

# Take up masterplan to save Rajshahi from wrath of Padma

## City dwellers appeal to Govt

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 9: Speakers at a discussion meeting here observed that the condition of Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment was very bad and highly vulnerable.

They appealed to the concerned authorities to undertake necessary measures to ensure protection of the city people by immediately repairing the embankment before the ensuing monsoon season.

People from all walks of life including public representatives, political leaders, teachers, leaders of different professional bodies, journalists, leaders of business communities and elite irrespective of their party and political affiliation took part in the discussion meeting held recently at a local community centre in the city.

Organised by Action Committee for Completion of Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment Project (ACCRTEP), the meeting was presided over by Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) executive member Jamat Khan.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Rajshahi city Mayor and central organising secretary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Mizanur Rahman Minu, Workers' Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha, Rajshahi Bar Association general secretary Advocate Emamul Huque, Jatiya Party city unit president Moshataque Ahmed Labu, Bangladesh Silk Factory Owners' Association president Advocate Moenuddin Ahmed Manik, BNP city unit organising secretary Salehuddin Babu, president of Rajshahi Chapter of Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh Tajul Islam, Bangladesh Deed Writers' Association president Elahi Baksh Mandol, Bangladesh Shamajtrik Dal Rajshahi district unit coordinator Ruhul Quddus Tunu, Workers' Party city unit general secretary Ferdous Kamal Masum, Bangladesh Human Rights Realisation Association Rajshahi district unit president Advocate Abul Kasem, ward commissioner of Rajshahi City Corporation Sajjad Hossain, BSS special correspondent M Mohaimen, Rajshahi Grocery Merchants' Association president Mosharrif Hossain Akhujni and Advocate Golam Samdani.

Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries executive member Rafiqul Hasan Firoz presented a paper containing 26 burning problems of Rajshahi region at the beginning of the meeting.

The speakers termed the embankment crisis as a 'life and death' problem of the city dwellers and said, if sufficient precautionary measures for repairing of the embankment are not taken immediately, Rajshahi city would be devoured by the mighty River Padma during the upcoming 'flood season'.

They observed that works on repairing of several hundred yards of the western part of the embankment were going on but no step had yet been taken to repair highly vulnerable eastern portion of the embankment.

About a century-old 18 kilometre long Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment had been seriously damaged by the River Padma during the devastating floods in 1998 and 1999.

The speakers suggested the government to take a master plan for protection of the city.

Each and every government has shown indifference to the burning problem of Rajshahi, they alleged and vowed to organise greater movement for realisation of rights of the long-neglected people of Rajshahi.

A fresh and strong action committee would be floated very soon for organising greater movement, organisers announced.

Agencies report: Seven solid spars, aiming to protect a vast track of land in Sadar and Kajipur thanas in Sirajganj district from river erosion, are being constructed at a cost of Tk 45.0 crore.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is implementing the project with local technology.

Officials said five of the solid spars are being constructed at Megai and Shuvo-gachhi in Kajipur thana while the rest two at Simla in Sadar thana.

The works are likely to be completed by June next.

BWDB Executive Engineer Mohammad Ali said another 200-meter solid spar would be constructed at Megai in Kajipur after the construction of a one-km cross dam.

Thousands of people gather the project site everyday to see

how the BWDB is constructing the dam on the gorge of turbulent Jamuna by dumping earth.

A nearly Tk 4.5 crore project has been undertaken to save Chhatak industrial estate in Sunamganj district from the erosion of Surma river.

Initiated by Chhatak Municipality, the project will be implemented by the Water Development Board from its own fund by fiscal 2001-02.

Chhatak Municipality chairman Abdul Wahid Majnu Miah inaugurated the work on the project on March 10.

Officials said they have already begun a process to com-

function presided over by municipality chairman Mirza Shakhawatul Moni. Senior district officials and engineers were present at the function.

Two committees have been formed to oversee proper implementation of the project which is scheduled to be completed by next month.

Work on a project has begun for protection of land from erosion by the River Isamati that borders with India.

