

Dhaka Day by Day

Relearning Old Ways

by Samia Islam

Little everyday compromises brought about by senseless obstinacy of our political leadership has obliterated what meagre rationality we had in our lives. Businesses, banks, schools are closed down indefinitely for no understandable reason. And what is more saddening is that there seems to be no hope of any reconciliation in the near future. Makes one wonder how much the country will be worth after the esteemed leaders are done with it.

Seeing that there is no way out of the mess we might as well make the most of it. So, let's consider the upsides of strikes, non-cooperations et al. Non-cooperations are by far the better since strikes can entail public stripplings for some poor unsuspecting blokes. On the other hand, non-cooperation are safer. The roads are more accessible. There're no loud honkings, no traffic jams, and yes, for kids, there's no school. They take to the streets to try their hand at cricket especially amidst the World Cup euphoria. After all, these are the Waugh and Warners of the future. And who needs education to be anybody in life, wouldn't you agree?

For the house holders, it's a taste of imprisonment. You have your time outs and your perimeters chalked out. You get to go out if they say so but they will decide when and how. If this is not democracy, then tell me what is?

However, at twilight it's a different story. People sick with being cooped up in two room flats for days take to the streets in droves. There is mingling, laughter, eating and drinking (as food shops are exempted from the hassle) — in a word it's fiesta time at dusk.

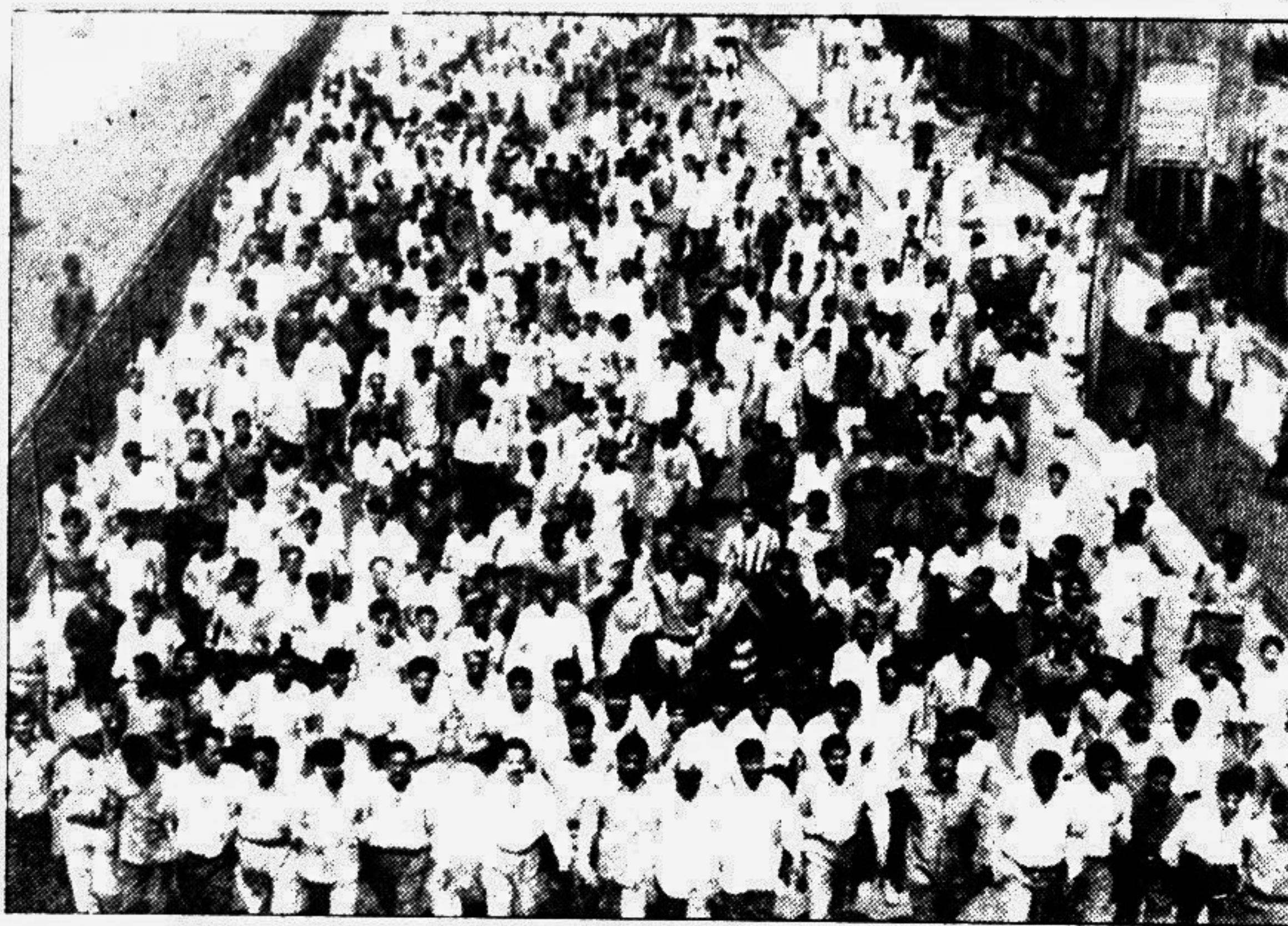
Then there are the office commuters who have devised a way to make the quest to work and back more enjoyable. They gather their friends and, together, embark on the long journey, discussing cricket matches, cabbages and kings. In the evening, they return the same way but this time around more pedestrians join their rank and exchange information on the happenings of the day. So it seems, these unexpected breaks from routine have made us friendlier and more agreeable.

