



Finance Minister SAMS Kibria and World Bank Country Director Pierre Landell-Mills signing a US\$32.4m credit agreement for the Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation-Water Supply Project, at the NEC auditorium in the city yesterday.

Roundtable on Computer Science Adequate trained teachers needed for flourishing IT industry

By DU Correspondent

Lack of sufficient trained teachers and proper infrastructure are the major hindrances in attaining the target of generating 10,000 computer programmers per year.

This was stated at a roundtable on 'How to Generate 10,000 Programmers Per Year: Role of the University and the Industry' organised by the department of Computer Science of the Dhaka University, yesterday.

"Before taking up the project of generating 10,000 programmers a year, we have to produce trained teachers," said Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, chairman of the Software Export Committee.

"At this stage it is not realistic to think of producing 10,000 programmers per year," he added. Dr Chowdhury also suggested setting up of a mechanism to ensure the standard of computer education in the country.

In the key-note paper, Dr M Alamgir Hossain, the chairman of the department of Computer Science, proposed to introduce computer courses in each department of the university as part of their studies to reach the target.

The proposal of Dr Alamgir encompasses all the university students who are admitted to different departments and mainly focuses on the production of entry-level and mid-level IT professionals.

As a result, a student will attain certain level of professional computer skill during his/her graduation.

After completing the gradu-

ation, the students may be offered a Post Graduate Diploma which aims at providing an opportunity to the students to have an expertise in computer applications specially in computer programming, Dr Alamgir proposed.

He said that existing available resources of the universities in the country could be used at primary stage of the project to reduce the establishment cost.

If the integrated project could be implemented with a feedback from the government, the developing partners, the local IT industry and the university authorities, it is possible to produce 10,000 programmers per year before we enter to the new millennium, he observed.

President of Bangladesh Computer Society Dr A Matin Patwary said that introduction of computer education at the Secondary and Degree level colleges may help achieve the target.

He also proposed to set up a central examination system to ensure the standard of the education. The IT industry of the country should come forward to help achieve the goal, he said.

Fazlur Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr MA Sobhan, Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council, World Bank Information System Manager Syed Ahsan Habib, Director of the Computer Centre of DU Dr M Lutfor Rahman also spoke at the roundtable. Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury was the chief guest.



Information Director of Pak Hamdard dead

Information Director of Hamdard, Pakistan, Ali Hassan, died of lung complications in Karachi yesterday. He was 55, reports APB.

Hassan, who was a senior official of Radio Pakistan before joining Hamdard, was always a well wisher of Bangladesh and its people.

He played a significant role in establishing relationship between Hamdard Pakistan and Hamdard Bangladesh.

Hassan left behind his wife, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers both in Pakistan and Bangladesh to mourn his death.

Managing Director of Hamdard Laboratories (WAQF) Bangladesh Hakim Mohammad Yusuf Harun Bhuiyan condoled the death of Ali Hassan and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Organisations carry on relief activities

Different socio-culture organisations and individuals continued relief operations among the flood affected people across the country yesterday, report agencies.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society city unit distributed relief materials at Gandaria in the city.

Bangladesh MuktiJodha Central Command Council distributed dry food, oral saline, safe water and medicines among 4000 affected people of Shialbari, Mirpur, in the city.

Sandhani National Eye Donation Society distributed 1000 pieces of ruti among the flood victims at C&B Workshop and Government Primary School flood shelter camp at Tejgaon.

Islamic Studies Department, Dhaka University distributed old clothes, oral saline, chira, molasses, safe water, water purification tablets and medicines among the affected people of Keraniganj thana.

Students of **Sir A F Rahman Hall, DU**, in cooperation with Red Crescent Society, arranged a blood donation programme for the flood affected patients yesterday. Meanwhile, a former DU student, Khandakar Jamil Uddin, handed over 250 kg sugar, 200 kg molasses, 50kg salt, 24 bags flour, 24 bags flattened rice, and 10,000 water purifying tablets to the university authorities.

Students of **Fine Art Institute** donated 500 water canes to the DU authorities.

