

Dhaka Day by Day

Waiting for Iftar

by Gemini Wahhaj

Iftars are everywhere. They're selling on the side walks of Mirpur Road, at bakeries like La Bamba and at Fakruddin's legendary kitchen. What is however not so easy is to spot a tasting person.

Close the door, whistles sound, laughter work as he smugly glances out a tin of biscuits at lunch time. Most office workers have a good stock of undercover food at their desks. This is essential because the clerks and peons, who're more likely to fast, don't appreciate being asked for a glass of water or an order of *shingaras* when their own stomachs are grumbling.

Most shops are shamelessly open during the day, specially the bakeries, which are just as zealous about offering lunch time fares as Iftar packages. In fact, business is so good for them these days that if you arrive at a bakery fifteen minutes past noon, you might just be staring at the last *samosa* and dismal packets of Mr Cookie. Office lunchers also keep a running list of restaurants that are open for lunch.

One can also look forward to Iftar parties, an affair at which there is one presiding member who is actually fasting. Of course, the two minutes of wait for the *Azan* before one can start eating is so painful that non-fasters and fasters are in pretty much the same condition by the time they're free to eat.

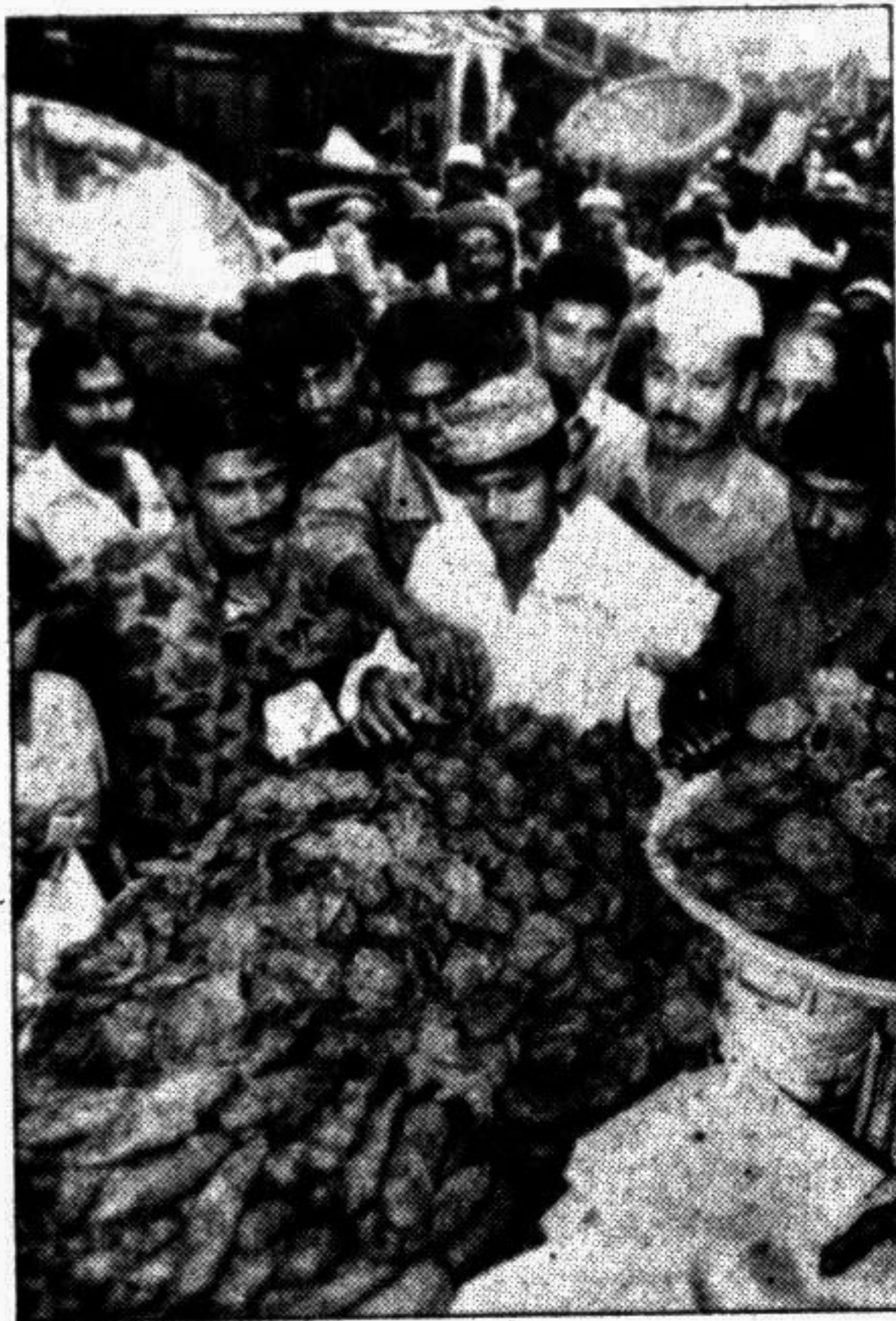
Children think *Sehris* are the most fun part of keeping fast. What can be more exciting, they think, than getting up in the middle of the night to sit up with adults, in the eerie electric light of the dining room while the

