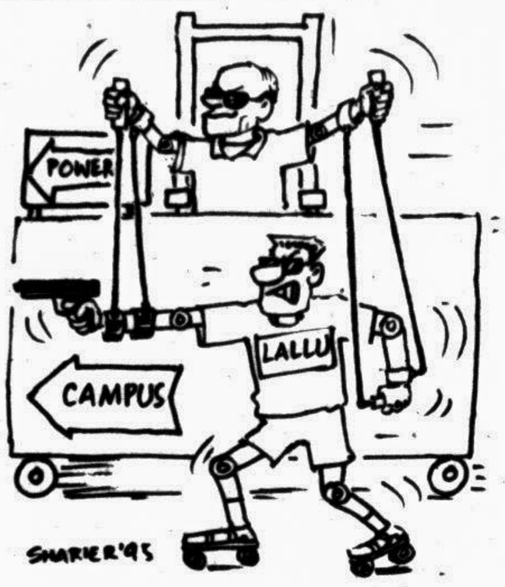
Dhaka Day by Day

Of Pawns and Politics

by Tanya Mahnaz Haq

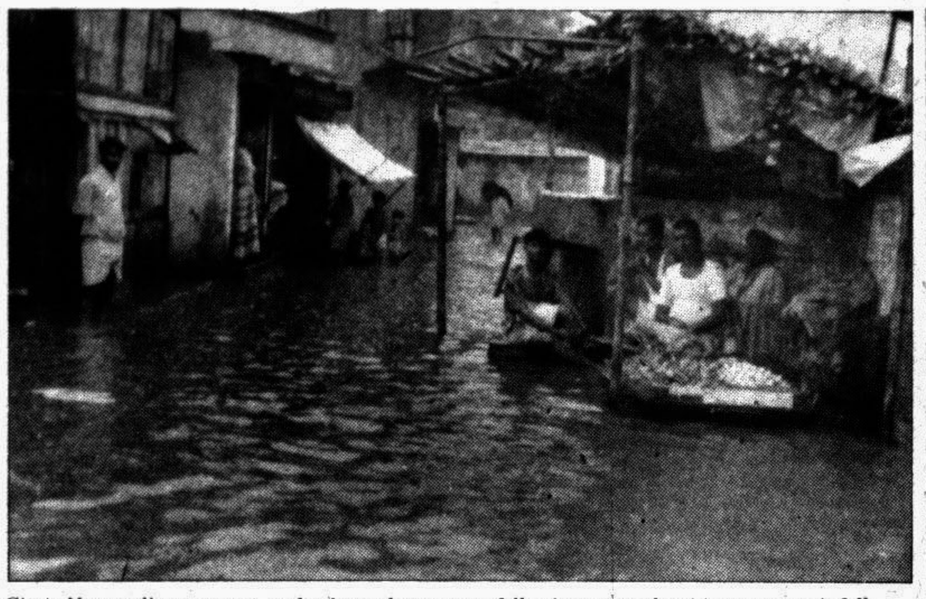
I came down with chicken pox last Eid. Anyone who has had an attack of chicken pox knows that it is a disease which destroys one's peace of mind, even if it is only for a very brief span of time. While I was in quarantine, I had nothing to do but read and watch either the TV or the VCR. During that time I watched a movie entitled "main Azaad Hoon" ("I am free" "I am Azad"), starring the two "GREATS" of the Bombay filmdom- Amitabh Bachan and Shabana Azmi. It was a film which was deeply touching and raised many uneasy questions.



The plot of the movie centres around an ambitious business tycoon cooly, calculatedly planning his move inch by inch towards the central seat of power in the government. More specially it focuses on how the picks up and uses unsuspecting the helpless people who do not have the least notion that they are pawns in a complex game much over and above them. One shot in particular was captivating. The shot shows a country bumpkin, lost in the maze of a metroolis city, hungrily looking at a half-eaten piece of apple. He is unaware that his gnawing hunger is being watched with cruel relish by someone from across the street; someone to whom he is the perfect pawn. The drama begins for the poor country bumpkin. He is fed and cushioned by undreamt of comforts as he is slowly persuaded into the role set out for him. Once in it, he can't get out.

Isn't there something familiar in the movie's theme? Let us look around us. Isn't this how 'mastaans' are made? For they are made, not born. From some small town, perhaps, a boy with courage, intelligence and leadership potential comes to the metropolis. He carries with him loads of blessings from his parents, little or no money in his pocket but fell of dreams in his bosom. Once his potential gets noticed, the chain of command sets in and another pawn is caught to play his role in the desperate game of power politics. He is entangled in the net before he can say, "Hey Presto!"

