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Environmental court bill likely at next JS session

A bill to establish "environmental courts" in the country is likely to be placed before the Jatiya Sangsad in its next session, reports BSS.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said that all formalities have been completed regarding placement of the bill in JS. He was speaking at the inauguration of a two-day workshop on "Environmental Law and Sustainable Development" at LGED Bhaban yesterday.

The Department of Environment (DOE), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly organised the workshop to put forward recommendations to check environmental degradation and maintain ecological balance in the country.

Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Margub Murshed chaired the inaugural session while Director General of DOE A R Khan, Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) Dr Anand Raj Joshi, Chief of RELP Lal Kurukulasuriya and Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Mosharraf Hossain spoke on the occasion.

Three separate papers were placed in the first technical session putting special emphasis on a 'holistic approach' to reach a sustainable policy by removing anomalies in the existing environmental and other concerned laws, enhancing capacity building and ensuring participation of the stakeholders.

In his paper internationally recognised water expert Prof Inun Nishat laid emphasis on an 'umbrella law' which he considers would be "time befitting and a solution of anomalies" in all environmental issues. He said just by signing of an agreement is not enough — ratification by the signatory countries is the most important factor to make the agreement effective and viable. "We have to revisit the laws and policies," he observed.

Opposing the proposed "Umbrella Law", Iqbal Ali, a consultant, said Bangladesh already has plenty of laws in all sectors. But the laws, which he said as 'laws of umbrella', remained folded — these laws should be unfolded (enforced). He, however, said the country needs umbrella policy which would incorporate the inter-sectoral cooperation.

N K Chakravarti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, in his paper titled 'Strengthening the legal and institutional framework' pleaded for setting up 'Poribesh Adalat' in every district. This court must have a provision to try officials, industrialists and other concerned institutions or persons found to be a violator of environmental laws.

Ehsanul Habib of BELA said despite having the environment act-1995 the river Buriganga is gradually dying in many ways including its encroachments. He said the Buriganga problem could not be solved only by evicting the encroachers — rather it can be saved by a holistic approach-treatment programme.

Expressing his frustration at 'enforcement of laws' Ehsan said there are 185 sectoral laws in the country. "What we need, is the implementation of these laws and by-laws."

Red Crescent team meets President
Members of the Managing Board of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society yesterday called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban, reports BSS.


Shaikh Kabir Hossain, Vice Chairman of the society, who is now holding the office of chairman, led the 15-member delegation.

The members of the delegation apprised the President of the present plans and programmes of the society and specially referred to the financial constraint which has been caused by excessive appointment in the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the recent years.

They also referred to the financial difficulties faced by the society in running the rural clinics, maternity centres and hospitals of the society and requested the President, who is also president of the society, for financial grant from the government which is usually done in cases of other similar organisations.

The President who was himself associated with the society as chairman for a considerable period, advised the members of the delegation to strictly follow the fundamental principles of the Red Crescent and Red Cross movement. He said that the Red Crescent Society whose main duty is to render humanitarian assistance to suffering people must remain independent of the government control and maintain political neutrality.

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Changes in Foreign Ministry
By Staff Correspondent
Mohammad Kamal Uddin, Director General, West Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been given the charge of the Far East Desk while, Razul Hasan, Director General, General Services, has been given the charge of West Asia Desk.

Aminul Hussain Sarker has been given the charge of the General Services Desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hasina greets Japanese PM
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has felicitated Prime Minister of Japan and President, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Keizo Obuchi on his re-election as the President of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, reports BSS.

In a message to Keizo the Prime Minister said "on behalf of my party, Bangladesh Awami League, and my own behalf, I have great pleasure in conveying to your Excellency our sincerest congratulations and greetings."

She expressed her sincere belief that the bonds of friendly relations and beneficial cooperation that so happily exists between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come for the mutual benefit of the two nations.

Three held with smuggled goods
Police arrested three people along with smuggled goods from the city's Pallabi area early yesterday, reports UNB.

Action on a tip-off, police raided different areas of the thana and arrested Mohammad Shah Alam 24, Shah Alam, 24, and Bilal Hossain, 28.

They seized 50 pieces of saree, 20 pieces of sari, a computer set, spare parts of computer and a private car from their possessions.
A case was filed.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H
Road Division, Pirojpur.

Tender Invitation Notice

- Tender Notice Number : 07 PRD of the year 1999-2000
- Name of work : Work of doublesoling and widening of road embankment by earth on different KMs of Gariarpar-Banaripara-Sharshina-Swarupkathi-Kaukhali-Naikathi road under Pirojpur Road Division during 1999-2000 year in different groups. (Head of expenditure: 266 Development)
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : Do-Do-Do
- Time for completion of work : Do-Do-Do
- Name of offices where tenders will be available : Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Pirojpur/Barisal/Patuakhali/Bhola/Jhalokathi/Barguna/Planning Division (PD), Dhaka/Planning and Design Division, Barisal/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division, Pirojpur/Kaukhali on all working days excepting holidays during office hours. No paper related to tender will be sold on the day of opening tender.
- Name of offices where tenders will be received : Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Monitoring and Evaluation Circle (PD), Dhaka/ Superintending Engineer, R&H, Barisal Road Circle, Barisal/Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Pirojpur/Barisal/Jhalokathi.
- Last date of selling tender : 4-10-99/19-6-1406 Bang.
- Last date and time of receiving tender in sealed condition : 5-10-99/20-6-1406 Bang at 12-30 PM.
- Date and time of filing tender in the office of the undersigned : 13-10-99/28-6-1406 Bang at 12-45 PM.
- Date and time of lottery : 24-10-99/9-7-1406 Bang at 10-00 AM.
- Eligibility of contractors to submit tender : 'A' to 'C' class of general category of R&H Department and 'D' class of general category enlisted contractors of Barisal Road Circle.