windows are still foggy? Well, they're wrong. The *Sehri* must be the most sacrificial part of the whole day's programme. It takes a lot of will power for one not only to starve for the next fourteen hours, but also to do away with two hours of valuable sleep.

In previous years, the question, "Are you fasting?" was a sinister inquiry. It was assumed that you were. If you weren't, you stammered a quick intelligent reply like, "Oh, no. You see, my wife..." or "The maid is fasting today, so I have to do all the work." But nowadays "Are you fasting?" is just a conversation opener, akin to "Are you buying one Eid saree or two?"

Bangladesh is not a country of Muslims only. Therefore it's good news that shops do remain open during the day. What is even more amazing is that Muslims themselves don't feel forced (by a sense of social shame) to fast. Fasting has become a conscious choice, a personal decision, a commitment from within — and that's the way it should be.

The best part about Ramadan is the sense of family togetherness — the sitting together at the table to eat a long-awaited meal. What is ordinary on other days, for example, the preparation of a meal, becomes special during Ramadan. And of course, the anticipation of three days of continuous Eid celebration, including an equal time of non-stop eating, is enough to endure everything — the starvation, the thirst, the traffic, and the grinning idiot who just came back from lunch.



A heap of garbage near the New Supermarket adjacent to New Market puts to lie the authorities, drive to keep the city clean. This picture was taken yesterday. — Star photo

Speaker has lost neutrality: Mizan

The acting Chairman of Jatiya Party, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Sunday said the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad has lost his neutrality by "imposing a party decision" in the name of a ruling, reports UNB.

"The Speaker violated the Constitution by ignoring the Rules of Procedures. It is not a party post, it is an institution, neutrality of the post is a pride of the nation," he said at an Iftar party at a local hotel.

The 147 opposition MPs resigned together from parliament to "establish the rights of the people," Mizan Chowdhury said. "The Speaker has no right to scrutinize or do anything else but to accept the resignation letters."

Jatiya Party hosted the Iftar party for the senior journalists of the national newspapers and news agencies.

Senior JP leaders, including Barrister Maudud Ahmed, Barrister Abul Hasnat, Sirajul Hossain Khan, Maj Gen (ret'd) Shamsul Haq, Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Mahbulul Huq Dolan, attended.

Blaming the government for recent complications created over the question of the resignation, Mizan Chowdhury said the government would be held responsible for all the consequences.

He reiterated the opposition demand for resignation of the government, dissolution of Parliament and fresh elections under a caretaker government, saying that the government has no alternative but to accept the demand to overcome the present political crisis.

JS body on Energy, Mineral Resources meets

The 30th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources yesterday directed the concerned officials to identify the actual number of generators ranging from 2.5 kilowatt and above functioning in country's mills, factories, commercial and domestic purposes to curb the pilferage of government tax, reports UNB.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain presided over the meeting.

The meeting was informed that at present about 650 generators ranging from 6 kilowatt to 16 kilowatt have been functioning in different mills and factories, including cinema halls of the country. No prior permission or approval is required from the government to install generator of one kilowatt capacity.

Government tax has to be paid for generation of electricity from 2.5 kilowatt capacity and above at the rate of 15 per cent, the meeting was told.

The meeting also recommended the restructuring proposal of the organogram of the Directorate of Explosive to streamline its function.

Eid bonus demanded

The Bangladesh Jatiya Samik League at a meeting Thursday demanded Eid bonus to all the workers employed in the private sector enterprises before the Eid festival.

