

Dhaka Day by Day

Bibi's Bewitching Charm

by Shamsad Mortuza

The career of top modelling began thousands of miles away from home for a girl from Rangpur and it was the strangest thing ever to happen to this tall, skinny, dark girl whom people in her own country hardly rated as someone either beautiful for desirable. However, or the top designers and advertisers in Europe, Bibi was and still is a photogra-

pher's dream and when all the world fell in love with Bibi's beauty, then and only then did Bangladesh take a second look.

Bibi has already earned for herself a niche as a world class model and a fashion designer. After spending 18 years abroad Bibi is now back to Bangladesh to complete her unfinished task.

"I am presently working for the Spring Summer Collection 1995 which I intend to hold here in Dhaka," informed the fashion designer who has recently got back from her home in Milan, adding, "with the same collection I will hold a similar show in Italy in September '95."

Although reputed as the only Bangladeshi fashion model of international stature, Bibi is basically a fashion designer who had her degrees from the London College of Fashion. After finishing her graduation from Home Economics College, Dhaka, Bibi flew to England to have her diploma on Textile and Fashion design in 1976.

"I don't understand why cannot we make it to the fashion world like our neighbouring countries," shrugged Bibi to add, "We have the heritage and resources to explore."

During the last few months Bibi has been to Islamabad in the old part of the capital, to Tangail, the traditional haven of weavers, and to jamdani village. And the search is still on to make her '95 collection a success.

The collection will include casual dresses only made of 100 per cent local materials. The

maximum price of clothings will be Tk 800 only.

"I want to attract the European market with the fabrics we have, with the tradition we inherit," said a confident Bibi. "And I'm sure if everything goes well, we will be able to hold a comfortable position in the fashion world in the next 10 years," she added.

Ambitious? Yes, but not unrealistic, specially when it comes from someone like Bibi who has so far performed in cities like Paris, London, Milan, Florence, Algiers with celebrated models like Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford and worked with almost all the fashion gurus.

"I'm quite strong," Bibi made a self evaluation. "When I first went to the fashion arena everyone was surprised," she recalled. "Nobody could believe that there was a Bangalee girl to compete, and in fact their curiosity helped me a lot," Bibi grinned.

"Specially, the photographers, the photo journalists liked me a lot when I was doing photo-modelling," she revealed her secret of success.

"If you want to be a model, you must have clarity of vision, you must have dedication and I knew that as a novice," the 'ugly duckling' went on saying who eventually turned out as a beautiful swan just as in the fairy tale of Hans Christian Anderson.

Bibi is also planning to make a feature film on local fabrics. Italian photographers and technicians have already visited the possible spots for Bibi's film.

"I love Bangladesh and I want to uphold Bangladesh," said Bibi, the mother of two sons. "My youngest son Pickey, 11, used to play for the Italian Junior Soccer team," informed Bibi. "He will probably play for Abahani next season, and my eldest son Omar, 15 is now studying in London," added the proud mother. The ace model and the duckling-turned-swan.



Bibi: Super model who scored high in world fashion.

Thai envoy meets Biswas

Thai investors keen to invest in marine fishing

The Thai investors already investing in the Bangladesh export processing zones are interested in more investment in marine fishing, reports UNB.

This was stated by the Ambassador of Thailand, Vichai Vannasin, when he made a farewell call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The outgoing envoy hoped Thai investment in Bangladesh would increase in future.

Talking to the ambassador, President Biswas said ever since the visit of Late President Ziaur Rahman the relations between Bangladesh and Thailand had grown steadily and the existing close relations between the two countries is very satisfactory.

"Bangladesh is eager to further expand these relations," he added.

Biswas said a very congenial atmosphere exists in Bangladesh for foreign investment. There is considerable scope for further expansion of trade and investment in joint venture and other projects for the mutual benefits of the two

countries. The President conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to the King and Queen and the Crown Prince of Thailand.

