

# DOWN TO EARTH

## New Horizon of Development From Buriganga Bridges

By A S M Nurunnabi

The river Buriganga is flowing by the southern side of the Dhaka city. The expansion of the city on its northern side is taking place without any natural obstruction. But due to the presence of the river Buriganga, expansion towards south of the Dhaka city could not take place. Due to lack of proper communication system, places like Zinjira, Keraniganj, Nawabganj, and Dohar. The potentialities of the bridge in the development of the areas served by the new highway are yet to be fully realised. Yet the importance of the first bridge over Buriganga cannot be overemphasised.

As a result of the bridge projects, vast areas of land on the other side of the river Buriganga will come under urban jurisdiction with the added benefits resulting from the opening of a new horizon in improved road communications. This may be considered as a great helpful factor, if it plays some part in relieving the growing congestion of dwellers in the city proper. To achieve this objective, it behoves the authorities concerned with the development of those areas to take due care in the proper utilisation of those areas with appropriate planning, so that the shortcomings and drawbacks experienced in the planned growth of the Dhaka city proper are avoided in future in the expanded new areas.

With a view to reaping greater benefits from communication with the southern side of the Buriganga river, construction of a second Buriganga bridge at Babubazar, has been undertaken. The second bridge will be 304-metre long. Late president Ziaur Rahman laid the foundation stone of the bridge at the location in 1981.

There may be some other dark aspects of the new horizon resulting from the erection of the bridges. A major part of the areas on the other side of the Buriganga river are low-lying ones so long used for production of agricultural crops. On account of the inevitable process of urbanisation spreading to these areas due to their easy accessibility from Dhaka proper made possible by these bridges, there are apprehensions that these low-lying areas now under agricultural production are most likely to be adversely affected leading to decreased agricultural output.

The main objective of the project is to provide better road communication for the people living in the other side of the river Buriganga. The proposed bridge will establish an easy link between Dhaka city and Zinjira and Keraniganj. The Zinjira end approach of this bridge will be linked with the Dhaka-Mowa Road and Zinjira-Keraniganj-Dohar road. The development work at the other end of the river will be accelerated and transportation cost of agricultural products from these areas to the city will be reduced. Temporary employment opportunity will be created for the poorest section of the society. As a result, socio-economic condition of the areas will be developed. The project is expected to be completed by 1996-97.

There may be another potentially ominous consequence. To make these low-lying areas fit for use as habitats for people by raising their level, a large amount of investment is required. To avoid this implication, some land owners in these areas may be tempted to erect makeshift structures, paving the way for the large-scale growth of slums attracting the poor sections of people. The authorities concerned need be vigilant against these harmful eventualities so that they do not cast a dark shadow on the healthy growth of urbanisation in these new areas.

A total of 149 Chinese experts worked in the project from the Chinese side and 22 engineers from the Roads and Highways Department of the Bangladesh government were directly associated with the construction of the bridge. It has contributed to the opening up of the Dhaka-Khulna highway which has so far been completed up to Bhanga with a couple of bridges on some

Some observers are of the opinion that a third bridge over Buriganga may be necessary in the near future at the point Katur in Dhaka city to establish proper links with proposed new satellite townships to be set up on the other side. When the proposed new townships come into being, about 15 lakh people will be benefited, according to them.

## C'wealth call to stop French N-test

WELLINGTON, Nov 10: Commonwealth leaders condemned French nuclear testing today in a hard-hitting statement that provoked a furious reaction by British Prime Minister John Major, reports Reuters.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, whose country has spearheaded protests against the French tests, was pleased with the statement. "It's exactly what we wanted," he told reporters.

With Britain dissenting, leaders of the 52-strong group said the tests had caused widespread anger and urged their immediate cessation.

Although the communiqué mentioned no country by name, the leaders' anger was clearly directed at France — and to a lesser extent China.

Major, who had earlier made a powerful defence of France's reasons for resuming testing in French Polynesia, was visibly angered by the communiqué. "I think that what they have got in their statement is factually inaccurate, intellectually inconsistent and unbalanced and I haven't signed up for that and they know that. "I've made it perfectly clear, I think the view that has been expressed by our Commonwealth colleagues is just plain wrong — just plain wrong," he told reporters at the end of the summit's first

day of talks. By contrast, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, whose country has spearheaded protests against the French tests, was pleased with the statement. "It's exactly what we wanted," he told reporters. Although the communiqué mentioned no country by name, the leaders' anger was clearly directed at France — and to a lesser extent China. —for pressing on with nuclear testing in the teeth of almost universal opposition in the South Pacific. "The overwhelming majority of heads of government condemned this continued nuclear testing which was inconsistent with the undertaking given by the nuclear weapons states to exercise utmost restraint so as not to affect the ongoing negotiations for the conclusion of the comprehensive test ban treaty in 1996," the communiqué said.

