



PHOTO IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

(Left) A view of the River Dholai during the monsoon season where the labourers on board boats collect stones, (middle) workers are seen engaged in stone collection from the quarry on the riverbed in Companyganj upazila, (right) a view of the River Plain during the winter season.

Tk 46cr flood-control project in Sylhet shelved for years

Piain river now a curse of Companyganj people

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Piain which was once a mighty river has now turned into a curse for about eight lakh people of the region.

Though many plans and programmes have been taken up by the government agencies and departments during the last three decades, nothing effective has yet been done. It has resulted in flooding a huge area almost every year, as well as it has caused siltation along a vast tract of land on both the sides of the river. Extraction of stones from the river bed has also been declining alarmingly.

The Piain and Dholai flow through Companyganj upazila in Sylhet. Originated from the Meghalaya hills in India, the River Piain enters into the Bangladesh territory near Ohmghat and joins with the Surma near Chhatak through Gowainghat and Companyganj upazilas. On the other hand, the Dholai being originated from the Indian Khasia hills, near Bholaganj border which ultimately joins with the Piain. The piain having a length of 34 miles had a depth of 25 to 30 metres even 50 years ago. But the river has lost its previous navigability due to the large-scale siltation at different points.

The biggest stone quarry of the country is at Bholaganj on the riverbed of Dholai. It contributes crores of taka as revenue every year, besides supplying huge stones across the country. There are some other quarries in the region. About 40,000 to 50,000 labourers are engaged in collection of stones from these quarries.

Once big water vessels used to ply in the river. But water transportation is being hampered greatly due to the siltation, which has caused an alarming situation in the whole region. Besides, almost every year, vast areas in Companyganj, Gowainghat, Sylhet Sadar and Chhatak upazilas face frequent and seasonal floods causing large-scale damage to crops and lands as well as to other property. The River Piain has changed its course at least at four points-Rataner khal, Pabitrer Lamna Khal and at Telikhali. Huge number of dwelling houses and croplands had also been devoured. Besides, accumulation of two to three feet silts on both banks of the river and other small canals linked to it have also turned thousands of hectares of cropland uncultivable every year.

Sources informed that in mid-fifties, the then member of the Provincial Assembly late Mokbul Hossain Chowdhury proposed to the government for resolving the problems relating to the Piain river. Ex-President Ershad during his regime visited the Piain river and asked the concerned authority for taking necessary steps in 1985.

The officials of Water Development Board (WDB) prepared a Tk 40.43 crore project in two phases in July 1986 and it was sent to the higher authority. In 1993, the Board prepared a revised plan for the 'Piain river flood control project'. The PCP of the project was made showing an estimated expenditure amounting to Taka. 46.24 crore. The government itself has been incurring huge loss of revenue. Besides, the people have also been suffering extremely due to the delay in implementation of the project, local leaders feel.

Fisheries in the region is also being hit seriously. On the other hand small haors (water body) and marshy lands are turning into plain lands due to large scale siltation. Due to fall in water level, navigability, transportation of stones are also being hampered. The BDR outpost and the Khasia punji (organised homesteads) along Sangram border in Gowainghat upazila has already been devoured in 1988. The local leaders of different political parties have demanded of the government necessary steps for dredging in the river, but their demands are yet to get any response from the authorities concerned, they alleged. They said that crops worth about Taka 200 crore could be saved by saving the crops and checking erosion and siltation. It has also been stated in the PCP that property worth over Taka 600 Crore could be saved by proper implementation of the project, they asserted.

When contacted, an official of WDB said that the project has been prepared several times, but due to shortage of funds, the project is yet to be implemented.

He, however, informed that considering the importance, the revised project has recently been included in the 'National Desiltation Programme', which has chosen some very important rivers throughout the country. A few months ago, a team of experts from a consultant firm conducted a field survey in the project area of Companyganj upazila. He added, Feasibility study of the whole project is already in the concluding stage, the official hoped.

Nooruddin for standard IT syllabus

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi University

Minister for Science and Technology M Nooruddin Khan said the country will be connected with the information superhighway having links with optic fibre cable network within one or two years.

The minister was addressing a seminar on "Contemporary Development of Information Technology in Bangladesh and Participation of Rajshahi University Students" held on February 15 on the campus.

"We will be able to enter the software export market by using satellite and optic fibre cable," the minister expressed the hope.

