

Unplanned extraction of hard rocks destroying forest hills

RANOAMATI, Feb 8: Continuous extraction of hard rock resources through blasting, drilling and unscientific methods has been destroying the forest hills in the hill tracts region threatening the ecological balance of the country, political leaders and social workers alleged, reports UNB.

Considerable quantities of rock, locally known as 'boulder' are required for river bank protection as well as for concrete and pavement works and for construction of different bridges and their approaches. Besides, rocks are also required in clinker factories for making cement.

The Wagga, Narayangiri, Doluchhari, Boraichhari, Shilchhari, Rampahar, Sitapahar, Arachhari, Chitramaram and Kalmichhari of Rangamati hill district, Rowangchhari and Ruma in Bundarban hill district as well as some other places in Khagrachhari and Chittagong districts sandstones are available abundantly which attract the unscrupulous extractors as revealed from a recent survey conducted by this correspondent.

All the rocks in those areas

are weathered to a great extent. The weathering is most pronounced on the surface of the rocks outcrop and lessens significantly inwards. Therefore, without drilling or blasting the base rock beneath the weathered surface can not be removed, which compelled the unscrupulous extractors for drilling and blasting, said an expert while conducting the survey.

As the boulders obtainable from Chittagong hill tracts and Chittagong region are economically attractive. The illegal extractors have been operating about 100 quarries in this belt, said a forest official adding that six tons of boulders on an average from each quarry have already been collected through blasting with the advent of winter. Winter season is suitable for collecting boulders.

These weathered boulders are being extracted by the illegal extractors with small popping blasts in each boulder and further broke the blasted fragments by hand, to man carrying size. Besides, these boulders are mainly supplied to Chittagong Port Authority for coastal protection works at

the rate of about 6,000 tons per annum.

The stones used to be collected from Assam till 1930 are subsequently being collected from the Chittagong hill tracts mainly from Kaptai, Bundarban and Lama areas, said the Additional Chief Engineer (Civil) of Chittagong Dry Dock and HSS Works in a brief discussion during the survey. Rock from Lama might be the best, he said.

Collection of rock through blasting is strictly prohibited in the hill tracts region for maintaining the ecological balance and prevailing insurgency.

The violators are not only destroying forest hills and ecology but also depriving the government from a huge amount of the royalty of the boulders with the connivance of the forest officials, local leaders and eye-witnesses said.

Bribing the forest officials, the boulder-traders smuggled out 50-60 thousand cubic feet of boulder from hill tracts region to outside against a permit of 1-2 thousand cubic feet issued from the Deputy Commissioner, it is alleged.

This is a very common and unabated practice of both traders and forest officials, the sources further alleged.

Instead of importing boulders from the neighbouring country, India, with hard-earned foreign currency for the construction of Jamuna Bridge Project, the government could extract boulders from this belt, said Khaled Reza of Kaptai, a social worker, who bothers for proper and maximum utilisation of country resources.

Showing a laboratory report on examination and testing of rock samples from Kaptai and Bundarban by Messrs SANDBERG, consulting, inspecting and testing engineers, 40 Grosvenor Gardens, London, he said SANDBERG tested and found suitable the local boulders for use in Jamuna Bridge Project, Khaled Reza quoted Shaiful Alam, the then vice-chairman of Jamuna Bridge Project as saying.

Ignoring the importance of utilising the country's resources, the then government decided to import boulder from India for the reason best known to them.

Parliamentary body reviews Handloom Board activities

A parliamentary standing committee meeting here on Sunday discussed and reviewed various programmes and activities undertaken by Bangladesh Handloom Board for the welfare of weavers, reports UNB.

State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan chaired the 14th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Textiles held at the cabinet room of Sangsad Bhavan.

Mannan told the meeting that the weavers alone could produce 65 per cent of cloths of our total demand.

To ensure better service and welfare of the weavers, the minister instructed the authorities of Bangladesh Handloom Board to take steps to find out the real number of weavers, the defaulters and the number of weavers against whom certificate cases were filed.

He urged the authorities to take measures for withdrawal of the cases and withhold those at least for one year.

Course on export procedures ends

A 12-day course on 'export procedures, financing and documentation,' conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), ended here Sunday, reports BSS.

Thirtyseven bank officers and exporters participated in the course.

Designed to develop knowledge about the formalities relating to export procedures, financing and handling of export documents for availing of financial assistance from the banks, a BIBM Press release said.