Water Development Board has taken up the project at an estimated cost of Tk one crore. It was designed to protect the river bank along Bhatsala, Ko-

of the beel.

Ten thousand out of total 30,000 hectares of land under the beel area will be benefited by the re-excavation which will also facilitate the navigation in the area.

It will also be possible to produce additional 16,000 tonnes of foodgrains due to increased irrigation.

At a gathering held in this connection at the Baraikhal High School premises, the minister said that the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has undertaken massive irrigation and other programme under WDB for

the affected unions are Boror Char, Char Sirta, Paranganj, AUSTADHAR, KUSTIA and KHAGDHABAR.

Residents of village Khagdhahar said that a vast tract of land was devoured by the mighty Brahmaputra during the last 10 years. They also said that many families have become totally pauper after losing their all belongings in the river. Some families have already shifted to another places including the district town and the capital city to survive.

Some residents of low caste Hindu community of village Char Gobindapur told this correspondent that once this area was a busy area but now it had been turned into a silent place. This is because, most of the families left the place as the wrath of Brahmaputra snatched their century-old homesteads. For continuous erosion, they shifted their houses several times.

Shafali Rani Bin, a middle aged milk woman told The Daily Star that they are apprehending that the rest portion of their area may go into Brahmaputra following continuous erosion. Others also fear that heavy rainfall in the beginning of the Summer might cause a serious havoc this year.

Erosion is also continuing in Gafargaon, Phulpur, Trishal, Dubaura and other places. Erosion in these places has made hundreds of families homeless for years together.

But it is matter of great regret that there is no fruitful initiative to check this menace. The victims said that during the heavy flood, the authorities concerned take some steps to protect important establishments. But it is not sufficient for the poor people who have fallen victims by the wrath of the Old Brahmaputra river, they observe.

Another report from Rangpur says: At least 50 families were rendered homeless and 60 acres with standing crops devoured by erosion of river Teesta during the week ending Sunday in Rangpur district.

With rise of water level strong currents eroded part of village Sangkarda of Ganga-gachha thana during the week.

The homeless people have taken shelter in different areas including the side of embankment. They lament that Water Development Board took no step to protect them from the river erosion.

agricultural and other developments of the country.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: River erosion is taking a serious turn here due to early rainy season.

River erosion has taken a serious turn in different parts for the last couple of years. The erosion has already displaced hundreds of people from their homesteads.

Erosion, which is continuing in the River Old Brahmaputra has caused serious loss to the people of the shoal areas. At least 15 shoal villages of six unions in sadar thana have been affected seriously following erosion every year.

Meanwhile, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak visited "Arial Beel Flood Control and Irrigation Project" at Baraikhal at Siraganj in Munsinghganj district and asked the Water Development Board (WDB) authority to re-excavate the Alampur Madankhal canal

marpur, Khanja, Kharhat of Kaliganj and Debhata thana.

Officials said a large area was devoured by river erosion that went to Indian side as it fell on the other side of the midstream. It is expected that the soil of Bangladesh will be protected with implementation of the project in Sathkira district.

Work on the project started on April 6 with a ceremonial



**A perennial problem**  
Erosion by the River Old Brahmaputra has taken a serious turn in Mymensingh district in recent days. The picture was taken from Bin Para area situated on the other side of Mymensingh Circuit House.

plete the second phase work with the allocation of Tk 40.25 lakh during the current fiscal year.

Besides, they said, a proposal is under process to extend the project area to 2,321 meters from 821 metres planned earlier.

The Water Development Board has taken up a project of constructing a 0.426 km town protection embankment along the river Brahmaputra at Pathalia in Jamalpur municipal area for which 200 metric tons of wheat have been allocated.

Work on the project started on April 6 with a ceremonial

extortion have come down to a great extent. The area has become a 'terrorism-free' area.

Police and other sources said, a number of killing, robbery, snatching, extortion, looting of tender boxes occurred in this area during the last year.

Even one Chharta League activist was also murdered.

