



Govt saves Tk 80 cr from WB aided highway projects

The second phase of the Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project (RRMP) taken for rehabilitation, maintenance and elevation of 149 km of national highway to international standard is nearing fast completion, an official handout said Monday, reports BSS.

The World Bank aided project was taken at a cost of Taka 324 crore to develop the highways in the northern districts of the country.

Bangladesh is bearing 30 per cent of the project cost. The project, scheduled to be completed by June next year will now be completed much ahead of the time. The government is saving about Tk 80 crore from the estimated project cost, and instance unprecedented in the country.

the handout said.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad visited the construction sites on Sunday and the day before to see the on-going works.

The components of the second phase of the project are development and widening of 26 km Nagarbari-Baghabari road, 24 km Baghabari-Ullapara road including 3.5 km Ullapara by-pass, 32.3 km Petganj-Rangpur road, 20 km Kashnathpur-Atikula road, 15 km Atakula-Pabna Cadet College via north inter-section of 11.6 km Pabna by-pass, 11.6 km section from Pabna Cadet College to the north inter-section of five km Pabna by-pass and north inter-section of Pabna by-pass to Ishurdi.

Out of the five projects,

construction of the Pabna by-pass has already been completed. Four projects are expected to be completed by June this year, one by December while only one will be left to be completed within June next year.

The Roads and Highways Department is going to take a number of development projects including rehabilitation of 20 km portion of Bogra-Natore road sealing work of 85 km Bogra-Shantahar road and construction of car-parking areas in 58 road side markets.

Meanwhile, in the first phase of RRMP, 130 km of national highways was rehabilitated and developed in northern districts at a cost of Tk 220 crore.

China drafting social insurance, labour law

BEIJING, Feb 14: China is drafting a social insurance law and a labour contract law, in a bid to further improve the country's unemployment insurance system, according to an official from the Labour Ministry, says Xinhua.

He said that China is also considering drawing up laws to promote employment, development of vocational skills and settlement of labour disputes.

He said that the establishment of a social insurance system is an important support mechanism for the reform of state-owned enterprises and vital to the country's goal of holding the unemployment rate at around five per cent in the ninth five-year plan period (1996-2000), adding that more efforts will be made for the implementation of the unemployment insurance system during this period.

Statistics show that since the unemployment insurance system was introduced in 1986, about 95 million workers had been covered by the end of 1994.

Ground-nut cultivation prospect bright in N-dists

NATORE, Feb 14: The prospect for ground-nut cultivation, in particular, is bright in all over the northern districts including Natore, reports UNB.

The existing edible oil shortage can be met by ground-nut oil with its massive farming all over the country, utilizing barren land without affecting other crops.

According to experts, an initiative of Agriculture Extension Department to gear up its cultivation could help achieve prosperity in national economy. The vast sandy lands across river banks and char areas are suitable for its farming.

Each ground-nut grain contains at least 40 per cent of oil and as such one mound oil could easily be extracted from 100 kgs of ground-nut. According to health experts, groundnut oil has a high food value.

A survey report of the Agriculture Extension Department's field supervisors says that there are more than 25 lakh acres of such sandy

land lying almost unutilised all the year round in the region.

But the local experts said an initiative to motivate the farmers to put these barren land under ground-nut cultivation could open a new horizon for the economic prosperity of its cultivators as well as for flourishing of national economy.

There are three varieties of ground-nut now grown in different areas of the region in the form of the initiatives of the farmers. The varieties are known as 'teel', 'jhingra' and 'basanti'.

These varieties can be grown twice a year. It needs ploughing once or twice a year but it hardly needs irrigation and fertilizers.

With minimum financial investment, the farmers can harvest about one metric tons of ground-nut worth Tk 20,000 per hectare of land.

The ground-nut oil-cake can be used as fodder and fertilizer too. But the ground-nut now produced by the farmers at their own initiatives, lacks adequate marketing facilities.

Price of chemical fertilizers shot up at Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Feb 14: The prices of chemical fertilizers have shot up in the different markets of the district due to the artificial crisis created by the stockists and traders, reports UNB.

Farmers said, it has become a practice of the traders and stockist to create artificial crisis by stocking fertilizers every year and they are doing this to earn windfall profit.

They alleged, the traders were selling fertilizer at high rate violating the price fixed by the government. They also complained that the traders were doing so with the connivance of some dishonest concerned officials.

According to local farmers, urea is being sold between Tk 350 and Tk 400 per bag, triple super phosphate (TSP) between Tk 425 and Tk 480, MP between Tk 350 and Tk 370, zipsum between Tk 200 and Tk 220, while the price of urea, TSP, MP and zipsum were Tk 270, Tk 290, Tk 280 and Tk 100 respectively a few months back.

