

# Erosion threatens Chandpur town protection dam

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 29: Erosion by the Meghna at Chandpur has threatened the existence of Chandpur Town Protection Embankment.

Erosion at Chandpur Nutan Bazar area is being continued alarmingly.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Chandpur office sources, about two hundred feet area of Chandpur Town Protection Embankment in Jamuna Ghat area have already been eroded within a week.

Erosion by the mighty River Meghna started here with the beginning of the monsoon. Water level in the river has been increasing day by day and strong current is flowing in the

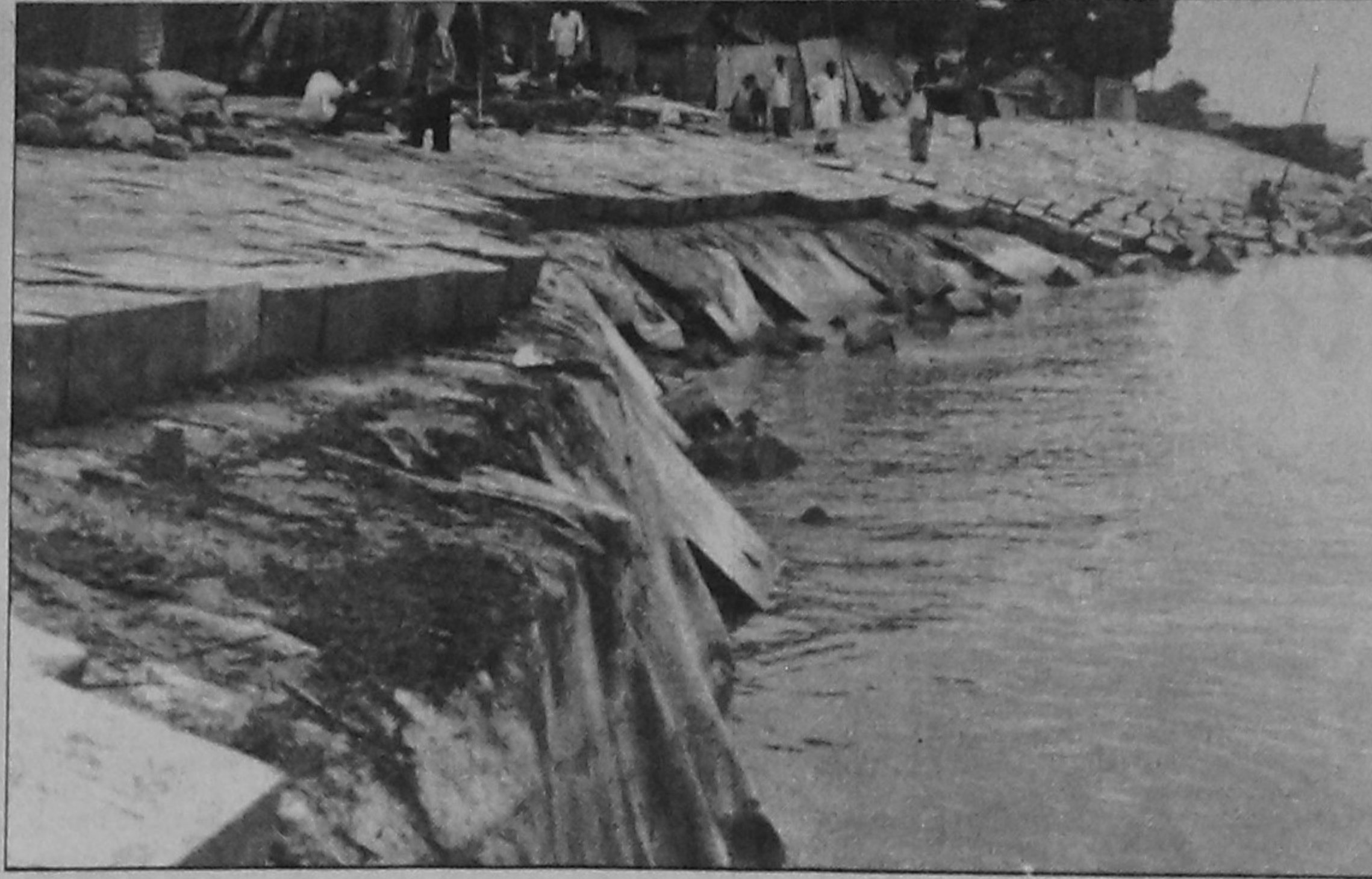
river. The water level on the bank of the River Meghna at Chandpur now remains between 80 to 90 feet deep. As a result the entire Chandpur Town Protection Embankment, constructed at a cost of Tk 20 crore is threatened. To check the erosion about two thousand five hundred RCC blocks had been dumped in the eroded area. Everyday a huge quantity of blocks are carried by buggies from Ichali and Shekher Hat area and are being dumped in the area.