The man behind improvement of law and order situation in the area is Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shahjadpur Golam Sarwar. Since his taking over the charge of OC on January 2 this year he cracked down on criminals with a strong hand. He began to raid on criminals either openly or in guise of a woman wearing veils or wearing ragged clothes like a beggar.

Previously many hardened criminals moved freely and were engaged in misdeeds. Many of them were wanted criminals. Previously policemen could not arrest them. But the present OC Golam Sarwar succeeded in arresting more than 2,000 criminals including many absconding notorious terrorists such as Jibon Ghosh, Prafulla, Belal, Tera Nasir, Nurul Islam, Sattar Mohah and Chandon.

As the OC began to arrest in guise of woman and beggar, panic gripped the terrorists of the area. Finding on other means to escape at least 150 surrendered. Police recovered various illegal weapons including Chinese axe.

Now Shahjadpur is calm and a peaceful atmosphere prevails here, opined people of all walks of life including different socio-cultural organisations. Now the local people rarely hear any sound of 'bombs or crackers'.

Two housewives named Tuhina and Sanjida and two other shopkeepers named Babul and Dulal told that they could move freely taking money with them in public. Previously they could not even think of it.

Praising the activities of Shahjadpur OC and his forces, President and General Secretary of Shahjadpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, President of Motor Owners' Association and President of Cotton Traders' Association told that a healthy climate of trade and commerce had been prevailing in Shahjadpur.

**Body of teenage girl recovered**

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, May 9: Police recovered the body of a teenage girl from a roadside bush at Chuchuria village under Dumuraj upazila on Saturday night.

The dead was identified as Rehana Khatoun, 13, daughter of Rajab Ali Golden.

According to police, Rehana left her paternal house with her fiancé Bulbul of the same village on Thursday night but never returned.

## News snaps

### Housewife with phensidyl held

KISHOREGANJ, May 9: Police in a raid arrested a housewife along with phensidyl and beer from Laxmipur village in Bhairab upazila early Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Morshed Mia at the village and recovered 10 bottles of phensidyl and eight bottles of beer. In another incident at Paltakanda village, locals caught a heroin trader, Danesh Mia, and recovered some heroin from his possession. He was later handed over to police.

### Training course

NARSINGDI, May 9: A six-day long training course of trainees on Applied Nutrition has begun on 7 May at the training room of Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension, Narsingdi under the management of Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN), reports BSS.

A total of 70 trainees are participating in the training course. Civil Surgeon, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension, Fishery Officer, Live Stock Officer of the district and two Scientific Officers of BIRTAN are delivering lectures on the topics.

### Uplift work progressing

PABNA, May 9: Works on 566 rural infrastructure maintenance projects are progressing fast in nine upazilas and six municipalities, reports UNB.

Some 926 mts of work have been allocated for implementation of the projects in the current fiscal, officials said. Upazila-wise breakup of the projects: Sadar-51, Atgharia-45, Ishwardi-67, Chatmohor-62, Bhangura-45, Faridpur-28, Sathia-83, Bera-59 and Sujaganar-87. The breakup of the projects undertaken in municipalities: Sadar-7, Ishwardi-16, Bera-6, Chatmohor-2, Faridpur-5 and Sathia-3. According to officials, some 85 per cent works of the projects have already been completed while the rest is expected to be finished by June next.

### New police outpost opens

THAKURGAON, May 9: A new police outpost was inaugurated at Ruhuia in Sadar upazila on Saturday, fulfilling a long time demand of the local people, reports UNB.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy opened the outpost. Local MP Ramesh Chandra Sen and other officials were present on the occasion. Officials said a sub-inspector and 19 constables have been posted to the new police outpost.

### Indian liquor, hemp recovered

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 9: A special squad of Narcotic Control Department in separate drives recovered nine bottles of Indian liquor and 300 grams of hemp Thursday, reports UNB.

They also arrested a man, Montu from in front of Al-Nahid hotel along with the Indian liquor. Later on the day, they seized 300 grams of hemp from Kalibagan near Biswa Road.

### Loan disbursed

RANGPUR, May 9: The loan disbursement programme of "Karma Sangsthan Bank" is continuing, reports BSS.

