

BUET study reveals Rubber dams can help increase rice output

Production of rice could be increased significantly by using rubber dams as the relatively new technology is more viable compared to other options, said a recent study of BUET, reports BSS.

"In terms of economy rubber dam is much viable than the barrages or other structures or water pumps as its operation and management (O&M) cost is very low," said Dr. Abul Fazal M Saleh of BUET, who conducted the study on two existing pilot rubber dams across the globe.

The study recommended introduction of the technology in large-scale irrigation projects in view of the excellent performance of the existing two dams on Bakkhali river and Idgaon Khal of Cox's Bazar.

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The Water Development Board officials earlier said they were examining the technical and economic viability of rubber dams to promote surface water irrigation reducing dependence on ground water for environmental reasons.

The surface water accounted for 30 per cent of total irrigated area (3.8 million hectares) in the country during dry season, an official irrigation census stated.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) with technical assistance from the Institute of Water Conservancy and Hydroelectric Power Research of China in 1995 set up the two dams for

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Shamsi murder

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arrested three of the accused -- Alamgir, Bappi and Sallauddin from different parts of the old city on that night. The CMM's Court placed them on a two-day remand on Thursday.

Zia had gone to Nachol in Chapai Nawabganj with a group of preachers from Kakkral mosque in the city on October 23. He was arrested from a mosque there.

DB sources said yesterday that they were interrogating the four to ascertain the motive behind the killing of Ammar. "We have to know if there are other reasons, except the greed for ransom, behind the killing of the student," one source said.

It is likely that Ammar was abducted, killed and left at the National Park not only for money" A senior DB official said.

Jyoti Basu

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retirement," a spokesman of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) told Reuters today.

He said a meeting of the West Bengal unit of the party had already approved Basu's retirement, but this had to be ratified by the Left Front, the alliance that has ruled the eastern state since 1977.

The Left Front is scheduled to meet tomorrow to ratify Basu's retirement and announce his successor, the spokesman said. A senior communist leader said Basu was likely to relinquish office on November 5.

PTI adds: Basu's deputy Buddhadev Bhattacharjee would succeed him.

Basu, who has been in the Communist Party since 1940, said he would remain the CPI-M till his death.

"I shall be very much involved with forthcoming assembly poll in the state," he added.

Nixon

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phone conversations and meetings, the most infamous of which pertained to the Watergate break-in, which ultimately led to his resignation in 1974.

The war between India and Pakistan broke out on December 3, 1971 and lasted 14 days.

But two weeks after the end of the conflict, Nixon was still reluctant to endorse the new state and told Kissinger he would announce that the recognition of Bangladesh was premature.

"And of course we have a consul in Dhaka with a map calling it Bangladesh already," Kissinger complained to Nixon.

"Yes, I know," Nixon replied with obvious irritation. "The bastard who was there before, isn't he? He's really an all-out India-lover, isn't he?"

The Indo-Pakistani war unfolded at the height of the Cold War, thus putting America and the Soviet Union on opposing sides of it.

Nixon did little in conversation to hide what side he was leaning toward.

"We (the US) are doing our best to cool it," Nixon told McCormack on December 8, 1971. "The UN asked both sides to withdraw and has put some of the blame on India where it belongs for not withdrawing."

But for image-sake, Nixon told his advisers it was paramount to convince people he was neither anti-Indian nor pro-Pakistani, but instead "pro-peace."

"Aggression is wrong," he lectured Bush. "Those god damn Communist countries are engaged in it but even if a democracy (such as India) engages in it, it's wrong."

In private, however, Nixon derided the Indians.

"The Indians just smother you out there with all their devious tricky things," he once told McCormack. "They are really something."

Explaining the delay in implementation of the DIP, Project Director Sehab Ullah said they were facing stiff resistance from illegal occupiers of project lands.

Moreover, the government is not releasing funds in time, he alleged.



Battalion Ansars sacked in 1994 and their families staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding their reinstatement.

Sacked Ansars

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days with great hardship, they said.

The rally was presided over by Mohammad Farid Hossain Khan, Convener of the committee.

