# Taka 21 crore Benarasi saree palli project hangs in the balance

By Shahela Akhter

The Tk 21-crore project to set up an estate for the country's glorious Benarasi sarees hangs in the balance as the project site at Bhasantek has been reoccupied by slum dwellers.

The project sought to rehabilitate on the estate some 991 families with 4,683 looms targeting production at 2.90 lakh pieces of sarees a year.

The project on 40 acres of land between Mirpur and Cantonment thana was taken up during Ershad regime and dubbed "Rowshan Ershad Benarasi Palli Prokalpa." Later it was renamed as "Benarasi Palli Prokalpa."

The weaving factories mainly at the tail end of Mirpur began to grow almost a quarter century ago by borrowing technology from Benaras, handloom town in Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Now products of Bangladesh can easily match those of Benaras.

At the initial stage, mainly Urdu-speaking Biharies were involved with the profession. In the course of time. Bangalees have taken up the profession

outplaying the Biharies. Before the foundation stone was laid in 1989, the project site was completely in possession of the slum dwellers who were earlier rehabilitated on Bawaina embankment in Lalmatia with a tin-shed house on a .75 katha plot to each family. But most of them returned to Bhasantek within few days af-

Stum on the proposed Benistasi Rahi at Mirputz 1004

Works.

at Bhasantek. A part, of those who have not sold out their plots have again taken shelter at Bhasantek.

According to another slum dweller, Abdul Zabbar, it's difficult for a big family to live in a small congested house, that's why some of their family members moved out and took shelter anywhere else.

He said, "it's not correct that each and every family of those who have sold out their plots are living in Dhaka. Some of them have already gone back to their village homes in different parts of the country."

Who have bought these plots from the slum dwellers? According to competent sources, a section of officials at some NGOs which are involved

in development of slum dwellers are among the buyers. But officials at the Housing Division said the slum dwellers have been given lease for 99 years and they were supposed to get registration after 10 years. So, no one can sell or buy the

plots before registration.

After the fall of Ershad, the file of the Benaras Palli project had virtually been shelved facilitating the slum dwellers to occupy the entire project site.

The project regained its life after the installation of the Awami League government in 1996 and the Textile Ministry gave the Works and Housing Directorate the responsibility to implement the project. Ulti-

s tidd i medel in same in diene - iPhoto by: Sayed Make Hossain/News Melant

mately, the responsibility fell

served eviction notices on the

slum dwellers, they turned vio-

lent and resisted the authori-

ties. One day, on February 17

this year, the authorities de-

molished the slum houses,

sparking criticisms, including

a backlash from the head of the

government. The eviction also

cost the job of the then State

Minister for Housing and

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

visited the area and asked the

slum dwellers to stay there until

an alternate arrangement is

made for their rehabilitation

and subsequently sacked Af-

saruddin Khan, her state minis-

authorities, however, continued

their work to fill up the low-ly-

ing portion of the project site

The project implementing

ter, for ordering the eviction.

A day after the eviction.

As the Housing Division

on the Housing Division-1.

have returned to occupy the raised land where they are building their shanty houses. Not only the evicted slum dwellers, people from other parts of the city have taken shelter at Bhasantek after the announcement of the Prime Minister to take the advantage of further rehabilitation.

While walking through the Bahsantek area, the News Network correspondent came across a number of new settlers. One of them is Anwar Hossain, a middle-aged rickshaw driver with strong physical features.

"I had been living in a rented-house at Nababganj before moving to this area re-cently. Now I don't have to pay any rent," Hossain said.

According to local resident. Suruj Mia, the number of slum dwellers doubled since the Prime Minister's support was announced on Feb 18.

But chairman of the slum Abdul Kader turned down the idea that the number of slum dwellers increased following the Prime Minister's announcement. "Our population remains the same as it was earlier," he said.

He, however, parried the question when asked about the people who have returned from their rehabilitation site on Bowaina Embankment at Lalmatia.