The bank had disbursed a loan of Taka 29,500 among 50 loanees upto March last. The loan is being given towards the establishment of poultry, dairy, pisciculture, cottage industries and agriculture farming to create job opportunities for trained-unemployed youths of both sexes. A branch of the bank was established in Rangpur town in October '99 and is functioning satisfactorily.

### Sugar smugglers held

COMILLA, May 9: Two people, including a policeman, were arrested from Noorpur area Sunday on charge of sugar smuggling, reports UNB.

Witnesses said local people chased a group of smugglers when they entered into the town with 60 bags of smuggled sugar and caught two of them — constable Akhilaque and Almas. They were later handed over to police. Meanwhile, the police constable has been suspended.

### Nasim visits Mongla

BAGERHAT (Mongla), May 9: Brushing aside the allied opposition's one-point movement, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim recently said the opposition is fighting a losing battle as they have no support of the people, reports UNB.

"The one-point movement will not work as their aim is to destabilise the country and thus get the Bangabandhu's killers released", he said while addressing a public meeting at Mongla. Referring to Khaleda Zia's statement in Chittagong that they would form the next government, Nasim said if they form government with the help of Golam Azam "the national flag as well as the national anthem would be at stake," he said. "We have come to power with people's mandate for five years and will step aside after completion of our tenure. So, we are not afraid of threats," he said. Nasim urged the opposition to prepare for the next election rather than pursuing a politics of destruction.

Service to distressed humility  
Akhter Jahan, president of Rajshahi District Mohila Awami League distributing sares to the distressed women of Kamnagar village in Bagmara upazila which was severely affected by a recent cyclonic storm. —Star photo

Police official sues Khulna Jubo League leader  
From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, May 9: A sub-inspector (SI) of police filed a general diary (GD) on Sunday against Advocate Pervez Alam, a member of Jubo League central committee, for threatening complainant and witnesses of a case recorded under section 10 of the PSA on Saturday.

The advocate allegedly did not allow the IO of the case to produce the two accused, who are Jubo League activists, before the court for recording judicial statement, the GD has stated.

The SI, Khandaker Mizanur Rahman, has stated in the general diary that Advocate Pervez Alam created obstruction in his official duty and insulted the complainant in the court compound. He also asked him (Police official) not to proceed regarding the case, the SI added.

The armed cadres Akil and Nazim were arrested on Saturday under section 10 of PSA.

"I could not produce the accused and the complainant before the magistrate court for recording judicial confession under 164," the SI stated.

Directorate General Defence Purchase  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
**Tender/Re-Tender Notice**

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers/Indentors (Enlisted Firms and Firms applied for enlistment in DGDP) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Navy:

Sl No	Name of Items & Quantity	Selling Date		Opening Date	Currency	Tender No	Tender Value
		From	To				
1.	Various types of Band Instruments Qty=17 L/1	9-5-2000	22-5-2000	23-5-2000	L/C	6330	Tk. 500/=
2.	Electric Siren Qty=03 Sets					6281	Tk. 500/=
3.	Spare Parts for Caterpillar Main Engine Qty=54 L/1					6352	Tk. 500/=
4.	Spare Parts for Caterpillar DG Qty=96 L/1					6353	Tk. 1000/=
5.	Spare Parts for Caterpillar Main Engine & Generator Engine Qty=39 L/1					6354	Tk. 500/=
6.	Spare Parts for Caterpillar Main Engine Qty=63 L/1					6355	Tk. 500/=
7.	Split type Air conditioning unit Qty=02 sets					6427	Tk. 100/=

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) during office hour between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hrs on the specified date of opening in the presence of tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/2000/396  
DFP-10581-4/5  
G-852

Commander BN  
For Director General

Government of the people's  
Republic of Bangladesh  
Department of Films and Publications  
112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka

No. 3-80/99-2000 (F) Date:

### Tender Notice No 104 (F)/1999-2000

Sealed open tenders are invited from supplier establishments for purchasing the undermentioned technical table, chair, magnifying glass and scissors for film library.

