

Dhaka Day by Day

BTC's Generous Venture

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Have you ever seen a nursery, run out of supply and that too within the first 24 hours of its opening? The demand was so pressing that it couldn't be met with a stock of one lakh saplings.

Now come on, don't think Dhaka people are sane again and planting trees all around. It was just a free sapling distribution centre, a noble effort by BTC (Bangladesh Tobacco Company) that made possible the apparently unthinkable feat to materialise. Saplings of ipil-ipl, mahogany, jack fruit, neem, guava etc vanished from the centre like hot dogs.

It was as if a sudden realisation struck the city's citizens and they had to do something about the unused spaces in their courtyard. Thus they all went crazy about all those potential trees giving fruits or not.

"BTC is committed to society to maintain and restore the environmental balance and for the last 16 years it has been distributing and planting two crore 20 lakh trees all over Bangladesh," says Ekram Moyn of Corporate Affairs, BTC, at its Bonsai Nursery, a free sapling distribution centre.

This is the third consecutive year that the Bonsai Nursery, the only one of its kind has been set up in the city to encourage tree plantation among the city dwellers. "We are distributing about one hundred thousand saplings and already within a day around 80 per cent of it are gone," says Moyn.

The green Dhaka where our grandparents lived is definitely no more. Along with its past glories and beauties our once famous metropolitan is now almost denuded of trees and plants, that besides providing shade made the roads and avenues worth a glance.

We are certainly a strange race; we commit relentless mayhem to big trees and love to display our craze for small ones, in pots and tubs. Decorating our verandahs and roof tops is now the hobby in vogue.

Demand for pot plants are so much on the rise that the city has approximately 200 nurseries scattered in and around its maze of high rise buildings, apartments and factories.

Business is so booming that you would notice a mini nursery on every alternate road-island these days. "I know this is govt property, but I have cleared the dump and garbage around this place and has set up my nursery, this not only makes the roadside and pavement attractive and green but gives temporary employment to the youths here, who otherwise would have spent time idly, sipping tea after gulping phensidyl," says a owner of three nurseries in Dhaka.

A fourth grade government employee himself, he believes he is investing his time and energy for a good cause. "It is the govt slogan that I am following 'Plant trees, save the country,' he advocates his passion for gardening.

However the craze for pot plants is not enough to restore the environmental balance. In reality this hardly makes a dent in the environmental pollution of Dhaka, people to love plants and have them around. What really encourages people from all walks of life is efforts as undertaken by BTC.

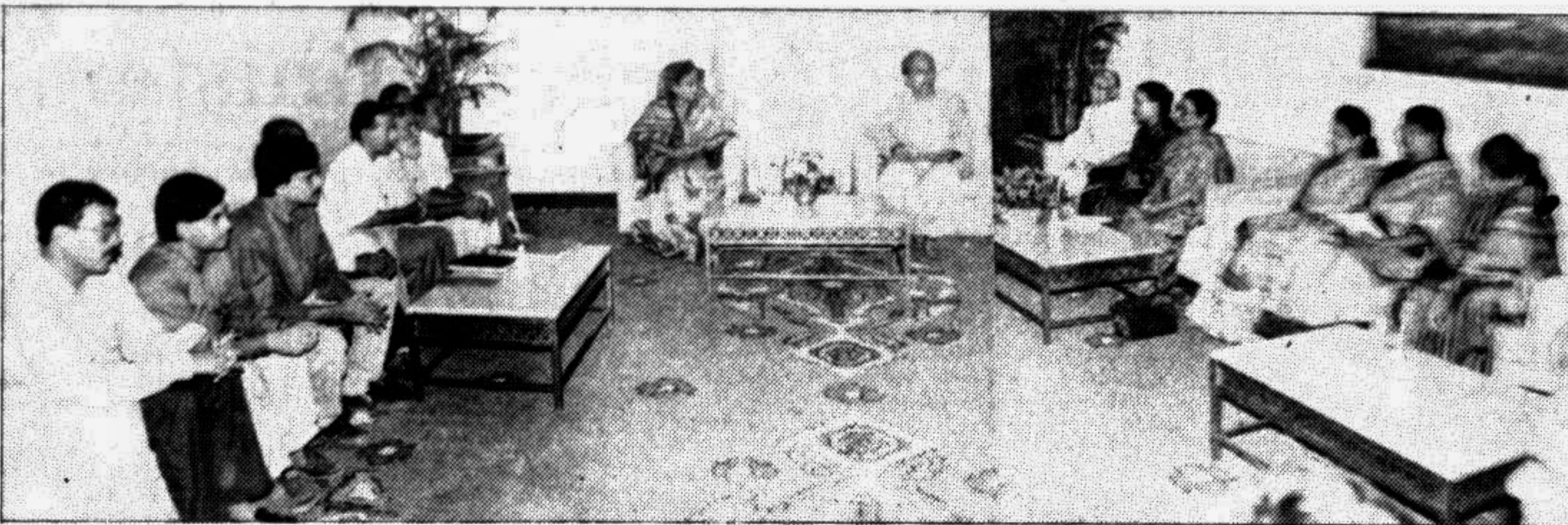
Mohammed Harun, a 12-year-old and an ice-cream factory worker, says that he wants to plant the guava and jack fruit saplings in his slum so that when they grow and bear fruits, he would be a fruit vendor. A far-away thought but at least he has got his eyes fixed on something fruitful in the future.