## DSE trading dull

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may take place from 1 pm-one hour after the hartal time is over.

157 gainers and 229 losers were traded last week against 617 issues having 236 gainers and 295 losers in the previous week.

"But everything is uncertain. People fear that there might be widespread violence in the coming week and therefore they are likely to stay home. A good number of investors have left Dhaka and they will not come back before the next week", a DSE official said.

A new issue, M Hossain Garments, entered the secondary market last week. With its entry, the total DSE enlisted issues stood at 100. Out of 22 frequently traded issues, prices of 12 issues marked declined, 7 increased and 3 remained unchanged. Of these, the price of Singer fell to Tk 597 from previous week's Tk 6230. Monno Jute to Tk 2250 from Tk 2675. Eastern Housing to Tk 135 from Tk 149, and most others fell by Tk 1 to 50. Among the gainers, the price of Ist ICBMF rose to Tk 1900 from 1800, Bangladesh Lamps to Tk 3162 from Tk 2939 and Monno Ceramic to Tk 1147 from Tk 1023.

He claimed that due to hartals this year, production in the DSE enlisted industries were affected. "Last year, earnings per share of many companies were Tk 30. But I doubt it will be the same this year," he added.

The volume leaders of the week included Beximco Pharma (sold 5,64,450 shares), Beximco Denims (75,828), BTC (over 52,000), Monno Ceramic (39,760), BOC (27583) and Bengal Carbide (over 25,000).

The daily average volume of trading last week was 2.34 lakh worth an average value of Tk 4.64 crores against the previous week's 2.36 lakh worth Tk 4.96 crore. Some 494 issues having

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## Mannan Bhuiyan

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BSS. Mannan Bhuiyan, also the minister for food and agriculture, was speaking at a discussion organised by the BNP at its central office in memory of Shaheed Noor Hossain who had sacrificed his life on this day in 1987 for the restoration of democracy in the country.

Speakers at the meeting paid rich tributes to this hero of democratic movement whose sacrifice had helped establishment of voting rights of the people.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Joint Secretary General and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah-Noman, Joint Secretary General Mirza Abbas MP, central Organising Secretary Haris Chowdhury, spoke on the occasion.

The BNP acting secretary general reiterated the call of his party to the opposition political parties to withdraw their hartal programmes and come to a dialogue across the table to resolve the problems relating to holding of fair and impartial polls.

He said, everything involving holding of free and fair polls could be in the agenda of the discussion but there could not be any dialogue on precondition.

Rafiqul Islam Mia said the Awami League, in collaboration with the killers of democracy, was now engaged in snatching the voting rights of the people. People must realise the conspiracy of the Opposition, he said.

He pointed out that Sheikh Hasina by suggesting the Chief Justice as the head of a caretaker government was nothing but inviting him to violate the Constitution.

## Blasts

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on the road. The youths threw the cocktails from a running car at about 6 pm when a discussion meeting in observance of Nur Hossain Day, was going on inside the office, the spokesman said.

BSS adds: Harris Chowdhury, organising secretary of BNP, in a statement later strongly condemning the 'terrorist attack'.

The BNP office came under similar attacks in the past during opposition-called hartal. Chowdhury said.



A torch procession of the Awami League in the city yesterday to drum up support for the hartal beginning today. — Star photo

## 8 killed, 35 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least eight persons were killed and 35 injured in separate road accidents in and outside the capital yesterday and Thursday.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: Three persons were killed and one was injured in separate road accidents in the city yesterday and day before.

Anwar Hossain, 25, was run over by a mini bus yesterday morning at Gulshan Circle Two. He was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died. His body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

The truck was going towards Jhenidah from Nawapara. BSS adds: Five persons were killed and four others injured when a truck carrying fertilisers over turned at Shantola near Jessore Cantonment on Thursday night, police said yesterday.

An unidentified person, 45, died when he was hit by a truck at Chalk Bazar. He was rushed to the DMCH where the doctors declared him dead.

The army personnel recovered the bodies and rescued the injured persons from inside the truck. UNB reports: Some 30 people were injured, 10 of them seriously, when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Suapara in Shahristi thana on Chandpur-Comilla road yesterday.