Dhaka University Central Relief Committee handed over 8000 ruti and molasses to the armed forces relief team for distribution among flood victims across the country.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) handed over 1,400 ruti to the armed forces relief team for distribution.

Kandrio Khelaghar Ashar distributed a huge quantity of relief materials, including dried food, molasses, chira, oral saline, water purifying tablets, biscuits and powdered milk in different parts of the city.

"**Samata**", a Pabna-based NGO, yesterday started distributing relief materials among 26,459 families of 17 thanas under Pabna, Sirajganj and Natore districts, says a press release.

The NGO, funded by the British High Commission, distributed 15 kg rice, two kg pulses, four kg potatoes, one kg salt and one kg edible oil to each of 11,459 families under the first phase of its relief programme.

Employees of the organisation earlier distributed dry food among flood victims at Sujangar and Faridpur thanas by donating their 3-days salary.

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh distributed relief goods worth Tk 40,000 among the flood victims at Charghat and Bagha thanas of Rajshahi district.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) distributed bread, baby food, ORS and essential medicines among the affected people of Savar, Ashulia and Manikganj.

Social Health and Education Development (SHED) Board, a service arm of Bangladesh Baptist Sangha (BBS), distributed ORS, water purifying tablets and others essential medicines at flood shelters in the city.

Three organisations, **Jatiya Mahila Krira Parishad Complex Dhanmondi, Society for Rule of Law Bangladesh and Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd**, have decided to continue distribution of food on Sundays and Mondays among the flood victims of some city areas for few more weeks.

Jahurul Islam Medical College and Hospital has organised eight medical teams to provide health services to the flood victims of Kishoreganj district, says a press release.

The teams have been distributing water-purifying tablets, oral saline and essential medicines to the affected people from eight centres since Sept 5. Islam Group has donated medicines worth Tk 12 lakh so far for the project, the release added.

'Help implement post-flood rehabilitation programme'

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday accused certain newspapers of publishing canards, distorted and indecent reports and photographs on the flood affected people to serve a heinous motive, reports UNB.

"This is very unfortunate," he said during a meeting with news editors of national dailies on the post-flood situation, held at the Information Ministry.

Abu Sayeed hoped that the newspapers would play a responsible role as they had done in the past.

He also called upon the press to support the government's massive post-flood rehabilitation programme by projecting objective and constructive opinions.

He said radio and television are broadcasting news of the floods and relief activities of political parties, NGOs and social organisations with due importance.

The State Minister, however, said it had not been possible to televise relief activities of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament "because of their non-cooperation".

Referring to the opposition BNP's demand for an all-party relief committee, he said: "Since the government is conducting relief operation smoothly, there is no need for such a committee."

The State Minister was critical of the opposition parties, including BNP, for their political activities like hartal.

AL 'clean-up' drive begins in city today

Awami League and its front organisations will start a clean-up drive from today in the city at the directive of Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

Party workers will start the drive to clean up flood-ravaged city streets from Sadarghat at 3 pm. This was decided at a joint meeting, presided by city Awami League president and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif.

ICPC registration deadline extended

The registration deadline to participate in the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) has been extended due to the prevailing flood situation, up to October 15, says a press release.

This worldwide computer-programming contest for university/college students will be held at North South University (NSU) on November 17. ICPC is organised by Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) which is the largest body of computer professionals in the world.

All universities/colleges can send teams to participate in the contest. A team will consist of three students from the same institution, two of them must be from undergraduate level. Registration fee is Tk. 2500 for local teams and US\$50 for foreign teams.

All universities/colleges are requested to contact NSU for further information. E-mail: contest@nsu.agni.com Website: http://northsouth.edu



Samata, an NGO funded by the British High Commission, distributed relief goods among flood affected people in Pabna, Natore and Sirajganj districts.



Uttara Ladies Club distributing relief goods among flood affected people of Faiddabad village, Abdullahpur dam and Azampur village.



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury inaugurating an oral saline making project at the Faculty of Pharmacy yesterday.



Social Health and Education Development (SHED) Board providing emergency medical services to the flood victims in the city yesterday.