What a wastage of talent and resources in our already underdeveloped country! And the parents? What happens to them as they wait for their son to return home with that certificate which, to their minds will open the doors of affluence and comfort for them? What happens to them, when one day the son is caught in a gun battle somewhere and dies? The 'pawn' is easily replaceable, but the 'son'? Is he replaceable? And the young man whose potentialities, if channelised positively could have done something constructive for the nation. Is he replaceable?



City's Neemtali area went under knee-deep water following yesterdays' incessant rainfall. — Star photo

What's on today....

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of 'Rahat Ara Begum ki Afsana Nigari' and the Urdu translation of Tagores' short story 'Dhak Ghar' will be held. Venue: The Institute of Modern Languages auditorium. Time : 4 pm. Rahat Ara Begum Memorial Committee has arranged the function. Chief guest. Dr Fahmida Begum, Bureau for Promotion of Urdu in India.

Science, art fair: A three-day science and art fair of the Saint Joseph High School will begin under the auspices of Scientilla Science Club. Brother John Rozerio, headmaster of the school, will open the fair. Some 188 science projects, 50 art projects and 50 scrapbooks will be on display. Dr Ali Asghar, Prof of BUET, will attend the fair as chief guest on the concluding day on July 7.

Inaugural ceremony: The opening of Dhaka Bank Limited will be held. Venue: Adamjee Court, Motijheel. Time: 9:45 am. Chief guest: Minister for Finance M Saifur Rahman.

90 pc JS staff enjoy housing facilities

By Staff Correspondent

About 90 per cent of the officials and employees of the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat are enjoying housing facilities against 10 per cent by the staff members of other government bodies.

Disclosing this at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, the Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia said, there are 233 houses for the JS officials and employees who are now residing at 191 residences. The remaining houses are being occupied by the employees of other government offices, he said replying to a question by Md Golam Rabbani.

The minister, however, told the House that the residences being used by the employees of other government offices would soon be handed over to the JS secretariat.

Rafiq denied that any of the JS secretariat residences were being occupied illegally.

The number of circuit houses across the country is now 64 and the government has plans to construct another circuit house at Munshiganj in the 1995-96 fiscal, he said in reply to question by Md Niamat Ullah.

Roushan's public meeting today

Jatiya Party Presidium member Roushan Ershad will address a public meeting at Mymensingh Circuit House ground today at 2 pm, reports UNB.

It will be her first public address indicating Roushan's direct link in active politics.

Party sources said Roushan is going to begin her political activities from her home district Mymensingh with an objective to free her husband Ershad through waging a movement.

The meeting has been organised to protest the government move to implicate the deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad in Manjur murder case.

Party leaders Shah Moazzem Hossain and Anwar Hossain Manju will address the meeting as special guests. While district unit president of JP Khurram Khan Chowdhury will preside.

Repair works on to restore 500 city phones

The T & T Board has been working on an emergency basis to restore 500 telephones which has been out of order in the past few days in different parts of the city, a board press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

It said, the telephones under Moghbazar exchange area were disrupted due to faults in 1500 pairs of underground cables caused by road diggings and rain for the last two days.

The telephones in Khilgaon, Kamalapur, Fakirerpool, Kakrail and New Eskaton areas are likely to be restored within the next two days.

Errata

In our yesterday's Dhaka Day by Day entitled 'Scout with a Mission' the name of Dr Jacques Moreillon was wrongly spelt.

The inadvertent error is regretted.

Kishoreganj pressmen meet Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas called upon the journalists to serve the people by creating awareness among them about democracy and development, reports UNB.

He was talking to a ten-member delegation of the newly elected executive committee of Kishoreganj Press Club when they called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The delegation was led by president of the Press Club Mohammad Saiduzzaman.

Terming journalism an honest and dignified profession, the President said that they have enormous scope to work for the well-being of the people.

He also advised them to be objective and factual in their reports and comments for greater credibility and earning people's confidence.

Museum on War of Liberation demanded

A three-member delegation of a cultural organisation "Uttaradhikar" called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

The delegation led by Ariful Islam Ritu, submitted a memorandum to the State Minister demanding a separate museum on the Liberation War.

Wanted

Wanted a young energetic Graduate Sales Officer having at least 5 years experience in a reputable Indenting house. Candidate with good command in spoken & written English will be preferred. Apply by 15th July, 95 with full Bio-data and a passport size photograph to Bangladesh Commodities Ltd, TMC Building (1st floor), 52, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka. Eligible candidates will be called for interview.

