Unabated plundering of Sundarbans resources

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, June 5: Plundering of resources in the Sundarbans has been going on unabated for long.

As a result, the government is being deprived of huge revenue from the world's largest mangrove forest reserve.

The Forestry Department sources said, the government earns Taka 40 crore every year from the Sundarbans. Some unscrupulous businessmen with the help of a section of corrupt officials and staff members of the Forestry Department are plundering the resources of the Sundarbans everyday causing heavy revenue losses, it has been alleged widely.

The Forestry Department authorities allegedly are not taking any step to check the plundering of resources.

Experts from home and abroad preparing reports on the Sundarbans have stressed on the need for integrated resource management to help the forestry sector in playing due role in the process of poverty alleviation and income generation.

According to concerned official sources, deer, tiger, timber, *golpata*, snake fish, honey and other resources of the Sundarbans are being plundered every day. The government prohibited hunting of wild animals in the Sundarbans.

But professional ad non-professional hunters, ignoring the ban, are often seen hunting animals indiscriminately.

The number of Royal Bengal Tigers and deer is decreasing fast.

An organised gang of hunters are killing tigers to collect skins, heads, nails and teeth for smuggling.

The *jawans* of BDR, posted at Nildumur recovered one tiger skin from Gabura area under Shyamnagar upazila on November 17 last year.

In April 9, 1998 Shyamnagar thana police recovered one deer skin and 20 kgs of deer meat from Munshigonj bus stand, on December 25, 1997 Shyamnagar thana police recovered two deer skins also from Munshigonj area. In January 1996, Shyamnagar police recovered a tiger skin from Muhammad Ali of Daphankahli village in Shyamnagar upazila. On October 12, '95 police recovered a tiger skin from a person at village Satani in Sadar upazila. On August 17 and October 16, 1992 Customs and police recovered three tiger and deer skins from a Dhaka bound night coach. In July 1991, police recovered three tiger skins and on June 30, 1990 police personnel recovered eight tiger skins and a huge number of teeth of Royal Bengal from Kholpetua river in the Sundarbans which were being smuggled to India.

In November, 1989, the BDR personnel raided a boat plying in the river Ichchamati and recovered three skins of the Royal Bengal tigers.

It may be mentioned here, in a recent seminar on the Sundarbans, experts viewed that the Sundarbans' unique ecosystem is not only a cause of natioal pride, but is equally an international heritage.

A survey was conducted by a team of British scientists led by Lord Mountain who came to the Sundarbans in 1967. After the survey, the team at that time disclosed that the number of Royal Bengal tigers was limited to only 150. After eight years of the Survey in 1975, another survey led by Henrica was conducted. In their report it was revealed that the number of the Royal Bengal tigers increased to 300.

In 1982, the Biological Department of Dhaka University and the Forestry Department of the Sundarbans conducted a joint survey and revealed that the number of the tigers was around 450. But in recent years, due to indiscriminate hunting, the population of Royal Bengal tigers in the Sundarbans has come down to 375. The death rate of tigers is higher than the birth rate in past few years due to environmental degradation in the forest, experts said.

Besides, honey, a natural gift produced abundantly in the Sundarbans can earn a lot of money. But honey is being exploited by unauthorised people and being sold at random in different markets in the country.

The number of deer is about two lakhs, half of which is female. Deer is being hunted indistriminately by a group of professional and non-professional hunters every year.

Fake factories assemble TV sets in Rajshahi

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, June 5: Black and white television sets are being assembled in clandestine factories here.

These low quality television sets are being sold to ignorant people, especially from rural areas at considerably lower prices, sources said.

According to the sources, these sets are assembled in some electronics shops in Ranibazar area in the city. These sets bear stickers and logos of reputed electronics companies like National, Philips, Sony and Sanyo.

Only 14" and 17" black and white television sets are assembled here which are supplied to other shops in Saheb Bazar and New Market, sources said.

Picture tubes and circuits, the two important parts, are bought from Dhaka. A picture tube costs Taka 1,200, while a circuit costs Tk 400 to Tk 500. These parts are also manufactured by fake factories in Dhaka, sources said. Other parts used are rejected and old ones.

A 14" television set of different brands sells between at Taka 1,700 and Taka 4,000, while a 17" sells between Taka 2,500 and Taka 6,000.