Giving away the certificates, AHM Nurul Islam Choudhury, Director General, BIBM, expressed the hope that the trainees would be able to apply the knowledge and skills they acquired.

Help create more jobs to meet growing expectations of rural, urban people

A five-day sub-regional seminar on 'Employment Policies for the Urban Informal Sector in South Asia' began here Sunday with a call for upholding tripartism in the field of development, reports UNB.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan opened the seminar, saying efforts should be made to create job opportunities in urban areas both in formal and informal sectors to utilise the skill and knowledge of job-seekers for increasing growth of the economy.

'We have to meet the basic need of more and more people who are born in society... we have to expand economic activities in rural farm sector and also in services sector to meet the growing expectations of people', he said.

The Labour and Manpower Ministry and International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Dhaka have jointly organised the seminar at Hotel Sonargon with the assistance of the German government.

Labour Secretary Dr Shah Mohammad Farid chaired the inaugural function, also addressed by Juhani Lonnroth, Director Employment and Development Department of ILO in Geneva, Werner K. Blenk, Director ILO office in Dhaka, Deputy Chief (Labour)

IFC likely to provide help promote telecom sector

International Finance Corporation (IFC) is likely to provide assistance to Bangladesh in promoting its telecommunication sector, reports UNB.

Visiting IFC Executive Vice-President Sir William Ryrice expressed his keen interest about future participation of IFC in the country's telecom sector in a meeting with Post and Telecommunication Minister M Keramat Ali in Dhaka on Sunday.

He also appreciated the role of Bangladesh government in the rapid development of telecommunication network during the meeting held at the minister's secretariat office.

The minister apprised him of the present state of telecommunication sector and the steps taken by the present

government to revitalise it after nine years of stagnation due to the autocratic rule.

Referring to the fourth telecom study, Keramat Ali stated that various options to strengthen and expand the sector were being examined by the ministry of post and telecommunication.

Depending on the outcome of the study steps would be taken to implement the needed sectoral reforms, investment proposals under BLT (Build, Lease and Transfer), BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) were also being considered, the minister said.

The government has also involved the private sector in expanding the rural telecom network, he added.

International Finance Cor-

poration (IFC) has assured assistance to Bangladesh in promoting the private sector.

The assurance came when visiting Executive Vice President of the (IFC) Sir William Ryrice called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office this afternoon.

During the meeting the Prime Minister told the IFC executive that the present government is putting in its best efforts for implementation of its privatisation, denationalisation and de-controlling policies.

Sir Ryrice appreciated the commitment of the government to promoting the private sector.

He also said that IFC will open an office in Dhaka to deal with the increased volume of work of the organisation.

Human resource uplift most vital for developing states

A five-day workshop began in Dhaka on Sunday on development of modules for training on integrated approach to disaster management and regional/rural development stressing the need for comprehensive planning in tackling the problems of disaster management in a planned manner, reports BSS.

The workshop is organised by the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Nagoya, Japan.

Professor Kidechiko Sazanami, Director, UNCRD, inaugurated the workshop while the opening session was also addressed by A T M Shamsul Huq, Member, Planning Commission, Dr Sompon Hanpongpanh, Director, and Dr S Narayan, Deputy Director

of CIRDAP the inter-governmental organisation with its headquarters in Dhaka.

This is the fourth and final in a series of seminars and workshops conducted since 1990 with the aim of developing a training manual for disaster preparedness and mitigation involving local government officials, non government organisations and other organisations dealing with the disaster relief and rehabilitation.

The manual will be based on case studies of the disaster management in Bangladesh complemented by studies from other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

About 50 international and local experts from ten countries are attending the workshop in which 15 papers will be presented on various aspects of the main theme.

The countries participating are Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal,

Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Japan. A one-day study tour will also be undertaken for the participants to the River Research Institute road-cum-embankment scheme and low-cost rural housing project in Faridpur and its adjoining areas.

Prof Sazanami in his keynote address pointed out that human resource development is the most important point of concern in the developing countries. He said disaster management issues as well as the socio-economic constraints related to the growth of human resources are the major factors that have created this concern.

Shamsul Haq gave a background of disasters in Bangladesh and their consequences and thanked the CIRDAP and the UNCRD for taking up an issue of vital interest to Bangladesh.

He observed that many of the migrant job seekers come to urban areas without education and skill. On the other hand, the sponsors of urban informal sector do not follow management practices including manning of their units, wage structure and productivity measurement.