Or you could be a cynic and say we have started behaving like pack animals trying to find security in large groups.

At exactly 7:30 pm every night, you will find at least one, if not all, members of a family crouching in front of the radio trying to listen to the BBC Bengali news bulletin. Ironically, the bulletins will only say a few sentences on Bangladesh after they have laboriously analysed volatile political situations in Chechnya, Taiwan, China, Israel etc. But even that is better than knowing nothing, you console yourself, all the time thinking of 101 different ways to strangle the news reader.

On the household front, people have developed new shopping deadlines. They have started to store food on the eve of indefinite non-cooperations. Others rush to the banks. God (and some others) knows when they will get the next opportunity. To counter this problem, here's a suggestion worth its weight in gold. Remember the dependable system of burying your possessions in your backyard? At least that way you can be as liquid as soon as you wish. You have got to change with the times, guys. So get hold of a good, sturdy shovel and start digging. Walking has become so hip these days that someone mistakenly dropped here from somewhere else would think he or she was in New York or Japan. You will have to learn the trick of driving in Dhaka, big deal! It's not like people use their cars even on normal days any more. Children are getting a little confused about week-ends and week-days but it's not like routine five days at school ever did anyone any good. What does that teach you anyway? Getting up at 6:30 on Friday morning is the life for any six-year-old.

The University exams have been postponed indefinitely? So what else is new? Another session jam in the making? When you've seen one, you've seen them all. Disillusioned students are fed up with the system? You couldn't trust these youth with a sack of potato, leave alone a country. Let them rot. We've got more important things to attend to here, we are making history. Whose? Never mind.



The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) brought out a procession in the city, protesting opposition's non-cooperation programme. — Star photo

Teachers' fed urges Biswas to resolve crisis

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA), comprising four government and non-government school and college teachers' association, Tuesday called upon the President to take immediate steps for forming a neutral, non-partisan caretaker government and announcing specific date for fresh general elections, says a press release.

The appeal was made during an emergency meeting of the Federation, held Tuesday at its city office. The meeting observed that the education sector is incurring 'massive' losses due to the prevailing political crisis. Education institutions including school and colleges continue to remain completely closed. Moreover, school students promoted to different classes have not yet been able to get text books, it said.

Under the circumstances, the Federation expressed its concern over the holding of this year's SSC Examinations, under four examination boards, scheduled to begin March 28.

The SSC Examinations, the largest public examination in the country, seem to be uncertain due to the prevailing circumstances. As a result, more than half a million examinees along with their guardians continue to remain in high tension, the BFTA said.

Presided over by BFTA secretary general, Principal Kazi Faruque Ahmed, the meeting was addressed by Prof Asadul Hoq, joint general secretary, College Teachers Association, Md Salim Bhuiyan, secretary general, Bangladesh Teachers

Association, Md Shahidullah, Azizul Islam, Principal Akram Hossain and Prof Ali Akbar Khan.

Liberty Int'l

The Liberty International, a Bangladesh-based international human rights organisation has welcomed the initiative taken by the President to resolve the political crisis.

Advocate M A Motaleb, president of the organisation in a statement Tuesday night urged the President to use his good office to settle the political conflict and confrontation.

He said now the President has two options — firstly, he can promulgate an ordinance under Article 93 of the Constitution for formation of a caretaker government; secondly, the President can seek advisory opinion of the Supreme Court under the provision of Article 106 of the Constitution.

Under the conventions of Parliamentary system the President can take necessary action to protect the Constitution, Liberty president said.

'Announce DA of 5th Wage Board'

The central coordination committee of the three federations of the newspaper industry at a meeting yesterday expressed their deep concern and anguish at the delay in announcing the Dearness Allowance (DA) for the journalists and employees by the government even after the decision of the Fifth Wage Board in this regard on February 18 last, a BFUJ press release said, reports BSS.