Vichai Vannasin noted that Thailand is the current Chairman of the ASEAN and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is the Chairperson of the SAARC. This coincidence and SAARC-ASEAN contacts would provide ample scope for further expansion of economic relations between the countries under the ambit of the two regional groupings, he hoped.

The outgoing Thai Ambassador highly appreciated the efforts of the present government for development in various socio-economic sectors.

"We have many common goals, including improvement of the quality of life of the people and alleviation of poverty," he pointed out.

He thanked the government for help and support during his tenure of office in Bangladesh.

Publishers, sellers welcome book policy

By Staff Correspondent

Publishers and sellers have welcomed the book policy approved by the Cabinet late last month but suggested that the policy should provide a clear guideline for book marketing.

President of the Standing Committee on Book Export, Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association Mohiuddin Ahmed giving his reaction to the book policy said, "The policy can become a boon for writers and publishers if the (book) piracy culture which is growing in Bangladesh can be curbed."

"We need to develop our indigenous books rather than become dependent on pirated or translated books," he added.

Mohiuddin Ahmed who is also publisher of University Press Ltd (UPL) noted that the policy covered all the relevant aspects of book publishing. Library legislation and library network development have also been given due importance in the policy, Mohiuddin observed.

"The government deserves credit for having an open policy for import of books, without which one cannot have a healthy growth of the publishing industry," he said.

The guidelines given in the policy for promoting readership were excellent, commented Mohiuddin and added, these needed to be implemented as soon as possible.

His views were supported by Quamrul Mullick of the Mullick Brothers, a publishing house.

Book importer and exporter S A S M Faisal commenting on the book policy in regard with book imports said, "The book policy said that it would facilitate import of books but it did not specify how."

He pointed out, ever since imposition of 7.5 per cent import duty on books the Chittagong port was fixing duties against cover prices instead of their actual prices whereas the Zia International Airport and Benapole customs were fixing duties on the actual prices — which was inconsistent.

"Such anomalies were not addressed in the book policy. If such anomalies continue it would only benefit the importers of Indian books in general as they use the Benapole channel. On the other hand, import of books from the Western countries through the Chittagong port will remain to be costly," Faisal added.

Bangladesh imports books worth Tk 8 to 12 crore annually.

