

IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON MODERNISATION

The Japanese Instance

As the second economic power in the world Japan will have to be involved in all major world events. As such it has become necessary for her to set up a system under which Japanese students study together with foreign students and also develop international outlook.

by A B M S Zahur

THE origin of Japanese education can be traced back from the Edo period (1600-1868) when the Tokugawa Shogunate government and its feudal class established a number of schools throughout Japan to educate the children of Samurai (warrior) class. Emphasis was placed on the teaching of Chinese Confucian classics and martial arts in these schools. In Tokyo (formerly known as Edo) there were even schools in which western sciences, medicines and military drills were taught. Children of common people used to have their elementary education from private schools (numbering over 50000) which were very small in size (average number of students only 10).

Soon after the Meiji restoration in 1868 Emperor Meiji introduced a modern school system by promulgating the fundamental code of education in 1872. The code is as follows:

"From now on education should be spread among the people at large (peers, ex-warriors, farmers, artisans and merchants as well as women) so that there may be no illiterate members in families. Parents should be fully aware of this policy and, with tender care, never fail to have their children receive education."

To make Japan a modern industrial state in the shortest possible time Meiji government adopted the following programmes:

(a) Sending Japanese students abroad, particularly to advanced European countries;

(b) Employment of foreign teachers in Japanese universities and other higher educational institutions; and

(c) Translation and publication of foreign books in Japanese. The attendance rate in elementary schools stood at 40 per cent for boys and 15 per cent for girls or 27 per cent on average in 1873. Elementary

compulsory education was extended upto the sixth grade in 1908. Over these years the attendance rate in compulsory education rose steadily to over 90 per cent in 1902.

The keynote of Japanese education before the war was laid down in imperial precept on education of 1890, which stressed moral values based on Confucian philosophy such as filial duty and loyalty to the country.

The Japanese society went through a drastic change after World War II and a sweeping educational reform was carried out to "democratise" education. The new constitution of Japan sets forth the basic national educational policy as follows:

"All people shall have the right to receive an equal education correspondent to their ability, as provided by law. The people shall be obliged to have all boys and girls under their protection receive ordinary education as provided for by law. Such compulsory education shall be free."

The fundamental law of education of 1947 defines the aim of education as follows:

"Education shall aim at the full development of personality striving for the rearing of the peoples, sound in mind and body, who shall love truth and justice, esteem individual value, respect of labour, and have a deep sense of responsibility and be imbued with the independent spirit, as builders

of the peaceful state and society."

The new school system had the following distinguishing characteristics:

* Single track system (from kindergarten to elementary to lower secondary to upper secondary to university/graduate school) replacing multitrack system (from kindergarten to national schools to middle schools to higher schools to either universities with graduate course or to higher normal schools or colleges;

* Lower secondary education made compulsory;

* Co-education adopted. In elementary schools moral education replaced 'shushin' (ethics) and geography and history were integrated into social studies.

* Teacher training system reformed. 'Open' teacher training system was introduced, making it possible for any college or university graduate to become a teacher provided he or she has acquired a prescribed number of credits in each subject group; general education subjects, teaching subjects and professional subjects.

The reasons behind the success of rapid expansion of education in Japan may be identified as follows:

* Expenditure on education: Japanese government traditionally attaches special importance on the role of education in national development

and allocates a substantial portion of budget for education.

* Efficient educational administration and finance: Ministry of education is responsible for educational administration at the national level and prefectural and municipal bodies are responsible at local levels. The ministry of education supervises and allocates financial aid to local boards of education. The ministry also determines the national guidelines for social curriculum and national standards of school equipment and facilities. Prefectural and municipal boards of education administer schools established by prefectures and municipalities respectively.

* Equal opportunities in education. * Democratic social structure and high social mobility: As Japanese society is very democratic there is no social class barriers and anybody can climb the ladder to success according to his/her ability and effort.

Like any other countries Japanese education system is also not free from problems. The problems are:

(a) Entrance examination system: Competition in entrance examination begins sometimes at the kindergarten level and gets more and more intensified as one advances to the higher level of education. Many of the upper secondary graduates fail in entrance examination for one or two years or longer. A considerable number

of lower and upper secondary students find curricular contents (especially mathematics and English) too difficult.

(b) Expansion of useful vocational and technical education: Some of the technical upper secondary school students are not highly motivated. More and more of the university graduates with degrees in liberal arts have difficulty in finding suitable and worthy jobs. Therefore, the vocational and technical education at secondary level should be further improved and expanded to all interested students.

