

Dhaka Day by Day

Architectural Concoction

by Lamis Hossain

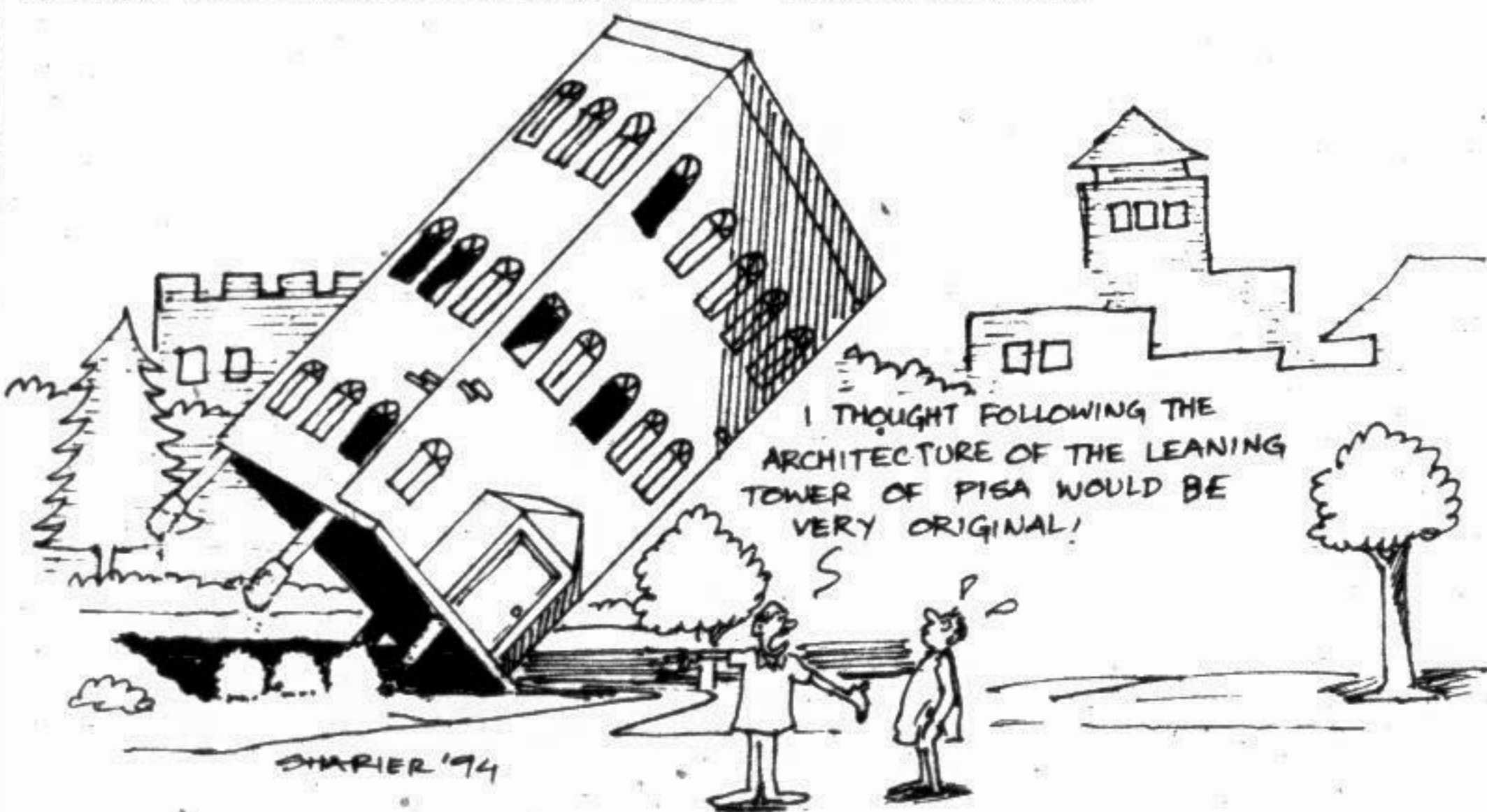
You do not have to travel the entire length and breadth of the world to discover architectural marvels. A leisurely stroll around Baridhara, DOHS, Uttara and Gulshan should provide you with enough Alpine cottages, Spanish villas and Chinese pagodas to feast your eyes with.