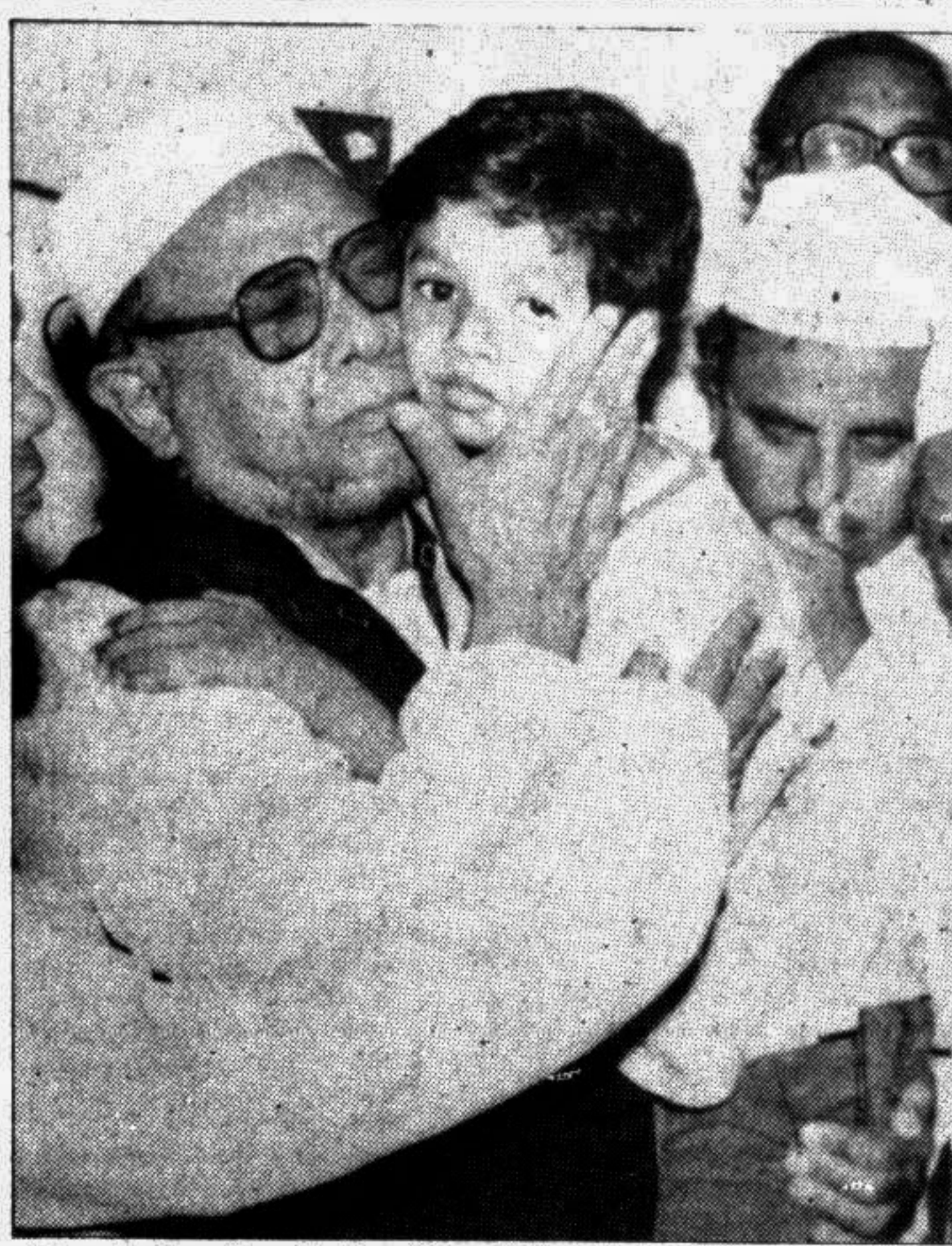
Int'l Women's Day programme

Ministry of Women's Affairs has planned an elaborate programme to observe the International Women's Day tomorrow in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

Special supplements, colourful posters and stickers marking the significance of the day will be brought out on the occasion.

The ministry will also hold a discussion on "Building a world where women are respected".

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be present as chief guest at the function while State Minister for Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman will preside over the function.



Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad consoling the minor son of police sergeant Hasanul Farhad at the residence of Farhad in the city yesterday.

Shawkat tells JS Further hike in rice prices won't be allowed

Market price of rice is higher now compared to last year's but lower than that of 1991-92 and three other previous fiscal years, reports UNB.

Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali disclosed it in parliament yesterday and observed that farmers did not get fair price of their paddy last year.

In reply to a supplementary question from Dr Abdul Latif Bhuiyan of BNP, he, however, admitted that hoarding of rice in different areas by the traders was also responsible for price hike. But the government will not allow further rise in price.

The government at present has about 8.5 lakh metric tons of rice in stock, the minister said, adding if necessary the government will go for Open Market Sale (OMS) to keep the price stable in the market.

Shawkat said during last fiscal the price of rice was Tk 9.51 per kg which is now about Tk 11.50 in Dhaka and Chittagong cities while Tk 10.25 in other parts of the country.

In 1988-89 fiscal, the price of rice was Tk 10.26 per kg in the country while it was Tk 11.51 in Dhaka and Chittagong. During 1989-90, the price was Tk 11.57, in 1990-91 it was Tk 12.55 and in 1991-92 it was Tk 12.83.

