

Govt takes steps to destabilise parliamentary democracy

Hasina tells city BCL council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina blasted the government for taking different anti-constitutional and undemocratic steps to destabilise the country's parliamentary democracy.

"The government is conspiring to destroy country's democratic advancement and to achieve this purpose they are trying to stage political drama and create confusion about the parliamentary democracy among the people," Hasina said this while addressing the Council of Dhaka City (North and South) of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at the Engineer's Institute in the city yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina also blamed the government for designing a 'blue print' to destroy the AL through political persecution and repression. But the people would resist and foil any such conspiracy as it

is the party of the people and for the people, she asserted.

The opposition leader warned the BNP-Jamaat government saying that if political persecution and repression against her party activists is not stopped immediately, they would be compelled to protest it on the street.

"The hooligans of the government killed hundreds of AL activists after October general election. The AL leaders and workers are not only deprived of justice but also are not given police protection due to instruction from high level of the coalition government", she alleged.

About the recent comments of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on student politics, the opposition leader said there is nothing wrong in it if the government stops its 'strategy of patronising the criminal activities' by them to achieve its political will. "Before blaming the student politics, she should have stopped hooliganism by her

party's student wing over tender bidding and other criminal activities."

In her hour-long speech, the former prime minister expressed her grave concern over the deteriorating law and order and increase in rape, killing, torture, and land-grabbing throughout the country.

"We shall fight against all misdeeds of the government to ensure the security of public life in parliament despite the opposition lawmakers are not allowed to speak uninterruptedly in the house," she said.

The opposition leader advised the BCL activists to give priority to education. "Your prime task is to study and gather knowledge about the world to get prepared for future leadership of the country," she added. Hasina.

Termining the student community as the 'future of the nation' Hasina called upon them to be better informed about the current politics and international affairs.

Highlighting the glorious role of BCL, Hasina said this student organisation led the country's different movements in the past including language movement, liberation war and mass movement against the autocratic rules in the country.

She demanded immediate release of all leaders and activists of BCL as they are detained with false charges across the country.

Hasina also called upon them to be more alert about the distortion of the history by the anti-people coalition government.

In her speech she also spoke about the reported attacks on journalists, closure of the Adamjee Jute Mills, violation against women and children and increasing political persecution and corruption of the government.

Acting BCL president Marufa Akhter Poppy and acting general secretary Saifuzzaman Shekhar also spoke on the occasion.

New committee of Sangskritik Jote formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The executive committee of the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) has been elected with Nasir Uddin Yusuf Bachechu and Golam Kuddus as its president and general secretary respectively.

The committee was elected for a two-year term at the 5th conference of the Jote held at the Mahila Samity auditorium in the city on Friday.

The other members are assistant general secretary - Hassan Arif, organising secretary - Afzal Hossain, finance secretary - Rafiqul Islam, publication secretary - Tarik Sujat, publicity secretary - Akham Ullah, research & information secretary - Mosharrat Hossain, and office secretary - Kh. Shah Alam.

And the members are Ramendu Mojumdar, Asaduzzaman Noor, Mamunur Rashid, Laila Hasan, Fakir Alamgir, Golam Sarwar, Selim Shamsul H. Chowdhury, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, Jhuna Chowdhury, Saiful Islam Mahmud, Afroza Banu, Rokeya Rafiq Baby, Manzarul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Ahmed Gias, Mahidul Islam, Majumdar Jewel, Mahbubul Haidar Mohan, Bonya Lohani, and Minarul Haq Minar.

The presidium members are Mofidul Haq, Sara Zaker, Dr. Mohammad Samad, Liakat Ali Laki, Salah Uddin Badal and Mannan Hira.

