

Dhaka Day by Day

A Breakthrough in Development

by Asiuzzaman

Considering his contribution and devotion, Dr Ranklor has been dubbed as the "father of geo-textile technology." Dr Peter R Ranklor, an Indian-born British scientist, has been working on it for the last two decades and has made the technology popular worldwide.

Geo-textiles are heavy duty materials like polypropylene, polyester, polyethylene, polyamide and polyvinylidene, used as a layer in embankments and even in the construction of seawalls that effectively protect percolation of water and ensure durability of embankments and walls.

Dr Ranklor's father Brian Ranklor was a lieutenant colonel of the Royal Indian Army in 1942 when he was born at Jabalpur of India's Bihar state. He did his MSc (Engineering) and PhD (Geology) from Nottingham University and Salford University of England. Peter's curriculum vitae showed that he has skills and experience in the areas of civil engineering, geotechnics, soil mechanics, rock mechanics, geology, minerals, hydrology, management and computing.

He wrote the first book titled 'Membranes in Ground Engineering' on geo-textile technology in 1981 which was an instant best-seller and soon exhausted from the market. It is now out of market.

Nearly 25 organisations of the world including the United Nations, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and General Agreement for Trade and Tariff (GATT) took his consultancy on geo-textile and civil engineering constructions.

Peter is now on a five-day visit to Bangladesh which was arranged jointly by a local company, to inform local scientists and engineers about geo-textile technology and its effective use here in controlling river erosion and protecting the embankments of coastal areas.

During his visit he gave an eight-hour lecture in two sessions at a seminar on the 'use of geo-textile technology in Bangladesh' at Hotel Sonargaon on Sunday. More than 60 engineers of water development board, local government engineering bureau and some teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) attended the seminar.

He will also meet with high government officials, the organisers of the seminar said. Talking to 'The Daily Star', Peter said that geo-textile technology should have come earlier to a country like Bangladesh criss-crossed by some 230 rivers.

The country has also been suffering from regular river erosion and frequent battering by

tidal surge at its coastal areas, so the technology is much needed here," he added.

Peter said that almost all the countries of the world have been using this technology with hardly any failure.

After this technology is invented the controlling of river erosion can become much easier and Bangladesh can benefit from using this process. It is a very simple technology and 80 percent of the work is manual, he said, adding that it is also cost-saving. "In some cases the cost is less than half from the conventional methods and

sometimes you get better results at the same cost," he also said. He further pointed out that Saudi Arabia saved US dollars 800 per metre by using this technology in a marine causeway project. Countries like Singapore and Hong Kong are expanding their reclaimed lands from the sea by using this technology.

Peter said that the methods he now used in Bangladesh have some problems. The main problem is that the water oozes through the boulders and stones dumped at the eroding river side and finally wash away the soil. Geo-textile can effectively solve the problem, he assured.

A local company, United Enterprises experimentally used geo-textile technology in a few arcs of Chandpur town Protection dam which proved effective, a company source said. Four types of geo-textiles are common in the world market woven, non-woven, knitting and geonet — which are being manufactured by many companies in European countries and in the countries like Indonesia and Malaysia.

The method can also be used in Dhaka city flood protection embankment. Almost half of the 29.2 km dam constructed in conventional method has failed, informed source. About Bangladeshi engineers the expert said that in general, they are interested and can improve themselves fast and switch over to the new technology. "But my another opinion is that here are some clever people and I do not doubt their sincerity but a man like Engineering University Professor M H Kabir can be of great help to the country regarding this technology," Peter said.

"The government officials and some ministers with whom I met, I noticed that they are more enthusiastic than cautious," he commented.

He concluded by saying that if Bangladesh forms a geo-textile society and keeps a close contact with the International Society for Geo-Textile, the country can fast approach this new technology.



Dr Peter R Ranklor

NGOs, UN agencies urged to help increase literacy rate in S Asia

Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan Monday said the challenge of the decade in technology transfer for development before the countries of the South Asian region was to prepare the software for which mass literacy was a prerequisite, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a three-day South Asian regional consultation of Education For All (EFA) — network in Dhaka the Minister said governments in the region were giving over emphasis on hardware part of technology transfer and little importance on development of software which involved creation of educated and skilled manpower.

He said transfer of technology for development was an action from people to people for which basic education of the people was needed.

Khan said to expedite increase of literacy rate in the region, which constitutes 70 per cent of total global illiterate people, the NGOs, the UN agencies and the governments should work in partnership and in close co-operation.

The Minister said the NGOs also be involved in policy formulation and the Bangladesh government had already invited the NGOs to participate in nonformal primary and adult education programmes.

He asked them to give more emphasis on children and women education.