Earlier, replying to a question that stood in the name of Keramat Ali (AL), the Food Minister said 462.739 metric tons of rice and 147.558 metric tons of wheat were damaged in different government

godowns in 1992-93 fiscal year. Departmental action was taken against those responsible for the damage.

He said compared to total foodgrains rolling into country's market the damage was negligible, but the government is trying to lessen the loss.

BTV team leaves for Japan tomorrow

A three-member Bangladesh Television (BTV) team led by Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, News Editor of BTV, will leave Dhaka for Tokyo tomorrow, says a press release.

During his two-week long stay in Japan, the team will make a number of TV programmes on various aspects of Japanese society to be presented later on BTV.

IUB teacher to attend seminar

Dr Aminul Islam, Associate Professor of the Environmental Management Programme, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) left Dhaka yesterday to attend the Regional Conference on Environment and Biodiversity in Kathmandu, reports UNB.

Ecological Society of Nepal has arranged the three-day conference beginning today.

Dr Islam will present a paper at the conference on "Environmental Impact of Big Water Projects in Regional Ecosystem and Biodiversity: A Case of Farakka Barrage."

Kataban Mosque under DU authorities demanded

By DU Correspondent Different student organisations have demanded for bringing the Kataban Mosque under the Dhaka University authorities.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) and the Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) made the demand in separate rallies on the DU campus Saturday morning.

The BCL (M-I) and the GCO leaders protested the presence of Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedi at the Jumma prayer at the Kataban Mosque Friday. Besides, the JCD in its rally held in front of the DUCSU building alleged that a particular student front was trying to destroy the campus peace before the elections to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and hall union to be held on April 12.

The JCD rally was addressed by Nazimuddin Alam, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie and Sujon.

The BCL (M-I) rally held in front of the Aparajeo Bangla was addressed by Pankaj Nath and Lizu while the GCO rally held in front of Madhu's canteen was addressed by Rupom and Mustak Alam Tulu.

Hindu Kalyan Samity team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said every citizen is equal to the law and called upon all to put in their mite for developing the country unitedly, reports UNB.

The President was talking to an 11-member delegation of the Hindu Jana Kalyan Samity of Tongi Municipal Area, which called on him at Bangabhaban.

We belong to one family irrespective of caste and creed... we have to devote ourselves to nation-building activities unitedly, Biswas said.

He pointed out that it is essential for all to put in the best endeavours for rapid development of the country, particularly in economic sectors.

The President advised them to render their services for the welfare of the community as well as of the people of their respective areas.

He expressed his happiness to learn that the members of the community live in peace and harmony and do their best for the uplift of their locality. He also assured to look into the matters raised by them.

Earlier, the delegation appealed to the President for setting up a temple and a cremation centre in the Tongi Pourashava area for the Hindu community.

They informed him that the Hindu community of the area is living in peace and harmony. President of the samity Gobinda Chandra Mondol led the delegation.

BCS teachers' strike from Apr 2

By Staff Correspondent

The teachers of the BCS General Education cadre will begin an indefinite strike from April 2 demanding implementation of their 16-point charter of demands.

Some 12,000 teachers of the cadre have been agitating in support of their demands since 1986 and recently threatened that they would begin the strike in 233 government colleges if their demands were not met by March 22.

The demands include creation of posts in the newly nationalised colleges, removal of anomalies in respect of seniority and promotions and in the inter-cadre pay structure.

The president of the BCS General Education Association, Dr Q A T M Habibur Rahman and secretary general Md Abu Yusuf in a statement Saturday said the date of the departmental promotion committee meeting on March 20 should not be postponed.



Monday

4:30	Opening announcement Al-Quran
	Programme summary
4:45	Educational programme: Can You Do It?
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Sports Programme: Football
5:45	Mahe Ramadan
6:30	Chhandabreeta
7:00	Open University
7:25	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Population programme: Shukher Thikana Quiz programme: Balun Dekhi
9:00	News in English
10:00	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
10:30	Musical programme: Disco Rally
11:00	Khabar/The News
11:15	Tomorrow's Programme
11:25	Sumary

Programmes on Independence Day

The government has taken an elaborate programme in observance of the Independence and National Day on March 26 with due honour and enthusiasm, reports BSS.