* Promotion of moral education: As the average Japanese families are 'nuclear' they cannot enjoy the benefits of traditional families. The strong competition for success in life made people more concerned with material wealth than spiritual or moral aspect of life. The moral education should be made more effective.

* Reorganisation of whole school system: As more time is available for leisure it is necessary to consider education in the light of the changing outlook of the society.

* Need for changing outlook of Japanese students: Geographically Japan is an isolated country. Even though the economic and other relations between Japan and foreign countries have increased tremendously over the years after the Second World War the average Japanese still does not have a strong awareness of being a member of international community and takes a rather conservative attitude. As the second economic power in the world Japan will have to be involved in all major world events. As such it has become necessary for her to set up a system under which Japanese students study together with foreign students and also develop international outlook.

The writer is a retired Joint Secretary.

Universalisation of Cricket

Dhaka Shows the Way

Building up a nation is not confined to ODIs (one-day international); it is a series of five-day Tests of goal-oriented patience and endurance. The International Cricket Week has been introduced at the right time, and at the right location. Let the game of life be exhibited

by Alif Zabr

THE International Cricket Week sponsored by ICC-UN was highlighted by an exhibition match on April 8 between the Asian XI and the Rest of the World XI at the Dhaka stadium. The spectators responded magnificently; every seat was sold out in advance, and a huge crowd gathered outside. Both the teams rose to the occasion, and delivered a result which was spine-tingling till the last ball was bowled. One team lost the match by one run, scoring a boundary instead of a sixer off the last ball. The losing team had seemingly no chance to avoid defeat after the fall of the 7th wicket at 196, with the winning target set at 321. That is cricket—the beauty and the fascination lie in the uncertainty. A tip for our ambitious politicians: play cricket.

Michael Bevan (of Australia) remained not out with 185 (off 132 balls) when the innings of the Rest of the World closed at 319. It was a magnificent display of power batting against great odds (one man fighting Asia). Earlier, Asian batting maestro Tendulkar delighted the crowd with precise and effortless display of the ballet between the bat and the ball; am-

ply supported by West Bengal's Sourav Ganguly, the Prince, who had become the King of Calcutta. It was the millennium's first offering of the world's top cricketers playing together, and now the appetite has increased, hence more such encounters in sporting spirit are eagerly awaited.

One mystique remained unsolved: why cricket, an Empire game of the Commonwealth nations, was being promoted for global awareness; when the players in the super-power country preferred the rounded bat, and the ball had to be hit before touching the ground (baseball)? Although there is no politics in cricket (it is a gentleman's game, with apology to the politicians), it might reduce the communication gap between the First and the Third Worlds.

The Dhaka galleries are now fit for Test status, only the players have to be tested in Test matches. The infrastructure or the stage is ready, before the actors or players are. Such is the lop-sided development pattern in some developing countries. When the resources cannot match the development rate such incongruities occur. On the other hand it is good news. The awareness factor is now in place, remembering that the danda-gullu is the native form of initiation during childhood. There are a few gaps, such as the discovery of Bangladeshis Tendulkar, Shoaib or Shane Warne. When Brojen Das can conquer the English Channel, why we cannot overcome the cricket barrier?

There was a message when Asia vanquished the rest of the world: the action during the new millennium will be in Asia. Toynbee's analysis on the rise and fall of civilizations reads optimistic to the Asian

mind; with a small snag that the reading has to be translated into action, to affect the GDP, GNP, and what not. Across the border, the rivalry in cricket between India and Pakistan has become an issue of national prestige (note the latest thunderbolt in South African cricket—Cronje is crouching).

Bangladesh's rise has to come through cricket fields, metaphorically speaking. Good batting needs split-second timing. There is too much nibbling outside the off stump, and there are too many appeals to suit the administration. Many castles have been built up through sixers, while perfect cover drives are rarely seen in public life.

The bowling must have infinite variations; and slippery fielding is sometimes laudable. The fielders are monitoring stations. There are too many dropped catches in our national life, because the fielding is sloppy. Those fielding at the 'silly' positions (in life) should not look so silly. There are too many 'bys', and too many appeals from the opponents. The playing field must be level, and the pitches prepared with in-depth expertise, to build up massive scores of national data. When opinion displaces fact, the gestation time lengthens (what we have achieved in three decades?).