DUJA reunion Sept 22

By DU Correspondent

A day-long reunion will be held on September 22 at the TSC of Dhaka University to mark the 10th anniversary of the Dhaka University Journalist Association (DUJA).

A preparatory committee has been formed in the meantime.

All DU reporters working in different dailies since the 50s and former members of DUJA have been requested to contact.

Ilias Khan, secretary, preparatory committee, DUJA phone 509432 or personally with two copies of passport size photographs, the name of the dailies they had worked in, and their present address.

Admission in DU language course

Admission to one-year Junior Certificate Course (1995-96) in the following languages is going on at the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, says a press release.

Bengali (for foreigners only), Modern Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Modern Persian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and 60-hour Course in English for regular students of Dhaka University.

Applications in prescribed form are available at the Institute and will be received from July 5 to July 26.

For further information the Institute office may be contacted in person during office hours.

Italian envoy meets Moyeen

Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Reffaele Miniero called on Planning Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest.

Explaining the historical background of the proposed participatory planning for the year 1995-2010 instead of taking traditional five-year plan, Dr Khan said the new participatory plan would be aimed at ensuring sustainable development at the grassroots level.

Praising the participatory plan, the Ambassador laid emphasis on building a good image of Bangladesh outside the country.

HERE and THERE

Department of Philosophy, JU

A seminar on "Reproductive Right" was held under the auspices of the Department of Philosophy, Jahangirnagar University recently, says a press release.

Fahmina Ahmed, assistant professor of the department presented the key note paper.

Najma Siddiqi, head of the department, in her presidential address emphasized the role of the state in controlling women's reproductive right.

Eden College VOA Fan Club

A discussion on 'The importance of Tree Plantation in Maintaining the Ecological Balance ' organised by the club was held on Sunday.

Housewife commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

A young housewife reportedly committed suicide in Demra in the city yesterday morning.

Nur Nahar Moni, 19, hanged herself with a scarf from the ceiling fan at her residence at 58/1, West Dholairpar, Demra, police said.

Demra police recovered the body of Moni, wife of Shihabuddin at about 8:30 am.

Kabbya Kunja

A meeting of the Kabbya Kunja, a society for the advancement of literature was held in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

Lili Haque read an article on environment of Dr Maleka Khatun.

Roushan Ara Haque also presented a paper on environment.

A Malek Choudhury presided.

The meeting was followed by a poetry recitation.

Young man murdered

By Staff Correspondent

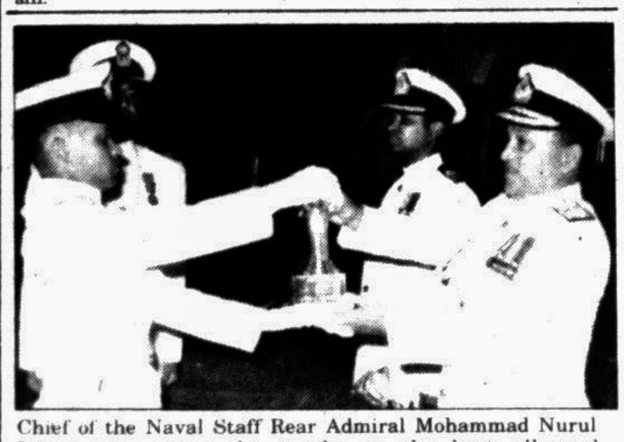
A young man was allegedly murdered in a house at New Eskaton area in the city yesterday.

The victim, aged about 25, could not be identified immediately.

People nearby rushed to the ground floor of the two storied house after screams and took the fatally injured man to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Marks of stab injuries were found in the chest and back of the body.

Ramna police said, one Mujibur Rahman, a bachelor, used to live in the room where the murder was committed to.



Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam gave away the trophy to the best allround midshipman at the graduation parade of the Bangladesh Naval Academy Patenga in Chittagong Monday.— ISPR photo

4-yr-old Nipa missing

By Staff Correspondent

A four-year-old girl has been missing since Sunday last from in front of her house at 12/Dha, 421 Pallabi in Mirpur.

Nipa, daughter of Mohammad Alam, was clad in a white hosiery wear when she was seen last.

A general diary (GI) was filed with Pallabi thana.

Anybody having any information of her whereabouts has been requested to contact either her residence at numbers 381234 and 249675 or Mohammad Khalid, BSS, 68/2 Purana Paltan at phones 235036-39.

