

## When I was a Teenager...

## IN CONVERSATION WITH FARHAD MAZHAR

"When I was a child, I noticed that women had a very defined space, not only in the physical sense, but also in ethical, religious and cultural sense. And within that defined space, under the same patriarchy, man-woman relationship was very benign compared to the capitalistic patriarchy that we see now. I'll elaborate more: my father would have never liked to intervene what he called was a 'woman's house'. You see, when he used to chase me for anything, all I had to do was to enter my mother's domain. And I was safe from my father's wrath. If he would have chased me inside the house then the village people would have laughed at him."

By Ekram Kabir

In his childhood days, Farhad Mazhar, writer and researcher, who was born in the seminal year of 1947, witnessed the transformation of a village, slowly into a mufassil town; and also how that mufassil was being populated by a new kind of people.

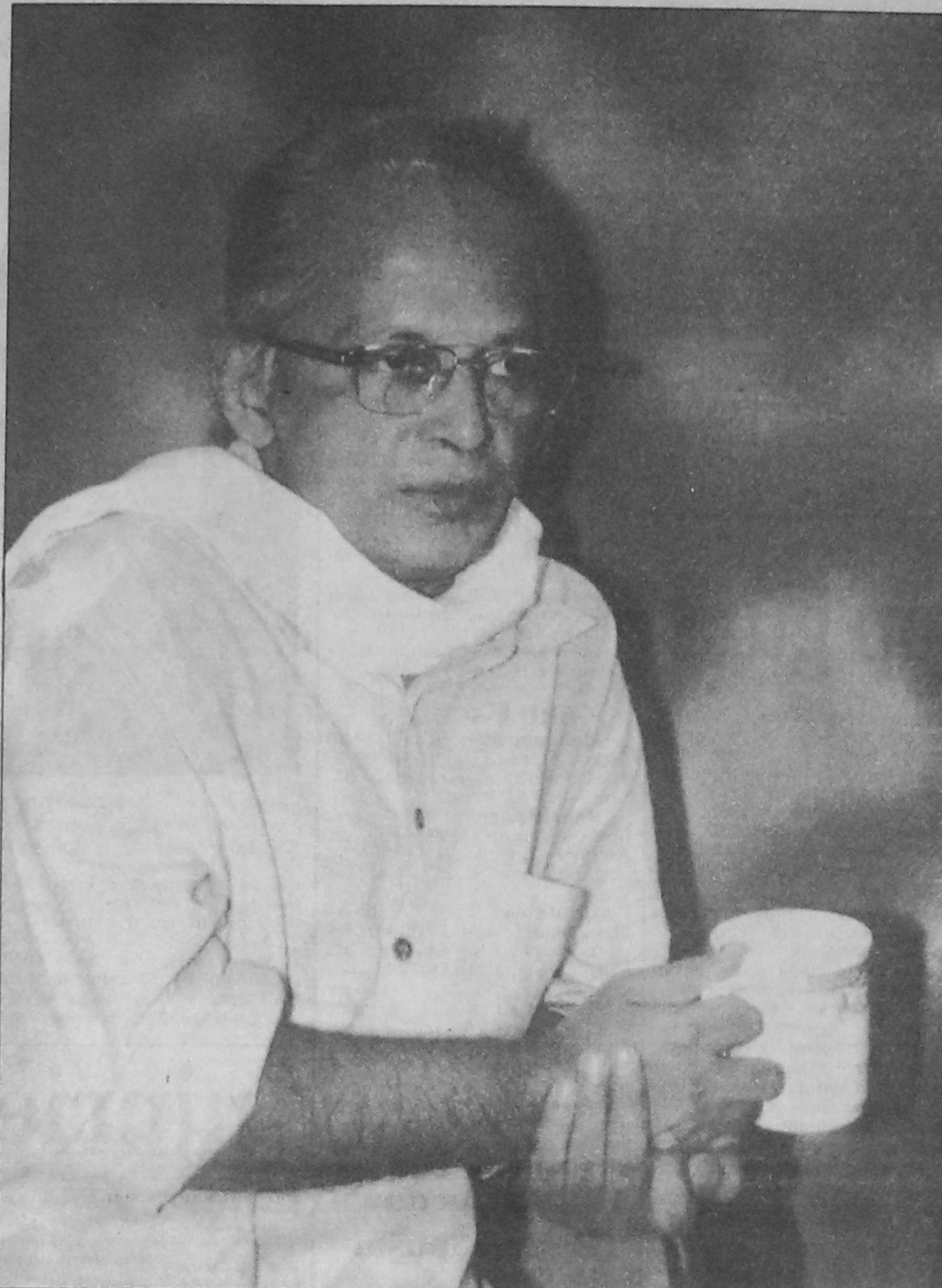
"I grew up in a village which was going under a kind of urbanization. Actually, my grandfather lived in Old Noakhali, and when his house went into the Meghna, he came to what is known today as Noakhali Sadar," said Farhad Mazhar while talking to *The Daily Star* about his boyhood days.