A garment factory worker Rabeya hired a boy to carry her 20 saplings which she plans to take to her village home for plantation.

Col. Mozammel, another customer of the nursery appreciates the effort as a brilliant gesture. He picked up saplings to plant in his own house, the government residence where he stays and even to give some to his friends.

"BTC is not only giving away the free saplings, we are sort of making a data base by keeping their address to make sure the plants are on the soil," says one of BTC's regional manager.

Trees are a long-term investment, saplings will give you, fruits, food, wood and money to-morrow. It is wise to chop one and plant two for a better future. Instead of picking up just because you got them free, you should ensure that the saplings are planted and protected till maturity.



A team of the Association of BCS Education (General), led by its president, Prof ABM Ali, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Move to attract foreign investors

Abul Hasan leaves for Malaysia, S'pore today

The State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, is going to embark upon a two-nation economic diplomacy today (Monday) to attract foreign investments to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

This is going to be a follow-up of the massive economic diplomacy launched by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina some ten days ago during her trip to China and Hong Kong.

In the first leg of the important mission Abul Hasan Chowdhury will be visiting Malaysia where his main thrust will be to attract investors of that country to the energy sector of Bangladesh. Besides, he will persuade Malaysian entrepreneurs to invest in joint venture projects in this country.

The state minister of foreign affairs will take this opportunity to review bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Malaysia, which is far from favourable to this country. Chowdhury will insist on Malaysia in the course of discussion with the leadership of that country to step up its imports from Bangladesh to offset the existing imbalance in bilateral trade against this country.

He will also discuss with the Malaysian Minister for Manpower problems being faced by Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia. There are about

50,000 Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia.

In the second leg of his two-nation jaunt he will be visiting Singapore on the 26th and 27th of this month where he will undertake a similar exercise.

In both the countries Abul Hasan Chowdhury will try to prevail upon investors to set up export processing zones in Bangladesh as South Korea and Japan have done.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury in the course of discussion with the investors of Malaysia and Singapore will explain the new government's liberal investment policy. Under the favourable climate for investment prevailing in Bangladesh, a foreign investor is allowed to repatriate his entire profit to his home country.

The new government has enacted a new law for withdrawal of lock-in from the share market. The foreign investors should take full advantage of facilities being offered by the new government of Bangladesh and invest in the country.

During his whirlwind ramble of the two countries of Southeast Asia the State Minister for Foreign Affairs will be accompanied by a nine-member delegation consisting of businessmen, officials representing the energy ministry and board of investments.

PM assures measures to improve edn system

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would take all possible measures for developing country's education system and the condition of teachers by resolving their problems, reports UNB.

The government is very much considerate about the interest of teachers," she said talking to a delegation of BCS Education (General) Association at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon.

The delegation of the association led by its president Principal ABM Janab Ali placed some demands of the association to the prime minister, including removal of anomalies in the educational arena.

Responding to the association demands, Hasina said the government would take all its decisions on the basis of rules and regulations.

She said the former government did not follow any specific policy and took many decisions indiscriminately which created some problems, also in the education sector.

"Our government will take decision on the basis of specific policies," said the prime minister and hoped that through the implementation of proper decisions the problems of the teachers would be solved.

Secretary general of the association Prof Abu Yusuf, Fahimda Khatun of Badrunnisa College and Jahara Begum of Eden College also spoke at the meeting. Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir was present.

DU MSS exams resume Sept 28

The postponed examinations of 1995 MSS course final of the Social Welfare Institute of Dhaka University will resume next Saturday, reports UNB.