Weather

More rainfall predicted

Moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Bogra, Pabna and Rangpur during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Dinajpur.

Heavy rain falls may occur at places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and the regions of Bogra and Pabna in next 12 hours.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country's southern parts and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere.

Meantime, Sylhet experienced the country's highest rainfall of 146 mm yesterday, Chittagong 79 mm, Dhaka 20, Mymensingh 34, Faridpur 14, Cox's Bazar 62, Comilla 18, Rangpur 37 and Jessore 38 mm.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 33 degrees Celsius at Satkhira and the lowest 23.5 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:16 am.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Gonoshahajjo Sangstha (GSS)
41, Sir Syed Ahmed Road
Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

Information & Documentation Expert

GSS is looking for applicants to help set up an Information & Documentation Centre to support its Advocacy Programme.

Candidates must have proven experience in setting up computerised information data-bank for information to be disseminated and made easily available to a wide variety of interested people and organisations. Candidates must have excellent knowledge of English and Bangla.

This position carries an attractive compensation package. Interested persons are invited to send their curriculum vitae, with a detailed description of their experience in the human rights field, to the above address by 15 July 1995.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Gonoshahajjo Sangstha (GSS)
41, Sir Syed Ahmed Road
Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

Personal Assistant/Secretary

GSS is looking for applicants for the position of Personal Assistant to the Executive Director.

Candidates must have a Masters degree with academic interest and excellent knowledge of English and Bangla and proven office management skills.

Working knowledge of development issues and drafting skills in English and Bangla will be very helpful.

This position carries an attractive compensation package with career opportunity. Interested persons are invited to send their curriculum vitae, along with two passport sized photographs to the above address by July 15 1995.

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

OFFICER - FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Standard Chartered Bank, a UK based international bank is looking to fill the above position in its Finance Division at their country office in Bangladesh.

This is a challenging and a growth oriented position. The candidate should be an MBA with a major in Finance or a Master's degree in Finance and Accounting. He should preferably be in the mid-twenties to early thirties. Experience in managing day to day functions of finance and administration in a bank or financial institution is preferable, but not essential. The job is demanding and the candidate, therefore, should have the ability to work under pressure preferably within a financial and computerised environment. The right candidate should additionally possess excellent communication ability in English and Bengali combined with strong interpersonal and leadership skills. Knowledge of basic computer operations is a must especially the window based software packages.

A very competitive salary and relevant training would be provided to the right candidate.

Applicants who fulfil the above qualifications and experience should send in their detailed CV alongwith an application and one photograph for the position in confidence to the "Head of Human Resources", Standard Chartered Bank, First Floor, Alico Building, 18-20 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, not later than 22nd July 1995.

Candidates who do not fulfil the above requirements need not apply. Only selected candidates will be called for the initial interview within two weeks from the date of closing of application.

"উন্নয়নের চাবি কাঠি বিদ্যুৎ"

পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ডের পরিবহন ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ডের অধীনে স্থানীয়ভাবে ক্রয়কৃত এল, পি, সি পোল পঞ্চগড় হইতে বিভিন্ন পরিসরে পরিবহন কাজের জন্য ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে পরিবহন কাজে অভিজ্ঞ ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

২। দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থার কম পক্ষে ২ (দুই) বৎসর বৈদ্যুতিক খুঁটি/বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদি/যান্ত্রিক সরঞ্জামাদি ইত্যাদি পরিবহন কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে। বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের অভিজ্ঞতা কিংবা ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসর পূর্বের অভিজ্ঞতা বিবেচনা করা হইবে না। একক কার্যাদেশের আওতায় কম পক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) লক্ষ টাকার কার্য্য সম্পাদন না করিয়া থাকিলে সেই অভিজ্ঞতাও বিবেচনা করা হইবে না।

৩। অভিজ্ঞতা প্রমাণের জন্য ঠিকাদারকে সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থার তালিকাভুক্তির সার্টিফিকেট, কার্যাদেশের কপি, সন্তোষজনক কার্য্য সমাপ্তি এবং ইহার বিপরীতে বিল গ্রহণের পরিমাণ সম্পর্কিত সনদপত্র তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী/পরিচালক পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তার নিকট হইতে গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। উক্ত দলিলাদির ফটোকপি সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থার ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত থাকিতে হইবে। প্রয়োজনে এই দলিলাদির মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে।