"Actually these televisions sets are of low quality and these are being sold to ignorant buyers, especially from villages", said one electronics shop owner of Ranibazar on condition of anonymity.

These television sets are packed in beautiful and smart cartons bought from Dhaka.

These fake brands are usually kept out of sight. "The salesmen first assess a customer's experience and knowledge. If the situation seems favourable, they bring the sets from the store," said a shop owner in Ranibazar area, seeking anonymity. "The low prices attract most of the customers," he added.

The shop owners do not usually give cash memo to the customers. Once a customer demands, they provide a cash memo which is different from the shops' original ones, said sources.

Sale of television sets has increased in local on the occasion of ongoing Asia Cup Cricket, market sources said.

News snaps

Accused gets bail

PABNA, June 5: The main accused in the top-terror Deben murder case has been granted anticipatory bail by the High Court, reports UNB.

The High Court division bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Abdul Aziz on Tuesday (May 30) granted the bail to Alauddin Malitha, Hemayatpur union parishad chairman and sadar thana Awami League vice president. Alauddin is the main accused among the 23 people charged with the killing of Deban, the top terror of Pabna, on March 24. Police is yet to arrest any of the accused.

Poor working women receiving loan from the founder-president of Manobik Sahajjyo Sangstha, a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) on the occasion of the opening ceremony of its branch on Thursday at Uttara-Badda in Dhaka.

Road accidents kill 4

JESSORE, June 5: Four people, including a little girl, were killed and 15 others injured in three separate road accidents in the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said a Keshabpur-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch after hitting a tree at Begaritola in Monirampur upazila. Ameer Ali, 70, and Abul Kalam Azad, 50, died on the spot. Fifteen injured were admitted to the hospital. In another accident on the day, a Dhaka-bound microbus hit a roadside Mahogany tree killing Iqbal Hossain, 34, a businessman of R N Road of the town on the spot at Hudo Rajapur in Kotwali. In a separate incident, Tuli, 7, was crushed under the wheels of a Benapole-bound truck on Jessore-Benapole highway on Wednesday. All the bodies were sent to the General Hospital for autopsy.

Beheaded body recovered

MUNSHIGANJ, June 5: The sadar thana police recovered a beheaded body of an unidentified man aged about 32 from a canal flowing by the side of Firingi Bazar under Panchasher Union here on Friday, reports BSS.

Police said the swollen body was floating in the canal in a decomposed condition. The head of the victim was severed from the body and some parts of the body were chopped off with sharp weapons. The body was weighted down into the water with pieces of concrete slabs. It is suspected that the miscreants brutally killed the victim and dumped the body into the canal about a week back. The body was sent to the Narayanganj Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Heavy siltation in rivers

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 5: Heavy siltation in the rivers Mohananda, Pagla and Punarvaba have been posing threat to irrigation in vast cultivable land, reports BSS.

It is gathered that during dry season water level of these rivers fall abnormally hampering irrigation and causing paucity of drinking water. These rivers flow through here accumulated mud and sands carried by rainwater from the upper region and agricultural land pile up huge silt in the rivers and their tributaries.

Myanmar govt's positive response

SYLHET, June 5: In response to a Bangladesh government's call to take back their 79 prisoners who have already completed their jail terms, the Myanmar government has sent a diplomatic team to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The team that came here on Friday is now interviewing each and every Myanmar nationals in the district jail to verify their nationality.

The Myanmar prisoners would be repatriated after the concerned ministry of that country confirms the records.

The Myanmar nationals were arrested while fishing in Bangladesh nautical area in the Bay of Bengal near Cox's Bazar with a trawler in 1997.

They were later jailed in Chittagong and completed their prison terms on April 5, 1998. The Myanmar fishermen were then set to Sylhet jail on March 3, 1999.

The Bangladesh government had contacted the Myanmar Foreign Ministry on a number of occasions for repatriation of their nationals, but they did not respond positively.

But this time they came up with a positive response when the Myanmar prisoners threatened to commit suicide on February 14 this year. They had also observed hunger strikes in Chittagong jail several times demanding their immediate repatriation.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of SM Obaidullah alias Miah Saheb, a renowned schoolteacher, was held on May 24 at village Chhatanilganj under Amtali upazila in Barguna district.