People are getting panicked in the area. They are busy in shifting their houses in safer places. Many cracks have also been developed in Chandpur Town Protection Embankment and more areas of the protection embankment may be devoured by the erosion at any time.

Government sanctioned Taka 3 crore 40 lakh for Chandpur Town Protection Embankment during the current season.

About 80 per cent works of Chandpur Town Protection Project has been completed by dumping blocks. About three thousand blocks have been reserved to meet the emergency situation.

Meanwhile, Abu Taher Chowdhury, Chief Engineer of BWDB, Comilla zone along with other officials visited the erosion affected areas.



Erosion damages parts of the town protection embankment in Chandpur. — Star photo

# Expatriates appear to be deprived of voting rights

SYLHET, May 29: Some 30 lakh expatriate Bangladeshis appear to be deprived of their voting rights as their names have not been included in the country's new voter list due to procedural complications, reports UNB.

Official sources said of the 30 lakh expatriates, six lakh are living in UK, three lakh in USA, 10 lakh in Middle East, 11 lakh in Africa, Europe, Latin America, Australia and Far East countries.

The Bangladesh expatriates have long been demanding for an arrangement to enlist their names in the voter list as they are playing an important role in the national economy and politics.

During the rule of BNP, they

had lunched a movement to realise their demand and the then main opposition Awami League also extended its support to it.

The Election Commission and Foreign Ministry after holding a meeting on April 16 had decided to give directives to Bangladesh missions abroad for taking necessary steps to include the names of the Bangladesh expatriates in the voter list.

But the EC's initiative has proved futile due to time constraint.

The Bangladesh expatriates had submitted a memorandum, containing their demand, to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina well before the launching of the voter list formulation drive.

# Kurigram now a ghost town

KURIGRAM, May 29: Poor road network and drainage system, water logging, inadequate streetlights and traffic jam have turned the densely populated Kurigram Municipality into a ghost town, reports UNB.

According to an estimate, nearly one lakh people live in 27.21-sq ft area of the town, which was declared a municipality in 1972.

It was later upgraded on July 1, 1994. But the townspeople hardly get any civic amenities.

Locals said some illegal occupants in the town are building houses and shops in such a manner as though there is none to regulate them.

More horrifying is that a section of traders set up welding shops and garages alongside roads of the municipality without permission from the authorities concerned.

Long-distance vehicles, including bus, truck and minibus, go through the town creating severe traffic congestion and polluting the environment as there is no bypass there. Besides, there are about 2,000 unauthorised rickshaws in the town.

Another regular but unbearable problem is mosquito menace. Despite tall talks by the elected representatives to eliminate the problem, town dwellers still remain victim of it.

That is not the end of it. Their sufferings worsen further when electricity starts fluctuating damaging their electronic appliances like TV, refrigerator and air-conditioner.

When all these problems are continuing to sting the townspeople, telephone subscribers have little belief that their problem would ever be solved.

# Reunion

The Reunion of Former Students of Debiddar Reazuddin Pilot High school 2000 was held at the school premises on Saturday, says a press release.

Directorate of Family Planning A B M Badur Rahman Molla, Prof Monjurul Alam Khan of Jagannath University, Director of Directorate of Environment M Ali Ahmed, headmaster of the school advocate Jasim Uddin attended and addressed the function.

They recalled their memories and stressed the need for a congenial academic atmosphere and structural development of the school for upgrading the standard of education.

A reception was accorded to the former teachers and brilliant students of the school.