When asked about their steps if the government evicts them without rehabilitation, Kader



Prof Mostafa Nurul Islam addressing a discussion at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday marking the birth centenary of Dr Kazi Motahar Hossain. - Star photo

## Tribute to Prof Motahar Hossain 'He acted as an umbrella during

By Staff Correspondent

Late Dr Kazi Motahar Hossain had always acted as an umbrella and given all out support to the students during the Language Movement in 1952, said Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, a noted educationists yesterday.

He was speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting. organised by the Shilpakala Academy in the city, to mark the birth centenary of Dr Kazi Motahar Hossain, a renowned scientist, litterateur and academician of the country.

"During the Language Movement, we had no leader who could guide young politicians like us. In the need of the hour, Hossain acted as an umbrella, giving us all support regarding the movement," Prof Is-

This great man made time for himself to become a chess master and played tennis while carrying out research work in the Curzon Hall, he added.

Taking part in the discussion, the Director General of Shilpakala Academy, Shamsuzzaman Khan, spoke of the many human qualities of K M Hossain and his contributions to the advancement of science and literature.

Harun-ur-Rashid said. "If seed in \$50 wears and had asked me what is the symbol of culture. I would have said Kazi Motahar Hossain. If someone asks me today what is the symbol of culture I would still say K M Hossain.

"Hossain was always critical of the education system in Dhaka University. He had special interest in establishing link with foreign institutions to raise the standard of education in Dhaka University. He would also talk about inability of general teachers from time to

time", he added. Dr Rafigul Islam, while discussing various aspects of his life said, K M Hossain could have lived in Calcutta. But instead, he chose to dedicate to the development of education and literature in Bangladesh.

Dr Sanjeeda Khatun, one of the daughters of K M Hossain. said "My father was a believer of free and liberal thought. I can

Language Movement' recall him saying the world it-self is a natural school. There

> til he is eight years of age." Kazi Motahar Hossain was born in Kumarkhali thana of Kushtia district. His paternal home was in Pangsha thana of Faridpur district.

Hossain, although his life a scholar, graduated from Calcutta University in 1921. He joined the Physics department of Dhaka University in the same year. He carried out many research works which impressed many philosophers. One such philosopher had commented, "Hossain dived more deeply than any previous

are plenty to learn from nature.

One should not be in school un-

Various other socio-cultural organisations also drew up elaborate programmes to observe the birth centenary of Kazi Motahar Hossain.

A discussion organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation marking the 100th birth anniversary of noted educationist and chess-talent National Professor Dr Kazi Motahar Hossain was held at the National Sports Council yesterday.

National Professor Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Af-fairs Obaidul Quader were present in the function as chief and special guests respectively.

Paying homage to the memories of the versatile scholar, the speakers said, the contribution of Dr Kazi Motahar Hossain to flourishing the intellectual game of chess as well as science and literature would ever be remembered by the na-

International Woman Master Rani Hamid also spoke on the occasion.

The prize-giving ceremony of the open active chess competition in observation of birth anniversary of Dr Kazi Motahar Hossain was also held on the occasion.

International Master Ziaur Rahman and Abdullah-al-Rakib scoring 6.5 point and 6.0 point respectively emerged as champion and runner-up of the competition.

### Police constable assaulted by DU BCL leader

By DU Correspondent

A leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) reportedly assaulted a police constable on the Sir AF Rahman Hall premises of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday afternoon.

Sources in the hall said, the police did not allow a lady guest of Nurul Islam, BCL president of AF Rahman Hall unit to enter the hall at about 3:30 pm.

Infuriated, he went to the gate and assaulted the constable, sources added. He later took his guest inside the hall.

As per a decision of the provost standing committee. female guests of the residents of DU halfs are not allowed inside the halls.

In protest, the police on duty went out of the hall premises. They, however, came back after being asked by senior officers.

### BRAC now has 21 lakh members

The number of BRAC's village organisation members has reached twenty-one lakh with the money disbursed to them as loan amounting to Tk. 1,786 crore, says a press release.