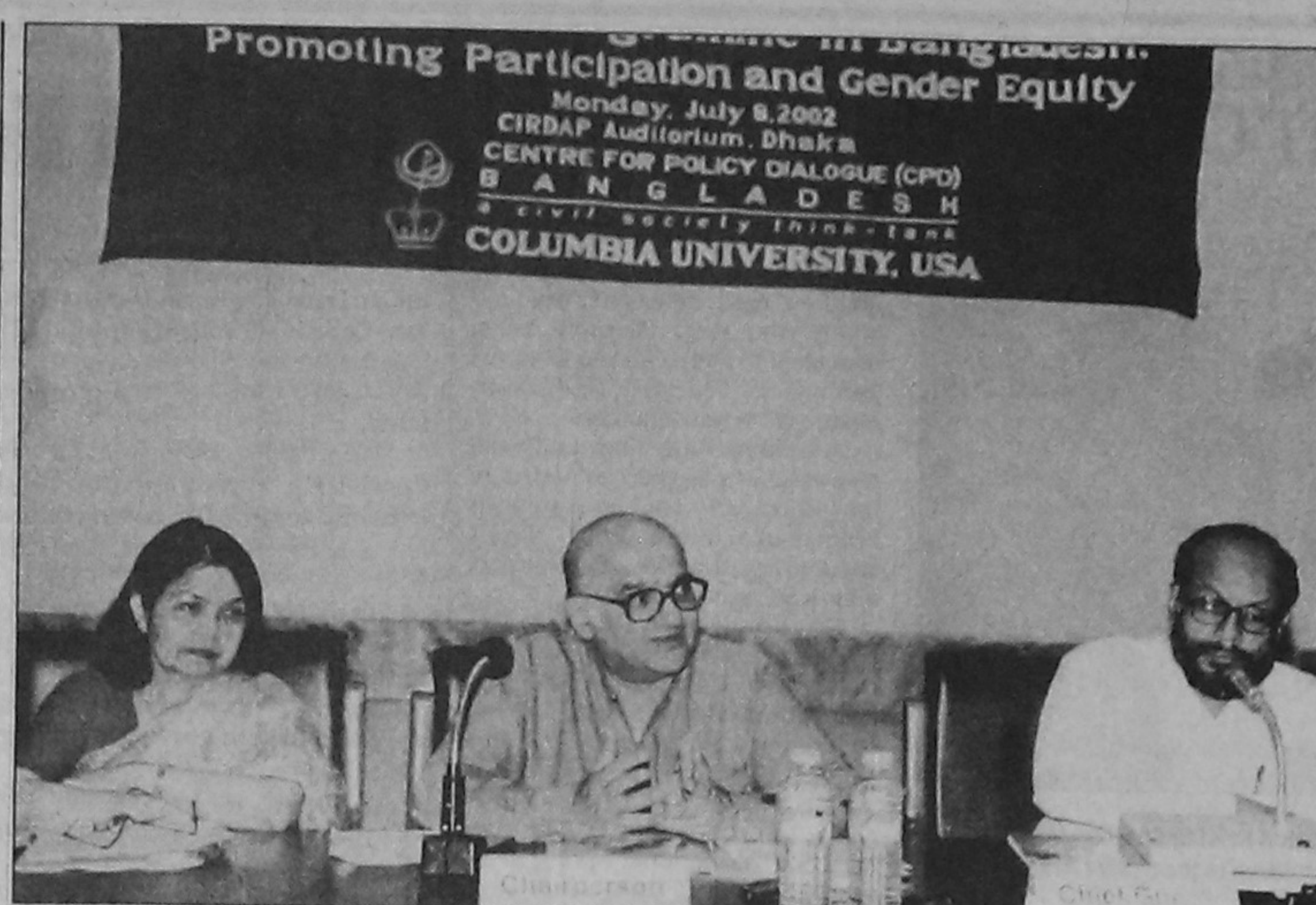
CPA fines dockyard, 9 vessels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) during a 6-hour drive on Saturday along the port channel fined one dockyard, one stone-crushing factory and nine vessels of different categories including two foreign ships for polluting the port channel and dumping wastes on the river Karnaphuli.

The Noor-e-Madina Dockyard and M/S J I Enterprise, a stone-crushing factory, on the southern bank of Karnaphuli were fined Tk.60000 each, two foreign ships 'Togo Charm' (Cyprus) and 'Pranedia Ditta' (Liberia), 3 cargo, one oil tanker, and one each of tug, barge and trawler Tk.35000 each.

The mobile court led by a first class magistrate of CPA was conducted from 7.30am to 1.30pm. The personnel and staffs of port security and concerned departments assisted the magistrate.



Prof. Rehman Sobhan speaking at a dialogue on 'Health Sector Programme in Bangladesh: Promoting Participation and Gender Equity' at the CIRDP Auditorium in the city yesterday. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Columbia University, USA jointly organised the dialogue.

Dialogue on health sector programme Gender parity remains elusive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite overall gains in the health sector, the poor, women and the indigenous people still remain significantly disadvantaged.

