers and other accessories for the success of the programme. As for the imple-

mentation of food for education which is now confined to one union in each district, the minister sought UNESCO's support so that it could bring all poor students of the country under its fold.

The other proposals submitted included setting up of an international centre for the development of science and technical education for men and women, establishment of an oceanographic institute and setting up of an environment centre.

Besides, Bangladesh also sought UNESCO's assistance for the preservation and development of seven historic places scattered in different parts of the country. Mahasthangar, Mainamati and Lalbagh Fort are included in the proposal.

Referring to various reformative measures taken by the present government for improving the education sector, the minister said literacy rate had now shot up to 32 per cent, a rise of ten per cent in three years. He said this was due to spreading of primary education and lowering of population growth.

Unnatural death

By DMCH Correspondent
One leather trader died an unnatural death at the Lalbagh in the city yesterday.

Family sources of the victim Habibullah, 60, however, alleged that he was murdered by his business rival.

Lalbagh police was aware of the incident but no case was lodged. The body of the victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.



The Leo members of Lions International District 315 B 1 Bangladesh organised a blood donation programme recently on the occasion of World Youth Day. Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman was the chief guest on the occasion. A large number of students, youths and Leo members donated blood.

Project Management Organisation
Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong

Local Tender Notice
No. COS/Container/Materials/93-Tend Dated: 01-11-1993

Sealed tenders are invited by the General Manager/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong from bonafide manufacturer/supplier for supply of materials for modification of container wagons for Bangladesh Railway.

- Tender documents can be obtained between 9.00 AM to 12.30 PM on all working days with effect from 06.11.1993 from the office of the Controller of Stores/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong as well as from the office of the Executive Engineer/Project/Track, Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk. 750.00 (Taka seven hundred fifty) only (Non-refundable).
- Tenders addressed to General Manager/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong and must reach or be dropped in the tender box placed in the Chamber of the Controller of Stores/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong by 11.00 AM on 27.11.1993 and will be opened at the same place and the same date at 11.30 AM. Tender sent by post or any other means must reach the above office by the same date and time specified above, postal and any other delays shall not be considered under any circumstances.
- Each tender should be submitted in one original and three other identical copies in a sealed cover superscribing "Tender for supply of materials for modification of container wagons for Bangladesh Railway followed by the tender number."
- Tender documents will not be sold on the closing date of the tender.
- Tender received after the date and time specified in Paragraph-3 above shall be rejected.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject tender as whole or part without assigning any reason.

Md. Iqbal Mollah
Controller of Stores/Project
for General Manager/Project
Bangladesh Railway
Chittagong

Rail/B/192
D-799

8 get German scholarships

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has awarded eight scholarships under its 1994 programme to students from Bangladesh for graduate studies at the prestigious Asian Institute of Technology at Bangkok, Thailand, says a press release.

The students will begin their studies in January, May or September 1994 depending on their field of study. The names of the students and the academic programmes are: Mir Zahedul Haque Khandkar (Energy Technology), Kazi Zulfikar Ali Hassan (Environmental Engineering), Mesbah Uddin Ahmed (Mosharrar Engineering), Md Mosharrar Hossain (Industrial Engineering Management), Md Shamsuddin Chowdhury (Industrial Engineering Management), Abdullah Al-Mamun (Irrigation Engineering & Management), Saifika Akter (Water Resources Engineering), Rabul Amin (School of Management).

Seminar on terrorism held

RAJSHAHI, Nov 3: Speakers at a seminar titled 'Role of Youths in Curbing Terrorism' held here today underscored the need for providing vocational training to the youths to make them self-reliant, reports BSS.

Terrorism would be contained as well as our socio-economic emancipation would be achieved through creating job opportunities for the youths, they observed.

The Youth Development Department, Rajshahi organised the seminar as part of the three-day programme in observance of National Youth Day. Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi M Aminul Islam inaugurated the seminar.

Thursdays

9:00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran Programme summary
9:15	Live telecast of the last of two exhibition one-day international cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	School debate competition
6:15	Mass education programme: Esho Para Shikhee
6:40	Jiboner Alo
7:30	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:35	Drama of the week: Ekanto
	Tomarce
10:00	News in English
10:35	Drama serial: The Grass is Always Greener
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:35	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:40	Closing

Weather

Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent
The sky will remain cloudy over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong divisions and partly cloudy over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong divisions and the regions of Bogra, Rangpur, Khulna and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may remain mainly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 30.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra and the lowest of 19.3 degrees Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.18 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.07 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and the maximum and the minimum relative humidity of some major cities and towns of the country recorded yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.2	23.4	83	81
Chittagong	25.5	23.5	95	91
Rajshahi	28.9	20.6	82	94
Khulna	27.2	21.2	91	88
Barisal	25.2	23.5	98	91
Sylhet	23.8	20.4	82	91
Dinajpur	26.8	19.3	88	91
Cox's Bazar	26.7	24.5	83	87

MH MENG HONG SHIPPING PTE LTD
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/ SHIPPERS

M. V. FONG SHIN V-9329 IMP. ROT. NO.871/93 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 4TH NOVEMBER 1993 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC.167(B) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO.838/93 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA, U.K., CONTINENT, MEDITERRANEAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

GENERAL AGENTS:
Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.
(A HRC COMPANY)