The meeting presided over by its president Nasu Mian, also demanded compensation for the workers killed and injured during the blockade programmes.

The meeting held at its central office at Purana Palton was addressed by general secretary Mojibur Rahman, Shamsuzzaman, Nabi Hossain, Abdus Sobhan, Mohammad Ali, Shahidullah Badal, Badruddoza Nizam, Ershad Hossain, Khaleeda Anwar, Saira Begum, Abu Bakar Siddiqi and Nurun Nahar.

Mohatheror's death anniversary March 2

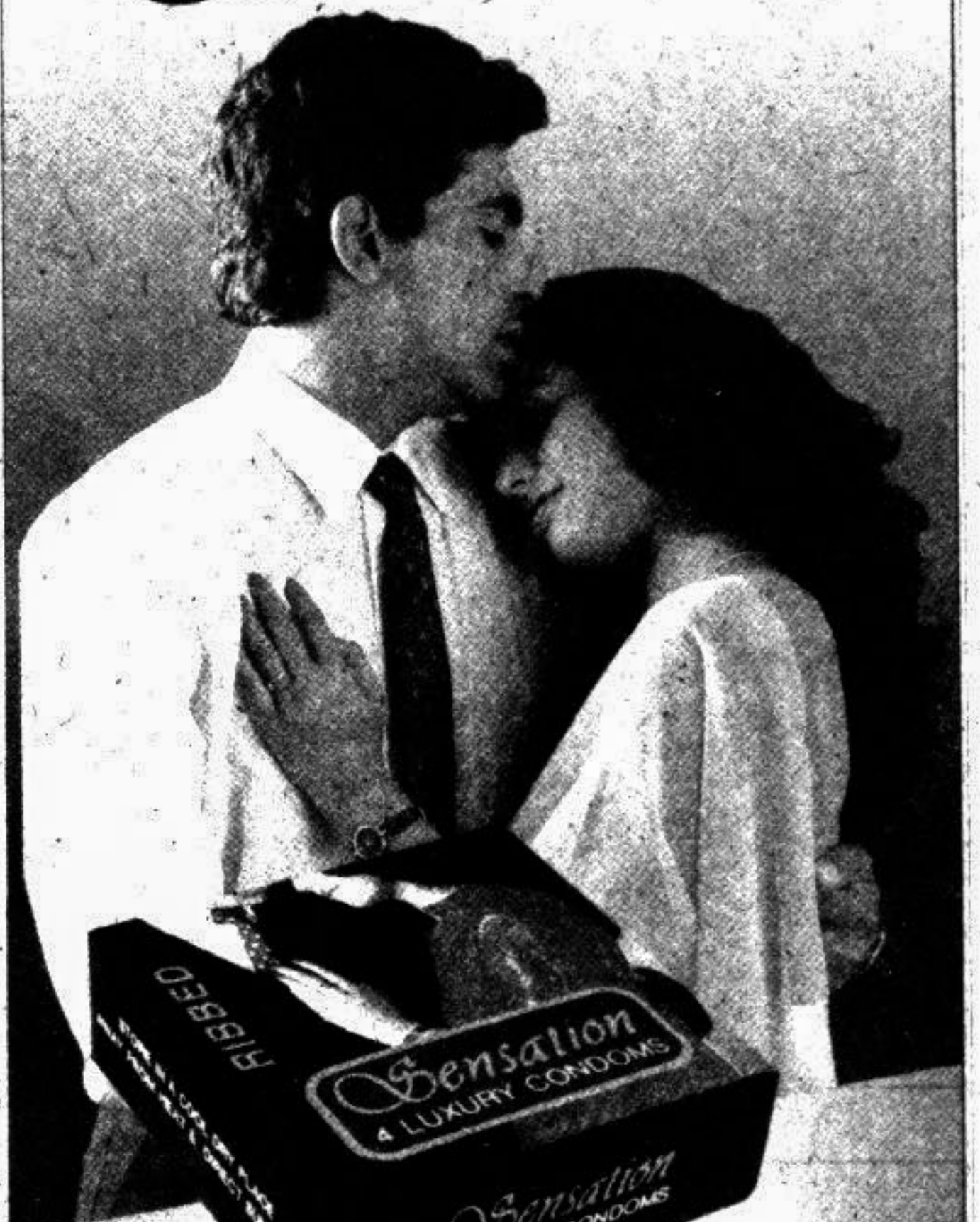
Bangladesh Buddha Kristy Prochar Shangha will hold a day-long programme on March 2 to observe the first death anniversary of Bisuddananda Mohatheror, reports UNB.