It is good that the game of cricket has come down to the awami level; hence the other namesakes have to tighten up on the performance. Building up a nation is not confined to ODIs (one-day international); it is a series of five-day Tests of goal-oriented patience and endurance. The International Cricket Week has been introduced at the right time, and at the right location. Let the game of life be exhibited at the Dhaka stadium.

Empty Promise Lands Politician in the Drink

FAMILIES in two Zambian townships are boycotting their water charges. "To teach politicians a lesson" after a false election pledge to give them free supplies.

Hundreds of households in the Ndeke and Kabobola townships of Mazabuka, 150 kilometres south-west of Lusaka, are refusing to pay up. Only about 25 per cent of bills have been settled since a by-election in December.

Locals say the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) promised to end the levies if its candidate won—which he did.

"We've had enough of cheating politicians who promise you the Moon when they are campaigning and then promptly disappear once elected," said Lwendo Michelo, who lives in Kabobola. She said people realised that the water had to be paid for, but their action was aimed at teaching politicians a lesson.

A neighbour, Moffat Siyaninda, pointed out: "All we are doing is following up on what we were promised."

Politicians are renowned for promising the Earth and the Moon in their quest for votes. Campaigners at a recent Zambian by-election went one better and promised free water as well. Gemini News Service reports on a voter backlash.

Vincent Zulu writes from Lusaka

In nearby Ndeke, Trevor Mulonda said voters were always being taken for a ride by politicians who made empty promises. The time had come to call them to account.

"We gave them our votes so now they have to make good on their promise," he said. "How they do this is entirely up to them."

Another resident, Mapeenzi Sibabwa, declared: "The UPND promised us free water and that is what we want—not two ways about it."

Griffiths Nangomba, the new MP who has landed in hot water over the dispute, denies having made any such pledge, and accuses the ruling Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) of stirring up the issue to smear him. However, residents are

adamant that UPND campaign teams on the ground did make the promise.

Nangomba, 44, a soft-spoken trader and former irrigation specialist, captured the Mazabuka Central seat from the MMD by a narrow margin.

The by-election was called after the death of the sitting MP Bennie Mwiinga. The UPND, formed just over a year ago, now has two MPs, but its December poll victory hardly dented the MMD's massive parliamentary majority.

The local water system at the centre of the dispute consists of a network of pipes linked to bore holes which were sunk a few years ago under a donor-funded programme. The communities are supposed to manage and maintain them through

payment of monthly consumption levies.

The 2,500 kwacha charge represents a sizeable chunk of income among the township dwellers, many are labourers, street vendors and domestic workers, earning less than 100,000 kwacha per month.

Julius Simchibombo, chairman of the Ndeke township residents' development committee, says the boycott of bills is hitting their funding and jeopardising other important community projects.

Water may soon stop flowing, he says, because they are having difficulty in finding the money to pay the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO), which keeps the pump engines running. "We are now in a fix as

ZESCO might disconnect our power for non-payment of bills," he said. "If that happens, everyone will be affected, irrespective of whether or not they pay their water charges."

To try to avert this, the development committee has prepared a hard-hitting awareness programme to stress the importance of paying for the water.

The Mazabuka District Administrator, Emerson Machila, warned non-payers: "If the bore holes break down due to lack of maintenance because of lack of funds, the residents will be the ones to suffer."

Nangomba, the embattled new MP, is trying to help solve the problem. He said: "We're encouraging people, regardless of their political affiliation, to

Recession's 'Hangover' Tarnishes Food Records

by Juan L. Mercado

"HANGOVER" from the now-receding Asian economic crisis tarnishes the sheen of this region's remarkable achievement: pruning back the number of ill-fed, from 771 million in 1970 to 525 million at this century's start.

Asia had larger concentrations of chronically hungry people than sub-Saharan Africa in 1970, the Food and Agriculture Organization recalls. No more. It has moved out of "basket case" status.

Both East and South East Asia could reach the World Food Summit target: halving its malnourished by 2015, says the 1999 *State of Food and Agriculture* report. With its massive population, South Asia will lag somewhat but still advance.

However, "the social impacts continue to unfold," affecting the poorest and the malnourished, the Asian Development

Bank warns in its study: *Social Consequences of the Financial Crisis in Asia*.

As the heaviest impact of the Asian financial crisis hit the most vulnerable, who are already ill-fed, safety nets of the Philippines and other governments proved inadequate.

"The family system has, yet again, carried out its traditional fall-back role of seeing its members through tremendous hardships," Mary Racelis, Ernesto Pernia and James Knowles write in ADB Economic Staff Paper No. 60.