These houses belong to an emerging breed of moneyed home owners with definite taste. Considering the amount of trouble required to make the simplest structure, you may as well build something worth looking at. Why settle for four walls and a roof when you can have a palace?

At least that seems to sum up the sentiment of new house builders and their ingenious architects. It is not possible to walk two blocks without coming across a pair of Roman columns adorning the front of a dwelling. Even those of modest means cannot resist from adding a few pillars here and there. Used sparingly, these columns indeed bestow a regal

around residential areas to show their architects what to copy. In the 1960's, Banani home owners were enamoured of Shere-Bangla Nagar-style round windows. In the 1990's, the hip thing is to have a fence just like the one in front of the Prime Minister's office. It is impossible to walk two blocks without coming across the ubiquitous black 'palisade' with elaborate designs and thief-proof spikes.

Another vogue that has been done to death is the 'hukka noicha' embellishing the balcony parapet. Hukka pipe shaped balusters, curved in the middle and tapered at the ends, can be seen along the edges of countless roofs and balconies. Almost always painted white, the hukka noicha add a British Raj look. Unfortunately, once again, home builders fail to exercise moderation. Believing that more of a good thing is better, they go ballistic and place these balusters along the entire edge of the roof, the balcony, the car porch and any other space on the edifice.



glow, but sprinkle them liberally and you end up with a multi-storied parking lot instead of a home.

The palatial transformation is incomplete without a 'Romeo and Juliet' balcony which is all the rage now. Instead of the traditional low car porch, the current style is to build an elevated arch at least 15 feet tall (preferably supported by two Roman columns) with a balcony nesting up high. The result is spectacular and no doubt ideal for serenaders.

Of course, not everyone opts for a palace. Some home owners are simply overwhelmed by the choices available. What will it be — pagoda style, colonial, alpine, Spanish, modern or the latest fashion? The home owner hesitates and vacillates. The growing variety of new building materials arriving in Bangladesh will allow him (or her) to realise his dream house — for a hefty price naturally. Being unable to decide on anything, he chooses a bit of everything. A Spanish patio here, an alpine roof there and dashes of modernism everywhere. Before he can stop himself, the home owner has unwittingly erected a farcical pastiche for all to see. This hotchpotch is usually the result of an 'I know better than any architect' attitude. When faced with an opinionated customer, the architect unfortunately yields to 'the customer is always right' principle.

Not all home builders have the imagination or the money to be creative. More often, he will wait for his neighbour to try something before he too jumps on the bandwagon. Like everything else in life, there are trends in house building as well. House owners scout

Some trends have established themselves permanently. Thai aluminium windows, once only found on commercial buildings, have become the natural choice for most home owners. Thankfully, Thai aluminium windows, as they are affectionately known, represent a more judicious choice compared to some of the other trends.

A home owner's plans are not restricted to the present — he has lofty dreams for the future when all his children and 'nati-putis' (grand children) will live under the same roof. This vision cannot be realised without four more floors which require money he does not have. Undaunted, he decides at least to build the staircase up to the fourth floor even if he has to leave the apartments. What he ends up with is not an economically astute decision, but a shirghor/suicide tower, hovering over the house. A residential use for these turrets is perhaps to rent them out as observatories.

The home owners' problems do not end with completing the structure. Who will rent his palatial dwelling? Most of us can only afford to gawk at the increasingly gorgeous domiciles around the capital. Even if some of the houses may be aesthetically challenged, it is still sad to see the creative edifices go to waste. It is not uncommon to find residential homes being rented out as godowns. In the worst cases, the buildings are left unoccupied and become the neighbourhood's ghost houses.

If you are truly bored in Dhaka, why not go for a drive around Baridhara, DOHS, Uttara and Gulshan? You could fall in love with a house. Who knows, it may be yours some day.