At the function, crests were handed over to former headmaster A K M Fazul Hossain, former assistant headmaster Abdul Mannan, former senior teacher Rabindranath Datta and president of Reunion Celebration Committee and teacher of Dhaka University Dr Golam Mowlah.

A 51-member committee comprising former students of the school was formed with Prof Golam Mowlah and Advocate Jasim Uddin as its president and secretary general respectively.

The reunion ended with a colourful rally of former students of the school.



Prof Golam Mowlah, President of the Ex-Students' Association of Debiddar Reazuddin Pilot High School received a crest of honour recently from Gul Nehar, Principal of City College, Dhaka.

# Rajshahi TV Relay Centre work may be completed by June

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, May 29: Works on Construction of Rajshahi TV Relay and Regional Television Centre is likely to be completed by June, Public Works Department (PWD) sources said.

But it will not be a full-fledged TV station, though there will be provisions for turning it into a full-fledged one in future. It will be a simple relay centre now, PWD sources said.

The then Pakistan government decided in late 60s to set up a full-fledged TV station here. But the decision was not implemented due to the liberation war. Later, in mid-70s another decision was taken. That decision was not implemented also.

At last the BNP government took another similar decision at the cabinet meeting held at Uttara Ganabhaban at Natore on January 21, 1992. The then Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda announced the decision of the government at a public meeting at Shaheb Bazar square in the city on January 22.

Then a demand was raised from Bogra to set up the TV centre there. The government decided to do so. This created much agitation among the people of Rajshahi.

The organised a movement that continued for about nine months. The government again decided to set up the TV centre in Rajshahi in late 1993. The then Information Minister himself visited Rajshahi and chose a land of 3.89 acres just on the eastern side of Bangladesh Bank, Rajshahi office at Kazihata in the city. In October, 1994 the foundation stone was laid by the minister.

The project of Rajshahi TV Relay and Regional TV centre was taken up in 1994-95 fiscal and a total of Taka 4.21 crores was allocated for the project.

The government has so far released, out of the total allocation, Taka 2.64 crores. In 1994-95 fiscal year Taka 77.00 lakh were released for the first time. Taka 18.00 lakh were released in 1995-96 fiscal year. Taka 1.50 crore were released in 1996-97. Taka 6.14 lakh in 1997-98. Taka 8.60 lakh in 1998-99 and Taka 4.21 lakh in 1999-2000 fiscal.

PWD sources further said, some buildings and protection walls have already been built. Works on piling for setting up 120 feet high tower were completed last week. French engineers are being hoped to come soon to set up the tower. The French government is assisting in building and setting up of the tower.

Rajshahi TV centre will be able to relay programmes from Dhaka after setting up of the tower.

When contacted, a PWD official said, on condition of anonymity, that Rajshahi TV centre was going to be only a relay centre, not a full-fledged TV station for what people of Rajshahi had organised about nine months movement in 1992 and 1993. He, however, said that the original project was of a full-fledged regional station with self-sufficient modern studios, three dimensional microwave connection, power substation, video, shooting and editing facilities.

Meanwhile, the news of building only a relay centre has already created frustration among the people of Rajshahi.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu said that they had demanded a full-fledged television centre with all facilities so that regional programmes could be made and telecast from the centre. "It will be a cheating to the people of Rajshahi region from the part of the government if only a relay centre is set up," he said.

Jamat Khan, an organiser of recently formed Rajshahi Shariha Rakkha Committee (committee for Protecting Interest of Rajshahi) said, "What is the necessity of merely a relay centre in Rajshahi when there has already been a relay centre at Natore which covers the whole Rajshahi region?"

"We fought for a full-fledged regional television centre with all facilities not that it can produce and telecast its own regional programmes," he said.

The court inspector, on the other hand, has filed a complaint with police saying the lawyer had created disturbance during his official works.

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# News snaps

**UNESCO representative visits BAU**  
MYMENSINGH, May 29: United Nations Education Service and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) representative to Bangladesh Prof Anwar Ali Khan visited Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) here recently, reports BSS.

Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Dr Anwarul Islam briefed the representative about the future mission including education, research and some extension programmes of the university, sources said. Among others, senior teachers and officials of the university were present on the occasion.