DHAKA 19/F Sena Kalyan Bhaban 195 Moulmein Com. Area Tel: 864546, 864547 Tlx: 632105 BDSHP BJ, 632656 HRC BJ Telefax: 880-2-863734	CHITTAGONG G/F Jiban Bima Bhaban 1053 Sh. Mujib Rd., Agrabad Tel: 504313, 502123, 500793 Tlx: 633027 BDSHP BJ, 633126 HRC BJ Telefax: 880-31-225625	KHULNA 1 Miapara Road (PTI Moor) Tel: 252555 Tlx: 633302 HRC BJ Telefax: 880-41-21175
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বাংলাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (জ্যেষ্ঠ) ও টেনিং-এর কার্যালয়
রিজিষ্ট্রাল ওয়ার্কশপ, শেরেবাগা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আঞ্চলিক কারখানা, বিএডিসি, ঢাকা এবং উহার আওতাধীন টাঙ্গাইল, ময়মনসিংহ, জামালপুর, নেত্রকোনা, কুলিয়ারচর ও ফরিদপুর জোনাল ওয়ার্কশপসমূহের পুনঃরক্ষিত শক্তিশালিত পাম্প ও অগভীর নলকূপের সরঞ্জামাদি (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে আর্থী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে নিম্নবর্ণিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

১। দরপত্র নং : ০১/৯৩-৯৪ তাং ১-৯-৯৩ইং।
২। দরপত্রের বিবরণ :

ক্রমিক নং	মালামালের বিবরণ	মালামালের অবস্থান	সিডিউলের মূল্য	(টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য)
ক' গ্রুপ	শঃ পাঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	আঞ্চলিক কারখানা, ঢাকা	১১০/-	(একশত দশ) টাকা।
খ' গ্রুপ	শঃ পাঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	কুলিয়ারচর জোনাল স্টোর	১০৫/-	(একশত পাঁচ) টাকা।
গ' গ্রুপ	শঃ পাঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	ময়মনসিংহ জোনাল স্টোর	৯৪০/-	(নয়শত চল্লিশ) টাকা।
ঘ' গ্রুপ	শঃ পাঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	জামালপুর জোনাল স্টোর	৬১০/-	(ছয়শত দশ) টাকা।
ঙ' গ্রুপ	শঃ পাঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	নেত্রকোনা জোনাল স্টোর	৩০০/-	(পঁচাত্তর) টাকা।
চ' গ্রুপ	শঃ পাঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	ফরিদপুর জোনাল স্টোর	১০০০/-	(এক হাজার) টাকা।
ছ' গ্রুপ	শঃ পাঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	টাঙ্গাইল জোনাল স্টোর	১৮০০/-	(আটশত আশি) টাকা।
জ' গ্রুপ	অনুকূঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	ময়মনসিংহ জোনাল স্টোর	১০০০/-	(এক হাজার) টাকা।
ঝ' গ্রুপ	অনুকূঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	ফরিদপুর জোনাল স্টোর	৬৭৫/-	(ছয়শত পঁচাত্তর) টাকা।
ঞ' গ্রুপ	অনুকূঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	জামালপুর জোনাল স্টোর	১০০/-	(একশত) টাকা।
ট' গ্রুপ	অনুকূঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	টাঙ্গাইল জোনাল স্টোর	১০০০/-	(এক হাজার) টাকা।
ঠ' গ্রুপ	অনুকূঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	কুলিয়ারচর জোনাল স্টোর	১০০০/-	(এক হাজার) টাকা।
ড' গ্রুপ	অনুকূঃ সরঞ্জামাদি	নেত্রকোনা জোনাল স্টোর	১০০/-	(একশত) টাকা।

৩। দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান : ক। প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (সঃ ও কাঃ), বিএডিসি, কৃষি ভবন, ঢাকা।
খ। তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (সঃ ও কাঃ), বিএডিসি, ঢাকা সার্কেল, সৈফ ভবন, ঢাকা।
গ। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, (কাঃ ও টেঃ) আঞ্চলিক কারখানা, বিএডিসি, ঢাকা।
ঘ। সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সঃ ও কাঃ), বিএডিসি, টাঙ্গাইল, ময়মনসিংহ, জামালপুর, নেত্রকোনা, কুলিয়ারচর ও ফরিদপুর জোনাল কারখানা ও স্টোরসমূহে।

৪। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের : ১০-১১-৯৩ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত।
শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ৩ নং ক্রমিক বর্ণিত অফিসসমূহে ১১-১১-৯৩ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৫। দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান ও তারিখ ও সময় : ৩ নং ক্রমিক বর্ণিত অফিসসমূহে ১১-১১-৯৩ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।
৬। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান ও তারিখ ও সময় : ৩ নং ক্রমিক বর্ণিত অফিসসমূহে ১১-১১-৯৩ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।
৭। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল কিংবা সকল দরপত্র প্রত্যাবাসনের অধিকার কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ মকসুদ রহমান সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (জ্যেষ্ঠ) ও টেনিং
বিএডিসি, রিজিষ্ট্রাল ওয়ার্কশপ
শেরেবাগা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

কটক-২৩০৪
ডিএফপি(জি) ১৭৭৪-০০/৩০
ফি-১৪৯৮