The examinations were postponed due to volatile situation on the university campus.

The timetable of the examinations has already been hung on the institute's notice board, said a press release.

What's on today....

Cultural function: A cultural function and memorial meet on choreographer GM Mannan will be held. Venue: Shipakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Workshop on career guidance: Rotary Club of Dilkusha will hold a workshop on career guidance — studies abroad in observance of its youth activities month. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

King Fahd greeted

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has greeted King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of his country's National Day today, reports UNB.

In a message yesterday the President expressed his confidence that the friendly ties binding the two brotherly countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (elicited) King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the country's National Day.

The Prime Minister, in her message, said that the close fraternal ties and excellent co-operation existing between the two countries will be further developed, expanded and consolidated to mutual benefit in the years to come.

Meanwhile BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia greeted King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In a message of felicitation, the former Prime Minister said the fraternal ties between the two Muslim states will be further strengthened in years ahead.

Nooruddin back home

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt General (ret'd) M Nooruddin Khan returned to the city yesterday after attending the two-day World Solar Summit held in Harare Zimbabwe, reports BSS.

Australian envoy presents letter of credence

The newly appointed Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Charles Hamilton Stuart presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Terming Australia a trusted friend of Bangladesh, President Biswas appreciated the country for providing unflinching support to Bangladesh's freedom struggle and valuable assistance for socio-economic development, particularly in rural areas, after independence.

The President also referred to the mutual cooperation between the two countries and consensus on common issues. "We are both partners in development and peace," said the President appreciating the Australian government's initiative for expansion of its trade and economy in South Asia.

It is an endeavour in the right direction for increasing meaningful and beneficial contacts between Bangladesh and Australia, he added.

Earlier, on arrival at Bangabhaban, the High Commissioner was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard.

Secretary to the President Muhammad Enamul Haq, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Ruhul Alam Chowdhury were present.



Saplings for free distribution

Bangladesh envoy to UN presents credentials

NEW YORK, Sept 21: New permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury presented his credentials to United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Thursday, reports BSS.

In his remarks, the permanent representative conveyed the greetings of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the secretary-general and mentioned about her coming visit to the United Nations.

The secretary-general said that he was looking forward to meeting her next month and asked him to convey his greetings and regards to the Prime Minister.

The Permanent Representative also conveyed to the Secretary-General the appreciation of the government and people of Bangladesh for the support of the United Nations system in our development efforts as well as for the efforts being made by the Secretary-General for the reform of the United Nations in all areas of its activities.

The Secretary-General mentioned that Bangladesh have been an important member of the United Nations and playing a positive role in its affairs.

Senior officials of the UN Secretary-General's office were present on the occasion. Deputy permanent representative of Bangladesh Mohammad Ziauddin and counsellor Humayun Kabir were also present.

Dhanmondi Lake preservation project taken up

Housing and Public Works Ministry has taken up a development project with a view to preserving water and natural environment at Dhanmondi Lake in the city, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a ministerial meeting on preservation of environment of Dhanmondi Lake, enhancing its natural beauty as well as building the lake area as a recreation spot.

State Minister for LGED and Cooperative Syed Abul Hossain presided over the meeting held at the conference room of the ministry.

The state minister directed the officials of the concerned organisations to take immediate measures in preserving natural beauty maintaining decency of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum Complex adjacent to the lake.

Habiganj-2 by-polls

Candidates asked to submit statement of fund sources

The Election Commission (EC) Saturday advised the candidates contesting the October 15 by-election in Habiganj-2 to submit to the returning officer a statement of the probable sources of fund for election expenses in the prescribed form within seven days after the withdrawal date, reports BSS.

An EC press release said a copy of the statement should also be sent to the commission through registered post. If the candidate is an income tax payee, a copy of the income tax return, last submitted by him, should also be sent with the statement.

The statement shall be accompanied with a statement of the candidate's assets and liabilities and his annual income and expenditure, the press release said.

If the candidate receives any sum from any source other than the sources mentioned in his statement, he should, within three days after receipt of such sum, submit a supplementary statement to the returning officer and a copy of it to the commission by registered post, the press release said.

Violation of the rules is punishable offence under Section 73 and 74 of the Representation of People Order of 1972, the press release added.

In another press release, the EC said the election expenses of a candidate must not exceed Taka three lakh.

