

Dhaka Day by Day

Architecture sans Humanity

by Abdul Hannan

Architects spend longer than other technicians such as lawyers and doctors in apprenticeship. In these long years of gestation, they acquire various degrees of competence over such lexical curiosities as 'pencil', 'elevation', 'atrium', 'perilla' and 'post-structuralism'. Those that learn to command the rudimentary skills with facility then may be enticed into less sure territory, making the problematic overlap from glorified draftsmanship to more rarified academic terrains. For the self-confident architect (and most architects are self-confident as ego is so important to them) anything becomes acceptable for consumption — philosophy, poetics, ecology and so on. Natural extensions some may say. But you may have come architects, with a confidence bordering on hubris, who stride disastrously into more demanding intellectual domains. It is thus that the harmless student builder recasts him/herself in the aura of the seer or the social reformer. As with the current-day tastes for instant, functional buildings, so it is with such deluded souls — all surface texture and no substance.



For most architects have, sadly, little notion of what it means to be human. Le Corbusier, perhaps the most influential architect of the twentieth century, once said with contemptuous disregard for his own species, 'A human being is a machine for living in one of my houses.' This, a statement of the worst conceptual inversions of modernism, has since been superseded by so-called post-modernist trends where irony and pastiche subvert dominant processes, or 'texts' to use the spiel. That is as it may be, but for most of us who live in shoebox buildings, we can only look to the 'showpiece' products of our architects to measure the extent of their grasp on reality. And where better to start, dear reader, than in Baridhara?

This locale, the haven of Bangladesh's new generation of economic stormtroopers and mega-criminals, boasts buildings of such painful bombast, such diabolical eyesore, that you wish the ground would part to swallow you up. On second thoughts, you wish the ground would part to swallow up these foul concrete warts instead.

In terms of sheer cheek and outright arrogance, the award for the worst violation of visual space is shared by an important embassy, again in Baridhara, and the local office of world's number one financial institution located in Paribagh. The former is a menacing, behemoth-like fortress. It represents the importance of Bangladesh to the concerned

country's geopolitical interests in the region and its unequivocally alien bearing communicates towering superiority over the natives scurrying to and fro outside. The building symbolizes the same principle used by Emperor Hadrian who constructed 'mile castles' as part of the wall which monitored unruly Picts in the north of Roman Britannicus. On the other hand, the Paribagh office is not an arrogant declaration of political primogeniture, but a furtive, introverted building. It actually faces away from the road it stands on, like a guilty schoolboy who has turned away from you to hide the candy he has stolen.

If buildings are stories or metaphors, then architects are the storytellers and metaphorists who relate them to us. The current story is a badly told one of barbarism and domination. The average architect's irrelevant grasp of futurism, mannerism, art and the rest tells us little and wholly fails to dignify the new architecture in Bangladesh. The samples on display in Baridhara are simply accounts of unrestrained self-regard, undiluted narcissism.

So what has happened to humanity in architecture? Where are the shapers of today and the dreamers of tomorrow? For a group of people that enjoys entertaining such high falutin thoughts, where are the ideas? Here we can give way to the US-based Bengali deconstructionist Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, who recently interposed at a conference of architects in Chandigarh. "Don't expect too much", seems to be the conclusion of her interjection. She berated the profession for twiddling with ideas they scarcely understood but nevertheless desired as accoutrement for their intellectual pretensions.