# Lightning kills two fishermen

LAXMIPUR, May 29: Two fishermen were killed and three others injured in lightning at Alexander in Rangati Upazila on Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Jasimuddin, 30, and Nurul Islam, 28, were killed when thunderbolt hit them while knitting nets amid heavy downpour. The injured identified as Azizul Haque, 29, Maqbul Ahmed, 38, and Abdur Rahman, 40, were rushed to upazila health complex in critical condition.

# Abducted by rescued

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 29: A kidnapped 4-year-old boy was rescued from Nayaladanga village on Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house in the village and rescued Plaban, son of Mahub Alam of village Gosairip in Mahadevpur upazila. They also arrested abductor Yasin Ali.

# Old man beaten to death

NAOGAON, May 29: An old man in Sadar upazila was beaten to death allegedly by his neighbours as he rebuked them for teasing her daughter on Thursday, reports UNB.

Locals said Asir Uddin, 50, of Kharapara was killed by two youths of his neighbouring house as he rebuked them for disturbing his daughter Merina, 15, on way to her school. A case was filed with the local police station against five people in this connection.

# Two women strangled

MUNSHIGANJ, May 29: Two women were strangled in separate incidents in Sadar upazila on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Binu Begum, 28, was beaten and strangled allegedly by her in-laws family members, including the husband, at Adariatola. Her husband Swapna Mia surrendered to the police after the killing. In another incident, bandits entered the house of Jobeda Begum, 60, at Uttarkewar village and strangled her to death before looting valuable worth about Tk 50,000 from her house. The old lady was alone when the bandits stormed the house.



Good output of our National Fruit  
A bumper production of jackfruit has been achieved in Sirajganj district this season. Picture shows a tree full of jackfruits in Shaluvaita area under the Sadar thana. — Star photo

# Court inspector sued in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 29: A lawyer of Khulna Bar Association filed a case with the CMM court on Tuesday against a court inspector of KMP.

The case was filed for passing insolent remarks by court inspector Amzad Hossain against my legal profession during office hours, said the complainant, Advocate Khan Mohammad Alam, in his petition.

The CMM has asked the accused to appear before the court for hearing on June 29.

The court inspector, on the other hand, has filed a complaint with police saying the lawyer had created disturbance during his official works.

# Bomb hurled at court bldg in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, May 29: Unidentified hoodlums threw a bomb at a tin-shed building of the Judge Court here in the morning recently, causing panic in the area.

Hearing the sound of the blast magistrates, lawyers, court employees and others ran helter-skelter for safety, witnesses said. No one, however, was injured in the incident.

The tin-shed building houses magistrate courts of Sadar, Chhaganaiya and Sonagazi upazilas.

Deputy Commissioner Debashish Nag, Police Super Monwar Hossain, Additional District Magistrate Abul Kashem Masud rushed to the spot.

# Smuggling rampant along Jessore border

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 29: Smuggling along the border areas in the district has become rampant.

Local people alleged Goddardharpur, Goira, Arsingra, Daulatpur and Kulia border points under Chowgacha upazila are safe havens of smugglers. Contraband like sugar, salt, fertiliser, phenisidyl syrup and saree are being smuggled into the country through these points.

Residents alleged smugglers are carrying out the activities in connivance with border guards.

A group of journalists, including this correspondent, recently visited various border points in Chowgacha. The journalists found that Indian sugar had flooded the local markets.

A good number of grocers in Chowgacha and Purapura areas said they are selling Indian sugar because it is available in markets. The price is also cheap, they added.

Besides, other smuggled commodities like salt, fertiliser, phenisidyl syrup and saree are also available in the areas.

# Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Noakhali PWD Division, Noakhali Tender Notice No 72 of 1999-2000

Sealed tenders are invited in BD Form No 2911 for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