He said the government was worried about deterioration of education standard in the rural areas due to poor quality of teachers.

Gano Shakhara Oviyan (campaign for popular education) hosted the consultation participated by 60 representatives from NGOs, donor agencies and governments.

Education Secretary Saiful Alam, UNICEF country representative Cole P Dodge representative of International Coordination Committee (ICC) of EFA network MS Odile Moreau, EFA network representative Daniel Wegner, and Member-Secretary of EFA network, Bangladesh Kazi Rafiqul Alam spoke at the inaugural session.

Former Chairman of Public Service Commission SM Al-Hussainy presided.

300 join BNP

About 300 persons including newly-elected union parishad chairmen and members of Ballakandi thana and leaders of different political parties joined BNP, reports BSS.

They met the State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum at the Rajbari Circuit House Sunday and expressed their solidarity with the ideals and programmes of BNP.

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Dhaka, Tehran discuss legalisation of 3,700 Bangladeshis' status

The issue of legalisation of the status of nearly 3,700 Bangladeshis in Iran was discussed at a meeting between Bangladesh Ambassador and a top Iranian official in Tehran Sunday, reports BSS.

The issue came for discussion when Bangladesh Ambassador Ahmad Tariq Karim called on Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of Iranian Majlis, Rajai Khorasani, according to a message received in Dhaka Monday. They also discussed the cooperation between the two countries in international forums and

expansion of existing level of bilateral exchanges in the fields of trade, manpower and culture.

Ahmad Tariq Karim separately called on Abol Hussain Vahaji, Iranian Commerce Minister at his office. During the meeting which lasted for about an hour they discussed matters relating to the existing bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Iran and Exchange level of trade exchanges between the two countries can be enhanced.

What's on today

Workshop on Agri Mechanisation

A three-day national workshop on 'Agricultural Mechanisation - its present status and future strategy in Bangladesh' will be held (Tuesday) at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

Locally produced and imported machineries will be on display in the exhibition to assess the present needs of the country's agricultural mechanization.

About thirty government and non-government organisations will take part in the exhibition, says a press release.

Agriculture Minister M Majid-ul-Haq will inaugurate the workshop and the exhibition.

Nezame Islam Party council

The national council of the Nezame Islam Party will be held at the Dhaka District Sports Association (DDSA) auditorium in the city today (Tuesday) at 10 am.

Rotary Club of Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Emile Gauvreau, High Commissioner of Canada will be the guest speaker.

Rotary Club of Ramna

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon.

NASCIB discussion meet

The National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB) has arranged a discussion meeting in honour of Dr B R Sabade, the visiting Director General of Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pune, India at 10 A M today (Tuesday) at BSCIC Conference Hall. The local entrepreneurs and NASCIB officials will exchange their views with the visiting guest on industrial programme in both the countries.

BUET festival '92

A four-day 'BUET Festival '92' will begin tomorrow (Wednesday) at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

It is being organised by the Engineering University Central Students' Union (EUCSU).

Information Minister Nazmul Huda will attend the inaugural session of the festival as the chief guest while Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of BUET and the President of EUCSU, will preside.

Different faculties of BUET will organise seminar, open discussions, exhibitions, cultural functions and sports competitions during the festival.

Condolence Meet

A meeting to condole the death of poet and litterateur Prof Shahidur Rahman will be held today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the Bishwa Sahitya Kendro (near Bangla Motor) in the city.

Prof Anisuzzaman will preside over the condolence meeting while, Shaawat Ali, Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Akhteruzzaman Ilias, and others will speak on the occasion.

Prof Shahidur Rahman died in Jhenaidah last month.

BISS seminar

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Alliance Francaise jointly organise a seminar on 'Tomorrow's Bangladesh: A European Perspective' at the BISS auditorium (1/46, Elephant Road) in the city today (Tuesday) at 5 pm.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman will inaugurate the seminar.

Economics Department Alumni Assoc

The biennial conference of Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association will be held today (Tuesday) at Hotel Sonargaon at 5 pm. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will be the chief guest.

ADB to provide aid for road improvement project

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is willing to assist in the second phase of road improvement project at a cost of 100 million US dollar, reports BSS.

The outline of the project will be finalised with ADB mission by July next.

This was expressed by the visiting ADB mission headed by M Ganesan who called on Communications Minister Col OH Ahmed (ret'd) at his Secretariat office Monday.

Bangladesh, however, is of the view that the overall cost of the project may stand at about 200 million US dollars and the ADB accept the justifiability in principle.

Necessary consultants are

expected to be engaged by the end of this year for completion of detail engineering plan for which ADB has already earmarked and allocated 1.2 million US dollar.