A roundtable discussion on Reflections on ensuring free and fair elections was organised by the Study and Research Group (SRG), a local NGO, at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. Participants seen in the picture from left are Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, AL advisory council member SAMS Kibria, Ansar Ali Siddiqui, MP, Tofael Ahmed, MP, Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP and Abul Hasan Chowdhury, MP.

Phensidyl seized

Officials of the Department of Narcotics Control yesterday arrested eight persons and seized 124 bottles of phensidyl and other drugs from different areas of the city, reports BSS.

The seized drugs include 40 grams of opium, one kg 600 grams of ganja, four grams of heroin.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central

The club assembly of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today, 14th August, at 4 PM at Taitung Restaurant, Modhumita Cinema building, Dhaka.

All the members are requested to attend the meeting.

Jute geotextile pilot project inaugurated

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah yesterday inaugurated the Jute geotextile pilot project at the premises of the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The pilot project has been implemented jointly by the Arcadia Property Development (APD) Ltd and Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, (BJRI) for mass scale production and commercial application of jute geotextile.

Jointly innovated by Dr Zahid Hossain Prodhan of Arcadia Property Development (APD) Ltd and Dr A B M Abdullah of BJRI, this new technology, a substitute of synthetic geotextile, can be used in the construction of roads and highways, flood protection embankments, barrages, dams, defence structures and land reclamation.

Inaugurating the pilot project, the jute minister urged the scientists to utilise their talents for scientific innovations for diversified use of jute and said, success of this effort will give more and more dividends to the jute growers.

He assured the scientists of full cooperation of the government in translating their laboratory innovations into large scale commercial production and application.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Jute Secretary Abu Hena, scientists Dr Zahid Hossain Prodhan and Dr A B M Abdullah, and chairman of APD S M Khalid Chowdhury. Acting Director General of BJRI Shaiful Alam was in the chair.

Referring to imported tarpaulins, the jute minister said during the then Pakistan period tarpaulins were manufactured at Adamjee Jute Mills

by using jute.

He said still 10 tarpaulin manufacturing machines were in working condition lying at the Adamjee Jute Mills. He said after the independence the expert technicians left the country and production of tarpaulins stopped.

Hannan Shah urged the scientists to make different application tests of jute tarpaulin and create technicians to manufacture it again. He assured full cooperation of the government in this regard.

Pointing to various scopes for diversified use of jute, he said, after multiple trials with different materials German army were now using inside their boots jute clothes imported from Bangladesh.

Jute Secretary Abu Hena said like production of paper pulp using jute geotextile will consume bulk quantity of jute.

Cops removal demanded in Khulna

KHULNA, Aug 13: Awami League-backed Jubo League and Chhatra League today (Saturday) demanded removal of three police officials, including a thana in-charge, for allegedly backing the Jubo Command in the Friday's incident at the local Hadis Park, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at the local Press Club this evening, leaders of the two front organisations of Awami League claimed that at least 50 workers of Jubo League were injured in the Friday's clash.

The injured, they said, included BMA Khulna unit president and Sangskritik Jote leader Mahbubur Rahman.

But according to police and

witnesses on Friday, the incident — a clash between the supporters of Awami League and Jubo Command — left four people, including a policeman injured.

City Jubo League president Mizanur Rahman and district Chhatra League President Rafiqur Rahman Ripon addressed the press conference.

They alleged that the Jubo Command activists with support from the law enforcing agencies had launched the attack.

The Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders also blamed police for resorting to lathicharge on innocent public in the meeting and accused the ruling BNP of patronising the Jubo Command.

4000 enrolled in BOU's CELP course

The Bangladesh Open University has enrolled over 4,000 students in its Certificate in English Language Proficiency (CELP) course in the current July-December session, reports UNB.

It was disclosed yesterday by the Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr M Shamsur Ali at a tutor orientation workshop, organised by the School of Social Science, Humanities and Languages of the BOU.

A total of 80 tutors from 29 tutorial centres from all over the country attended the two-day workshop which ended the day.