The minister said Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) should come forward to formulate a standard syllabus for the country's IT institutions for producing quality manpower.

He said, "The government has taken pragmatic steps in upgrading the Internet facilities in the country at lower price". The non-resident Bangladeshis have also been showing interest in IT sector in the country, he added.

It was disclosed in the seminar that National Computer

Programming Contest (NCPC) 2002 will be held at Rajshahi University while NCPC-2003 will be held at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet.

However, the computer programming contest, scheduled to be held on the occasion, was postponed due to 'unavoidable' reasons. The contest will be held at a convenient time, the seminar sources said.

President over by Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan, the seminar was organised jointly by BCC, Ministry of Science and Technology, RU Computer Centre, Environment, Agriculture and Development Services (EADS), and Computer Link, Dhaka.

Prof Abdus Sobhan, Executive Director of BCC, presented the keynote paper in the seminar.

The two-day seminar was also addressed, among others, by RU Pro Vice Chancellor Prof M Wazed Ali, Prof Jafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet, Science and Technology Secretary Fazlur Rahman, RU Treasurer Prof Fazl Haque, RU Computer Centre administrator Prof Raquib Ahmad delivered welcome address.

NEWS SNAPS

Floating fishermen rescued

UNB, Barguna

A fishing trawler with 12 fishermen onboard sank in the bay when two trawlers used by pirates hit it early Monday. Sources at Trawler Owners Association in Patharghata under Barguna district said the trawler, FV Merry, capsized when two foreign trawlers dashed it while the fishermen were fishing near Fair Way Boyar of the bay. After eight hours of the incident, another trawler rescued the floating fishermen and the damaged trawler. Four fishermen Solayman, Delwar, Elias and Sundar Gazi were injured in the attack. In another incident, pirates hijacked a trawler along with 11 fishermen on the night of Feb 14.

Abducted person rescued

UNB, Laxmipur

Police rescued the abducted acting chairman of Karpara Union Parishad in Ramganj upazila under Laxmipur district, Abdus Sattar, on Friday, 72 hours after his abduction. Police said three gunmen picked up him from his village on February 13. Acting on a tip-off, police rescued him from Shahapur village in Chaktil upazila of Noakhali district, but they could not arrest the abductors. The reason behind the abduction could not be known. Another report says: a schoolgirl, Selina Akhter, 14, of village Mandari in Sadar upazila died after she fell down from the rooftop of her house on Friday.

10 injured in clash

UNB, Patuakhali

A clash between rickshawpullers and truckers in Patuakhali district bus terminal left at least 10 people injured Tuesday. Witnesses said the clash took place at about 10 am after a truck knocked down a rickshaw in the area. Two of the injured truck driver Ali Hossain, 23, and rickshawpuller Motaleb, 20 were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

TLM teacher assaulted

UNB, Kishoreganj

A teacher of Total Literacy Movement (TLM) was assaulted allegedly by three members of a family at Pashimpara village in Katiadi upazila under Kishoreganj district. Police said Sangkar Shah along with his three sons entered into the house of Rita Saha and assaulted her as she lodged a complaint against him for hampering the classes of elderly people at a centre at his home. A case was filed.

Cow smuggling up

Cow smuggling into the country from neighbouring India has increased ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. A section of local cow traders are bringing the cows through different boarder points of Pandhagarh district bypassing the authorised cow corridors. They first keep the cattle in frontier villages of Bangladesh and then supply those to various parts of the country, including capital Dhaka in trucks.

17 uplift projects underway

UNB, Pirojpur

Pirojpur district council will implement 17 development projects this fiscal at a cost of Tk 20.40 lakh. Of the projects, six will be implemented in Motbaria, two in Nesarabad, seven in sadar and two in Kauhkhali upazilas. The projects are likely to be completed by June this year.

Massive chili farming scheme

UNB, Kishoreganj

Some 1.2 lakh hectares of land will be brought under chili farming across the country with an output target of 2.4 lakh metric tons this season. Under the programme, 64 districts of the country have been split into nine agricultural zones: Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong, Rangamati, Barisal, Rajshahi, Jessore and Rangpur.



Transcription Service of Bangladesh Betar (Radio) recently staged a drama 'Bijoygatha Aroj Ali Shab Bauler Ektrate' based on the life of freedom fighter Aroj Ali at Sushong Degree College under Durgapur upazila in Netrakona district.

Three killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Three people were killed and 57 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Dinajpur Highway near Horegani under Sirajganj upazila in Sirajganj on Tuesday.