The poor farmers are unable to purchase fertilizers at high prices, as a result, the IRRI-Boro cultivation has been hampering in the current season, it is learnt.

The farmers have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps immediately to check the price-hike of chemical fertilizers.

Prices of rice increase

Another report adds: The prices of rice in the different markets of the district have been showing upward trend despite the appearance of new aman rice in the market.

Local traders said although the new aman rice has started coming in the market but its supply is quite insufficient and due to this prices of rice are going upward.

They also said, aman cultivation was hampered in the current season due to the unprecedented drought and the production was less this year.

According to the local Marketing Officer, new aman rice is being sold at Tk 13 per kg while old variety at Tk 14. The paljam variety is being sold between Tk 15 and Tk 16 per kg.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to open fair price shops at different markets and open market sale system to check the price hike of rice.

Toyota to cut length of working hours at its plants

TOKYO, Feb 14: Toyota Motor Corporation said on Monday it will cut the length of the working day at its plants because of public pressure to reduce Japan's long working hours, reports Reuter.

But the time lost will come out of employees' lunch breaks.

A spokesman said Toyota would cut yearly working hours at its factories to 1,891 from the current 1,922 because of social pressure and criticism that Japan's working hours are too long compared with other countries.

The reduction will not affect Toyota's production because the lost 15 minutes will come from shorter lunch breaks, he said. The change will take effect in May.

Toyota will also implement consecutive shifts at its plants which will allow the late shift to end by 1.00 a.m. instead of the current 6.00 a.m., he said.

'ASEAN, India should work against protectionism'

NEW DELHI, Feb 14: ASEAN and India should work with other developing nations to prevent such issues as labour standards and environmental concerns from being used as new protectionist barriers in world trade ASEAN Secretary General Ajit Singh said Monday, reports AFP.

"We have to be vigilant that in striving to improve the lot of our workers, issues such as the so-called social clause are not attached as conditionalities in any new trade relationship," Ajit Singh said at the opening of the ASEAN-India joint sectoral cooperation committee meeting.

The association of Southeast Asian nations and India should work closely with other developing countries to ensure the newly-formed World Trade Organisation (WTO) serves the interests of all its members, the Malaysian official said.

Germany pledges continued support for Bangladesh's development

BONN, Feb 14: The Federal Republic of Germany will continue to support the economic and social development of Bangladesh in the coming years by focusing its development cooperation on the fight against poverty and building up the social and economic infrastructures, reports German news agency IN.

The main thrust of bilateral cooperation will be on improving the basic health services, including family planning, basic education and vocational training and self-help initiatives to create new means of livelihood for the population, especially in the rural areas.

The German government pledges its continued support for Bangladesh's development and allocated a financial assistance of DM 70 million and a technical assistance of DM 24 million for 1994 entirely as grants at the annual intergovernmental negotiations on development cooperation between the two countries, held in Dhaka. The aid package includes food aid, scholarships and NGO programme support of about DM 3 million.

Procurement of ten additional locomotives for the Bangladesh Railways will be financed with a financial aid of DM 40 million while DM 15

causes for poverty in that country.

The other main areas of future cooperation will be construction and maintenance of roads, slum-clearance, low-cost housing for the weaker sections of the society promotion of small and medium level industries, improving railway services and electricity supply, environment protection and resource conservation support for the structural adjustment programme. Bangladesh is on-going in cooperation with the World Bank.

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Fostering basic education assumes great significance because it is regarded as a key for overcoming the structural

million has been earmarked for the Tangail Infrastructure Development Project which involves the construction and rehabilitation of feeder roads and market places in the Tangail District. The on-going cyclone shelter construction programme will be supported with DM 15 million financial cooperation funds and additional DM 1.5 million from the reprogramming of funds committed in the past years.

In the area of technical assistance, DM 7 million will be given to the training of government-employed health care and family care personnel at the National Institute for Population Research and Training (NIPORT) in Dhaka. Funds of DM 6 million have been allocated for advisory services and training under the Tangail Infrastructure Development Project (TIDP).

The other projects to be supported by the technical assistance for 1994 are the Comprehensive Primary Education Programme, maintenance of locomotives of the Bangladesh Railways and rural infrastructure and community development.

Indonesia against use of environment as form of trade protectionism

JAKARTA, Feb 14: Indonesia urged the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on Monday to ensure that rich nations do not use environmental issues as a form of trade protectionism, says Reuter.