- 4:30 Opening announcement Shiksha-Dhiksha: Educational Programme
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
- 5:40 Sports programme
- 6:30 Health programme: Moader Janjanyo
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Biggyan-0-Nari: Magazine programme on women's role in science
- 9:00 Drama series: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Chhaya Chhand: Film songs
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing



Poet Shamsur Rahman speaking at a seminar on the role of women in the war of liberation organised by the Muktiyoddha Mahila Command in the city yesterday.

Fundamentalists stopping women's uplift

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday called for resisting the fundamentalists who were allegedly trying to stop the development of women in the country.

The seminar on 'The Role of Women in the War of Liberation and in the Present Context' was organised by the Muktiyoddha Mahila Command. The speakers also called for maintaining the spirit of the Liberation War to build a progressive society.

The seminar, presided over by convenor of the command Ashrafun Mosharraf, was addressed by Poet Shamsur Rahman, Dr Anisuzzaman, Mahila Parishad leader Maleka Begum, Muktiyoddha Sangsad chairman Principal Ahad Chowdhury, editor of the Ajker Kagoj Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Atiqullah Khan Masud of the Janakantha and journalist Anus Siquad.

Presenting the key-note paper, Prof Selina Akhter Jahan said the women of Bangladesh courageously participated both directly and indirectly in the War of Liberation.

'As mothers and as wives, they encouraged their sons and husbands to join the war. Side by side, many women groups worked for the freedom fighters and many women also worked at the Shadhin Bangla Betar,' she added.

The speakers observed that in the recent years, the collaborators of 1971 had been rehabilitated in the country's politics. They were now organising a movement to halt the progressive development of the country, the speakers at the seminar alleged.

The fundamentalists are trying to confine women in darkness by imposing *fatwa*, the speakers said and called for resisting them unitedly.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Barisal Divisions, and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says-day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Meantime, Barisal experienced the highest 38 mm rain during the last 24 hours. Sylhet had 20 mm shower, Comilla 18, Faridpur 15, Dhaka 10 and Khulna 9 mm during the period.

Country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 24.4 degrees at Chandpur. Sun sets today at 6:33 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:34 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities/towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.8	26.1	82	93
Chittagong	31.2	25.7	90	82
Rajshahi	33.0	26.8	92	90
Khulna	32.4	26.6	84	86
Barisal	30.7	25.0	100	98

Panchagarh Sugar Mills Ltd Panchagarh Short Re-Tender for Supply of Tyre Tube

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the General Manager, Panchagarh Sugar Mills Ltd., from the genuine Tyre Tube Importer/Stockist for supply of various sizes of tyre tube. Tender will be received on 23-8-94 at 12.00 Noon simultaneously in the tender box to be kept in front of Commercial Deptt. of Panchagarh Sugar Mills Ltd. & Chief (Purchase) BSFC, Purbagarh Bhaban, 2nd floor, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. Tender will be opened on the same day at 12-30 pm in presence of the tenderers, if any. **Earnest Money to be given @ 2.5% of the quoted value.** Schedule with detailed terms and conditions will be available for sale on all working days with (1) Finance Manager, Panchagarh Sugar Mills Ltd, (2) The Addl. Chief Accountant (Cash), BSFC, Adamjee Court, 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, (3) The General Manager, BSFC, Shipping Office, Arag Chamber, 68, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong on payment of Tk 750/= (Taka seven hundred fifty) (Non-refundable). The Management reserves the right to accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. **No Tender schedule will be sold on the opening day of the tender.**

SF-64 D-822

Maiden voyage

Dhrubataru — a new buoy tender vessel of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) built at a cost of Tk 10.13 crore has started its maiden voyage yesterday, reports UNB.

Built with the financial assistance of World Bank, the vessel has been constructed here at Khulna Shipyard with the purpose to set up and re-set up buoy and beacon and to survey navigation of inland water, particularly in the coastal belt for ensuring smooth river transportation.

Shipping Minister M K Anwar formally inaugurated the voyage of the vessel at Narayanjanj BIWTA terminal.