Driver of the bus died on the spot while the rest two succumbed to their injuries on way to hospital.

The driver was identified as Ashraful Islam, 35, of Radanagar in Pabna district. Identity of others could not be known.

Police said the accident occurred near Horegani, some 20 kilometres west of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge, when driver of the Sirajganj-bound bus from Pabna lost control over steering after two wheels of the bus got punctured.

PBS official sacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A director of Moulvibazar Pally Biddut Samity (PBS) has been sacked for his alleged involvement in harmful activities against the organisation.

Official sources said Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (REB) took the decision to sack Habibur Rahman, Director of area no-10 of Moulvibazar PBS.



Dhaka Mahanagari Samity (Dhaka Samity), an association of the citizens of Dhaka, arranged a river cruise for its members recently. This shot has been taken from Chandpur area where the members are seen enjoying the cruise in the River Meghna.

...80 days after burial

UNB, Bagerhat

The body of a housewife was exhumed on Tuesday for autopsy 80 days after her burial following a case filed by her brother.

Police said the autopsy of the body of Nasima Khatun, 25, of Shahidullahpur village in Sadar upazila was performed in Bagerhat Sadar Hospital to ascertain whether she committed suicide or was murdered.

The victim was buried on November 26, 2000 without autopsy on the plea that she committed suicide by taking poison.

But her brother filed a case on Monday with the magistrate court in Bagerhat and the magistrate

directed the police to exhume the body for autopsy.

Another report from Satkhira said the body of Akbar Ali, 38, was exhumed from the grave on Monday after four and a half months of his burial and autopsy of the body was performed in local sadar hospital.

Akbar Ali of Durgapur village in Ashashuni upazila said to be died of diarrhoea at Nazir Uddin's house at Adalatpur village of same upazila on his way home from his father-in-law's house last year.

FEMA discussion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A discussion was held at Palashbari Upazila Nirbahi Officer's conference room recently.

Speakers spoke on the ways of ensuring free and fair polls. It was jointly organised by Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), Gaibandha district unit and Manabik Sahaja Sangstha, a local NGO. Moklesur Rahman Sarker, TNO of Palashbari, formally inaugurated the opening session. Hasan Azizur Rahman presided over the session. Political leaders, teachers, social workers and professionals attended the session and exchanged their views.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A seven-year-old girl named Nisa who was a student of Class Two of a primary school at village Mohanpur under Bashatta upazila in Netrakona district has been suffering from fatal heart ailment for sometime. She needs immediate surgery which involves a good amount of money.

Nisa's father Faruk Ahmed, who is a small trader, has appealed to the affluent persons of the society to donate generously for his daughter's proper treatment. He urged the philanthropists to donate through his Savings Account Number 1144, Rupali Bank, Netrakona branch, Netrakona.



Nisa

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka Tender Notice

No P&D/LP-1/(625)/2000-2001/D-1431(3) Dated: 22-2-01

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers for supply & installation of **Server, Workstation, Printer and Networking accessories**.

Interested 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 only) (non-refundable) to the Small 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. Bidders are invited to submit Technical Offers (including all bid documents except prices) in accordance with specifications which lay down the minimum operating and performance requirements and Financial Offers (including prices) in two separate envelopes. 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 20-03-2001 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM before the participants present.

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 reasons whatsoever.

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

Deputy Director
Planning & Development

GD-176

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

রাজশাহী

ক্রিয়ারিং জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিয়োগের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে কর্তৃক বিভিন্ন সময়ে আমদানিকৃত বৈজ্ঞানিক যন্ত্রপাতি, কাচের শিক্ষা সামগ্রী, রাসায়নিক দ্রব্যাদি, বই-পুস্তক ও সাময়িকী ইত্যাদি সোনামসজিদ স্থল বন্দর হতে খারাস করা এবং তা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে পঠানোর জন্য ৩ (তিন) বছরের বাস্তব কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ক্রিয়ারিং এজেন্ট ফরওয়ার্ডিং এজেন্টদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