Nearly Tk 318 crore has disbursed to them during the first six months of this year alone. Each of the members represents one landless family, and over 95 per cent of them are women who are engaged in various income generating activities with microcredit provided by BRAC. They have proven their credit worthiness by making regular repayment of loan and saving a small amount every week. The total savings of these landless poor women now stands at Tk. 150 crore.

In addition to providing loans, BRAC imparts training for their skill development facilitates technical assistance and inputs and essential healthcare. Since access to information is essential to empowerment, BRAC also equips them with human rights and Legal Education which protects them from various social vices like discrimination, repression of women, dowry, child-marriage, polygamy and defrauding, the release added.

### BCL Dhaka College unit confee today

The conference of Dhaka College unit of the Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will be held today at the Dhaka College auditorium, says a press release.

Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources will attend the conference as the chief guest.

# Asian Development Bank Loan No 1293-BAN(SF): Third Natural Gas Development Project, Part-A

**Bangladesh Gas Fields** 

Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangia)

Court Road, Brahmanbaria-3400

Corrigendum Dated 29-7-97 International invitation for bids for design, supply and installation of glycol type gas process plants and associated facilities for Habiganj Gas Field: International Tender No

BGFCL/TNG (Mats)/030, dated 1-7-1997. Last date for selling of tender document has been extended up to 30-9-97. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 3-9-97 instead of 10-8-97. The bids as above will be received on 1.10-97 up to 1100 AM BST instead of 1-9-97 and will be opened on the same day at 1130 AM BST.

PRS-9/032(TNG)/97

**GD-63** 

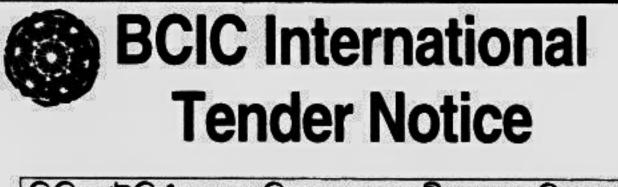


বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd, Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites sealed Tender Vide No. KNM/PD(F)-8(A)/97 dt. 16.07.97 for "Custom Clearance of Imported consignment from Dhaka Customs Airfreight Unit Biman Cargo Complex, Kurmitola, Dhaka" (C&F Dhaka clearance). The tender documents will be available in (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A Chittagong & (3) Accounts Department, KNM Ltd, Khulna with the cost of Tk 100.00 (one hundred) only (Nonrefundable). The tender will be opened on 27.8.97 at 11:00 AM in the General Manager (Purchase), Purchase Divn, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (17th fl), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 & Purchase Deptt, KNM, Khulna. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening the tender. KNM authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tender partially or as a whole.

BCIC-646-23/7/97 DFP-17059-27/7 G-1894

Manager (Commercial) for Managing Director



বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (16th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka invites sealed quotations under Cash Foreign Exchange against Tender Enquiry No PUR-3.1457/97-98 dated 29-07-1997 for import of 50,000 MT (±5% at seller's option) urea in bag on C&F (C) Chittagong port jetty and Mongla port safe berth on liner terms basis. 25,000 MT (± 5%) to be shipped to Chittagong and 25,000 MT (± 5%) to be shipped to Mongla. Offer shall be received up to 11-00 AM on 14-08-1997 and be opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidders/bidder's representatives (if any). Tender documents with detailed terms and conditions will be available on payment of Tk 5,000/per set (non-refundable) from (1) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (2nd floor), Dhaka and (2) Sr General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Earnest money is 2.5% (two and a half per cent) of the total quoted C&F (C) value. Bidders are required to note that shipment of urea shall have to be made within 21 days of receipt of L/C.

No tender documents shall be sold on the date of opening and no late offer shall be accepted. The buyer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

BCIC 672-29/7/97 **GD-61** 

#### plots and most of them resettled The evicted slum dwellers talk." - News Network Rivers in Brahmaputra, Ganges basins fall

dwellers.

slum dwellers.

Mirpur section-12.