On the opening day of the seminar, discussions were held on 'Employment and the urban informal sector in the region'. The urban informal sector: concepts, definition, characteristics and 'Approaches to employment generation in the urban informal sector'.

On February 8, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Myanmar will present country perspectives and review of current policies on the sessions on 'Macroeconomic policy environment' and 'Regulatory institutional environment'.

India, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan will present country papers about their urban informal sector on February 9.

Programme of the seminar also includes group discussion on February 10 and a session on 'Strategies for employment and income generation in the urban informal sector' - looking into the future' on February 11.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 07.02.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Call	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/2	Samudra Rani	Repair	Col	SSL	28/01	10/02
J/3	Vinta	Wheat (G)	—	Agan	R/A	08/02
J/4	Trans America	Repair	BKK	BOAL	08/01	08/02
J/5	Sidi Bashr	Sugar (P)	Pena	MMI	25/01	10/02
J/7	Shaplaeverett	GI	Sing	EBPL	04/02	09/02
J/8	J Sister	GI	S Hai	ASLL	05/02	12/02
J/9	Al Tajwar	Wheat (G)	—	Agan	R/A	09/02
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	EOSL	25/01	10/02
J/11	Musay Phoenix	Wheat (G)	Sing	OWSL	28/01	13/02
J/12	Gujliang	Urea	—	ATSL	R/A	10/07
MPB/1	Shenton (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Omni	02/02	08/02
MPB/2	Fong Yun (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	03/02	—
CCJ	Ronjay Choomie	Cement	V Pat	PSAL	25/01	16/02
TSP	Keltic Confidence	R Sulp	Jaha	SSST	31/01	10/02
DDJ	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	—	BEC	R/A	10/02
DDJ/1	Barge: Labroy-90	GI	Sing	ILA	31/01	28/02
DDJ/2	Banglar Kiron	Repair	—	BEC	R/A	10/02

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Call	Cargo	Loading Agent
Optima 27/1	07/02	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Continent-1	08/02	Pena	CLA	GI	Sing
Andrian Gorcharov 27/1	08/02	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Fong Shin 28/1	08/02	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Tarbelia	09/02	Chin	BEC	Cement (P)	—
Mupo	08/02	—	USTC	Cement	—
Banglar Robi 30/1	08/02	Sing	BSC	Cont	—
Al Salma	09/02	Pena	ASLL	GI/GL	Sing
Vector	10/02	Rouen	Royal	R Seeds	—
Yamburenko 25/1	10/02	—	CT	Cont	Sing
Satgon-II	10/02	—	USTC	Cement	—
Ingenuty 31/1	11/02	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Tiger Force 28/1	11/02	Col	RSL	Cont	Col
NGS Express 1/2	12/02	—	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Norbalk Namir	12/02	—	PSAL	Cement	—
Kota Buana 1/2	12/02	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Horn	13/02	—	Prog	GI	—
Meng Horn 6/2	14/02	—	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Safina-e-Najam	15/02	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
NGS Ranger 6/2	15/02	—	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shobha	15/02	Pena	BEC	GI	—
State of Tripura	16/02	Mad	SSL	GI	—
Stonewall Jackson	16/02	—	Karma	GI New York	—
Mukachevo	20/02	—	USTC	Cement	—
Qing He Cheng	22/02	—	BDSHP	GI	—

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Call	Date of Arrival
Arktis Trader	GI	Sing	RSL	06/02

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Arktis Trader	GI	Sing	RSL	06/02
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VESSELS NOT READY

Arti	GTSP (P)	Ind	H&SL	16/01
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VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Asha	—	—	BEC	R/A (02/02)
Banglar Jyoti	—	—	BEC	R/A (04/02)

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Meringa	Scraping	Viza	UMAL	01/01
Stern	GTSP (P)	Col	UMAL	16/01
Arhon	GTSP (P)	Sing	H&SL	24/12
Star Houston	Scraping	Sing	KSL	26/01
Olga-1	Cement	Indo	USTC	29/01
Knock Brennan	Scraping	Sing	JF	02/02
Trans Asia	—	Sing	BOAL	01/02
Vasilkly	Scraping	Hald	OTL	02/02
Sea Destiny	Cement	Padra	AML	02/02
Loyal Bird	Bunker	Mong	PRSA	05/02
Diaporos	Wheat (G)	N Ori	Agan	06/02