As a child, Farhad could feel the growing tension between the village and the town life. He could feel the

change in relationship with the family next door. The old village relationship wasn't working any more while this transformation was under way.

Was the process of urbanization degrading the good old values that existed in the past?

"No, I won't go for any value judgement for that. I'll rather be more objective about it. Take my relationship with women, for example. When I was a child, I noticed that women had very defined space, not only in the physical sense, but also in ethical, religious and cultural sense. And within that defined space, under the same patriarchy, man-woman relationship was very benign compared to the capitalistic patriarchy that



we see now. I'll elaborate more: my father would have never liked to intervene what he called was a 'woman's house', said Farhad.

His father never tried to intervene in his development as far as his school-teacher mother's control over him was concerned until Farhad entered manhood. "You see, when he used to chase me for anything, all I had to do was to enter my mother's domain. And I was safe from my father's wrath. If he would have chased me inside the house then the village people would have laughed at him."

Even the role of patriar-

chy was very visible at that time, yet Mazhar feels sorry for today - a time when the household is disappearing in a city-centred environment and women have been reduced to simply a sexual commodity.

Farhad went to a girls' school because his mother taught there and up to class three, he used to go there with her. "So my relationship with women from very childhood was very intimate. I didn't learn, until I was ten, the distinctions between men and women. I used to play with them," said a thoughtful Farhad, adding "the other boys used to laugh at me, thinking that I liked to play with the girls."

And he faced a lot of problems for it. It created a psychological hindrance in young Farhad; hindrance in the sense that all the times he had to prove to his male friends that he was not pro-girls. But when he became much more mature, at his twenties after studying 'feminism', he discovered that his informality towards and acquaintance with women was a virtue. "This is the reason why I didn't feel guilty in criticizing the 'bourgeois feminism' - which only pats on women: I could also negotiate as a biological man," said a confident Farhad, who doesn't have any kind of guilt feeling about his relationship with women, with whom he

said Farhad skimming through his late teenage time.

"But soon I learnt how to cope with in a situation like this. More so, I got involved in the progressive movement as well; but my involvement with the movement was not because of peer-driven or organizational infatuation; I became interested in it partly for cultural reasons. I was more interested in mathematics," he said.

Speaking about scholarly pursuits and books, Farhad informs of being an enthusiast for Bertrand Russell even when he was in Choumuhani College. "It was the first time I got excited; and completely exposed to a new world which I couldn't share with anybody, because nobody was interested in it," Farhad said.

Farhad became very sceptical about 'scientific truth' at an early age and that propelled him to read Marx and others "but it was not triggered by any kind of moralizing argument for the exploited people," he added. Science couldn't provide him the 'truth'; truth had a social reference, and he turned on to sociology, economics etc., and thereby he could make a balance between science and society. This was during Farhad's college days.