City Cell distributing relief materials among the flood victims of Nayarhat. City Cell has also distributed relief goods at Sirajganj, Savar and Banani.

GDP growth may fall

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Farm rehabilitation is the key

Top economists tagged recovery to government's damage control efforts, especially rehabilitation of agriculture, which they warned would be difficult.

Omar Haider Chowdhury, research director at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said a bumper boro would not save the day.

"It would still be too far to reach normal national rice production," said Chowdhury. Another senior BIDS researcher Quazi Shahabuddin agreed.

In most optimistic scenario, Shahabuddin said, the output of boro might reach 8.5 million metric tonnes, "which in no way covers up for aman losses". The usual aman output is 9.5 million tonnes.

Chowdhury said a "realistic" assessment would be crucial to taking proper rehabilitation and reconstruction steps. He said BIDS researchers were still surveying the actual economic losses caused by the floods.

Shahabuddin said rehabilitation of agriculture would be difficult because "one cannot not simply go for cultivation if it is not a season for a crop".

Shahabuddin said achieving a four per cent growth in GDP would be a challenge for the government. "If the economy grows at that rate this year, it will be a good news for the nation."

Unrealistic target

A senior opposition politician also ruled out the chances of hitting the five per cent target. "It is absolutely unrealistic," said Abdul Moyeen Khan, MP.

Former state minister for planning under the BNP administration, Khan argued, "If agriculture goes down, so does the GDP." Khan argued, referring to farm sector's dominance in the economy. "No doubt, floods have taken their toll on farmers."

Khan pointed to the government's "failure" to give its growth estimates in this year's

annual budget statements, which he interpreted as the finance minister's fear of making any projection in view of a downward trend in the economy."

In any case, Khan said, the finance minister was not in a position to project more than five per cent growth.

In the current Fifth Five-Year Plan (1998-2002), however, the government projected a GDP growth at an average annual compound rate of seven per cent. For the first year, the estimate was six per cent and for the terminal year 8.3 per cent.

A cautious government is now charting its post-flood course, with plans to cut the size of the annual development programme and channel the funds to emergency rehabilitation activity. A key thrust has been to create jobs for the flood-hit people.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud of Dhaka University added another angle to the crisis management, while guardedly lauding the government plans.

"The task of post-flood rehabilitation should be viewed as a challenge for achieving improved governance, particularly in the areas of project implementation and financial and fiscal management," said Professor Mahmud.

Inflation feared

The economics professor warned against "excessive monetary expansion and inflation" in the wake of government's special efforts to increase credit facilities to the farmers.

He said "setting priorities" would be important "since there will be demands for credit from other sectors as well".

"It would not be a problem, if increased credit meets the genuine short-term needs for working capital," he said.

"In fact, in times like these, an upward refixing of the credit expansion limit in the short run may be desirable for the sake of economic recovery, even if it means violating the rigid IMF prescriptions."

"But if funds are misused and credit discipline is jeopardised, not only scarce resources will be wasted but also macro-economic stabilisation will be put at great risk," he said.

"This is therefore the time to speed up the financial sector reforms, especially those related to agricultural credit delivery mechanism."

Omar Haider Chowdhury also spoke in the same vein. He said it would be difficult for the government to disburse the Tk 3200 crore credit to the real farmers because of its "poor and inefficient delivery system and bureaucratic bottlenecks."

Seeing crisis as an opportunity

According to Mahmud, the crisis also offers some opportunity for the government when it comes to shedding unnecessary, politically-driven projects.

"The exercise of revising the ADP also gives an opportunity for getting rid of low-priority politically-mandated projects, which have proliferated in recent years," he said.

Professor Mahmud also warned against "leakage of funds in public works" and "compromising quality when the government would be hurrying to spend as much as possible to spur economic activity."

While there is an absence of agreement over the economy's growth prospects, Chowdhury of BIDS said the nation might at least two years to offset its economic damages caused by this year's floods.

IDA loan

Rahman and World Bank Country Director designate to Bangladesh Fred Temple were also present during the occasion.