The Committee comprising Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation and Bangladesh Newspaper Press Workers Federation demanded immediate announcement of the Dearness Allowance (DA) of the Fifth Wage Board in the light of the cost of living and present situation.

Presided over by convenor of the coordination committee Fazole Imam, the meeting was attended by Joint conveners — BFUJ president Amanullah Kabir, and Jahangir Kabir, member secretary of the committee and DUJ general secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, committee members BFUJ secretary general Zahurul Huq, newspaper press workers federation president Mosharrar Hossain, secretary general Bazul Rahman Milan, newspaper employees federation president Kamruzzaman Khan.

Cancel Feb 15 polls : DUTA

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) in an emergency meeting yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of February 15 general election and the next one within May this year under a caretaker government.

The meeting, presided over by DUTA president A T M Zahurul Huq, also demanded compensation and rehabilitation of those who died during the mass movement.

Star reporter mugged

By Staff Correspondent

Nazmul Ashraf, Staff Correspondent of The Daily Star was robbed of his watch and money at gun point at Munshikhola area on the Dhaka-Narayanganj highway in the early hours of yesterday.

Four armed youngmen stopped his vehicle at Munshikhola under Demra thana at about 1:30 am while he was returning to his Fatullah residence from the office. The muggers also snatched money from a staff member of the daily, Rezaul Karim, who was accompanying Ashraf, and the driver of the vehicle.

The same group of muggers also robbed money and other valuables from a number of persons, passing through the area the same night.

A police team of the Fatullah thana, carrying patrol duty on the highway, after being informed of the incidents by some of the victims immediately declined to rush to the mugging spot saying the spot only yards away from the Demra-Fatullah border, was not under their thana.

The Daily Star reporter also visited the Fatullah police station soon after he was mugged and sought police help. But the duty officer said they could not nab the muggers at that time due to shortage of staff. He also added the muggers would flee the scene on arrival of police there.

DUCSU for talks to end crisis

DUCSU Vice President and secretary Amanullah Aman yesterday condemned 'Awami League's alleged acts of terrorism, anarchy, attack and damage to properties across the country, reports BSS.

He called upon the Chhatra Dal workers to face the opposition programme politically. In a statement, Aman also urged upon all opposition political parties to resolve the political crisis created by them through discussion on the basis of the latest proposal given by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the greater interest of the nation.

Aman condemned the killing of Kazi Iqbal Hossain Milan, president of Saharashil thana Chhatra Dal, by the Awami activists and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits.

Call off agitation programme: JCD

Jatatabadde Chhatra Dal president Fazul Haque Milon yesterday urged the opposition parties to withdraw the non-cooperation programme and sit in dialogue, reports BSS.

At a rally organised by JCD Dhaka University unit, he further said no more hartal and non-cooperation is necessary as the Prime Minister has accepted the major demands of the opposition.

The rally was addressed by Moniruzzaman Monir, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Amir, BSM Mosharrar Hossain and Monir Hossain.



Passengers rushed to the inter-district bus terminal yesterday as the opposition released their non-cooperation programme after 2 pm. This picture was taken from city's Mohakhali area. — Star photo

QUL KHWANI



Qul Khwani of Begum Zohaida Huda W/O late Mr. Syed Shamsul Huda, will be held at 92 Gulshan Avenue (adjacent to Daichi and Thal House Restaurant) after Asr Prayers on Friday, the 15th of March, 1996. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA), A JAPANESE GOVERNMENTAL AID ORGANIZATION INVITES APPLICATION FOR IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT (APRIL '96) FROM FEMALE CANDIDATES (BANGLADESHI NATIONALS) PROCESSING THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE.

- GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH.
- MINIMUM BACHELOR DEGREE WITH AT LEAST FIVE YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE AS A SECRETARY.
- KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH WORD PROCESSOR.
- PLEASANT PERSONALITY.
- PREFERABLY UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE.