This was observed by the speakers at a dialogue on 'Health Sector Programme in Bangladesh: Promoting Participation and Gender Equity'.

Jointly organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Columbia University, USA, the dialogue was held at the CIRDP Auditorium yesterday. Over 50 participants took part in it.

The participants said gender disparities in child mortality and children's nutritional status are widely reported. For instance, the female-to-male child mortality ratio is 111:108.

They suggested that all policies related to the health sector should be pro-poor, gender sensitive and participatory to reduce the existing social and gender inequalities in the health system.

Although a wide network of facilities for health services have been established, quality and service utilisation remains poor, the participants said, adding that less than 20 per cent of the population uses public health services. Moreover, there is no mechanism

for redressing consumer grievances.

Prior to the dialogue session, a consultation meeting with the stakeholders coming from rural areas was held in the morning at the National Press Club.

The stakeholders formed a health watch group to monitor the activities of health programmes and to improve linkage between the users of health services and service providers.

Presenting the objectives and key issues of the dialogue, Prof. Rounak Jahan of Columbia University said, "Stakeholders should be given opportunities so that they can share their voices and interact directly about their experiences in the health sector."

She said only 17 per cent of women make decision about their own health and only 13 per cent of the births are attended by skilled personnel while 63 per cent women receive no antenatal care.

Dr Binayek Sen of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) said, "Even if the government doubles the healthcare services today, the acute shortage in the health sector can be met by 40 per cent. So there is a need for private-public partnership to improve the service delivery."

Rokeya Buli of Bogra, a former family planning worker at grassroots level and also a leader of a stakeholder committee, said,

"Most of our voices are not reflected in the policies. There is a need for a special focal point which will ensure input in the policy in future."

Md Ashraf Alam Khan, president of a village stakeholder committee, said, "Our participation in the mainstream policy-makers forum should be ensured. We hardly get opportunities to give input of the disadvantaged people."

Former health secretary Mohammad Ali said, "The health and population sector programme is designed to ensure gender equity. The essential service package (ESP) is one reflection of it, which states that at least 62 per cent of the money in the health sector should go for women, children and the most vulnerable people of the society."

Noted economist Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, Prof Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of CPD, and A M A Muhi, former finance minister, also spoke at the dialogue moderated by Prof Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of CPD.

Changes in Canadian immigration law discussed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Southeast International Immigration Services, an organisation offering immigration services to a wide range of Bangladeshi professionals, arranged a seminar in the city Sunday to discuss recent changes in the Canadian immigration law.

"Immigration law is an ever-changing field of complex legislation," said Shah Jaheer Ahmed.

Ian R J Wong, an executive member of the Southeast International Immigration Services, explained the significant changes made in the 'Immigration and Refugee Protection Act' of Canada on June 28, 2002.

The new law has widened the range of professionals who would be eligible to apply for immigration. Even the doctors and lawyers can apply now under the new law, he said.

Another positive change is that educational background of an applicant will not be related to his working experiences. "Earlier, people working in a bank with a degree in social science were re-

fused Canadian visa," said Ian Wong. "But, this will not happen with the enactment of new immigration law."

According to the new law, an applicant has to score 75 points in the assessment to be an immigrant in Canada, said the speakers. There are different criteria under which points are given, such as education, occupation, experience and others.

The speakers also pointed out that an applicant must have a close blood relation who is a Canadian citizen or an immigrant in case he applies with a family sponsorship.

The organisation provides some special services for its clients which they think will assist them in giving the interview. It offers English language course, job search and placement. They also offer a free interview preparation course prior to the interview which is mandatory.

However, the speakers noted, the visa officer has the right to refuse or accept any application.

Seminar on impact of agriculture on poverty alleviation begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day seminar on 'Impact of Agriculture and Rural Development on Poverty Alleviation in SAARC Countries' begins in the city today.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will inaugurate the seminar at Sheraton Hotel at 9:30am.

The Rural Development and Cooperatives Division has organised the seminar with support from SAARC-Japan funds provided by SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu.

Minister for Agriculture Matiur Rahman Nizami, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haq Zia will be present as special guests while Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Dhiraj Kumar Nath will preside over the inaugural session.

About 22 experts on rural development, micro-financing, cooperatives, agricultural research will take part in the seminar. Of them, 10 are from Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the rest from the host country.