Today's Farhad has been carved out of the periods he psychologically cruised so far. He is a witness of a society - in which Muslims and Hindus lived together

for many many seasons - was taking another shape due to post-1947 legacies. "When I was a child, my mother used to give me 'Karnakunti' Sangbad just after her *namaj*. It never occurred to me as well as her that there was something contradictory about the both," Farhad said. "The contradiction occurred much later. I used to go to my friends' houses which were basically of Hindu's. There were a large number of Hindu families in our village. When they saw me reading Tagore, they became surprised because they never expected a boy from a Muslim - then assumed as lower caste - family to read Tagore and that was very shocking to me."

Then again there was another shock waiting for young Farhad. He was very fond of a girl who was quite older than him and whom he called *didi*. One day he entered their kitchen and was rebuked by one of the members of their house; his *didi* just stood there and didn't say anything against those verbal abuses.

"I felt very let-down. Then after 1965, I saw all these Hindu families leaving for India, and this was also shocking for me," said Farhad.

These differences didn't exist during Farhad's early childhood years. But as he grew up, he could perceive the underlying disparity - the class, in which both Hindus and Muslims contributed to the ultimate shaping of social changes.

## Corrigendum

For tender notice (DFP-31397-26/12) inviting offer from consulting firms for structural design, drawing and cost estimation of proposed Laboratory building & Blowroom (including warping & sizing) building of National Institute of Textile Training Research & Design (NITTRAD) at TIDC, Nayarhat, Savar, Dhaka, the last date of submission of tender proposals and opening of the same has now been refixed on 22-01-2001 instead of 12-01-2001. Accordingly tender documents may be purchased on or before 21-01-2001. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Dr. Md. Ismail Chowdhury

DFP-504-8/1 Project Implementation Officer  
G-109 NITTRAD, Nayarhat, Savar, Dhaka.

Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

No. MOST/Sect-13/IT-2/98/08 Date: 10 January, 2001

## Advertisement

Subject: Invitation of Proposal from Competent Institutes/Organizations to Produce/Develop International Standard Computer Trainer/Programmer

The government of Bangladesh has earmarked Tk 15 crore in the current financial year to produce/develop International Standard Computer Trainers/Programmers, who will facilitate build up of sufficient number of IT manpower for the development and rapid growth of Information Technology (IT) industries. This fund will be utilized through competent Institutes/Organizations in the public and private sectors as well as reputed Software houses in the country. The fund will be disbursed by the Ministry of Finance after selection by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The monitoring of the training programme will be done by the M/O Science & Technology.

Training proposals are being invited in the prescribed form from only those public/private/semi-government/autonomous/NGO organizations as well as from established Software houses who have sufficient infrastructural facilities to produce world-class trainers/programmers. The form along with other relevant information is available in the web-site <http://www.bccbd.org>.

The selected Institutes/Organizations for the above training must follow the undermentioned conditions:

- The selected Organizations/Institutes will have to follow the training curriculum framed by the Expert Committee.
- The information provided in the prescribed form must be approved and signed/counter signed by the head of the Organization/Institute.
- The members of the Selection Committee/Monitoring Cell may visit the training Organizations/Institutes before selection and any time during the training.
- Any inconsistency/deviation from the information provided in the training proposal will render the Organization/Institute ineligible for selection. Similarly any inconsistency/deviation found during training will render the Organization/Institute liable to cancellation of the training programme and recovery of the fund disbursed.
- The Selection Committee reserves the right to disqualify and to cancel the training proposal of any Organization/Institute without showing any reason.
- The recommendations of the Selection Committee will be considered final regarding selection of training Organizations/Institutes for distribution of fund.

Training proposal must be sent to the following offices by January 30, 2001:

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| 01. Professor Dr. Abdus Sobhan<br>Executive Director<br>Bangladesh Computer Council<br>House #31/A, Road #6<br>Dharmodhi R/A, Dhaka.<br>Phone-8614224, Fax-8613773<br>E-mail-bccbd@bdonline.com | 02. K. M. Ali Reza<br>Assistant Chief<br>Room #908, Bld #06<br>Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.<br>Phone-8613639-43/2480<br>Fax-8619606<br>E-mail-most@bangla.net |
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DFP-690-10/1  
G-110

## Tender Invitation Notice by Roads &amp; Highways Department

Scaled tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 for the above work are hereby invited from the enlisted RHD contractors.