Kaiser Mollah, 45, hit by a bus, was admitted to the DMCH on Thursday. He succumbed to his injuries yesterday. His body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Witnesses said the Chandpur-bound bus from Chittagong fell into the ditch while the driver was trying to give side to a truck coming from opposite direction. They said the bus was carrying some 85 passengers and most of them left the port city on the eve of the six-day hartal.

Mazuliah, 40, was injured when a bus hit him near Pir Yamini Market at Gulistan

## List of major hartals

Date	Place	Hours	Parties
2.1.95	Dhaka	8 hrs (3 days)	3 maj parties
25.1.95	Countrywide	Full-day	-do-
15.2.95	Dhaka	6 hrs	LDF
12.3.95	-do-	8 hrs	Opposition
9.4.95	Five Div Hqs	Full-day	3 maj parties
11.4.95	Countrywide	Full-day	LDF
15.8.95	-do-	Half-day	AL
2.9.95	-do-	32 hrs	3 maj parties
16.9.95	-do-	72 hrs	-do-
6.10.95	Div Hqs	32 hrs	-do-
17.10.95	-do-	96 hrs	-do-

## Pro & anti-hartal rallies in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Nov 10: Several processions were brought out and rallies organised here by different groups today, both protesting and supporting the hartal programmes of the opposition parties.

## 144 hartals

From Page 1  
their anti-government agitation, went for their first simultaneous hartal programme in Dhaka city for eight hours on January 2 this year.

The Narayanjanj Law College Students' Union brought out a procession and held a rally protesting the hartal.

The last anti-government hartal for 96 hours called by the opposition parties was observed throughout the country from October 16.

## Legal notice on govt to ban import of 'Dirty Dozen'

A legal notice has been served on the government asking ban on import and marketing of the harmful pesticides known as 'Dirty Dozen' for their excessive hazardous effect on environment, human and animal health and vegetation, reports UNB.

And the Opposition now goes for a 6-day hartal with breaks from today.

Serving the demand of justice notice on Thursday, the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) alleged that the authorities have not cancelled, nor refused registration or import of any such harmful pesticides.

Despite ban or restricted use of these pesticides in at least 90 countries, even including many countries of origin, the notice said, the authorities in Dhaka, have not taken adequate measures to make people aware of the harmful consequences, nor to prohibit their availability in the market.

The BELA gave the authorities a deadline to reply to their notice by November 25, 1995. Otherwise, they said in the notice, appropriate legal action would be taken against the authorities bound to protect the lives of the people and their livelihood.

## Talks at Rhone Poulenc fail

Star Report

The final efforts for a negotiated settlement between the striking workers of the transnational Rhone Poulenc Rorer (RPR) and the management failed yesterday as the employees union rejected the company's offer.

The notice has been served by BELA secretary general Dr Mohiuddin Farooque on the secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce ministries, Chairman of Pesticides Technical Advisory Committee of the Agriculture Ministry, BARC Executive Vice Chairman, Director of Plant Protection Wing of Agriculture Extension Department, and Director General of Department of Environment.

The union last night notified its rejection of the offer regarding the period of the agreement for pay rise last night, according to sources concerned.

The RUTA adopted a resolution in this regard at an emergency meeting held last night with Prof M Aminul Islam in the chair.

The management has now decided to request the Labour Ministry to declare the strike illegal and refer the case to the Labour Court for adjudication, RPR sources said.

## RUTA demands VC's removal

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Nov 10: The Rajshahi University Teacher's Association (RUTA) has demanded removal of the Vice Chancellor Prof M Eusuff Ali for his alleged failure to run the university smoothly.

The RUTA adopted a resolution in this regard at an emergency meeting held last night with Prof M Aminul Islam in the chair.

## The Midnight File

### Bosnia, Croatia sign accord

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio, Nov 10: Bosnia and Croatia signed an agreement here today aimed at strengthening bilateral ties in a step toward reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia. Presidents Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia signed the accord on the 10th day of Balkan peace talks at this US military base, reports AFP.

## Cyclone hits 3 Indian states: 15 killed

NEW DELHI, Nov 10: Fifteen people were killed overnight and hundreds of shanty homes flattened as a cyclonic storm hit the eastern Indian coast, officials said today.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the cyclone, which gathered Wednesday in the Bay of Bengal, hit the states of Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar Thursday night.

Ten bodies were recovered from a beach in the eastern state of Orissa, the agency said.

Officials said the storm, with windspeeds of up to 100 kilometres an hour, hit several districts of Orissa, causing extensive damage.