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 8/2/93 TO 9/2/93

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/4 Trans America	J/13 A Gorcharov	Optima to MPB/2
MPB/1 Shenton	J/4/1 Continent-1	
MPB/2 Fong Yun		

The following were the Sunday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Price Index

Essentials	Price
RICE (Taka per kg)	30.00-31.00
Arman (fine)	32.00-33.00
Pajam	26.00-26.50
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	16.00-18.00
Brinjal	4.00-5.00
Karolla	12.00-14.00
Lalshak	3.00-4.00
Tomato	8.00-10.00
Cauliflower	6.00-8.00
Gourd	8.00-14.00
OTHER ROODGRAN (Taka per kg)	55.00-60.00
Flour	12.50-13.00
Atta	10.50-11.00
FISH (Taka per kg)	17.00-19.00
Rahu (big)	130.00-150.00
Katla (big)	150.00-160.00
Pangas	120.00-140.00
Shrimp (big)	120.00-140.00
Sing	120.00-140.00
Koi	130.00-150.00
MEAT	NA
Mutton	NA
CHICKEN	68.00-70.00
Large	72.00-74.00
Moderate	76.00-78.00
Small	80.00-90.00
TEA	4.00
Dost (Plain)	10.50-11.00
EGG (4 pcs)	10.00-11.00
Hon	11.00-12.00
Duck	11.00-12.00
Farm	11.00-12.00
PULSES (Taka per kg)	27.00-28.00
Mashur	30.00-31.00
Moogh	32.00-33.00
Chhola	26.00-26.50
Khasuri	16.00-18.00
FRUITS (One piece)	4.00-5.00
Green Coconut (Small)	15.00-18.00
Coconut (Large)	4.00-5.00
Banana : (4 pieces)	10.00-14.00
Sugar (Large)	4.00-6.00
Champa	4.00-6.00
Dates	(Taka per kg) 55.00-60.00
OIL (Taka per litre)	52.00-54.00
Mustard	36.00-37.00
Soyabean	95.00-100.00
Coconut (Colombo)	48.00-52.00
Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	28.00-34.00
SPICES (Taka per kg)	20.00-24.00
Onion (local)	45.00-48.00
Garlic (local)	10.00-12.00
Chillies (local)	14.00-16.00
Turmeric (Local)	2.50-3.00
Ginger	6.00-7.00
Green chillies	9.00-10.00
Cinnamon (10gm)	6.00-7.00
Cardamom (10gm) (small)	9.00-10.00
Jhira (50 gms)	334.00-335.00
MILK (Two ltr)	328.00-329.00
Dano	2.50-3.00
Kod-Cow	6.00-7.00
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka per kg)	220.00-240.00
EGG (4 pcs)	6.00-7.00
Chae	27.00-28.00
Sugar	27.00-28.00

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on February 7, 8 and 9.

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.8339
Pound sterling	56.5098	56.2025	55.8240
DM	23.5667	23.4390	23.2734
FF	6.9755	6.9294	6.8805
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Outiders	20.9601	20.8291	20.6819
S Kroner	5.2590	5.2219	5.1851
Singapore Dollar	23.7455	23.6096	23.4429
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	127.1771	126.4494	125.5563
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.4925	1.4856	1.4783
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4916	1.4871	1.4796

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad.

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 7, 1993

Even worst figures

Trading performance turned out even worst on Sunday at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Such blow to the trading floor was not noticed probably in months.

Transactions in terms of volume turned out very disappointing. Only 561 issues traded on the day against Saturday's 3615 issues. The blow was recorded at 84.48 per cent. Similarly, value or prices went down to as low as Tk 57015.00 from Saturday's Tk 340873.00, a decline of 83.27 per cent.

Among the participants hardly any noticeable gains of losses were seen. Only 13 stocks traded on the day against 17 on Saturday. Only three stocks traded at their previous rates.

The only good news noticed on the floor was in Composite Index which gained 0.129 point and closed at 370.0608.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	370.0608				
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	10,578,179,408.00				
Turnover in Volume	561				
Turnover in Value (Tk)	57015.00				
Company	Previous price Tk	Closing price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (%over price)	Number of shares sold
Gains (05)					
Stocks:					
United Ins	183.00	188.00	5.00	2.732	100
Rahman Chemical	35.50	36.00	0.50	1.408	50
Aziz Pipe	215.00	218.00	3.00	1.395	10
UCIL	118.71	120.00	1.29	1.087	10
Peoples Ins	195.00	196.00	1.00	0.513	20
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