"There is a tendency among some developed countries to use environmental issues to bar exports from developing countries," Coordinating Minister for Trade and Industry Hartarto told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

"We must fight from now to prevent that," he said.

"The WTO must be able to handle the mechanism on the (environment) aspect."

The WTO was born out of the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade at the start of this year.

"If we do not fight from now, they can bar our non-oil exports in future," Hartarto said, without elaborating.

Indonesian non-oil exports, the engine of the economy, fell slightly to 2.77 billion dollars in November from 2.81 billion dollar in October.

Iraq reviews western offers to exploit oil reserves

BAGHDAD, Feb 14: The Iraqi government has reviewed offers from western firms to exploit the country's oil reserves once UN sanctions are lifted, the official news agency INA said Monday, reports AFP.

The government, headed by Saddam Hussein, has made a preliminary study of demands from some western oil firms to reach long-term oil exploration and exploitation deals, INA reported.

The Cyprus-based Middle-East Economic Survey (MEES) has said nearly 20 European, Asian and US oil firms have been negotiating with Baghdad to clinch deals to come into force once the UN trade and oil embargo ends.

France's Elf and Total, Italy's Agip and Russian firms were the first to enter into such talks as early as June 1991, according to MEES.

The UN sanctions were imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which was liberated by a US-led multinational coalition in the January-February 1991 Gulf War.

They have been repeatedly renewed, despite a growing calls within the UN Security Council for the sanctions to be lifted.

Iraqi Oil Minister Safaa Hadi Jawad has said his country "was the world's second largest oil reserves, estimated at 120 billion barrels."

"Once the sanctions are lifted, Iraq could become the second largest producer of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), after Saudi Arabia, he added."

Jawad maintained that Iraq could export 1.1 to 1.5 million barrels per day (BPD) as soon as the sanctions are lifted. Iraq's output before the UN sanctions amounted to 3.2 million BPD.

Patharghata RCO office facing manifold problems

BARGUNA, Feb 14: Patharghata thana RCO office has been facing manifold problems for a long time, reports UNB.

The office was built in British period with CI sheets and for want of necessary repair and reconstruction it has now been facing inward decay.

Furniture, record room and boundary walls are worn out and rain water leaks from the roof causing damage to valuable deeds and documents. The plaster of the floor has also been damaged at several points.

Besides, the office is too small to house its staff and necessary furniture causing great inconvenience to the outside people who are to come to the office for various needs.

Valuable records are kept on the floor as there is no protected room for the same which are decaying gradually. The RCO sits in a small room in one part of the corridor where there is no arrangement for sitting of the visitors coming from far flung areas of the thana.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to renovate and modernise the office.



Mustafa Aminur Rashid, Managing Director, Agrani Bank and Brig (Retd) Mujibur Rahman, Managing Director, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust, signing an agreement regarding payment of honorarium to the shaheed families and disabled muktiyoddhas at Agrani Bank head office yesterday.

New memory chip to store 10 volumes of Shakespeare

TOKYO, Feb 14: NEC Corporation said on Monday it had developed a chip that can store a billion bits of information — enough to hold 10 volumes of the complete works of Shakespeare in a space the size of a thumbnail, says Reuter.

The chip, called a one gigabit dram (dynamic random access memory), is an advanced version of those widely used in personal computers, the most common of which now hold just four million bits of binary data.

Though current chips are adequate for PCs that handle mainly text, future "multimedia" models combining text, pictures and sound in one machine will need far greater memory capacity for digital

storage and processing of video images.

The one-gigabit dram, measuring 2.5 centimetres by 3.5 cm (one inch by about 1.5 inches), can hold the equivalent of 4,000 newspapers, four hours of compact disc quality sound or 15 minutes of video.

"The drams will be suitable for use in future multimedia terminals such as video-on-demand terminals and next-generation mobile notebook computers," Hajime Sasaki, NEC Executive Vice President in charge of semiconductors, told a news conference.

Producing a new generation of chips is fiendishly difficult, as it requires making current manufacturing technology work reliably on an even smaller scale, the gigabit chip

will be made by etching silicon wafers with lines only 0.25 micron wide — a quarter of a millionth of a metre.

Mass production will not start until 1993 at the earliest, and will need capital investment of about 150 billion yen (1.5 billion dollars) just to get started, Sasaki said.

NEC will present the new-generation drama the international solid state circuits conference in San Francisco from February 15 to 17, as will Japanese rival Hitachi Ltd, which plans to announce a similar chip.

A spokeswoman at Toshiba Corp, another Japanese leader in memory chips, said that the company had no plans for such an announcement, though it was developing its own chip.