The Commission further said the amount of money mentioned in Clause(3) or any portion thereof shall not be utilised for (a) printing of a multi-colour poster or (b) use of any imported paper, or (c) erection of any gate or arch, or (d) setting up a pandal covering an area of more than four hundred square feet, or (e) making any banner by using any cloth, or (f) employing or using more than three microphones or loud-speakers at a time in a constituency, or (g) commencing election publicity three weeks prior to the polling day, or (h) setting up more than 20 election camps or offices in a constituency, or (i) using any vehicle or vessel for procession, or (j) illumination by use of electricity in any form, or (k) using symbol or portrait of a candidate with more than one colour, or (l) display of a symbol exceeding the size prescribed by the Commission.

The violation of the rules is punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall not be less than two years, and also with fine.

All concerned including thana and district administrations and police department have been instructed to take legal action including filing of cases against the violators of the Election Commission People's Representative Order 1972, the press release added.

Countrywide rat killing drive begins

A month-long countrywide hunt for rats that destroy crops and property worth crores of Taka every year began yesterday, reports UNB.

Agriculture, Food, Relief and Disaster Management Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury formally inaugurated the Rat Killing Drive 1996, organised by Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department, at a function at the BAED office at Khamarbari in the city.

Rats waste crops worth Tk Five to seven crore in field while another Tk two-three crore in food godowns annually, the Agriculture Minister told the function.

She stressed mass awareness among the farmers, proper training of agricultural workers and greater participation of people in the rat-annihilation drive.

Matia said one of the main

economic targets of the government is to remove food deficit of the country. This is why it decided to provide subsidy to agriculturists.

Rats waste 1.5 to 4.5 lakh metric tons of Aman paddy in the field annually, which could feed 12 to 30 lakh people.

Main objective of the nationwide campaign is to make it into a social movement by motivating farmers, students and volunteers in participating in the drive.

The agriculture extension workers will convey the technology of killing rats to the farmers to reduce damage in households, roads, embankments and crops caused by rats.

Besides, prevention of spreading diseases like plague and jaundice transmitted by rats and keeping the environment free from pollution are

also the objectives of the month-long drive.

Agricultural extension workers imparted practical training to 12,41 lakh farmers on the rat-killing mechanism during the drives conducted in previous years.

Some 25-49 lakh rats were killed during last year's (1995) drive which could save at least 19,119 metric tons of crops.

During the drive, AED will arrange meeting with farmers and distribute posters and leaflets among them. Radio and television will also broadcast special programmes on the occasion.

Farmers, AED workers, educational institutions and block supervisors will be awarded at national and regional levels for their contribution to the rat-killing drive.

Besides, the extension department will conduct a survey

on crops damage caused by rats in 4,600 plots in 460 thanas of the country 20 days before paddy harvest.

To evaluate the success of the drive, the AED will collect information from 960 farmers of 48 thanas in 24 districts. Information will also be collected from block supervisors and thana-level officials.

At the inaugural function, the Agriculture Minister distributed prizes among Delwar Hossain, a farmer of Munshiganj, Srihash Mallick, a block supervisor of Gopalganj, Chhoto Hardi Senior Madrasa of Pirojpur and Dhaka district Agriculture Extension office for their achievements in last year's rat-killing drive.

Later, the minister went round an exhibition of rat-killing mechanism organised in the BAED premises.

JMD condemns case against Tareq, Iskandar

Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal (JMD), yesterday condemned the filing of a "false case" against Tareq Rahman, Sayeed Iskandar and Glasuddin Mamun, reports UNB.

In a statement, JMD president Sadeq Hossain Khoka and general secretary Dr Aminur Rahman termed the case as "nothing but political harassment."

"They said the case was filed to tarnish the image of BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia and suppress the nationalist forces."

ONE TIME OFFER IN BANGLADESH

WORLD'S BEST SELLER TEXT BOOK ON STATE-OF-THE-ART IN COMPUTERS

BY **DR. M. RAFIQUZZAMAN** PROFESSOR, USA.

A Paper back version of the seventh text book (most recent) by Dr. M. Rafiquzzaman will be offered at an inexpensive price due to numerous requests from Bangladeshi computer engineers/scientists and students. This will be a one-time offer with limited quantities at a unit price of 1000 taka (current world unit price is US \$79.95). This is a special price for Bangladesh.

The Book contains both fundamental and advanced topics on 8-, 16-, 32- and 64-bit microprocessors including Pentium, Power PC, and Alpha. State-of-the-art and technological advancements in the computer field are also included.