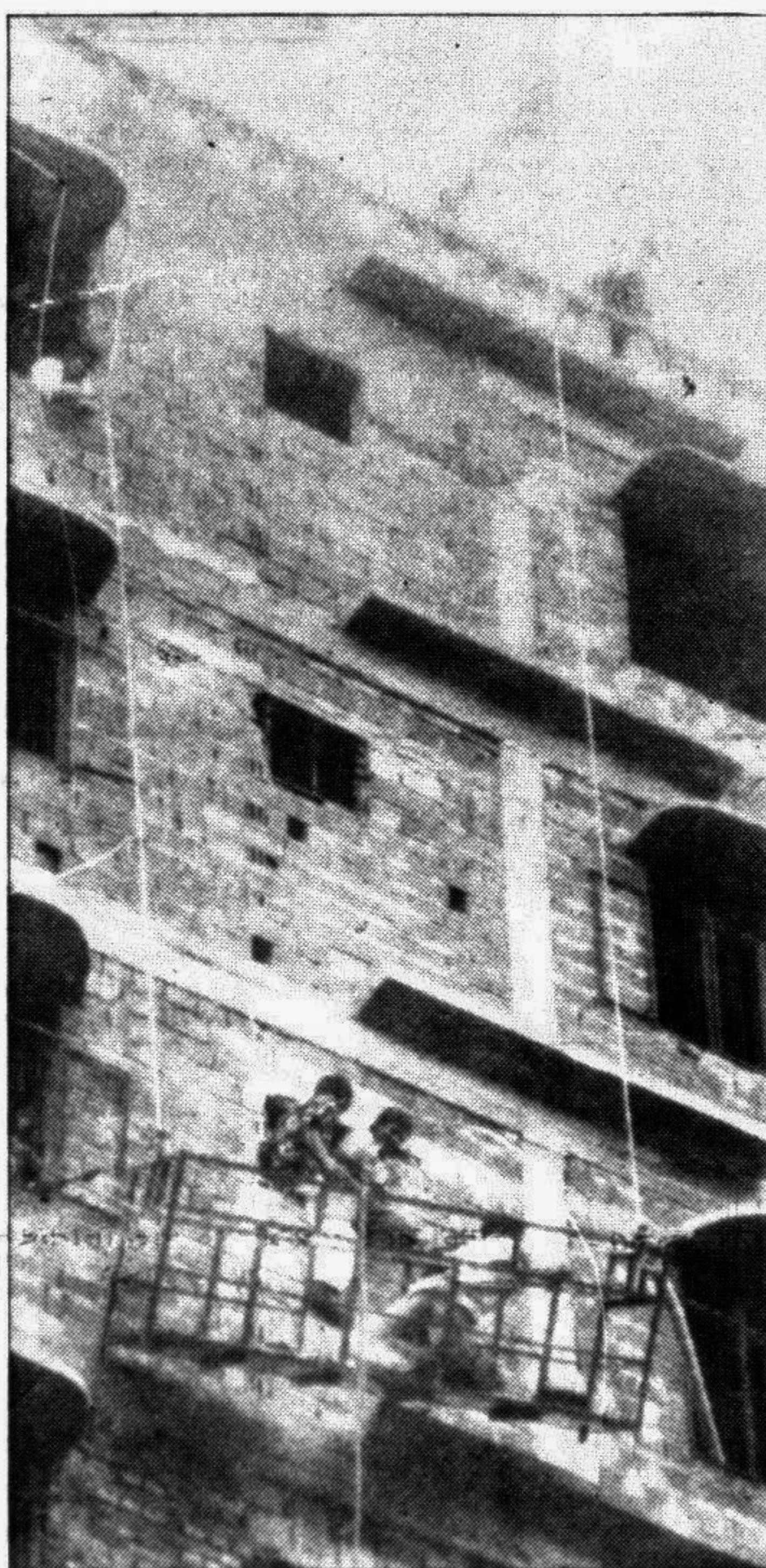
There are of course a few brilliant and visionary architects, but precious few. For the most that intrude on our lives with their glass boxes, reduced verandahs and concrete towers, they offer creative bankruptcy, not hope. For such sad creatures, ignorance of man seems to be a prerequisite for success in their trade. This ignorance they have ample opportunity to cultivate through close fraternization with corporation administrators and town planners.

It seems that for most architects, sensitivity to the human environment through cultural, political, social and ecological aesthetics is a cosmetic academic dalliance that has little to do with the architect's real vocation, which is to make serious money.

Desperate, shameful, false or, even disgusting.



The Jatiya Party brought out a procession in the city yesterday denouncing the proposed national budget. — Star photo



PRECARIOUSLY PERCHED. A makeshift winch gave way in an under-construction multi-storied building in the city's Eskaton area yesterday. The sudden collapse caused one of the two workers to fall to the ground and sustain grievous injuries, while the other desperately clung on as the fall of the contraption was finally halted by the ledge. Rescuers are seen trying to help him to safety.

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office says day temperatures may rise by 1-3 degrees Celsius over the country.

In its outlook for today and tomorrow the Met Office predicted no marked change. Giving extended outlook for another five days, the weatherman said that rainfall is likely to increase.

Meanwhile, Sylhet experienced 25 millimetres of rain and Cox's Bazar 4 millimetres during the 36 hours ending 6 pm yesterday.

Dhaka-Ctg coaches yet to resume operation

By Staff Correspondent

Luxury coaches on the Dhaka-Chittagong route did not leave the city for the fifth day yesterday.

Although there was a chance to resume operation from last night, the transport agencies failed to run the vehicles as a suitable place for a new terminal was yet to be found.

Around 30 transport agencies, mostly operating luxury coaches on the Dhaka-Chittagong route, stopped plying their vehicles following the eviction from their 'unauthorised' bus stand at Fakirpool Sunday morning.

