

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Strangers in Our City Life

by A.S.M. Nurunnabi

There are many persons and things which are part of our sense of place — and perhaps belonging. We may look at the world around us, but somehow we manage not to see it until whatever it is we've become accustomed to suddenly disappears. Take for instance, the smart old man in his early sixties clad in a blue jogging suit I used to see on my way to work each morning.

For three years, no matter whatever the weather, our paths crossed around 8 a. m. Clearly a retired person who is very particular about his health, he exuded an air of well-being, stability and optimism.

Of course, I remembered all this after he vanished. It was then I realized how much I counted on seeing him each morning. You might say I missed him.

Naturally I felt a lot of random feelings about his disappearance. Accident? Is he ill? Something worse? Now that he was gone, I felt I had known him.

I began to realize that a significant part of our daily life consists of such encounters with familiar strangers: the peanut seller you see every afternoon at 5 o'clock. The woman who regularly walks her small child to school early in the morning. The white-haired old man you see at the library.

Such people are important markers in the landscape of our lives. They add weight to our sense of place and belonging.

Think about it. If, while walking to work, we mark where we are by passing a certain building, why would we not feel where we are when we pass a familiar, though unnamed person?

After all, if part of being a tourist is seeing nothing and all that is not familiar to you, then can't we say that seeing the familiar jogger or shopper is part of what makes us citizens of our community?

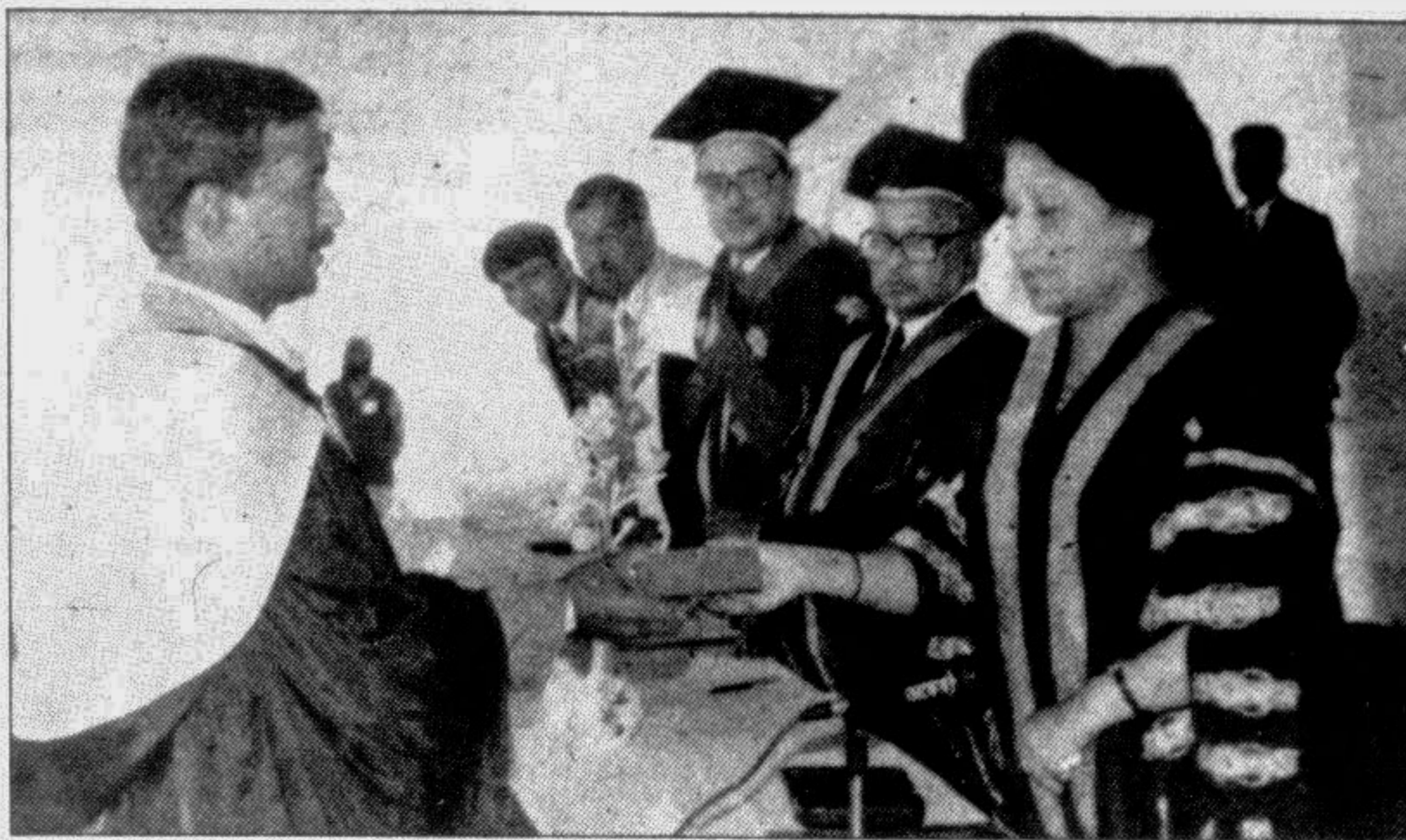
There are some things we all long for. I suppose, for instance, the sight of the familiar stranger. The shopkeeper who nods to you, the bus driver who drives you to work each day. The woman you see walking her dog every day. Sometimes I wonder: am I a familiar stranger to someone?