Badrul Alam, General Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Federation, Prof Abdul Hakim, Vice-President of Bangladesh Grameen Buddhijibi Front, Zayed Iqbal Khan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Floating Workers Union also addressed the rally expressing solidarity with the movement of sacked Battalion Ansars.

A total of 1,332 Battalion Ansars were sacked in 1994 for allegedly launching a movement.

Green Channel

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the idea was not bad but success of the system will depend on how the facility is availed of.

Meanwhile, in the system, the customs authorities preserved the right to spot checking of five per cent of the imported consignment and pass it for delivery if the irregularity concerns two per cent of the total or less. To monitor such irregularities, a four-member committee headed by a joint secretary of shipping ministry has been formed.

When asked, Chairman of Local Fabrics & Accessories Committee of BGMEA SM Nurul Haq did not rule out the possibility of forgery even through the Green Channel. If necessary, steps like installation of scanner machines can be taken, but the facility should not be withdrawn.

Bangladesh Master Stevedoring Association Chairman Manjoor Alam also expressed doubt about success of the system.

C&F Association President M Salimullah said the Green Channel has been introduced at the behest of an influential circle and the facility may be misused.

TV performers

Khaled Khan,

Tania hurt

in road accident

At least 10 people including TV performers Khaled Khan and Tania were injured in a road accident at Nawabpur Bazar while returning from Aralhazar after their shooting, reports BSS.

Relatives of the injured stars said the accident occurred in the afternoon when the microbus carrying them skidded off the road and fell into a ditch.

Local people rushed to the spot and rescued them. The injured are Khaled Khan, Tania, Sabita Benarjee, Satirtha Rahman, Manjurul Alam, Mujib, Jibon, Sabuj Rahman, Alamin and Tutul.

Double murder

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frequently but police are not arresting him as he is the son a leader of ruling Awami League.

"So many mothers have lost their sons in Sutrapur and Gendaria area in the last few years" said the father of Saem, one of victims. "We want to ensure that such incidents are not repeated."

If police arrest Sumon, the area will be free from murder and other crimes" he added.

The speakers said Sutrapur is the most crime-prone area in the city because police are playing in the hands of criminals.

They said a greater movement will be launched if action is not taken.

Mohsin, 18, son of Amin Mian and Saem, 19, son of Mahatubuddin of SK Das Lane under Sutrapur thana were murdered inside the club.

Their mutilated bodies were recovered from a manhole at Loharpur under Sutrapur thana in the morning September 16.

An official of Sutrapur thana was suspended and the OC was withdrawn for their negligence in rescuing the boys from the hand of miscreants.

Later, the case was transferred to the Detective Branch of police but they failed to bring the culprits to book.

Several newspapers reported that Sumon is hiding in the capital and visits Sutrapur frequently.

But the DB investigation officer claimed that several places were raided in Comilla, Narail and in the capital to arrest Sumon.

Depression

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Amit

Professor Islam, however, did not specify when Amit would start relying on the device to breath assisted by constant mild electric stimulus from the electrodes which is connected to phrenic nerves that control movement of the diaphragm.

"There is no sign of infection and Amit is doing fine," Prof Islam said. "He is on normal diet and he has no complaints of pain."

Amit suffered one of the worst forms of rare wild poliovirus infection that destroyed his limb movement and also breathing mechanism.

Amit, 12, has been connected to a ventilator at the Intensive Care Unit of BSMMUH for nearly 14 months now.

The breathing pacemaker (a bipolar receiver and two electrodes) was implanted in Amit's chest on October 10 after a five-hour operation at the BSMMUH. Total expenditure (Tk 43 lakh) was borne by donation from the public including his schoolmates and teachers, doctors, university students, housewives, small businessmen and private organisations.

Presidents and general secretaries of different units of Dhaka City Awami League and its front organisations, and adjoining districts of Dhaka attended the meeting, including the meeting, among others.

Security tightened on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent

Security was tightened on the Dhaka University campus following the recovery of a mugger's body from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Building premises on Thursday night.

The DU authorities have asked both law enforcement agencies and night guards of the university to keep vigil and perform their duties more consciously.

Police on Thursday night recovered the body of Abul Kashem alias Kalsha, 38, a member of Kohi Group involved in mugging on the Dhaka University campus.