Prize bond draw

The 122nd draw of the 10 Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds was held yesterday at the Chittagong Zilla Parishad Hall, Chittagong. The Additional Commissioner, Chittagong Division, Muhammad Abdus Sattar presided, says an official handout.

- The results are: First prize of Tk 50,000 — 183917; second prize of Tk 10,000 — 331723; four prizes of Tk 1,000 each — 367199, 460191, 471972, 496676; four prizes of Tk 500 each — 294179, 323340, 427981, 478360; Ninety prizes of Tk 100 each — 004037 048749 051397 057263 070718 074133 076386 077347 086990 086991 092000 092346 093027 097527 105955 107419 108072 109910 112532 120636 120940 128068 129405 135873 137218 138716 139335 153644 160079 169454 185581 185688 203431 211280 219039 229428 229610 230460 241802 243676 247547 251197 258847 263105 265875 265931 272392 273488 275149 287051 288252 292725 314108 319969 320509 323408 323927 326153 326467 341529 346541 350185 352356 356014 366304 368772 376925 380849 390547 399475 405097 406841 411693 414334 423514 424148 425358 425644 426476 432520 433213 443772 446115 456225 458679 463456 466035 472162 474490 495057.

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Contact : Adnan, 835152, 839999. S-291

College Admission

Radiant College (English Medium)

House No. 34, Road No 9/A (New)
Dhanmonji R/A, Dhaka-1209
Tel : 325848

Admission in eleventh class of HSC (Science, Commerce & Humanities) will begin soon. Students who have completed O Level, SSC or any other equivalent examinations successfully may apply now. Those awaiting their results may as well enquire at the college office.

Dr Nazma Yeasmeen Haque
Principal

Glaxo

GLAXO BANGLADESH LIMITED

Career Opportunity

Glaxo Bangladesh Limited is looking for an energetic young person aged between 25-30 years as Management Trainee in the EDP Department. The position is based at the Company's Head Office in Chittagong and reports to the EDP Manager.

The candidate should have the following qualifications :

- Masters in Science or Commerce with minimum 2 First Division with Computer Software/Hardware experience.
- Good knowledge of different types of operating systems and popular packages is essential.
- Experience of programming with FOXPRO/DATABASE/CLIPPER/C Language and other similar packages is essential.
- Fluent verbal and written communication skill in English is necessary and should possess analytical competence and problem solving ability.

On successful completion of the training period, the incumbent will be absorbed in the Management Cadre of the Company.

The position carries good future prospects for the right candidate. Please write in confidence with full curriculum vitae and recent passport size photograph to Company Secretary, Glaxo Bangladesh Limited, P.O. Box 53, Chittagong by 22 June, 1995.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

চাকুরী হইতে অপসারণের সর্বশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগ কেন্দ্রীয় কার্যালয় এর আওতাধীন শ্রমজীবী হাসপাতালে শিক্ষানবীশ ভিত্তিতে ট্রাক নার্স হিসাবে নিয়োগ প্রাপ্ত নিলুফা ইয়াসমিন, পিতা- আঃ মজিদ হাওলাদার, প্রযুক্তি আঃ সামাদ, বাসা নং- ১৬৬, বড় মগবাজার (ডাকবাংলা পল্টা), ঢাকা, পত ২/১১/৯৪ইং তারিখ হইতে কর্তৃপক্ষের বিনামূলিতে কর্তব্য কাজে অনুপস্থিত রহিয়াছেন। উক্ত অনুপস্থিতির কারণে স্বারক নং-৫৩৬/প্রবিঃ (সং-৩) তাং-১৪/২/৯৫ ইং মারফত নোটিশ প্রাপ্তির ৭ (সাত) টি কার্য দিবসের মধ্যে তাহাকে কর্তব্য কাজে যোগদানের নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হইয়াছিল। সেমতে স্বারক নং-শ.জী.হা.সং-১/৯৫/১৩৭৩ তাং-৫/৩/৯৫ইং মারফত পরিচালক শ্রমজীবী হাসপাতাল মহোদয় জানাইয়াছেন যে, সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মচারিণী কাজে যোগদান করেন নাই এমন কি কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগও করেন নাই।

এমতাবস্থায় অত্র নোটিশ প্রকাশিত হওয়ার ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে তাহাকে কর্তব্য কাজে যোগদান করার জন্য নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হইল। অন্যথায় তাহার অননুমোদিত অনুপস্থিতির তারিখ অর্থাৎ ২/১১/৯৪ইং তারিখ হইতে অভিমুক্ত ট্রাক নার্স নিলুফা ইয়াসমিনকে তাহার নিয়োগের শর্ত মতে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের চাকুরী হইতে অপসারণ করা হইয়াছে বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে এবং এই মর্মে অন্য আর কোন আদেশ জারী করা হইবে না।

স্বাক্ষর/-
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D-548 ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

Agriculturists' 13-point memo

Krishibid Institution Bangladesh yesterday submitted a memorandum containing its 13-point recommendations, reports BSS.