Perhaps a shopkeeper at the department shop sees me there every Friday without really noting my presence. Or maybe, someone where I take my lunch at the fast food shop would notice if I stopped showing up.

Once in a while you might actually meet one of these familiar strangers as I did a few months ago. As I was waiting in a doctor's chamber, a man said to me, "Do you know who I am?" he asked. And I did. He was a patient like me whom I had seen a number of times at the pathologist's waiting for my blood to be tested. We had an easy familiar chat — although we never got around to exchanging names.

But here's what I remember most about the importance of familiar strangers. Once, returning home after a long vacation, I was feeling disoriented, out-of-place. Then I saw the gentleman in white pajama and punjabi. I had seen this man walking through my neighbourhood a thousand times.

Ah, I thought, seeing the familiar stranger, I'm home at last. Perhaps at the core of our heart, we feel at ease at being surrounded with familiar objects, named or unnamed. This is a reflection of our inherent social instinct, heightened more or less by the exclusive nature of our urban life. This feeling is perhaps less pronounced in a rural setting of life and particularly those who have a rural background are prone to feel the pinch of this urban social phenomenon.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia giving away gold medals among the graduates securing 1st class 1st in the BSc engineering examinations at the first convocation of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Dhaka yesterday. —PID photo

## Islamic missions give free treatment to 60 lakh in 10 yrs

Islamic missions under the Islamic Foundation have given free medical treatment to about 60 lakh helpless and destitute people of the country since its inception in 1983, reports UNB.

This was stated at the 26th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Religious Affairs held yesterday at Sangsad Bhaban with Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair.

The meeting was further informed that at present there are 28 Islamic mission offices

out of which 25 have sewing training centres.

The centres have so far given training to 3,924 helpless women and men with a view to rehabilitating them. Besides, the missions are also providing primary level education to some 17,000 children under mass literacy programme.

The missions have also arranged about 7,300 Islamic meetings, mahfils and Islamic seminars to help educate people.

A sub-committee has also been formed to examine the

ways to recast and strengthen the activities of the missions with Moulana Ataur Rahman Khan as its convener.

Members of the committee Khandaker Badaruddin, Moulana Ataur Rahman Khan and Begum Asia Rahman of BNP and Alhaj Moulana Obaidul Hoque of the Islamic Oikya Jote attended the meeting.

Secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry Anwarul Islam and the Director General, Islamic Foundation, Daud-uz-Zaman Chowdhury were also present.