Miah Saheb, 85, died of old age complications on May 20. He was buried at the family graveyard.

He left behind wife, nine sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Among his sons Masud Nizamy, Senior Vice President of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), AKM Anwarul Kader (Kaisar), Principal Officer of Sonali Bank, ATM Abdul Latif (Masum Nomany), physician at Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital and Jahirul Huque Rana, Sub-Editor of the Banglar Bani are well known.

Harvesting of storm damaged Boro paddy has started in many areas of Mymensingh district. This picture has been taken from village Ramgopalpur in Phulpur upazila.

— Star photo

Storms hit standing IRRI-*Boro* in Kushtia, Mymensingh

By Staff Correspondent

Expected production of IRRI and *Boro* paddy may not be achieved in Kushtia and Mymensingh districts as seasonal storms and unusual rains have damaged the standing crops.

Our Kushtia correspondent says: Storms swept over the district several times, causing huge loss to IRRI-*Boro* paddy.

Local Agricultural Extension Department (AED) sources said inspired by the last year's bumper production farmers brought 29,510 hectares of land under IRRI-*Boro* cultivation in the district.

But storms, known as nor'wester, have dampened expectations of the farmers. AED sources said the farmers may face 30 per cent production loss because of nor'wester.

Meanwhile, prices of the newly harvested paddy have come down mainly in absence of food grains procurement drive by the government.

Taking the advantage, middlemen are controlling the market, much to the frustration of farmers.

The government is yet to start the procurement drive. The poor growers are now forced to sell their products at throwaway prices in local markets to meet production expenses including loans they took while planting the crops.

The paddy now sells between Tk 230 and Tk 210 in local markets.

However, some farmers in Mirpur upazila said they also faced setback during cultivation as they could not irrigate properly following sharp fall in ground water level.

Besides, farmers in Mirpur, Sadar and Bheramara upazilas said they faced shortage of fertilisers during peak period of cultivation.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: Storms lashed all 12 upazilas of the district several times, causing huge damage to standing *Boro* paddy. Unusual rains also have caused damage to the crop.

According to local AED sources, paddy on some 21,659 hectares of land was damaged in 12 upazilas by the nor'wester.

Of the total, crop on 2,360 hectares in Phulbaria, 425 hectares in Sadar, 490 hectares in Muktagachha, 1,000 hectares in Trishal, 1,000 hectares in Nandail, 900 hectares in Dubaura, 2,100 hectares in Bhaluka, 803 hectares in Gouripur, 8,553 hectares in Phulpur, 1,000 hectares in Ishwarganj, 808 hectares in Gafargoan and 2,220 hectares in Haluaghat upazilas was damaged.

A total of 1,64,360 hectares of land were brought under *Boro* cultivation this year in the district. Of the total land, 1,58,490 hectares were brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and 5,870 hectares under local variety.

Saifur's accusation

SYLHET, June 5: BNP leader M Saifur Rahman here on Sunday said Awami League has started a conspiracy to rig the next parliament election, reports UNB.

Addressing a conference of local Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, he accused the ruling party of preventing BNP men from being included in the voters' list.

The former Finance Minister called upon the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations to remain alert against what he called Awami BKSAL intrigue.

He said terrorism has been spreading like plague across the country, as "Awami League is the father of terrorism." Killings are taking place everyday while leaders of ruling party including MPs and ministers are engaged in plundering public wealth, Saifur said.

Local and central leaders of Juba Dal also addressed the conference.

Rakhal Babur Pukur development project

BARISAL, June 5: Barisal Municipality has undertaken the historic Rakhal Babur Pukur project of this town as model project for the preservation of this pond here this year, reports BSS.

In this connection, the leaders of Barisal City Council along with other renowned personalities of the city and Chairman of the Municipality Ahsan Habib Kamal, Municipality Engineer, Fakirbari Ward Commissioner Nizamul Islam Nizam and Kabiruddin Hannu visited the historic pond personally on May 13 last.

A general meeting was held at the chamber of the eminent leader of this City Council Advocate Hemayet Uddin Ahmed beside the bank of the Rakhal Babur Pukur. Later, the visitors discussed about the pond with the neighbouring dwellers.