An inter-ministerial meeting was held recently at the Home Ministry to chalk out the programmes in this connection with Home Minister Abdur Matin Chowdhury in the chair.

President and Prime Minister will give messages on the eve of the Independence and National Day.

The day will be a public holiday.

Highlights of the programme including march past of the army, navy, air force, Bangladesh Rifles, police, Ansar-VDP forces and BNCC at the national square and fly past of air force, get-down from helicopter by rope and exhibition of mobile mechanised armed column.

National flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings and they will be illuminated.

The day will be heralded with 31 tun booms. Bands of the army, navy, air force, police, BDR and Ansar-VDP will be played at selected places in the capital.

Special munajat will be held at all mosques, special prayer will also be held at temples, churches, pagodas and other places of worship seeking peace and progress of the nation.

Newspapers will publish special supplements on the occasion.

Improved diet would be served to the inmates of hospitals, jails, orphanages, child and vagrant centres.

Ships of the navy will remain open to public from 3 pm to 8 pm at Chittagong, Khulna, Mongla, Sadarghat at Dhaka, Narayanganj and Barisal BIWTA ghats. Main thoroughfares and road islands of the capital would be decorated with flags.

Deputy commissioners and thana Nirbahi Officers will chalk out local programmes in the light of the national programme to celebrate the occasion.

91 arrested in city

Police arrested 10 wanted criminals from different parts of the city on the 21st day of a special drive yesterday, reports UNB.

Besides, police rounded up 81 more people in the city in last 24 hours on various charges.

All the arrested people were produced before court.



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda chats with the Canada's Secretary of State for Asia Pacific Raymond Chan at a dinner hosted by the Canadian High Commissioner in the city yesterday.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur over the regions of Sylhet and Comilla during the next 24 hours commencing from 6:00 pm yesterday (Sunday), the Met Office forecasts.

Meanwhile, weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, it adds.

Slightly rise in the night temperature is expected during the period of time.

The highest temperature of the country yesterday of 34.3 degrees Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 15.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:04 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:15 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded yesterday at some important cities and towns of the country are as follows:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.3	22.6	80	45
Chittagong	29.0	20.2	79	77
Rajshahi	33.2	15.8	87	41
Khulna	34.3	21.0	80	-
Barisal	33.0	22.0	87	70

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Comilla Road Divn., Comilla Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice No. : 148/E. E. RHD Road Division, Comilla of 1993-94.
- Name of work : Providing bullah Palasiding & Earth work at 13th K. M. (p) & 14th K. M. (p) of Eliot-ganj-Muradnagar-Ramchandrapur-Bancharampur Road during the year 1993-94.
- Estimated cost : Tk. 4,19,201/=
- Earnest money : Tk. 8385/= in B.D./T.C./Pratirakkha Sanchaya Patras/5-years Bangladesh Sanchaya Patras/Bonus Sanchaya Patras in favour of E. E., RHD Divn. Comilla.
- Name of offices : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Comilla/office of the undersigned.
- Name of offices of availability tender bids : Office of the undersigned/E. E., RHD, Road Divn., B'Baria/Noakhali/Chandpur/Lakshimpur/Planning & Design Divn. Comilla & S. D. E's office under this Divn.
- Time allowed : 30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Last date of selling of tender bids : 19-3-94/15-11-1400 B. S. during office hours.
- Last date of receipt of tender bids : 12-30 PM of 20-3-94/6-12-1400 B. S.
- Date & time of opening of tender bids : 12-45 PM of 20-3-94/6-12-1400 B. S.
- Eligibility of Contractor : "A" to "E" General category contractor of this Divn.

Executive Engineer RHD, Road Division, Comilla

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