APPLICATION WITH COMPLETE BIO-DATA (MENTIONING CONTACT TELEPHONE NO.) AND RECENT PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD REACH THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS BY MARCH 19, 1996 POSITIVELY. WE ARE READY TO ACCEPT TELEPHONE CALL IF APPLICATION COULD NOT BE REACHED DUE TO PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

DIRECTOR, PERSONNEL AFFAIRS
JICA BANGLADESH OFFICE
PLOT NO. NW (C) 1, ROAD NO. 62/63
GULSHAN, DHAKA-1212
PHONE : 600062, 604285, 608595, 603266



Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)

105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue

Kawran Bazar Commercial Area

Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Telex: 642689 TGNC BU/Fax: 880-2-813031/Phone: 819380/PABX: 812135-42 (Extn: 146)

Invitation for Bids (I. F. B.) for Procurement of Gas Pipeline Materials & Equipment under Cash Foreign Exchange

Date of issuance of I. F. B.: 12 Mar 1996

1. Sealed Bids are invited from the bonafide manufacturers or their authorised agents for supply of Gas Pipeline Materials & Equipment as listed below under Cash Foreign Exchange:

Sl. No.	IFB No.	Description of Material	Cost of Tender Document	Bid Closing Date
1	PD. 2312/368-Drill.	Drilling Machine be Accessories.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	13-04-96
2	PD. 2312/368-Sealant.	Lubricant Gun & Fittings.	Tk. 500.00 Or US\$ 12.00	13-04-96
3	PD. 2312/368-Clamp.	Leak Repair Clamp.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	13-04-96
4	PD. 2312/368-Flange	Weldneck Flange.	Tk. 500.00 Or US\$ 12.00	15-04-96
5	PD. 2312/368-Comp/Fit.	Compression Tubing Fittings.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	15-04-96
6	PD. 2312/368-Coup.	Compression Coupling * & Half Coupling.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	15-04-96
7	PD. 2312/368-Gauge.	Gas Pressure Gauge.	Tk. 500.00 Or US\$ 12.00	16-04-96
8	PD. 2312/366-Detector (R)	Gas Leak Detector & Holiday Detector.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	16-04-96
9	PD. 2312/366-DM(R).	Diaphragm Type Gas Meter.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	16-04-96
10	PD. 2312/368-T&P.	Tape & Primer.	Tk. 1500.00 Or US\$ 36.00	17-04-96
11	PD. 2312/368-RV.	Relief Valves.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	17-04-96
12	PD. 2312/368-Strainer.	Strainer.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	18-04-96
13	PD. 2312/368-Reg.	Gas Pressure Regulator.	Tk. 1000.00 Or US\$ 24.00	18-04-96

2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy General Manager (Purchase) at the above address.
3. Tender documents may be purchased by any interested bidder or their authorised representative upon payment of the cost of respective documents from Accounts Department of this Company at the above address from 09:00 Hrs. to 13:00 Hrs. on all working days with effect from 16th March '96. Copy of Money Receipt evidencing purchase of Tender Documents is to be furnished with the bid. No document will be sold on the bid closing date.
4. All bids accompanied by a bid security for 2.5% of bid amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank located in Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee issued by a Scheduled Bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank, duly endorsed by a Scheduled Bank in Bangladesh must be delivered to Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd. at the above address on or before 11:00 Hrs. of the closing date of the respective I. F. B. The bids will be opened on the same day at 11:15 Hrs. in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday, bids shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day.
5. The Company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

"গাছ লাগান, পাহাড়ের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Deputy General Manager (Purchase).

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Phones: 894771-9, 894730-4.
Cable: Airbangla, Tx: 642849 DAGB BJ
Ref: DACPL/26/95-96/592 Dated: 06-03-96

Tender Notice

No: 49/95-96

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines on two envelope system (Technical & Price Offer) from interested distributors/suppliers for the supply of any or all the items mentioned below as per details/specifications mentioned in the schedule:

01. Tyre & Tube with Flap (65 Sets), Size: 28 X 8-15 (12 PLY).
02. Tyre & Tube with Flap (50 Sets), Size: 600-9-10 (12 PLY).
03. Tyre & Tube with Flap (15 Sets), Size: 7.00-16 (8 PLY).
04. Radial Tubeless Tyre (10 Sets), Size: 24R20.5 X.SPR16.
05. Tyre & Tube with Flap (30 Sets), Size: 700-16 (8 PLY).

Tender schedule mentioning full details/specifications of items, terms and conditions will be available from the Accounts Officer, Cash Payment Unit of Finance Directorate, Admin Building, Biman, ZIA, Dhaka and Asstt. Manager (Cash & Banking), Biman, Motijheel, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 100/= (Taka one hundred) only per set (for each group) (Non-refundable) by applying self letterhead pad during any working day up to 25-03-96.

Sealed tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local Purchase Section, Stores & Purchases Directorate, Biman, ZIA, Dhaka and Biman Head Office Reception Counter, Biman Bhaban, Motijheel, Dhaka latest by 1100 hours on 27-03-96 and will be opened on the same day at 1400 hours (BST) at the premises of Stores & Purchases Directorate, Admin Building, Biman, ZIA, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity in the items and can accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

D.F.P. 5590-11/3 Dy. General Manager (S&P) Commercial Stores & Purchases Directorate G-369