As the year 2000 starts, the ill-fed, the world over, stand at 719 million, estimates the United Nations. They approximate 60 Cambodians.

Disparities are stark. Average food intake of a Canadian child is 3,058 calories daily. For a Filipino it is 2,370 and a Somali, 1,533.

Malnutrition ushers more pre-school Filipino children to

early graves, than in poorer countries like Zimbabwe or Kenya, the world and Asian Development Banks observe in their report on *Early Childhood Development*.

Population growth and migration jack up food demand. "A city of 10 million—for example, Manila, Cairo or Rio de Janeiro—may need to import at least 6,000 tons of food a day," the new *Feeding The World* report asserts. By 2015, there will be 36 "mega-cities" of 8 million-plus residents.

Yields in politically-volatile rice have "plateaued." So have wheat and maize. Fish catches have stagnated, the Worldwatch Institute notes.

In 1996, the World Food Summit scaled back earlier pledges to eliminate hunger totally to "modest" target: reduce the hungry by about five Singapore (20 million) yearly. This would halve, by the year 2015, the over 831 million

people, who went to bed hungry in the early 1990s.

Since then, about eight million were lifted out of hunger zones annually, the Food and Agriculture Organization reports. This decline is less than half of what the chastened Summit set out to do.

"The Asian crisis hurt virtually everyone in society," Racelis, Pernia and Knowles point out. "Some particularly vulnerable groups suffered substantially greater adverse effects," among others: the poor, children, the elderly.

Women in the Philippines, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand "have been generally harder hit by the employment and income impact of the crisis."

There's no hard data on yanking children out of school in large number and put to work. But in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, there has been an upswing in street children, begging, child abuse

and prostitution.

Policy responses will have to address the recession's "social consequences," while simultaneously boosting food production.

Policy-makers are confronted by a savaged natural resource base and unprecedented ecological changes. *El Nino*, *La Nina*, red tide and acid rain are some of the newer threats.

Yet, the toll from hunger can be reduced even more. Curbing the 10 to 40 percent losses in post-harvest operations is an option.

But financial support for agricultural research is niggardly. Institutions like IRR see "donor fatigue" cut budgets, even as it works on "super rice." Science-based agriculture, with user-friendly approaches is the name of the game ahead.

Easing the food problem is linked to tapping teeming mass of impoverished small farmers and herders. Modern science must match policies that provide "unequal opportunity for the weak," the Swedish thinker Gunnar Myrdal states. Special programs need to serve, further and deeper, the "unreachable" whose organizations are often squashed as "subversive." Benefits of agriculture are creamed off by powerful elites. Resources are skewed to articulate urban elites.

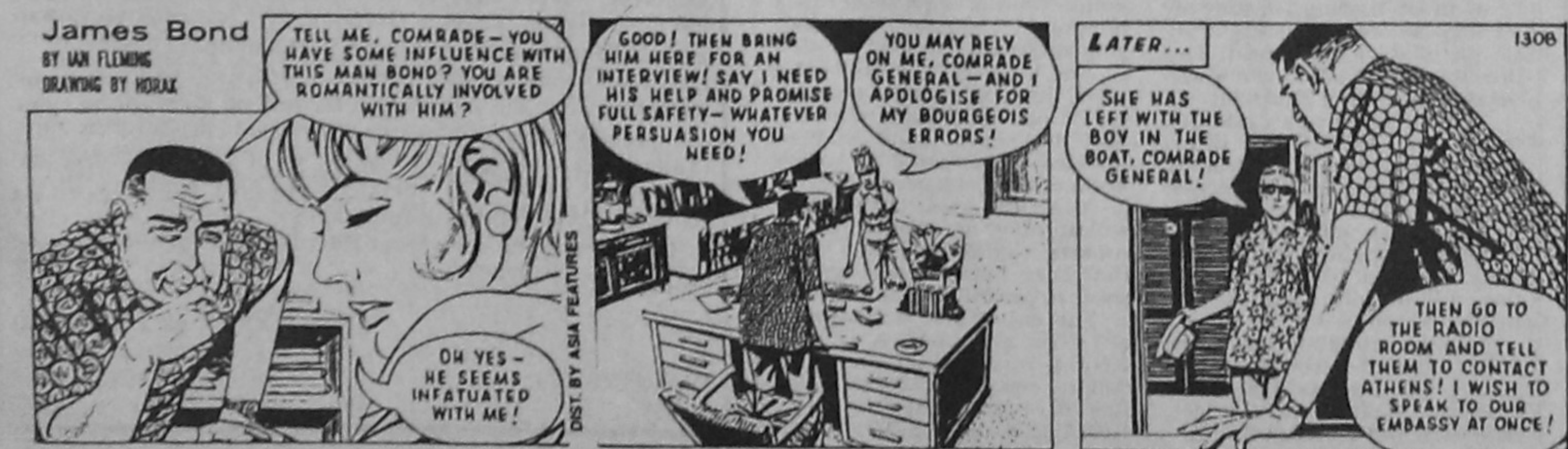
As agricultural policies shift to ensuring ecological access to resources and restarting stalled agrarian reforms, governments develop more efficient, equitable and adequately funded social safety nets.