To order, Please contact :

Rafi Systems Ltd.
35, Kemal Ataturk Avenue (First Floor), Banani C/A, Dhaka.
Tel : 881083, Fax : 881084

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Ref: DACPL/26/96-97/122 Dated: 14-09-96

Tender Notice

No. 14/96-97

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines on two envelope system (Technical & Price Offer) from interested Manufacturers for the supply of 330 Pair Black Leather Shoe as per details/specifications mentioned in the schedule.

Tender Schedule mentioning full details/specifications of item, 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 (Non-refundable) by applying self letter head pad during any working day upto 12-10-96.

Sealed tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local Purchase Section, Stores & Purchases Directorate, Biman Admin Building, ZIA, Dhaka and Biman Head Office Reception Counter, Biman Bhaban, Motijheel, Dhaka latest by 1130 hours (BST) on 13-10-96 and will be opened on the same day at 1400 hours at the premises of Stores & Purchase 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 item and can accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Mohammad Yousuf Harun
Dy. General Manager (S&P) Commercial
Stores and Purchases Directorate
DFP-21011-18/9
G-1107

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Bagerhat

Memo No. LGED/XEN/BAGER/DA-1(Part-II)/95-96/4078 Dated: 10.9.96

Tender Notice

No-04/96-97

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan [No. 1215 BAS(SF)] from the International Development Bank in various currencies towards the cost of Rural Development Project-18: Infrastructure greater Khulna, Jessore & Kushtia districts. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the following works:

Code No	Name of works	Completion on time	Cost of tender document	Class of contractor
Re-Tender 2nd Call BA6G02TW131a BA6G02SH131b BA6G02HBB131c BA6G02DR131d BA7G08OB132a BA7G08SH132b BA7G08SH132c BA7G08SH132d	Const of Tube-well at Nalua GC Const of Multipurpose shed at Nalua GC Const of Internal road HBB at Nalua GC Const of Drain at Nalua GC Const of office building at Perkhali GC Const of 2 nos Multipurpose shed at Perkhali GC Const of Fish & Meat market at Perkhali GC Const of 2 nos open shed platform at Perkhali GC	75 days	300.00	A, B&C
BA7G08TW132e BA7G08SH132f BA7G08PA132g BA7G08GP132h BA7G08TC132i	Sinking of 2 nos deep Tube-well at Perkhali GC Const of Slaughter shed at Perkhali GC Const of Paved area at Perkhali GC Const of 2 nos Garbage Pit at Perkhali GC Conversion of Jatrapur 250MT capacity Food Godown in to training center under sadar thana Bagerhat	90 days	500.00	A, B&C
Re-Tender 4th called BA6G01SP84a BA6G01SH84b BA6G01TW84c BA6G01SL84d BA6G01HB84e	Const of 2 nos open shed platform at Polderhat bazar GC Const of 2 nos Multipurpose shed at Polderhat bazar GC Sinking of Tube-well at Polderhat bazar GC Const of Slaughter shed at Polderhat bazar GC Const of Internal road with brick pavement at Polderhat bazar GC	90 days	500.00	A, B&C
BA6G01PA84f BA6G01GP84g BA6G01DR84h Re-Tender 2nd called BA7F05BA133	Const of Paved area at Polderhat bazar GC Const of 4 nos Garbage Pit at Polderhat bazar GC Const of drain at Polderhat bazar GC Pavement work with BC on Bagerhat-Dema road(Bridge approach of 102m long bridge) Ch:4705m-5071m & Slope protection work Ch:2744m-8116m	90 days	1000.00	A&B

2. The Executive Engineer, Local Govt Engineering Department (LGED), Bagerhat now invites sealed tenders in prescribed form for construction and completion of the works mentioned above from prequalified contractors above mentioned class under this projects.

3. Tenderers may obtain further information on the tender form and inspect the tender documents at the offices of the undersigned as well as the Project Director, Rural Development Project-18, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, the Executive Engineer, LGED, Khulna/Satkira and Thana Engineer, LGED, Bagerhat sadar thana.

4. A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested eligible tenderers upon payments of non-refundable fee mentioned above from the offices mentioned in para 3 on or before 5th October 1996 during office hours.

5. All tenders must be accompanied by the tender security of 2.5% (two point five per cent) of the total tender price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Bagerhat.

6. The tenders will be received at the offices mentioned above on 6th October 1996 before 1.00 PM and the tender will be opened at the same offices at 1.30 PM on the same date.

7. The undersigned shall not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by tenderers in connection with the preparation or delivery of tenders including costs and expenses related to visits to the site.

DFP-20866-16/9
G-1103

Executive Engineer
LGED, Bagerhat