Earlier, Mintu Bose along with Barisal District Muktijodda Commander Sheikh Kutubuddin Ahmed, freedom fighter Enayet Hossain Chowdhury, S M Iqbal and Sunil Baran Halder presented a proposal for the preservation of this pond to the chairman of the municipality in presence of Deputy Commissioner of Barisal M Allauddin at his office and accordingly the proposal has been taken up.

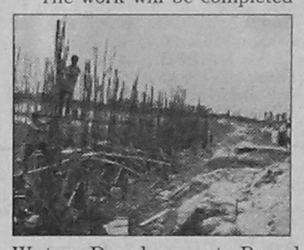
The pond will be restored to its original position after removing the filth from the pond. Deep tube-wells will be installed near the pond to supply fresh water in it for use and some drains will be constructed for out-letting the excess rainwater from the pond. Besides, some major projects will be taken up for the beautification of this pond here.

Steps to save lands from Jamuna erosion

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, June 5: Construction work of seven spurs in the River Jamuna at its various points from Kazipur to Simla in Sirajganj sadar is going on in full swing.

The work will be completed at a cost of Tk 41 crore and 67 lakh. On completion of the work, a vast tract of land will be protected from river erosion.



Water Development Board engineers observing the construction work of number two downstream spur at Meghai. — Star photo

Local Water Development Board (WDB) sources said about 60 per cent work have so far been completed. Spurs are being constructed at Meghai-3, Shubhgachha-2 and Shimla-2. Meghai number one spur will be 650-metre long, the number 2 spur is 610-meter and number three is 1000-metre. At Shubhgachha the member one spur will be 570 meter long and number two 1,030-meter long at Shimla, number one spur is 400-meter and number two is 250-meter. The construction work of all the seven spurs is going on swiftly. The work has been ordered to be completed by 140 days.

At least 18-kilometer area will be saved from river erosion if the spurs are completed. More than 100 villages and crop lands of Meghai Bazar, Shubhgachha Union and Sadar Upazila will be protected. At least 2000 hectors of land will be recovered.

Thousands of labourers are employed for the construction work. There are now working round the clock.

Work on the upstream spur number one at Meghai has been progressing fast.

— Star photo

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Plassy, Dhaka-1000

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D-2521 (2) Dt: 4.6.00

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Engineering University Girls' School
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GD-532

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প্রধান কার্যালয়
৮৩-৮৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা
ঢাকা-১০০০
সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কার/মাইক্রোবাস/মিনিবাস/বাস ভাড়ার জন্য

অত্র ব্যাংকের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের ঢাকা মহানগরী এবং পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার ১০ (দশ) টি রুটের আওতায় বিভিন্ন স্থান হইতে কৃষি ব্যাংক ভবন, ৮৩-৮৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকায় এবং বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়, ব্লক-এ, প্লট নং-০৩, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা ১২১৬ সিডিউলে বর্ণিত সময় আনয়ন এবং অফিস ছুটির পর পৌছানোর জন্য আগ্রহী কার/মাইক্রোবাস/মিনিবাস/বাস মালিক বা পরিবহন সংস্থার নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

০২। এ ব্যাপারে যাবতীয় নিয়মাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল যে কোন দিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময় অত্র বিভাগের পরিবহন শাখায় ৮৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা (৩য় তলা), ঢাকা এর নিকট পাওয়া যাইবে। প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য ৳ ২০০/= (দুইশত টাকা) অফেরতযোগ্য। সিডিউলের মূল্যের সমপরিমাণ টাকার পেমেন্ট অর্ডার/ডিমান্ড ড্রাফট বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক, স্থানীয় মুখ্য কার্যালয়, ঢাকা হইতে বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকার নামে ক্রয় করতঃ উহা উপরে বর্ণিত স্থানে জমা দিয়া সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য দরপত্র দাখিল এর দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

০৩। দরপত্র আগামী ২১-৬-২০০০ইং তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংকের ৮৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকায় ৩য় তলায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাক্সে গৃহীত হইবে এবং ঐদিনই অপরাহ্ন ২.৪৫ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হইবে।

০৪। সর্ব নিম্ন অথবা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংকের সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