৪। কাজের সিডিউল মূল্য ৭৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে তফসীলি ব্যাংকসমূহ হইতে গৃহীত পে-অর্ডার/ডিমান্ড ড্রাফট আকারে উক্ত অর্থ জমা দিতে হইবে।

৫। পরিবহন কাজের প্রাক্কলিত মূল্য সিএন এন এম পরিদপ্তর হইতে অবহিত হওয়া যাইবে।

৬। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর, হিসাব পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা ও পবিবো কেন্দ্রীয় পণ্যাগার, খুলনা হইতে উপরোক্ত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠেকাদারগণ ২৪-০৭-৯৫ ইং তারিখ অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থার পরিবহন ঠিকাদার হিসাবে তালিকাভুক্তি ও মালিকানা দলিলের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতঃ ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারী অথবা তাহার ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিনিধি মারফত দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় করিতে পারিবেন। ২৫-০৭-৯৫ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২ (বার) ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ডের প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (প ও প)-এর দপ্তর, ঢাকা, নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর এবং উপ-পরিচালক, কেন্দ্রীয় পণ্যাগার, খুলনা-এর দপ্তর এই তিন স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ইহার অব্যবহিত পরেই উপস্থিত দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ টেন্ডার বাক্স হইতে খুলিয়া নিরীক্ষণ করা হইবে। ঠিকাদারগণকে নিজ দায়িত্বে দরপত্র গ্রহণের দপ্তরসমূহ পূর্ব হইতে চিনিয়া লইতে হইবে।

৭। উক্ত টেন্ডার দুই খামে হইবে। প্রথম খামে যোগ্যতা যাচাইয়ের জন্য টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তির ৩ নং অনুচ্ছেদে বর্ণিত সকল দলিলাদি এবং টেন্ডার দলিলের শর্তাবলীর অনুচ্ছেদে ১-এর গ, ঘ, চ, ছ ও জ-এর সমর্থনে সকল দলিলাদি সংযুক্ত করিয়া খামের উপর "পূর্ব যোগ্যতার দলিলাদি" কথাটি লিপিবদ্ধ করিয়া কাজের ক্রম উল্লেখপূর্বক নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম বা সীল খামের উপর উল্লেখ করিয়া সীলমোহরকৃত অবস্থায় নির্ধারিত দিন ও সময়ের মধ্যে খামটি টেন্ডার বাক্সে ফেলিতে হইবে। দ্বিতীয় খামের উপরে অনুরূপভাবে ক্রম নং, কার্যের নাম/সীল এবং "দরপত্র" কথাটি উল্লেখপূর্বক পবিবো হইতে ক্রয়কৃত টেন্ডার সিডিউল পূরণ করিয়া যথাযথ আর্নেষ্টমানিসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে একই দিন ও সময়ে টেন্ডার বাক্সে ফেলিতে হইবে।

নির্ধারিত কমিটি কর্তৃক ঐ দিনই "পূর্বযোগ্যতার দলিলাদি" বিশিষ্ট খাম খুলিয়া টেন্ডারদাতাদের তালিকা প্রনয়ন করা হইবে। পরবর্তীতে কেবলমাত্র যোগ্য বিবেচিত টেন্ডারদাতাদের দরপত্র (যাহা দ্বিতীয় খামে রহিয়াছে) খুলিয়া টেন্ডার মূল্যায়ন করা হইবে। নোটিশ বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে "দরপত্র খাম" খুলিবার তারিখ ও সময় জানাইয়া দেওয়া হইবে। যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন টেন্ডারদাতাগণ ইচ্ছা করিলে দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকিতে পারিবেন। অযোগ্য বিবেচিত টেন্ডারদাতাদের "দরপত্র খাম" না খুলিয়াই বন্ধ অবস্থায় ফেরত দেওয়া হইবে।

৮। এই কাজের জন্য আর্নেষ্টমানির পরিমাণ উদ্ধৃত অংকের ২.৫% (শতকরা দুই দশমিক পাঁচ) হইবে যাহা "পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা"-এর অনুকূলে তফসীলি ব্যাংক হইতে গৃহীত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে অথবা সরকার অনুমোদিত সেভিংস সার্টিফিকেটের মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হইবে।

৯। পবিবোর্ডের মালামাল পরিবহন কাজে কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানকে একই পরিবহন বৎসরে ৪ (চার) টির বেশী কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হইবে না।

১০। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন/সকল টেন্ডার বাতিল/গ্রহণ করিবার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মাহফুজুর রহমান)
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RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD

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