Description	Quantity
1) Technical table 35 mm	1 (one)
2) Technical table 16 mm	1 (one)
3) Technical chair	2 (two)
4) Magnifying glass	2 (two)
5) Scissors (good quality)	2 (two)

Each set of tender schedule will be available from the accounts section of the department on payment of Taka 400/- till 14-5-2000(31.01.1407). Tender will be opened on 15-5-2000 (1-2-1407) at 11-35 am.

DFP-10706-4/5  
G-851

Sharke Chaman Khan  
Assistant Director (Films)  
&  
Member secretary, tender committee

Bangladesh University of  
Engineering & Technology  
Dhaka

### Tender Notice

No. P&D/LP-1(585)/99-2000/D-2326(2) Dated: 9-5-00

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers for supply of Server, Digital Temperature Measurement Meter, Generator, Magnetic Hotplate Stirrer, Manual Electronic Diaphragm Metering Pump, Stirrer Motor, Thermal Insulating Material, Pipe, Valve and Various Kinds of Small Instrument.

Intending participants shall have to obtain permission for purchasing tender paper etc. on application to the undersigned. Application must accompany TIN certificate, trade licence and certificate of experience about concern works/supplies etc. from reputed organisations. Tender paper and other terms & conditions will be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) (non-refundable) to the Sonali Bank, BUET Branch, Dhaka. Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft or Pay Order from nationalised bank amounting to 5% of the quoted amount as earnest money deposited in favour of the "Comptroller, BUET" without which no tender will be considered. Tenders must be put into the tender boxes kept for this purpose in this office or offices of the Heads of the Department of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering (Civil Engineering Building and EME Building respectively) up to 12-00 Noon of 22.05.2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM before the participants presents.

The university authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders or one or more items of any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

No tender paper will be sold on the opening day of the tender.

Deputy Director  
Planning & Development  
GD-421

Gas Transmission Company Limited  
(A Company of Petrobrangla)  
System Operation Department  
House No-1, Road No-12, Section-3  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

### Tender Notice

01. Name of work	Work of painting (Epoxy) of (Valve Station, Scraper Trap Station, CP Station, Offtake & Vent pipe etc) of all above the surface installation of Ashuganj Gas Manifold and Metering Station, north-south and Ashuganj-Bakhrabad Gas Transmission Line. Tk. 1000.00 (One thousand) only (non-refundable)
02. Cost of tender document	Tk. 8,75,039.07 (Taka eight lakh seventy-five thousand thirty-nine and seven paise only).
03. Estimated cost	Earnest money at the rate of 2.5% of the quoted cost in the forms of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Gas Transmission Company Ltd" must be deposited with tender. Tenders submitted without earnest money will be treated as rejected outright at the time of opening tender.
04. Earnest money	Contractors enlisted with government/semi-government/autonomous establishment who have the previous experience of painting high pressure transmission installation above the surface/gas plant or similar work.
05. Eligibility of contractor	a) Certificate of enlistment as a class I contractor during 1998-99/copies of certificates. b) Financial solvency certificate from any scheduled bank. c) Certificate of payment of Income-Tax during 1998-99 (Tax Year 99-2000). d) Copy of Trade Licence for 1998-99. e) Certificate of Value Added Tax registration.
06. Papers to be deposited with tender	90 (ninety) days from the date of issue of work order. Eligible contractors can purchase tender documents from 10-05-2000 to 24-05-2000 on all working days during office hours from the Accounts Division of the GTCL Head Office, House No-1, Road No-12, Sector-3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.
07. Time limit for completion of work	Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the System Operation Department of the Head Office (3rd Floor) on 25-05-2000 at 12.00 Noon and tender received will be opened the same day at 12-30 PM in presence of interested tenderers/representatives (if anyone remains present).
08. Place where tender document will be sold	No tender will be acceptable after the expiry of specific date and time.
09. Date and place of submitting and opening tender	The GTCL authority reserves the power to reject all tenders or any tender without assigning any reason.
	GTPR-7/2000 DFP-10467-3/5 G-850