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Tender Notice No. | 13/EE/RHD/Netrokona/2000-2001. |
| 2. Name of work      | As per group list.             |
| 3. Chargeable head   | -do-                           |

Gr No	Name of work	Head of A/C	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
1 (One)	Strengthening of existing damaged pavement with kha consolidation & seal coat work at 9th (P), 19th (P) & 20th (P) KM of Netrokona-Kalmakanda Road, (Thakurakona-Kalmakanda portion) under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2000-2001. (Ch. 8+000m to 8+900m, 18+50m to 19+000m & 19+000m to 18+310m)	266-Dev.	Tk. 26,30,173/-	Tk. 52,605/-	60 (Sixty) days	"A" to "C" class general category contractor of RHD.
2 (Two)	Construction of damaged pavement by flexible pavement with WBM and seal coat work at 15th (P) & 16th (P) KM of Netrokona-Thakurakona-Barhatta-Mohangoni-Dharmapasha Road under Netrokona Road Divn. during the year 2000-2001. (Ch. 14+650m to 15+500m & 15+700m to 15+800m & 15+850m to 15+900m).	-do-	Tk. 27,87,788/-	Tk. 55,760/-	-do-	-do-
3 (Three)	Construction of flexible pavement at 1st KM of Netrokona-Bishuara-Iswardig Road under Road Divn. Netrokona, during 2000-2001.	-do-	Tk. 29,10,669/-	Tk. 58,215/-	-do-	-do-
4 (Four)	Flexible pavement and seal coat by re-construction of damaged pavement at 9th (P) & 10th (P) KM of Netrokona-Thakurakona-Barhatta-Mohangoni Road under Road Divn. Netrokona, during 2000-2001.	-do-	Tk. 2,08,095/-	Tk. 4,165/-	25 (Twenty-five) days	"A" to "E" class general category contractor of RHD.
5 (Five)	Providing premixed bituminous seal coat in/c ney, repairing by carpeting method at 15th (P), 16th (P) & 17th KM of Nandail-Athorohari-Kendua Road under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2000-2001. (Ch. 14+000m to 14+500m, 15+400m to 16+000m & 16+000m to 17+000m).	168-RBF	Tk. 5,97,787/-	Tk. 11,960/-	-do-	-do-
6 (Six)	-do- -do- -do- work at 18th (P) & 19th KM of -do- -do- Road (Ch. 17+440m to 18+000m & 18+000m to 19+000m).	-do-	Tk. 4,44,086/-	Tk. 8,885/-	-do-	-do-
7 (Seven)	Construction of temporary baily bridge with brick masonry abutment at 15th KM of Bishiri (Susong-Durgapur)-Purbadhala-Shyangonj Road, Jhanail approach under Road Division, Netrokona during the year 2000-2001.	266-Dev.	Tk. 4,78,241/-	Tk. 9,565/-	20 (Twenty) days	"A" to "E" class general category contractor of RHD.

## নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর

অঞ্চল-১০ (উত্তরা)  
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন  
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

## পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কাজের নাম : উত্তরা আদর্শ শহরের টার্কি ভিত্তিতে পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়নসহ অঞ্চল-১০ এর আঞ্চলিক অফিস নির্মাণ উপরে উল্লিখিত কাজের জন্য প্রকৃত খ্যাতনামা আর্কিটেকচারাল-কাম-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং নির্মাণ সংস্থাসমূহের নিকট হইতে দুই বাম পদ্ধতিতে কারিগরি ও আর্থিক প্রস্তাবসহ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাড-এ সীলমোহরসহ আলদা সীলপালাকৃত খামে কারিগরি ও বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১তে আর্থিক প্রস্তাব পেশ করিতে হইবে। যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান ইতিপূর্বে একক কার্যাদেশে ২ (দুই) কোটি টাকার প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যে অনুকূল প্রকল্পের প্রাণ ডিজাইন তৈরিসহ নির্মাণ কাজ সাফল্যের সাথে সমাপ্ত করছেন এবং যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপযুক্ত কারিগরি জনবল বিশেষ করে গ্রাজুয়েট আর্কিটেক্ট, সিভিল, ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ার আছে কেবলমাত্র যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে পারিবে।