"Greater emphasis needs to be placed on poverty eradication," due to their limited capacity to cope, ADB says.

The Philippines and other Asian countries should shift away from reliance on direct provision of social services and supply-side subsidies, Racelis, Pernia and Knowles write.

Reforms in the banking and corporate sectors need to be pursued, while the competitiveness of markets and the government's regulatory role must be strengthened.

"Corruption needs to be combated vigorously and convincingly," ADB states. "Strengthening democratic institutions can limit the adverse social impact of future crises." —DEPTNews.



Road Division, Gaibandha

Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

1. Tender Notice No.	14-11 (RHD) 1999/2000
2. Name of work	Repairing with Bituminous seal coat work, and Earth work in road embankment at diff locations on diff roads under G/bandha Road Division during the year 1999-2000 in 5(five) groups.
3. Estimated cost	As per group list.
4. Earnest money	= do =
5. Time allowed for completion of work	= do =
6. Eligibility of contractor	= do =
7. Name of office where tender documents will be available for sale	a) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Rangpur/Bogra/Kurigram/Joypurhat/Lalmonirhat/Gaibandha. b) Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Gaibandha/Palashbari.
8. Name of office where tender will be received	a) Superintending Engineer (RHD), Rangpur Road Circle, Rangpur. b) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Rangpur/Bogra/Kurigram/Joypurhat/Lalmonirhat/Gaibandha.
9. Last date of selling of tender (for all groups)	Up to 3-5-2000 during office hours.
10. Last date & time for receiving tender (for all groups)	On 4-5-2000 at 12:30 PM.
11. Date & time for opening of tender box (for all groups)	On 4-5-2000 at 12:45 PM.
12. Date & time of opening of all tender by this office	On 8-5-2000 at 12:45 PM.
13. Date & time for lottery (if required)	On 8-5-2000 at 11:30 AM.
14. Head of A/C	For Group No I,II,III,IV,-266 Dev for Group No V-168, RBF.

Grp No	Name of work with locations	Estimated cost in Tk	Earnest money in Tk	Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of contractor
I(one)	Seal coat work with repair at 6th & 7th (P) KM on Bonerpara-Jumerbari Road under Road Division, Gaibandha during the year 1999-2000	Tk 4,23,327/=	Tk 8,467/=	15 (fifteen) days	A to E class contractor under RHD, general category
II(two)	Seal coat work with repair at 25th & 26th (P) KM on Gaibandha/Fulchhari/Bharatkhalai/Saghata Road under Gaibandha Road Divn during the year 1999-2000	Tk 4,06,794/=	Tk 8,136/=	15 (fifteen) days	A to E class contractor under RHD, general category
III(three)	Seal coat work with repair at 4th (P) KM and 5th KM on Bonerpara/Jumerbari Road under Gaibandha Road Division during the year 1999-2000	Tk 4,02,679/=	Tk 8,536/=	15 (fifteen) days	-do-
IV(four)	Earth work in road embankment at 7th (P) KM of Godownbazar/Talukjamera Road under Gaibandha Road Division during the year 1999-2000	Tk 2,03,396/=	Tk 4,068/=	15 (fifteen) days	-do-
V(five)	Repairing with bituminous seal coat work at 66th (P) KM, 67th (P) & 72nd (P) KM of Bogra/Rangpur National highway and 21st KM (P) of Gaibandha/Palashbari Road under Gaibandha Road Division during the year 1999-2000	Tk 4,62,106/=	Tk 9,242/=	15 (fifteen) days	-do-

বিঃদ্রঃ- প্রাক্কলন অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষে প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয় হ্রাস অথবা বৃদ্ধি পাইতে পারে এবং অর্থ বরাদ্দ সাপেক্ষে মূল্য পরিশোধ করা হইবে।

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Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Gaibandha