The programme includes mourning procession, breakfast, Buddha puja, mass prayer, protrip puja and discussion meeting.

Deputy leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury is expected to attend the meeting as chief guest.

Members of different diplomatic missions, religious leaders, intellectuals and representatives of different organisations will attend the meeting.

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ADCOMM/SMC/4/95



Participants at the prize-giving ceremony, of Dr Mofiz Chowdhury Quiz Competition.

Prize-giving ceremony

By Staff Correspondent

The prize-giving ceremony of the 'Dr. Mofiz Chowdhury Quiz Competition' and the Computer Presentation Contest was held at the National Press Club auditorium Sunday.

The function was organised by the Monthly Computer Jagat, a computer-related magazine, and sponsored by the Multilink International Company Ltd.

Renowned scientist Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharifuddin was present as chief guest while Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury presided.

Prof Jamilur Reza in his presidential speech said, "In the field of computer we are still lagging behind other countries. Whereas some of the students of our country, who are studying abroad, are doing well in this sector." He stressed the need for accepting this modern technology in all level otherwise we could not be able to reach our cherished goal.

A number of students took part in the competitions.

Call to make Nat'l Immunisation Day successful

By Staff Correspondent

The Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) authorities Sunday held a briefing and advocacy meeting with the representatives of the pharmaceutical companies at the EPI conference room at Mahakhali in the city to seek their cooperation in making the National Immunisation Day (NID) a success.

The day will be observed on March 15 and April 16 to ensure 100 per cent immunisation coverage of poliomyelitis this year.

The representatives of the pharmaceutical companies, including the BEXIMCO Pharmaceutical Limited and the Rhone Polenc assured the EPI authorities of providing transportation of vaccines and social mobilisation for the NID.

The meeting was attended, among other, by the DG of Health Department Prof AK Shamsuddin Siddiqi, assistant director of the EPI Shahidullah, medical officer of the EPI Dr Anwar Hossain while the acting project director of the EPI Dr Kamran Hossain was in the chair.

The EPI authorities earlier held similar meetings with the representatives of the NGOs and different service clubs, including the Rotary and the Lions clubs.

Chinese envoy meets Mannan

Zhang Xujing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh yesterday called on Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his Secretariat office in the city, reports UNB.

Zakat clothes distributed

Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan distributed zakat sarees and lungis to about 500 destitute people at the Malibag SB ground yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Officials and employees of the Special Branch of Police organised the distribution at their own initiative.

Senior officials including chief of the SB Additional IGP M. Azizul Huq were present during the distribution.



IGP A S M Shahjahan, AIGP (CID) M Shahidul Islam Chowdhury distributing clothes as zakat among the destitute in the city yesterday.

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Similar weather may occur in the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Comilla and Sylhet, and is likely to remain mainly dry with cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, the Met Office forecasts.

Night temperature may rise by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius over the country during the period.

Thundery weather may develop in the following week with no appreciable change in the subsequent 2 weeks.

Country's maximum temperature 28.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Ishurdi and the minimum 10.6 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 6.01 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.21 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity percentage recorded yesterday in some major cities of the country were:

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6am	6pm
Dhaka	26.6	15.5	57	68
Chittagong	26.5	15.8	65	62
Cox's Bazar	28.0	—	52	53
Sylhet	24.5	13.4	78	68

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
Chittagong

Ref No : 23. 02/32 February 26, 1995

International Tender for Supply of Lubricating Base Oil in April - 1995

TENDER NOTICE

I) (a) Quotations are invited by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (the Buyer) from reputed suppliers for supply of the following grades and quantities of Lubricating Base Oil on FOB & C&F Chittagong basis in accordance with the terms and conditions set out hereinafter —

Grade	Volume in Barrel +/-5%
Solvent Neutral - 150	4,000
Solvent Neutral - 500	20,000
Solvent Bright Stock - 150	12,000
	36,000

(b) Barrel means 42 US gallons each of two hundred thirty-one (231) cubic inches at sixty degree (60°) Fahrenheit or 3785 cubic centimetre at fifteen degree (15°) Celsius.