- Name of work : Special repairs to the Lady Health Visitor Qtr attached to the Thana Health Complex at Bazra in the Dist of Noakhali during the year 1999-2000.  
Group No I (one)
- Estimated cost : Repairs to internal bituminous road of Thana Health Complex at Bazra, Begumganj, Dist Noakhali during the year 1999-2000.  
Group No II (two)
- Estimated cost : Special repair & reconstructions of internal sanitary & water supply arrangement at Thana Health Complex in the dist of Noakhali during the year 1999-2000.  
Group No III (three)
- Estimated cost : Repairs work of compound wall of Thana Health Complex at Begumganj, Dist Noakhali during the year 1999-2000.  
Group No IV (four)
- Estimated cost : Group No I (one) Tk 1,09,975/-  
Group No II (two) Tk 2,68,563/-  
Group No III (three) Tk 3,33,604/-  
Group No IV (four) Tk 2,51,870/-
- Earnest money : Group No I (one) Tk 2,200/-  
Group No II (two) Tk 5,380/-  
Group No III (three) Tk 6,675/-  
Group No IV (four) Tk 5,080/-
- Time allowed for completion of work : Group No I (one) 45 (forty-five) days  
Group No II (two) 60 (sixty) days  
Group No III (three) 70 (seventy) days  
Group No IV (four) 60 (sixty) days
- Price of tender schedule : Tk 425/- per set for each group.
- Place of selling & receiving tenders : Office of the undersigned in/c all Executive Engineers' office under PWD Circle, Comilla.
- Last date of selling tender : During office hours up to 6-6-2000.
- Eligibility of contractors/firm to compete in the tender : a) Category applicable as per financial limit of authorised enlisted contractor of PWD.  
b) The intending tenderers must have VAT registration & TIN certificate.  
c) Original money receipt of purchasing tender documents and attested copy of VAT registration certificate and TIN certificate must be enclosed along with the tender.
- Date of receiving and opening of tender : Up to 12:00 Noon of 7-6-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM.
- Lottery (applicable where necessary) : If more than one tender are received having same rates stand lowest, selection will be made by lottery to be held on 14-6-2000 at 12:30 PM in the office of the undersigned in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to remain present.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-12943-25/5 Executive Engineer  
G-1020 PWD Division Noakhali.

# Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (A Company of Petrobangla) PO Box No 8 Brahmanbaria-3400

“গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ” — এর অপচয়  
রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

Invitation No BGFL/PL(Sv)/01/2000 Dated :25-5-2000

# Invitation of Offers for Techno-Economic Feasibility Study of Power Generation at Bakhrabad Gas Field

- Bangladesh Gas Fields Co Ltd (BGFL), a company incorporated under the laws of Bangladesh is fully owned by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB). The company is the largest gas producer in the country and presently owns Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad, Kamta, Narsingdi, Meghna and Feni Gas fields. Of them, Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad, Narsingdi and Meghna gas fields are in production.
- BGFL is exploring the possibility of setting up two-unit, each with 50-60 MW capacity gas-based power plants at Bakhrabad Gas Field. For this purpose BGFL intends to carry out techno-economic feasibility of power generation by engaging local consulting firms through competitive bidding. BGFL now invites sealed offers from reputed local consulting firms having experience in similar works for carrying out techno-economic feasibility study for power generation at Bakhrabad Gas Field.
- Cost for the services will be financed from BGFL's own resources. The firm shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their offer. In no case BGFL will be liable for those costs regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
- Details of services to be provided, the conditions of services, the information required to be furnished by the firms, etc is provided in the invitation document.
- The invitation document will be available from 1-6-2000 to 13-7-2000 between 0900 hrs and 1200 hrs (BST) on all working days on payment of Tk 1,000.000 (non-refundable) at the following address:  
Bangladesh Gas Fields Co Ltd  
Liaison Office  
97, Purana Paltan (Bijoynagar)  
Dhaka-1000.  
Telephone : 880-2-404209  
Fax : 880-2-8316267.
- Envelopes with Technical & Financial offers will be received at the BGFL Liaison Office in Dhaka up to 1000 hrs (BST) on 16-7-2000. Technical offers will be opened in presence of the representatives of the participating firms, if any, immediately upon closing of receiving offers. Offer(s) received after the deadline for submission will be returned unopened. In case of unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, government holiday, offers will be received up to 1000 hrs and opened on the following working day.
- BGFL reserves the right to accept or reject any offer and to annul the bidding process and reject all offers at any time prior to signing of the memorandum of agreement with the successful firm, without incurring any liability to the affected firm(s) or any obligations to inform the affected firm(s) of the grounds for such action.

PRS-9/18(PL-Sv)/2000 GD-500