Almost all the rivers in the Brahmaputra and Ganges basins recorded fall at all

ter their rehabilitation, said

work. Because almost every one

who was moved to the rehabili-

tation site soon returned to this

nodded in agreement. Accord-

ing to him the rehabilitated

families sold the land given to

them — a plot selling at up to Tk

About himself, Liton said

"we are four brothers but only

one of my brothers got allot-

ment on the embankment so I

have come back and set up a

was acquired in 1961, most of

the land owners were still liv-

ing there and saying that they

have not yet received the com-

the embankment, it was found

that 600 of the rehabilitated

families have sold off their

After a spot investigation on

He said although the land

Liton, one of the returnees

"The rehabilitation did not

Suruj Mia, a local resident.

place," he said.

one lakh.

stall here.

pensation money.

points during last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday, reports UNB. A bulletin of Flood Information Centre said, rivers in the Meghna and Southeastern Hill basins observed rise and fall

during the period. The Brahmaputra marked further fall by 8 cm at Noon-

khawa, 10 cm at Chilmari, 13 cm at Bahadurabad and by 6 cm at Sirajganj but it remained steady at Aricha.

Also the Dharla remained steady at Kurigram, the river Teesta registered rise by 12 cm at Dalia and all other rivers in the basin receded.

In the Ganges basin, the river Ganges recorded slight rise at Bhagyakul while it receded at all its points like other

said, "If anybody takes such an

attempt he will simply lose his

itics is the main reason behind

the Bhasantek trouble. Because

Bhasantek is a vote bank —

there are at least 5,000 votes in

the hands of 2360 families of

the slum - no political party

will take risk angering the slum

Meanwhile, the weavers at

We don't care who does what.

Mirpur awaiting rehabilitation

are unhappy with the way the

government is dealing with the

We want immediate implemen-

tation of the project because it's

said a weaving factory owner at

engineer of the project was

drawn, he said. It's a sensitive

issue, we are not supposed to

When attention of a senior

an issue of national interest,

Local people believe that pol-

In the Meghna basin, all the rivers marked fall, though the river Kushiyara was flowing 4 cm above the danger level till 9 am today.

All the rivers in the South Eastern Hill basin continued to fall during the period, except the Halda which marked rise by 10 cm at Naryanhat.



ভিসিসি/পিআরভি/৪৬/৯৭-৯৮

**1916** - 68

### ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দন্তর

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছুরু রাখুন আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

## দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত ১ম শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১তে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ২১-০৪-১৪০৪ বাং /০৫-০৮-৯৭ইং তারিখ বেল ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা/ডেপুটি কমিশনার, ঢাকা এবং ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কর্তৃক দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকার সময় সংশ্রিষ্ট উপ-কমিটির আহ্বায়ক এবং সদস্যগণের উপস্থিতিতে উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিগণের সমূবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। শতকরা হারে দর অংকে এবং কথায় উভয়ভাবেই স্পষ্ট লিখিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেরর মহোদরের অনুক্লে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ডাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বায়নার টাকা হিসাবে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা/ডেপুটি কমিশনার ঢাকা, এবং ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক অফিস এবং হিসাব বিভাগের পোদ্দারের নিকট হইতে (প্রতি সেট) নির্ধারিত মূল্যে চালানের মাধ্যমে (অফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী, সিডিউল ইত্যাদি ক্রয় করা যাইবে। দরপত্রের দলিলাদি ক্রয়ের প্রাকালে ঠিকাদার সংশ্লিষ্ঠ চালান, তালিকাত্ত্ত/নবায়নের কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করিতে হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দশুর চলাকালীন সময় ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অঞ্চল-১ এর নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দশুর হইতে জানা যাইবে।

কোন উনুয়ন কাজের মোট প্রাক্তণিত মূল্যের উপর সার্বিকভাবে ৫% (পাঁচ ভাগ) অপেকা অধিক নিম্নদর এবং ৫%(পাঁচ ভাগ) অপেকা অধিক উর্ম্বদর দাবিলক্ত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল হইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন দলিলপত্র বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। যে কোন বা সমুদর দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই

গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষের সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে। ক্ৰমিক নং প্রাক্তিপিত অংক কাজের নাম

বায়নার টাকা সময়সীমা গুলশান মেরর ভবনের সংকার ও প্রয়োজনীয় আসবাবপত্র ७० मिन 30,00,308/= =/960,60 মেরামত ও সরবরাহকরণ যোঃ শাহাদৎ হোসেন

নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশলী वकन - % ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

কোনঃ ৬০ ৫০ ৩৩

# Film institute to be set up Bangabandhu Film City to built near capital

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said yesterday that "Bangabandhu Film City" would be built with modern facilities near the capital, reports BSS.

Exchanging views with the news editors of different national dailies in the conference room of the Ministry of Information Prof Sayeed said that the proposed film city would be built with the private invest-

that a film institute would be set up to provide modern training to the film artistes. Prof Sayeed said that mas-

The state minister also said

sive development had been achieved in different organisations including the Betar and Television under the Information Ministry during the last

He said that the rate of progress of various activities during the first year of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was 35 per cent more than the activities of the previous years.

The state minister said that the government was committed to flourish the creative activities in the mass media and added Taka 56 crore had been allocated for the implementation of 33 projects included in the annual development programme (ADP) in the financial year 1997-98.

Prof Sayeed said that new edition of history of the War of Liberation would be published this year. A reporting cell, he said,

would be set up in Bangladesh Television for improvement of its news. Prof Sayeed said two more

Betar centres — one at Dhaka

and the other at Bandarban -

would be set up.

Prof Sayeed said that the overall activities of Bangladesh Television had been recast to help project the hopes and aspi-

rations of the people. Popular stage drama and jatra, he said, were being screened in television. He said steps were being taken to screen short films in television.

The state minister said that the opinions of the viewers would be given importance in fixing the programme schedule of television. Replying to a question Prof Sayeed said that the Leader of the Opposition and BNP leaders did not participate in the television programme despite ten letters sent to them by the authority.

He said that the television cameramen, who were assigned to cover various programmes of the Leader of the Opposition and BNP chairperson including the meeting of the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, were sent back.

Prof Sayeed expressed the hope that the Leader of the Opposition would participate in the Mukhumukhi programme. He also urged the journalists to publish objective news.

### JS special body meet held

A meeting of the special committee for examination and scrutiny of Jatiya Sangsad bill was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with committee chairman Advocate Rahmat Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The committee examined and reviewed the President's Award Fund (amendment) bill-1997, which was table earlier in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Committee members Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Abdul Mannan, Col (retd) Showkat Ali and Qazi Shamsur Rahman attended the

meeting. Agriculture secretary Dr Showkat Ali was present.

# VACANCY

The Save the Children Fund (UK) - an international NGO with a mission to create lasting benefits for children - seeks a "Project/Director" for a rural project with a long history. The post holder will be based in the project area and expected in developing the project in new directions. This will involve the post holder taking a lead, through an investigative and questioning approach, in project appraisal and ensuring, through an appropriate participatory approach, that interventions are planned (and, therefore, monitored), paying close attention to the needs of the primary target group: community ownership (and, thus, sustainability).

The post holder will be offered a monthly consolidated salary between Tk.18,190/- to Tk. 27,820/-(more may be possible for exceptional candidate) depending on the experience and qualification.

The successful applicant must have a sophisticated and independent understanding of development issues;

sound management and interpersonal skills;

knowledge of developmental approaches to emergency work;

an aptitude for exploring innovative approaches to development;

an experience in or understanding of credit and savings projects, especially in rural setting;

a good level of written and spoken English and good report writing skills; an interest in children's rights and/or welfare;

an awareness and clarity concerning gender issues;

To apply please send a detailed letter and a CV in support of your application to:

Deputy Programme Director Save the Children (UK) Hs 28, Rd 16(new), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka Or, FAX (2) 817278 on or before 15th August 1997

Applications from suitable women as well as disabled candidates are especially encouraged. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview and no other correspondence will be entered into.