### One killed, two hurt in city

By DMCH Correspondent

One person was killed and two others were injured in separate incidents in the city Tuesday.

A pedestrian aged about 50, was killed when a speeding truck ran over him at Malibagh Chowdhury Para at about 10 am Tuesday. He was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries.

One Bachchu, 16, was injured when a group of muggers stabbed him at Mugdapura at about 3:30 am Tuesday.

The victim received stab injuries in his hands and abdomen and was admitted to the DMCH.

Bachchu said that he was stabbed when he reached Mugdapura on his way to Rampura from Sayedabad. The muggers also snatched Tk 3000 from him, he alleged.

In another incident Lipon, 26, was stabbed at RK Mission Road at about 6:30 pm Tuesday.

Lipon is the general secretary of the Awami League-backed Jubo League of Ward No 75 and a resident of the area.

He was admitted to the DMCH with multiple stab injuries.

### East Bengal Regiment parade

ALI KADAM (Bandarban), Dec 28: A ceremonial parade marking the presentation of regimental colour to the Vallant Tigers, a battalion of the East Bengal Regiment (EBR), was held here today, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Chittagong area commander of the Bangladesh Army Major General Muhammad Azizur Rahman, Bjr Uttam handed over the regimental colour to the vallant tigers. He also reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march past.

Speaking on the occasion, the area commander said that the members of the vallant tigers would uphold the dignity of the regimental colour presented to them at any cost. Their high standard of training, discipline and patriotism would enable them to carry out this glorious task successfully, he added.

### Painting contest postponed

The painting competition of the children organised by the Central Kanchi-Kanchar mela in observance of the 80th birth anniversary of Shilpacharia Zainul Abedin will be held on January 1 instead of today due to unavoidable reasons, a press release of the mela said yesterday.

Widow of the Shilpacharia Begum Jahannara Abedin will inaugurate the competition at the premises of the Fine Arts Institute on the day at 9:00 am.

### Liquor haul

CHITTAGONG, Dec 28: Rajon police today recovered 25 maunds of country made liquor from a truck at Jalilnagar bus-stand on Chittagong-Rangamati road, reports BSS.

According to district police control room sources, seven persons were arrested in this connection. Acting on secret information, police halted a truck which was proceeding towards Chittagong city and after search they found 18 drums of liquor which were wrapped up with polythene, the sources said.

### BRAC, UNICEF sign accord

An agreement was signed between BRAC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the BRAC head office yesterday to implement the second phase of Meena Communication Initiative Project, says a press release.

The agreement was signed by Rolf C Carriere, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh and F H ABC, Executive Director of BRAC.

Named after 'Meena', a common name of girl children in Bangladesh and its neighbouring countries in the South Asia, the project aims at developing awareness among people at all levels on human rights and women's rights with particular emphasis on equal rights of the girl children.

BRAC will develop, produce and disseminate the knowledge and awareness on the above rights among the people. BRAC will also provide logistic support to the project. Details have been jointly prepared through consultation with UNICEF which will fund Tk 1.56 crore for the project. The one-year second phase of the project will commence on January 1, 1995.



Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed shaking hands with Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni before submitting resignation letter. —Star photo

### DCs, TNOs apprised of BOU activities

The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) has sought cooperation from all district administrations in carrying out its distant education programmes, including the SSC courses to be introduced early next year, reports UNB.

Vice Chancellor of the university Dr M Shamsher Ali sought the help at a conference of the DCs and TNOs of greater Dhaka district, organised by the BOU to apprise them of its programmes and activities on Tuesday.

The VC said the SSC programme, designed for innumerable school dropouts throughout the country, would bring about a revolutionary change in the education sector.

Dr Ali called upon the DCs and TNOs to be associated with the university as partners in implementing the programmes.