The Met Office forecast heavy rain in some parts of Orissa today.

The regions of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong yesterday experienced heavy downpour.

## PM: Letter

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The PM received a letter from Hasina on November 4.

## Cyclone

From Page 1

Bazar has been advised to lower distant warning signal number 2 and instead hoist distant cautionary signal number 1.

Five bodies of fishermen were washed ashore after the cyclone.

The storm lasted for about 20 minutes, lashed 15 unions in Belkuchi, Kazipur, Chowhall, Shahjadpur and Sadar thanas at about 12:30 am.

The PM received a letter from Hasina on November 4.

In Chittagong, 75 mm rainfall was recorded in 12 hours ending at 6 pm yesterday, local Met Office said.

Meanwhile, the Group of Five eminent citizens is learnt to have adopted a new strategy to help finding a solution to the political impasse. Details could not be known immediately.

In Sirajganj, at least 1,000 kutcha houses were damaged in a severe storm that swept over five thanas yesterday.

The members of the group were still optimistic of an understanding between the ruling party and the Opposition, a source close to the group told The Daily Star yesterday, on condition of anonymity.

Sixteen people were injured in the storm, of the injured, four of them were admitted to Kazipur and Belkuchi thana health complexes, hospital sources said.

The decrease in total debt service as percentage of export of goods and services was due to a sharp increase in export earnings. From 1,958 million dollars in 1986-87, the export earnings rose to 4,293 million dollars in 1993-94.

On the count of debt servicing in 1993-94, the country had to pay 153.4 million dollars in interests and 359 million dollars in principal. The interest payment showed a downward trend. In 1987-88, the total interest paid amounted to 171.7 million dollars. It increased to 181.9 million dollars in 1989-90. But since then, it has been falling steadily. In 1992-93, the country had paid 157 million dollars in interests.

The components of debt servicing in 1993-94 included 402.2 million dollars from medium and long term loans, 11.3 million dollars for food loans, 15 million dollars for aircraft loans, five million dollars for shipping loans and 78.9 million dollars for IMF soft-term loans.

Repayments in all these components, excepting the medium and long term loans, showed a decrease from the previous years. But debt servicing for medium and long term loans is steadily increasing mainly because of the expiry of grace periods of some heavy amounts borrowed in the late 1970s and early 80s.

The country's total outstanding external debt increased from 6139.6 million dollars in 1985-86 to 11934.4 million dollars in 1990-91. It stood at 14,561.6 million dollars in 1993-94.

He had led a campaign for self-determination for the Ogoni and to protect the environment in their homeland, which has been exploited by foreign oil companies.

Officials of the International Fertiliser Development Centre (IFDC) said that the fertiliser distribution system should be made flexible and the policies consistent.

Nigeria's military government had been under intense international pressure to spare their lives.

Quick change in policies and lack of coordination among the authorities concerned were mainly responsible for the unstable fertiliser market," said Thomas H Foster, a consultant of the Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project funded by the IFDC and the USAID.

Abu Abdullah, Research Director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and also a consultant of the project opined that the wholesale trade of fertiliser should not be monopolised.

He suggested that delivery of urea throughout the year should be kept steady. The price could be increased slightly in the peak season and lowered in the lean season to avoid profiteering and manipulation by non-professional and seasonal traders, he added.

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**বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন-১৯৯৬**

বিজিএমইএর সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে অবগত করানো যাইতেছে যে, বিজিএমইএর নির্বাহী কমিটির ১/৩ শূন্য আসনের নির্বাচন আপাদী ১২-০২-৯৬ইং অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। উক্ত নির্বাচনে সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে ভোটার তালিকাভুক্তির নিমিত্তে তাহাদের ১৯৯৬ইং সনের দেয় চাঁদা আপাদী ০২-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখে মাথা পরিশোধ করার নিয়ম বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন-১৯৯৬ইং এর বিধিতে অর্ন্তভুক্ত আছে।

সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে নিজ নিজ দেয় চাঁদা পরিশোধ করে বিজিএমইএর নির্বাচন-১৯৯৬ইংএ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য বিশেষ আমন্ত্রণ জানাইতেছি।

নিবেদক,  
টিপু মুন্সী, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, সেপাল গার্ডেনস লিমিটেড  
কর্নেল (অবঃ) আনোয়ারুল আজিম, নির্বাহী সদস্য, বিজিএমইএ  
প্রকৌশলী মোহাম্মদ আবু হাফেজ রক্তন ২য় ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট, বিজিএমইএ।