Notice Inviting RHD, Tender

1.	Tender Notice No.	4-NRD/98-99.
2.	Name of work	Supplying of road materials at different stackyard for PJ brick of different roads under RHD, Road Division, Natore during 1998-99.
3.	Chargeable head	
4.	Estimated cost	
5.	Earnest money	
6.	Group No.	As per group list.
7.	Time allowed for completion of work	
8.	Eligibility of contractor	
9.	Name of offices where tenders will be received	(a) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Pabna. (b) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Natore/Pabna/Sirajganj.
10.	Name of offices where tender will be sold	(a) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Natore/Pabna/Sirajganj. (b) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division-1/II/1st Line Workshop, Natore.
11.	Last date for selling tender	28-9-98 during office hours.
12.	Last date & time for receiving tender	29-9-98 up to 12-30 PM.
13.	Date & time for opening tender	30-9-98 at 12-45 PM.
14.	Date of lottery (if nec.)	5-10-98 at 12-00 Noon.

N.B.: (1) All participants will have to submit the attested copy of VAT registration certificate along with the tender, otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.
(2) All tenderers will have to submit the attested copy of Page No. 6 & 7 of the new registration book of contractor, otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.
(3) All participants will have to submit the attested copy of Tax-payer Identification Number along with the tender, otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.
(4) Unit rate & quantity of schedule of work will be corrected as per approved estimate at the time of execution of formal tender.

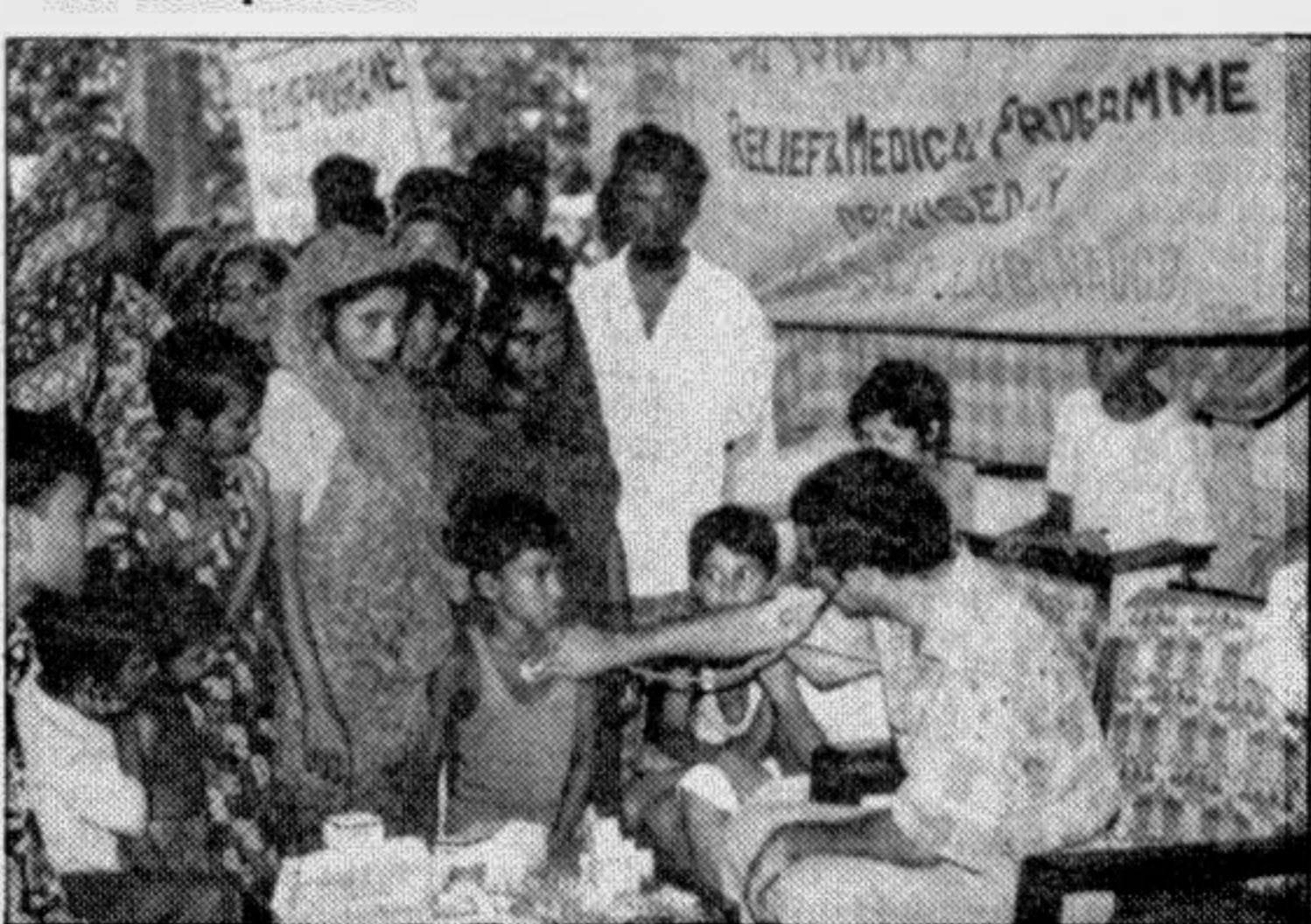
Group list, Tender Notice No. 4-NRD/98-99 (Ch. 168-RBF.)