### Malaysian envoy presents credentials

The High Commissioner designate to Bangladesh of Malaysia, Dato Mahayuddin, yesterday said there is scope for consolidating relations between the two countries for a meaningful cooperation in various facets of development, reports UNB.

The new high commissioner said he would work for further fostering the already existing excellent relations between the two countries, when he presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban.

Accepting the credentials, President Biswas expressed the confidence that the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, understanding and cooperation existing between the two brotherly Muslim countries will be further consolidated during the tenure of office of the new High Commissioner.

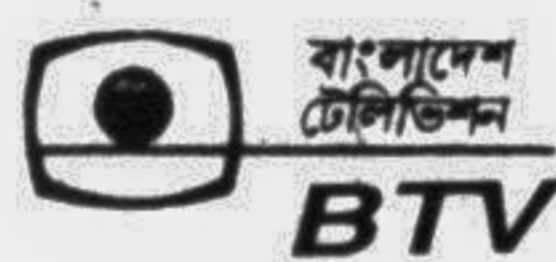
### 36 thousand rural destitute women to be trained

Government will complete imparting training to some 36,000 rural destitute women under the pilot project 'Employment Generation for Rural Women' in the next 18 months, reports UNB.

So far, the project has imparted training to some 16,000 destitute women. The project will be completed by June '96.

The 5-year project, involving a cost of over Tk 41 crore, is being implemented by Women's Affairs Department with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank.

This was disclosed at the 31st meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs Ministry at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman presided over the meeting.



Thursday

- 4-30 Opening announcement Programme summary
- 4-45 Taal O Chhanda
- 5-10 Sangbad
- 5-25 National Television school debate competition
- 6-30 Programme on mass education: Esho Para Shikhi
- 7-00 Jiboner Alo
- 7-25 Nazrul songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Drama of the week: Nilu
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Film: The Equaliser
- 11-30 Khabar/The news
- 11-40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- Closing announcement
- 11-45 Close down

### Weather

## Temperature may fall

Dry weather is likely to prevail with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may register a fall by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius over the country during the period and predict a further drop in the temperature in the next two days and little change during the coming week.

Country's highest temperature 28.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sathkira and the lowest 9.6 degrees at Sri Mangal.

The sun sets today at 5:21 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in different parts of the country are given below:

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.4	12.4	75	69
Chittagong	26.8	13.7	85	74
Cox's Bazar	28.0	15.5	63	72
Cornilla	26.5	11.3	88	59
Rajshahi	24.5	10.5	87	79
Dinajpur	25.0	10.5	83	80
Barisal	27.0	11.5	100	80

## BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Sylhet Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd, Chhatak, Sunamganj invites sealed tender from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers for supply of the following materials.

Sl No.	Tender Enquiry No. & date	Materials	Date of opening	Price of tender document
1.	SPPM/Kroy/21(04)/94-95/38 dt 10.12.94	Rubber Conveyor Belt	17.01.95	Tk 50/-
2.	SPPM/Kroy/21(06)/94-95/39 dt 10.12.94	Hardware Materials	17.01.95	Tk 50/-

Prescribed tender documents will be had on cash payment as mentioned above from (a) BCIC, 30-31, Dikusha, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & (3) SPPM Ltd, Chhatak, Sunamganj. Tender alongwith 1% earnest money must be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the Purchase Department of SPPM Ltd, Chhatak within 3-00 PM on the date of opening as mentioned above. Tenders will be opened immediately after closing the tender box. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC 1319-22/12  
DFP-14458 26/12  
G-2061  
Golam Mostofa  
Manager (Purchase)  
For Managing Director

**Dhaka City Corporation**  
Zone-8 (Mirpur)  
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

## CORRIGENDUM

Date for receiving tender Memo No. DUIIP-DCC/42/ADB/E. D-8, dated 20-12-94 has been shifted from 29-12-94 to 08-01-95 due to unavoidable circumstances.