০৫। ডিজেল চালিত যানবাহনকে প্রাধান্য দেওয়া হইবে।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক
সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ।

জিডি-৫৩১

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ঃ নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজগুলির জন্য ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তালিকাভুক্ত (ভবন) ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের "টেন্ডার ফর ওয়ার্কস" ফর্মে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। কাজগুলির পূর্ণ বিবরণ নিম্নে দেওয়া হইলঃ

কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয়	বায়নার টাকা	দরপত্রের নাম	কাজ সমাপ্তির মোট সময়
১ (ক) বংগবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান হলের পুকুরকে দূষণমুক্ত রাখার লক্ষ্যে বঃবঃ শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান হল এবং কবি জসিম উদ্দিন হলের ময়লা পানি নিকটস্থ ওয়াসার আন্ডার গ্রাউন্ড স্যুয়ার লাইনের সহিত সংযোগ দেওয়ার জন্য আরসিসি লাইন স্থাপন এবং বঃবঃ শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান হলের ডাইনিং হল ও পাকঘরের সারফেস ড্রেন, ওয়েষ্ট ওয়াটার লাইন স্থাপন।	টাঃ ৫,৫৭,৭৪৬/=	টা-১১,১৫৫/=	টা-২০০/=	৬০ দিন
খ) গ্রন্থাগার ভবনের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় তলার বাথরুমের ফ্লোরে ফো-ওয়াং টাইলস স্থাপনসহ বাথরুমগুলির পূর্ণাংগ মেরামত কাজ।	টা ১,৯৭,৩৭৭/=	টা-৩৯৪৮/=	টা-১০০/=	৬০ দিন

২। ঠিকাদারদের যোগ্যতা ঃ ঠিকাদারদের স্ব-স্ব শ্রেণীতে আর্থিকসীমা অনুযায়ী কাজের জন্য।

৩। যে সমস্ত অফিস হইতে টেন্ডার সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে ঃ (ক) কোষাধ্যক্ষের অফিস (খ) রেজিস্ট্রারের অফিস (গ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস (ঘ) সংশ্লিষ্ট জোনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর অফিস।

৪। যে সমস্ত অফিসসমূহে সংরক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাক্সে টেন্ডার ফেলা যাইবে ঃ (ক) কোষাধ্যক্ষের অফিস (খ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস, (গ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর অফিস (সার্কেল-২) (ঘ) সংশ্লিষ্ট জোনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর অফিস

৫। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ঃ ১৮-৬-২০০০ইং

৬। দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময় ঃ ১৯-৬-২০০০ইং দুপুর ১২টা পর্যন্ত

৭। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় ঃ ১৯-৬-২০০০ইং দুপুর ১২.১৫ মিনিট।

মোঃ আবদুল মান্নান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

জিডি-৫৩৪

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in two envelop system (technical proposal & financial offer) are hereby invited for CONSTRUCTION OF TWO STORIED BUILDING AT MA HANNAN INTERNATIONAL AIR PORT, CHITTAGONG ON TURNKEY BASIS (i.e. for designing to complete construction of the building). The Real Estate developers/1st class enlisted contractors of govt/semi govt/autonomous bodies/the joint venture consortium of developers/1st class enlisted contractors/firms who have designed and completed construction in all respect of RCC frame building having pile foundation of minimum Tk 5.0 (five) crore in a single work order will be eligible for participating in the tender.

The tender documents with detail terms and conditions will be available from the Cash & Banking Section of Bangladesh Biman "Balaka Bhaban" Zia International Airport, Dhaka and office of the Divisional Commissioner 12 storied govt office building Room No. 206, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk. 1000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable) per set on all working days up to 29-06-2000.

Tenders shall have to deposit earnest money @2.5% (two point five per cent) of the total quoted amount in favour of Bangladesh Biman Corporation in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order along with the financial offer.

The tender will be received in the office of the General Manager, Project & Works, 3rd Floor, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka and the office of Additional Divisional Commissioner 12 storied govt office building Room No. 303, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka up to 1200 hours on 30-06-2000 and only the technical proposal will be opened at 1430 hrs on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any) in the office of the General Manager, Project & Works, 3rd Floor, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

Biman management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

GD-533 **General Manager (P&W)**