The memorandum, submitted by secretary general of the institution Zabeed Iqbal, called for the realisation of the institution's recommendations.

The recommendations included the stopping of what they called the undue interference of the ministry to smoothly conduct administrative activities of the agricultural sector, steps to appoint the members of BCS (agriculture), BCS (livestock) and BCS (fisheries) into different posts of BCS (administration), upgrading the posts of the seventh grade of agriculture cadre to grade six, filling up the vacant posts of the Agricultural Extension Directorate, introduction of separate cadre service in the Cotton Development Board, and restarting the activities of the BADC.

General Electric Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (BSEC) Patenga, Chittagong

জাতীয় অঙ্গণভিত্তিক বি-এসইসি'র আন্তর্জাতিক মানের পণ্য সামগ্রী ব্যবহার করুন

Consolidated Tender Notice

Sealed offers with 1% Earnest Money are invited by General Electric Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong for procurement of the following materials on C&F(C), Chittagong/Free Delivery Basis:

Sl No	Tender No & Date	Description of Materials	Cost of Document	Opening Date	Source of Finance
Short International Tender:					
1.	GEM/COM/F/250 dt 5-6-95	Paper Insulated Copper Strips	Tk 300/-	12-07-95	Cash, Tied/Credit United Loan, Grant etc
2.	GEM/COM/F/251 dt 5-6-95	Transformer Oil	Tk 200/-	-do-	-do-
Short Local Tender:					
3.	GEM/COM/586/95-96 dt 5-6-95	Shill Karai Wood	Tk 50/-	28-06-95	Cash
4.	GEM/COM/134/95 dt 5-6-95	Cotton Tape	Tk 50/-	-do-	-do-
5.	GEM/COM/135/95 dt 5-6-95	Zinc Ingot, Tin Ingot	Tk 50/-	-do-	-do-

Tender Documents will be available during office hour except opening date on cash payment (Non-refundable) from the following Offices:

- Cash Section, Accounts Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corpn, BSEC Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215
- Cash Section, Accounts Deptt, GEM Co Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong.

NB : No Tender Documents will be sold on the date of opening.

NO-BSEC/PRD/246
DFP-14698/11/6 G-940

Tender Notice

University of Dhaka: Sealed Tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for work" are hereby invited from the 1st & 2nd class enlisted contractors (Electrical) of Dhaka University for the works of "Installation of underground cable line for different building of residential area at North Nilkhet" and will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on the 27th June 1995 and opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as Earnest Money a sum of Tk. 3,685/- only in Demand Draft or Pay Order from a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer (Electrical), Dhaka University. Tender form, schedule and other particulars may be had from the office of the undersigned up to 12 Noon on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender on payment of Tk. 100/= only (non refundable) to the Janata Bank, Dhaka University Branch after obtaining permission from the undersigned. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason. The contractors are liable to abide by the decision of the authority.

Md Abdul Matin Miah
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
University of Dhaka

D-594

Tender Notice

No. 11 (7) Engg Dated: 15-6-1995

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for works" are hereby invited from the Enlisted contractors (Bldg) of Dhaka University for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned against each work and opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as Earnest Money a sum of Taka as stated below in Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from office of the undersigned upto 12 Noon on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender after depositing the cost of tender forms and schedule as stated below against each work to the Janata Bank, TSC, Branch (non-refundable) after showing the necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned.

Sl No	Name of works	Esti. Cost	Earnest money	Price of tender form	Time allowed for completion date	Opening date
1.	Repairing, Painting, Polishing, Distemper to the VC office, Lounge room, Senate room & office room for the Senate meeting. (Short notice tender)	Tk. 48,812/00	Tk. 977/=	Tk. 45/=	15 days	21st June '95
2.	Repairing to the Surface drain and apron of the Provost Bungalow of Kabi Jashim Uddin Hall, DU	Tk. 10,630/90	Tk. 213/=	Tk. 20/=	15 days	21st June '95
3.	Petty repairs of flat No. 22/R at Nilkhet area, DU	Tk. 25,791/57	Tk. 516/=	Tk. 30/-	15 days	22nd June '95
4.	Repairs to the flat No. 19/A at South Fuller Road, DU	Tk. 14,990/53	Tk. 300/=	Tk. 20/=	15 days	22nd June '95

Md. Mukdesur Rahman
Executive Engineer
University of Dhaka

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