টেন্ডার সিডিউল (আনুষঙ্গিক শর্তাবলি) এর মূল্য ৫০০/= (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফিসেরহযোগ্য) এবং তেবলমাত্র "পরিচালক, পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন দপ্তর, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রাজশাহী" এর অনুকূলে প্রদানযোগ্য ডিমাত ড্রামটসহ বাস্তবতাভাবে অথবা ১২/(বাস) টাকা মূল্যের ঠিকানাযুক্ত বামসহ আবেদনপত্র "পরিচালক, পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রাজশাহী" এর দপ্তর হতে ২৬-২-২০০১ পর্যন্ত সন্ধ্যা ৫টা যাবে এবং ১০-৩-২০০১ বেলা ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সময়ের মধ্যে সীলমোহরকৃত চূড়ান্ত দরপত্রসমূহ "কোষাধ্যক্ষ, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রাজশাহী" বারবার পৌঁছাতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের খামের উপর "সোনামসজিদ স্থল বন্দরের জন্য এজেন্ট নিযুক্তির দরপত্র" কথাটি উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে। প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ ২দিনই বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকার সময়ে উপস্থিত দরদাতাগণ মনোনীত এজেন্টদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) কোষাধ্যক্ষের অফিস কক্ষে খোলা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, কোন বিশেষ কারণে সিডিউল সন্ধ্যা ৫ জমা দেয়ার তারিখে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বন্ধ থাকলে তা পরের দিন করা যাবে।

কোন প্রকার কারণ না দর্শিয়ে যে কোন বা সকল টেন্ডার গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

পরিচালক
পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

তারিখ-১৭৭

BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, DHAKA WANTED

D-1430(2) Dt: 22.2.01

Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualifications and fitness to fill up the following Posts of this University.

- Directorate of Planning & Development**
 - One permanent post of Deputy Director in the scale of Tk 9500-12100/=.

Prescribed Qualification: Candidate must possess at least a 2nd class Master's Degree having 5 years experience in a post not lower than Asstt. Registrar or its equivalent (Present pay scale of this post is Tk 6150-9750/=) or Administrative experience in a higher responsible position for 3 years.

OR

Bachelor's Degree having 10 years experience of which 5 years must be as Asstt. Registrar or Asstt. Director or its equivalent (Present pay scale of this post is Tk 6150-9750/=).

Candidate familiar with the official procedure in the Planning Commission and knowledge in dealing with foreign exchange, foreign purchase etc may be given preference.

- Registrar Office**
 - One permanent post of Deputy Registrar (Establishment & Administration) in the scale of Tk 9500-12100/=.

Prescribed Qualification: Candidate must have at least 2nd class Master's Degree or B.Sc. Engg Degree with at least 7 years experience as Senior Officer in Administration of which at least 5 (five) years must be in a post not lower than Asstt. Registrar or its equivalent (Present pay scale of this post is Tk 6150-9750/=). In case of persons with qualifications in Computer Science and Engg. or Computer applications or M.B.A. Degree the requirement of experience may be relaxed.

OR

Candidate must be a graduate with at least 2nd Division/Class in all the examinations and must have at least 10 years experience as Senior Officer in Administration of which at least 5 years must be in a post not lower than Asstt. Registrar or its equivalent (Present pay scale of this post is Tk 6150-9750/=). In case of persons with qualifications in Computer Science & Engg or Computer applications, the requirement of experience may be relaxed.

- Directorate of Advisory, Extension & Research Services**
 - One permanent post of Administrative Officer in the scale of Tk 4300-7740/=.

Prescribed Qualification: At least 2nd class Master's degree. Candidates having experience in administrative works will be preferred.

OR

Graduate with at least 7 years administrative experience in a responsible position.

- Engineering Office**
 - One permanent post of Sub-Assistant Engineer (Electrical) in the scale of Tk 3400-6625/=.

Prescribed Qualification: The candidate must possess a Diploma in Engineering in the relevant branch. Preference will be given to those who have experience.

Other information:

Candidates having foreign Degree/Degrees will have to submit equivalence certificate to be obtained from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka along with their applications.

10(Ten) complete sets of application [stating full bio-data, all past and present service with designation, pay scale & date] with the attested copies of all certificates, testimonials and mark sheets and one copy attested passport size photograph are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with Crossed Postal Order/Pay Order (issued by any branches of the commercial banks of Dhaka city) Bank Draft (issued on any branches of the commercial banks of Dhaka City) of Tk 150/= (One Hundred and Fifty) in favour of the Comptroller of this University. Attested copies of all certificates, testimonials and mark sheets will have to attach in each set of the applications.

Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Last date for submission of application : 18 March 2001.

GD-175 **Registrar**