He was chopped to death near IBA Building. His rivals forcibly took him to the IBA Building at dead of night and killed him over sharing of booty.

He was also allegedly involved in the killing of Nikunji Bihari Debnath, Joint Secretary of LGRD Ministry on the campus on January 11, police said earlier.

University authorities had suspended four night guards of the IBA Building who were on duty on the night of killing and formed a four-member probe body headed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. M Shahadat Ali to investigate into the incident.

Sources said that several well-organised gangs are involved in mugging in and around the DU campus. Incidents of mugging are a common phenomenon on the campus nowadays.

Muggers and abductors are choosing the DU campus taking the advantage of its present peaceful atmosphere. "As there is

no terrorist on the campus, the outsiders terrorists are choosing the campus for their criminal activities," said a DU high official, preferring anonymity.

The probe body yesterday recorded statements of the night guards of Lecture Theatre and Arts Building. The probe body will also sit for a meeting with the guards of IBA Building today.

When contacted, member secretary of the probe body DU Proctor Prof. A K M Nurun Nabi said that the campus is not isolated from the rest of the country. He said Thursday's incident was a proof of deteriorating law and order situation.

Replying to query, Prof. Nabi said they were trying to find out why the criminals chosen DU campus for the incident. He however failed to say whether Kashem was killed or his dead body was left on the campus.

Kashem came to the DU campus from his village home of Golapganj 20 years ago but involved himself in snatching in and around the campus six years back. Father of two sons and a daughter, Kashem began his life as a tokay and used to collect papers on the campus areas for living.

Kashem continued mugging on the campus even though he was arrested two times on charges of mugging and once for possessing crackers at TSC two years ago. He was released on bail on September 11 and involved himself again in snatching.

AAPP confce

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time as the host country is affected by heavy floods at present," he said. Bangladesh delegation is yet to get prepared to attend the assembly.

Sources at the AAPP Secretariat in Dhaka said the Cambodian authorities have informed the situation over telephone but they have not yet sent any official letter in this regard. The general assembly may take place sometime in December depending on the improvement of flood situation," one source said.

Some sources said the Cambodian authorities were strongly criticised by the opposition political parties for such an assembly at the time of deluge. That is why they might reconsider the matter.

The AAPP was formed at a conference attended by 31 countries in Dhaka last year.

PARC

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10 per cent from general quota on the basis of region.

The PARC report said the region-based or other quotas were contrary to the spirit of the constitution and were also making the government employment system complicated.

It added that although the region-based quota system was introduced to ensure participation of people of all districts, in reality the system failed to produce the desired outcome as residents of smaller districts continue to be deprived of the opportunities.

Ctg Court Bldg

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Prasad also echoed the same sentiment and called for beefing up security at the Court Building.

But District and Sessions Judge Siddiqui Rahman Mia said he was not worried about the security at the Court Building. "But everybody should be cautious," he said.

However, AC Prosecution Ali Azam admitted that the security in the Court Building was inadequate and said steps were underway to beef up security.

Pre-winter

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Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Virology Department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) and Dr Bazlul Hossain, a senior consultant at the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH), regarding these ailments.

They said these ailments are usual during pre-winter days.

Enteric fever is caused by a bacterium known as *Salmonella Typhi* that enters the body with food and water. It commonly causes fever, vomiting tendency and severe headache, which last for a couple of days. It can be treated with good nutrition. Antibiotic is needed if the fever persists, they said.

Widale test (a blood sample test) should be done to confirm enteric fever.

Haemophilus influenza or common flu is mainly self-limiting. It lasts for a maximum of seven days.

But the common flu can turn serious. It can lead to meningitis, pneumonia and encephalitis, for which hospitalization is required. Meningitis attacks brain cells.

Upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) is no less menacing.

It is caused by a bacterium in the air that multiplies during change of season. The bacteria attacks the upper respiratory tract and often destroys the microscopic hairline, making entry of any foreign particle into the lung easier.

For infants and old-age people, such bacterial attack may lead to more serious ailments.



Washermen in the city have been using the bank of the river Buriganga as the common place of washing clothes for long without ever trying to feel that they are polluting river water greatly. -- Star photo