Group No.	Name of work with location	Estimated cost	Earnest money (2%)	Eligibility of contractor	Price of tender document in/c 2908 T form	Time for completion of the work from the date of issue of work order
1 (one)	Supplying PJ bricks at Ahmedpur stackyard during 1998-99 under Road Division, Natore.	Tk. 2,60,000/-	Tk. 5200/-	RHD enlisted category from "A" to "E"	Tk. 515/-	10 (Ten) days.
2 (two)	Supplying PJ bricks at Salbagan stackyard at 3rd KM of Natore-Bogra Road under Road Division, Natore during 1998-99.	Tk. 2,60,000/-	Tk. 5200/-	-do-	Tk. 515/-	10 (Ten) days.

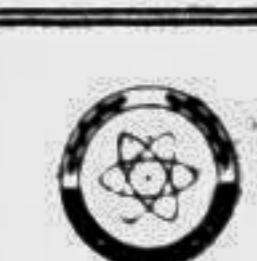
Q. G. Mustafa
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Natore.



Lion's Club Region-5 Chairman Md Bazlur Rahman distributed relief materials at Narayanganj. State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader was also present.



The National Association of UNESCO Clubs provided medical services and distributed medicines among the flood victims in the city's Faridabad and Gandaria areas.



Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission

4, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
PO Box No 158, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Ref No Procurement-1(296)/98-99 Dated: 7-9-1998

Local Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from local suppliers for supply of mower & spray machine for the head office of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. Tender documents can be purchased at Tk 200.00 (two hundred) only (non-refundable) from the Accounts Officer (Cash), Finance & Accounts Department, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, 4, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka on permission of the Administrative Officer (Procurement) through application during office hours of 16-10-1988. Application should be accompanied with (1) current year trade licence, (2) up-to-date Income Tax certificate, (3) financial solvency certificate from bank, (4) VAT registration certificate & (5) original copy of work order of similar work executed earlier should be produced. Tender with 2% (two per cent) Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee in favour of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission should be deposited in tender box kept at the office of the undersigned by 11:30 AM of 17-10-1998 which will be opened on the same day at 11:45 AM in presence (if any) of the tenderers. No tender document will be sold on the date of receiving tender. If under any circumstance, movement of traffic is specifically disrupted on the date of receiving tender or the day is suddenly declared a govt holiday, then the same time of receiving & opening tender on the next working day will be treated as valid keeping other terms & conditions unchanged.

The right to accept or reject tender or accept or reject tender in part without assigning any reason is reserved by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.
BAEC/SI-1(2)/94-347
DFP-19836-16/9 Administrative Officer (Procurement)
G-2118 Phone No 504354