II) Entire quantity as mentioned above must be delivered at Chittagong between April 05-08, 95 in one shipment.

III) Offers will be received up to 1200 hours (BST) on March 08, 1995 and opened at 1205 hours BST on the same day at the Corporation Head Office in presence of the bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present.

IV) Offers must be valid up to 1800 hrs BST on March 11, 1995.

V) Local agents of reputed sellers interested in the tender may collect tender documents on payment of Taka 500 or US\$ 15 (non-refundable) on all working days during office hours from (a) the Commercial & Operation Division of the Corporation at its Head Office at HBFC Building, 4th Floor, 1/D, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong-4100.

(b) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Dhaka Liaison Office at 40, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.

VI) Other terms and conditions will be as per tender document for supply of Lubricating Base Oil of the Corporation (Ref No : 23.02/31 dated February 26, 1995). No rights of any kind shall be created in favour of any person by virtue of having obtained the tender documents nor shall any right be created in favour of any person by virtue of submitting an offer. The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, PO Box No : 2052, Chittagong-4100.

Northeast Regional Water Management Project

Invitation for Pre-qualification of Dredging Firms

Applications are hereby invited from bonafide Bangladesh Registered Hydraulic Dredging Firms/Contractors for pre-qualification in connection with the dredging of the Kalni-Kushiyara River channel.

The works will be executed under a CIDA Grant during the period from October 1995 to March 1996. The approximate volume of dredging is about 300,000 cubic meters.

The qualified Firm should have past working experience in dredging of river channels. The Firms are requested to submit the following information with the supporting documents:

- Organizational Information: Name and address and registration number; years of experience; names, professional qualification and experience of key personnel; current inventory of equipment.
- Past experience of the Firm: List of completed works in the last five years. State separately for each work the volume of dredging the execution period, and the equipment used for the work.

Applications will be received up to 15 April 1995. Detailed information can be obtained from the Kalni-Kushiyara Project Coordinator during office hours. (Phone Nos. 882823, 882923)

Team Leader
Northeast Regional Water Management Project
Gulshan P O Box 6096
House 3A, Road 22, Gulshan, Dhaka.

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY
HOUSE 16, ROAD 2, DHANMONDI R/A, DHAKA 1205, BANGLADESH. TEL 865221 865662

Tender Notice

Tender No. BOU/E&C-95/04 February 22, 1995

- The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in various currencies towards the cost of BOU, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Supplying, Fitting and Fixing of Wooden Furniture, Mattress, Toshok etc for the Guest Hostel at 5-storied Hostel Building (North Block), BOU Campus, Board Bazar, Gazipur.**
- The Project Director, BOU, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supplying, fitting and fixing of Wooden Furniture for the Guest Hostel at BOU Campus, Board Bazar, Gazipur.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible local bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to Tk 500/- (Tk five hundred) only for each set of bidding documents from the following offices up to March 15, 1995 during office hours.

i) Project Director/Vice-Chancellor	ii) Deputy Director (Estate)
Bangladesh Open University	Bangladesh Open University
House # 16, Road # 02	Board Bazar, Gazipur.
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.	
- The following documents are to be submitted at the time of purchasing the tender documents and also to be submitted along with the tender documents:
 - Written request on firm's letter head with full name & signature of Proprietor/Managing Director of the firm.
 - Uptodate income tax clearance certificate with GIR No.
 - Experience certificate of performing the similar works at least Tk 1,00,000/- (Taka one lakh) only.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security money @ 2.0% of the quoted amount and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before 12.00 Noon on March 16, 1995 in the tender boxes kept in the offices mentioned below and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

i) Project Director/Vice-Chancellor	ii) Deputy Director (Estate)
Bangladesh Open University	Bangladesh Open University
House # 16, Road # 02	Board Bazar, Gazipur.
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.	
- BOU authority will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids, including costs and expenses related to visits to the site of the installation of the goods.
- Validity of tender: 91 (ninetyone) days from the date of bid closing.
- The works may be awarded among the different bidders (more than one) for different items on the basis of lowest quoted rates by the respective bidders.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Deputy Director (Estate)
for Project Director/Vice-Chancellor