The Communications Minister apprised the mission of the progress of the ADB assisted projects in the communication sector and the revenue recovery programme of Bangladesh Railway, he said. Government was trying to establish discipline in the field of communication.

Road and Road Transport Secretary Manzoor-ul-Karim, Establishment Secretary Hasnatul Rahman and Paul Dickie of the ADB mission were present on the occasion.

College teachers urged to take classes during Ramzan

Leaders of the Bangladesh College Teachers Association Monday called upon the teachers to take additional classes during the month of Ramzan to compensate the losses due to their 35 day strike, reports UNB.

In a joint statement the leaders congratulated the teachers for their whole hearted support in favour of 15 points demands and the initiatives taken by them for establishing discipline in the de-

gree examination after calling off the strike.

The joint signatories were President of the Association Principal Shahidullah and Secretary Prof Kazi Farooq Ahmed and central leader Principal A K M Zahirul Islam, Principal Baduzzaman, Principal Marefa Khatun, Principal Nurul Anwar, Principal Munsurur Rahman, Principal Asadul Haq and Prof Abdur Rab Mia.

ML concern over influx of Rohingyas

CHITTAGONG, Feb 24: Bangladesh Muslim League leader Kazi Abdul Kader Monday expressed deep concern over the mass influx of Rohingyas Muslims into Bangladesh saying the Myanmar military junta had been perpetrating atrocities on Muslims violation international rules, reports BSS.

TV Tuesday

- Special Session
- 3.30 am World Cup Cricket New Zealand vs Sri Lanka
- Evening Session
- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Documentary: Wind Night on One Shikshangon: Educational programme
- 6.00 Kuwaiti Ambassador's speech on the occasion of its national day and documentary
- 7.05 Nazrul songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama series: Shankita Padajatra
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Mini series: Zord of Honour
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Wednesday's programme Summary
- 11.45 Closing



Major General Mahmudul Hassan being decorated with the badges of Rank of the Colonel Commandant of the Artillery Corps at the Artillery Centre and School, Chittagong on Monday. — ISPR photo

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6pm Monday, Met office forecast.

Night temperature may fall by one to two degree Celsius over Rajshahi division and the region of Kushlia, Mymensingh, Tangail and Sylhet.

Night temperature may however, remain unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Sun sets on Tuesday at 5:59 pm and rises Wednesday at 6:24 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	24.9	19.0	88	73
Chittagong	20.8	18.0	88	
Rajshahi	27.3	11.8	55	45
Khulna	24.5	18.4	96	78
Faridpur	26.1	18.0	87	70
Sylhet	26.8	13.9	77	82

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উপকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ কাজের পূর্ণঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(বিদ্যুৎ পল্লী উন্নয়নের প্রধান হাতিয়ার)

১। পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ডের পূর্ব-যোগ্যতাপ্রাপ্ত বৈদ্যুতিক উপকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে কক্সবাজার পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির অধীনে ৩৩/১১ কেভি, ৫ এমডিএ বৈদ্যুতিক উপকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ এবং উপকেন্দ্রের সমুদয় মালামাল (কেবলমাত্র ৪টি পাওয়ার ট্রান্সফরমার ব্যতিত) কেন্দ্রীয় গণ্যগণ্য, খুলনা হইতে কাজের সাইটে পরিবহণ কাজের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইবে।

২। দরপত্র সমূহ আগামী ০৪-০৩-৯২ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর, প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (প্রকল্প), পবিবো, ঢাকা-এর দপ্তর, তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (প্রকল্প), ঢাকা/যশোর/বগুড়া/বরিশাল-এর দপ্তর এবং নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী কক্সবাজার-এর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাজে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে।

৩। প্রতিটি দরপত্র দাখিলের সংগে উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২% হারে পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসীল ব্যাংক হইতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে ছাড়যোগ্য প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র, ৫ বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র/বোনাস সঞ্চয়পত্র আকারে আনুমানিক জমা দিতে হইবে। কোন অবস্থাতেই প্রয়োজনীয় আনুমানিক ছাড় দরপত্র বৈধ বলিয়া গ্রহণ করা হইবে না।

৪। দরপত্র দাখিল অত্র দপ্তর এবং তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (প্রকল্প), ঢাকা/যশোর/বগুড়া/বরিশাল-এর দপ্তর হইতে ২৪-০২-৯২ ইং তারিখ হইতে ০৩-০৩-৯২ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রতি কপি জন্য ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য) মূল্যমানের পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট প্রদান সাপেক্ষে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

৫। কোন দাখিলাদি ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করা যাইবে না।

৬। কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার অধিকার পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।

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