The vessel is the first of its kind built in the country and third of its kind in BIWTA's fleet. With two engines of 580 horse power each, the vessel is 44 metre long and 10 metre wide and has speed of 10.5 nautical miles per hour.

Shipping Secretary Waliul Islam, BIWTA Chairman Md Nurul Abdin and Chief of Infrastructural Division of World Bank Arun Banarjee were present.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A LEADING EUROPEAN AIRLINE'S GSA REQUIRES A JUNIOR SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER CAPABLE OF HANDLING & OPERATING PERSONAL COMPUTER. KNOWLEDGE OF DATA BASE LANGUAGE IS ESSENTIAL. APPLY WITH C.V./PHOTO PRIOR 20TH AUGUST '94. MANAGING DIRECTOR, TRAVELTIME LTD, 10, KARWAN BAZAR, JAHANGIR TOWER, DHAKA.

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Rotary Scholarship

Rotary club of Dhaka Buriganga invites applications for Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for academic year 1995-96 for approx. one year, one in California state university Sacramento or McGeorge School of Law Sacramento and one at Hiroshima University, Japan. The applicants must have the following qualifications: —Must be a Bangladeshi citizen —Must have a degree from a recognized University or if employed must have at least 2 years working experience with a recognized and reputable organisation. The application with bio-data, a passport size photograph and contact telephone number must reach by 22nd August 1994 to R.C Dhaka Buriganga, G.P.O Box No. 31, Dhaka Bangladesh. Rotarians, their family members and relations are not eligible for the scholarship.

Courtesy: The Daily Star

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IN GRATITUDE

We express our gratitude to our relatives, friends and well-wishers for their personal visits and messages of condolence on the sudden demise of Mrs. Ahmed Amanulla Khan on 31-07-94 in Dhaka. We apologise for our inability to thank each of them personally.

Amanulla Khan & Family

&

Dr Kamal Hossain & Family
7, New Bailey Road, Dhaka.

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Addendum and Time Extension Notice



জাতীয় অর্থায়িত বিএসসি'র আঞ্চলিক মানে পূর্ণাঙ্গী বাবহার ককন

TENDER NO BSEC/COM(P)/468/94 DATED 30-7-1994 FOR PURCHASE OF 5000 MT OF COLD ROLLED ANNEALED SIDE TRIMMED B. P. SHEET.

1. **THICKNESS:** Under 'Item' column of the above tender notice, the following is hereby added: "And/or higher thickness up to 0.50 mm"
2. **EXTENSION OF OPENING DATE:** Opening date of the above tender is hereby extended from 16th August, 94 to 31st August, 1994.
3. **SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers may be submitted both-to the BSEC Head Office, Dhaka or Chittagong Steel Mills Ltd., North Patenga, Chittagong. Time of submission and other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No-BSEC/PRD/048-13/8

D-823

Tender Notice

No : 2 of RHD Chittagong Road Division Chittagong during 1994-95

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide enlisted contractors of Roads & Highways Department in Bangladesh Form No 2911 for the following works:

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Completion Time
1.	Plantation of trees at 19th and 20th KM of Mirassarai-Fatikchhari road under Chittagong Road Divn during the year 1994-95.	Tk 1,09,828/-	Tk 2,197/-	All general category of contractor	10 (Ten) days from the date of issue of work order

Schedule of items, specification, terms and conditions etc can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division Feni/Cox's Bazar/Dohazari Road Divn, Ctg/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Chittagong/Sitakunda/Fatikchhari/Mechanical Sub-Division, Chittagong by cash payment up to 23-8-94 Eng/8-5-1401 Bangla during office hours only.

Tenders will be received by the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Ctg/Executive Engineer, RHD, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ctg and by the undersigned up to 12.30 pm on 24-8-94 Eng/9-5-1401 Bangla and the same will be opened on the same day at 12.45 pm in front of interested tenderers who like to remain present on the occasion.

Anwar Ahmed
Executive Engineer, RHD,
Chittagong Road Sub-Division
Chittagong

DFP-1739-10/8
G-1285