All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Executive Engineer (In-Charge)

Zone-8 (Mirpur)  
Dhaka City Corporation

## NOTICE

IN THE THIRD ARTHA RIN ADALAT, DHAKA.  
TITLE SUIT NO. 312 OF 1991.

Utara Bank, Ltd,  
Shantinagar Branch,  
Dhaka.

-Versus-

1. M/s. Zahurul Kamal
2. Dr. Zahurul Kamal Proprietor, M/s. Zahurul Kamal both 33/1, Green Road, Dhaka.
3. Maksud Aziz son of late Md. Abdul Aziz.
4. Mrs. Achia Khatun wife of late Md. Abdul Aziz both 200, Shantibagh, Dhaka.

Plaintiff.

Defendants.

It is hereby notified that the Bank has filed the above suit against the defendants to realise the amount of TK. 7,78,377/= (Taka Seven lac seventy eight thousand three hundred and seventy seven) only as on 31.8.91. The defendants are notified to appear before the Court in person or through advance on 23.01.95, otherwise the suit shall be disposed of exparte.

Given in my signature and seal of the Court on 16.10.94.

By Order,  
Sherstadar



## WANTED

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Applications in prescribed form obtainable from the Office of the Registrar are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for One permanent post of Associate Professor of Pharmacy in the Pay scale of Tk 7100-200-8700/-.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must have high academic qualifications preferably a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in Pharmacy. They should have at least 7 years teaching and research experience in a University or an Institute of Advanced Research. They should have original research works published in recognised research journals. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of University activities especially in guiding the overall educational and curricular activities of the students will also be treated as qualification. In special cases the condition of period of experience may be relaxed.

Eleven copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials and mark-sheets along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk 50/- (fifty) only payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 28.1.1995. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

## Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co Ltd (A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)

105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazaar C/A

Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Phones: 860550, 860551, 860552, 819379, 812135-42

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR THE DISMANTLING OF THE 160 FEET TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER AT NARSINGDI, TRANSPORTATION OF THE TOWER TO JOYDEVPUR AND RE-ERECTION OF THE TOWER AT A NEW SITE.

1. Sealed bids are invited from the bonafide Contractors for the following works in local currency as listed below:

IFB No.	Name of the work	Cost of tender document	Bid closing date	Estimated cost
TD/TELE/4342/5	Dismantling of the 160 feet telecommunication tower at Narsingdi, transportation of the tower to Joydevpur and re-erection of the tower at a new site	Tk 1000.00	14.1.95	Tk 5.4 Lacs

2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of:
  - i) Deputy General Manager (Transmission) Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, Sarulia Bazar, Demra, Dhaka, Tel : 238123.
  - ii) Manager (Telecom) Titas Gas T & D Co Ltd, Sarulia Bazar, Demra, Dhaka, Tel : 232014.
3. Tender documents may be purchased by the interested bidders or their authorised representative upon payment of the cost of the tender document from the Accounts Department of the Company's Head Office building at 105, Kazi Nazrul Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215 from 0900 hours to 1300 hours on all working days with effect from 1.1.95. No tender document will be sold on the bid closing date.
4. All bids accompanied by a bid security for Tk 13,500 (Taka thirteen thousand and five hundred only) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled commercial bank operating in Bangladesh in favour of Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazaar C/A, Dhaka 1215, must be submitted at or before 1100 hours of the bid closing date. The bids will be received in two envelope system. One envelope shall be clearly marked "Technical and Commercial Offer" and the other shall be clearly marked "Financial Offer". Only the technical and commercial offers will be opened on the bid closing day at 11.30 hours in presence of the bidders, if any. Should this day happen to fall on pay holiday, bids will be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day. The date for opening of the financial bids of the technically and commercially responsive bidders will be communicated to them in due time.
5. The work completion time will be 90 days counted from the date of receipt of the work order.
6. The Company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

পাছ লাগান; গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন  
এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান—প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Titas/PR-68/94-95

DFP-13996-21/12

G-2086

Deputy General Manager (Transmission)