N.B.: Bill will be paid subject to the availability of allocation. But the progress of the work cannot be hampered.

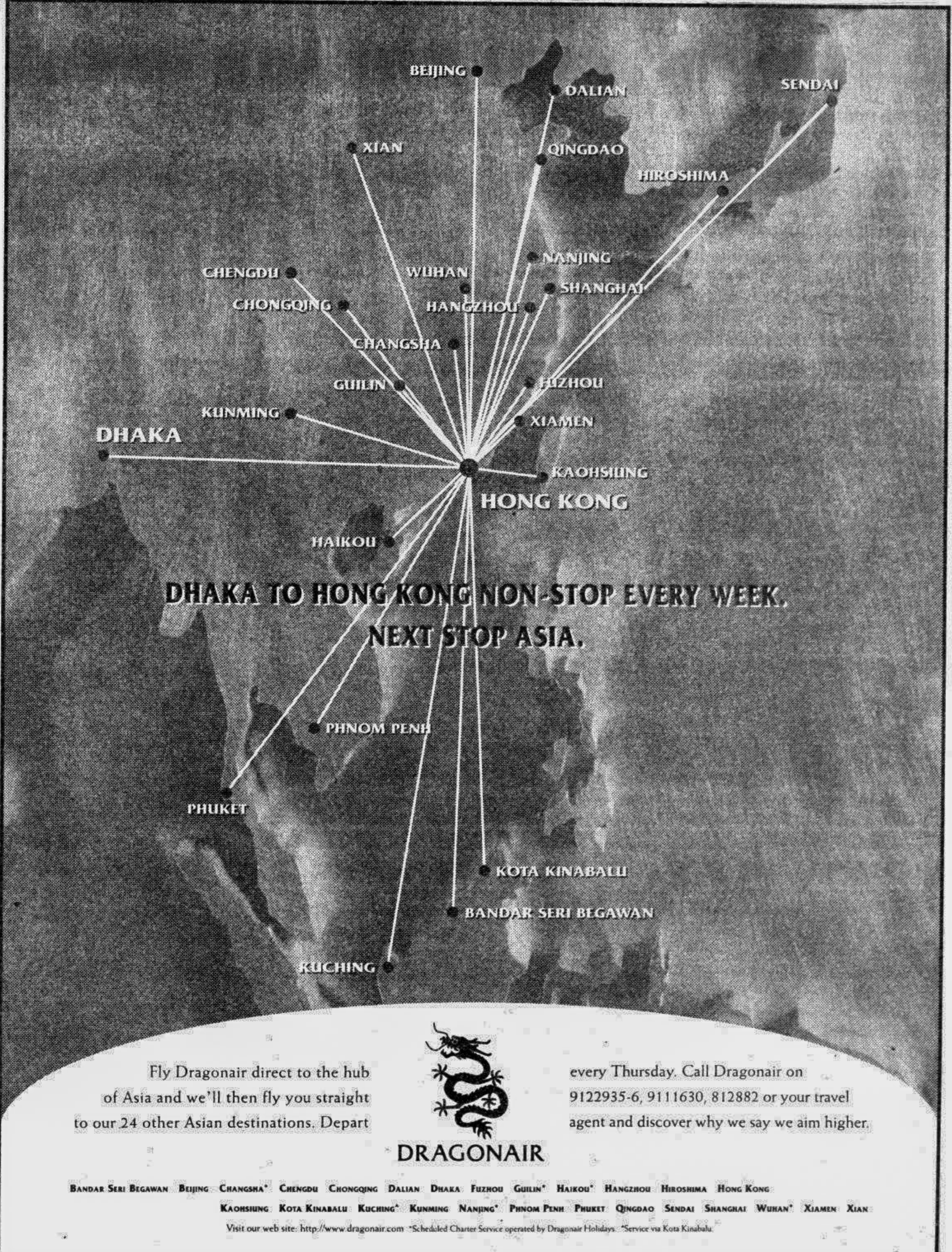
Group List

Group No	Name of work and location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time for completion of work	Head of expenditure
1.	Work of doublesoling and widening of road embankment by earth on the 5th and 6th KM of 4th (P) of Gariarpar-Banaripara-Sharshina-Swarupkathi-Kaukhali-Naikathi road under Pirojpur Road Division during 1999-2000 year.	Tk 21,45,710/=	Tk 42,915/=	45 days	266 Development
2.	Do-Do-Do-Do on the 7th and 8th KM Do-Do	Tk 22,89,517/=	Tk 45,791/=	Do	Do
3.	Do-Do on the 9th (P), 10th (P), 19th KM-Do.	Tk 23,39,918/=	Tk 46,899/=	Do	Do
4.	Do-Do on the 13th KM of the road-Do-Do-Do	Tk 10,26,780/=	Tk 20,536/=	30 day	

DFP-20653-19/9
G-1760

A Z M Monowaruzzaman
Executive Engineer, R&H
Road Division, Pirojpur.

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