Clinton announces 90 pc raise in \$ 4.25 per hour minimum wage

WASHINGTON, Feb 14: President Bill Clinton turned his attention Monday from legislative battles and attacks against his latest cabinet nominee to his roster record on the economic front, reports AFP.

"This economic report is an important milestone for me. It ensures our success in fulfilling the mission that I brought to this presidency," Clinton said in an oral ceremony releasing his annual report on the state of the economy to Congress.

"I run for this office to help restore the American dream and to guarantee its availability for all Americans into the 21st century," he said, noting the report showed strong growth, low inflation, and a widening employment base.

Clinton also announced a 90 cent raise in the 4.25 dollar per hour minimum wage over two years, fulfilling the pledge he made after his party's defeat in November legislative elections to try to give blue collar workers a share of the economic recovery.

The shift in focus to the economy comes as Clinton is embroiled in a battle over changes the Republican-controlled Congress wants to make in his cherished crime bill and a volatile debate over his surgeon general nominee, Henry Foster.

"The President is doing a lot of things that are related to promoting America's economic interest both here at home and abroad," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said earlier.

But the administration's economic policies and the proposed wage hike are also under fire.

Republicans in Congress have vowed to vote down the minimum wage increase and have complained that Clinton's 1.61 trillion dollar budget for fiscal 1996 does not contain enough spending cuts.

hood that the Senate will reject Foster's nomination.

"We have our work cut out for us," McCurry acknowledged.

The appointment of the 61-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist became central to the country's raging debate over abortion when Foster first acknowledged having performed the procedure a dozen times and then increased the number to 39 after reviewing his records.

Foster was also attacked for having performed hysterectomies on severely retarded women in the 1960s and 1970s, when doctors routinely sterilized the mentally handicapped to prevent pregnancies and hygienic problems due to menstruation.

Foster himself wrote an impassioned opinion piece in the Washington Post published Monday defending his 38 year career and his crusade against teenage pregnancy, one of the administration's stated priorities.

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice No. 30/SRD/1994-95.
- Name of work Tender for earth work at different KM of Sunamganj-Jamalganj Road under Sunamganj Road Division during the year 1994-95 in 3 (three) groups. (Ch. to Dev).
- Name of the offices where availability of tender Office of the undersigned/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Sylhet/M. Bazar/Hobiganj/Planning & Design, Comilla/SDE (RHD) Road Sub-Division, Sunamganj/Chhatk/Mechanical.
- Name of the officers who receive the tender Undersigned/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Sylhet.
- Last date of selling tender At 5.00 PM of 22-2-95.
- Last date of receiving tender Up to 12-30 PM of 22-2-95.
- Date & time of opening tender At 12-45 PM of 23-2-95.

Gr.No.	Name & location of the work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractors
I (one)	16th KM(p) of Sunamganj-Jamalganj-Road	2,26,035/-	4,525/-	25 (twenty five) days	"A" to "E" class contractor of general category of RHD.
II (two)	-do- 18th K.M. (p)	4,69,417/-	9,390/-	30 (thirty) days	-do-
III (three)	-do- 16th KM. (p) (Shalmantapur gap)	1,07,315/-	2,150/-	20 (twenty) days	-do-

MD. Abdul Matin Molla
Executive Engineer, RHD
Sunamganj Road Division.

Dhaka City Corporation

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন।

Invitation for Bid

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Loan No. 1124 BAN (SF) from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFPP). It is intended that part of proceeds of this loan shall be applied to eligible payment for procurement under this contract. Modes of purchase shall be International Shopping (IS).

The Dhaka City Corporation being an implementing agency of the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFPP) now invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders for the following:

Sl. No.	Name of work/supply	Quantity
1	Supply of Motor Cycle	15 Nos.

Bidding document for the abovementioned Motor Cycle may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder from the undersigned and from all Zonal Offices as well as Accounts Section of Dhaka City Corporation on all working days during office hours on payment of Tk. 1,000/- (Taka one thousand only) through Challan of DCC up to 20-02-95. No tender document will be sold on the date fixed for the submission of the bid.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid money in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation for a sum of taka not less than 2 (two) per cent of total bid price be delivered on or before 12-00 hours on 22-02-95. The bids shall be received by the undersigned and in all Zonal Offices of Dhaka City Corporation and the same shall be publicly opened at 12-30 hours on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to be present.

Dhaka City Corporation shall in no way be responsible for any costs incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid for and inspect the bidding document from the office of the Project Director, Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFPP), Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.

The Authority is not bound to accept the lowest bid and reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division-I
Dhaka City Corporation.

DCC/PRD/379/94-95
D-190