আগামী ২৬-১০-১৪০৭৪/০৮-০২-২০০১ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার সময় নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে অফার গ্রহণ করা হইবে। এ দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় অফারদাতা অথবা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের প্রতিনিধিগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) কেবলমাত্র কারিগরি প্রস্তাব খোলা হইবে। যে দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের কারিগরি প্রস্তাব কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক বিবেচিত হইবে শুধুমাত্র উহার আর্থিক প্রস্তাব খোলা হইবে। উল্লিখিত কাজের কার্যস্থলের সার্ভে রিপোর্ট, মৃত্তিকা পরীক্ষার রিপোর্ট, আর্কিটেকচারাল মডেল, প্রাণ, এলিভেশন ক্রস-সেকশন, স্ট্রাকচারাল ডিজাইন ক্যালকুলেশন, বিভিন্ন অংশের ড্রইং, সেক্টোরি ড্রইং, বৈদ্যুতিক ডিজাইন, ড্রইং, বিস্তারিত প্রাক্কলনসহ আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ টেন্ডার সিডিউলের বর্ণনা মোতাবেক অন্তর্ভুক্ত হইবে। উল্লিখিত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান সম্পাদিত কাজের সার্টিফিকেট, জনবলের প্রমাণ, ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের (সিভিল ও ইলেকট্রিক্যাল) লাইসেন্স-এর কপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য আবেদনপত্র ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল অঞ্চলের ও পিএডভি'র নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর নিকট পেশ করিলে তিনি তাহা যাচাইপূর্বক ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের নির্ধারিত চালান মারফত ব্যাংকে প্রতি সেট টেন্ডার সিডিউলের জন্য ২,০০০/= (দুই হাজার) টাকা জমাদানের অনুমতি প্রদান করিবেন। চালান মারফত টাকা জমা সাপেক্ষে সিডিউল হিসাব বিভাগের পোন্ধর ও সকল অঞ্চলের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর হইতে সরবরাহ করা হইবে। অফার খোলার দিন কোন টেন্ডার সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

টেন্ডার সিডিউলের দর উল্লেখের পদ্ধতি বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ করা আছে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, অঞ্চল-১০ এর অফিস (বাড়ি নং-৩, রোড নং-৩৩, সেক্টর-৭, উত্তরা, ফোনঃ ৮৯১১৩৮৮) হইতে জানা যাইবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অফার গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সর্বস্বত্ব থাকিবে।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী

অঞ্চল-১০ (উত্তরা)  
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

ডিসিপি/পিআরডি/২৮৩/০০-০১  
জিড-৩৪

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|--|---|
| 4. Name of offices of availability of tender documents | Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka (Gr. No. 1 (one) to 3 (three)/All are Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Netrokona/Mymensingh/Tangail/Jamalpur/Shepur/Kishoregonj/Bridge Design Divn-I (East) Bridge Zone, Dhaka/Planning & Design Divn. Dhaka Zone, Dhaka and Road Sub-Division, Netrokona/Kendua/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division under Netrokona Road Divn.                                 |
| 5. Name of offices to receive tender documents         | Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka (Gr. No. 1 (one) to 3 (three)/All are Addl. Chief of Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Mymensingh/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/(P&D) Dhaka, Road Circle, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Divn. Netrokona/Mymensingh/Tangail/Jamalpur/Shepur/Kishoregonj. |
| 6. Last date of selling tender documents               | Up to 17.01.2001 during office hours.   |
| 7. Last date of receipt of tender documents            | At 12-30 PM on 18.01.2001.  |
| 8. Date and time of opening tender                     | At 12-45 PM on 23.01.2001.  |
| 9. Date and time of lottery                            | At 11-00 AM on 25.01.2001.  |

DFP-332-7/1  
G-108

Md Harunur Rashed  
Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Road Division, Netrokona