General Secretary of Rajshahi Bar Association spoke on the occasion. The speakers said the project was undertaken to use the surface and flood water of the adjacent three rivers -- the Padma, the Mahananda and the Purnabhaba for irrigation to the crop lands in Barind region round the year.

Japanese International Cooperative Agencies (JICA) and Joint River Commission (JRC) in collaboration with WDB submitted feasibility report to the government in this regard after necessary survey in 1988 and implementing cost of the project amounting Tk 498 crore was also estimated by the agencies.

"Since then the project was kept under red tape though it can generate much hope for the region," the speakers said.

Prothom Alo-RRSP roundtable in Rajshahi Implement NRIP to ensure maximum use of surface water

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a roundtable here yesterday underscored the need for implementing the North Rajshahi Irrigation Project (NRIP) to ensure maximum use of the surface water for halting the desertification process in the country's Barind zone.

They said due to over use of ground water for irrigation purpose in the region, the water level is gradually went down causing desertification. The Daily Prothom Alo and Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad (RRSP) jointly organised the roundtable on "Implementation of North Rajshahi Irrigation Project" at a local Community Centre.

Matiur Rahman, Editor of Prothom Alo attended the func-

tion as the chief coordinator. Prof Golam Sabbir Sattar of Geology and Mining Department of Rajshahi University presented the key-note paper while Zamat Khan, convener of RRSP presided.

Prof Shafiuddin, Director of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi, Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Zahan of Geology and Mining Department of RU, Prof Shamsul Alam of Geography and Environmental Science Department of RU, Prof Sabrina Naz of Botany Department of RU, Abu Taleb, Executive Engineer of Barind Multipurpose Development Authorities (BMDA), Nurul Amin, Director (Planning) of Water Development Board (WDB), Prof Preeti Kumar Mitra, Director of Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) of RU and Advocate Yeahia,

General Secretary of Rajshahi Bar Association spoke on the occasion.

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19 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Nineteen arms, including 18 firearms, and 26 bullets were seized in countrywide police operation over the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

A Police Headquarters press release said 1,219 people, including five 'identified criminals', were held over the period.

Giving details of the operation, it said 18 people were arrested in connection with the arms and ammunition seizure and eight cases were filed against them under the Arms Act.

Of the total arrests, 610 people

were rounded up under warrant orders and 586 were held in connection with under-investigation cases.

The arrested criminals included Dulal, an extremist of Jessore district.

Others are M Ali Hossain, Mukul and Khokon of Meherpur and Rafique of Khulna.

Meanwhile, police arrested 1302 including 31 top criminals and recovered ten firearms and five round of bullets from ten districts of Khulna division during the last one week, a police press release said in Khulna yesterday.

Decision on DUTP next week likely

BSS, Dhaka

Final decision on resumption of work on Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) to ease traffic congestion on the city roads is likely to be taken in the next week.

The World Bank (WB) country director here, Frederick Temple, will hold a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman and Dhaka City Mayor and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeque Hossain Khoka to have a decision on the Tk 1,300 crore project on July 13.

The speed in the implementation of the project slowed down a bit when a portion of work was handed over to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) halfway through.

It was decided in the preliminary stage of the project that DCC would implement it. The World Bank is bankrolling the project.

The next week's meeting is aimed at 'overcoming the slow pace of the project, the sources said.

The activities vested in DCC under the project include development of 30 intersections, three inter-city bus terminals at Gabrati, Syedabad and Mahakhali, uplift and extension of 15 kilometres of roads, installation of modern sig-

naling system and infrastructural development of 40 kilometre roads for better traffic management.

DCC is also responsible for the construction of footpaths, footbridges and underpasses for the convenience in the movement of pedestrians and repair of rundown roads.

The city corporation will implement the work at a cost of about Tk 700 crore.

The RHD part of the project includes construction of fly-overs at Syedabad and Mahakhali.

Dhaka City Mayor Khoka said implementation of the project would begin soon.

He said a meeting was held with the WB and the final decision might be taken at the July 13 meeting.

"We want to develop the capital. We hope the objective might be achieved through the implementation of the DUTP project," he said. Implementation of the project began in January 1999. Extension; development and electrification of some of the roads including Progoti Swarni, Hare Road, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Phoenix Road, Dar-es-Salam, Mirpur Road and Rokeya Swarni have already been done under the project.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Facilities Department, Ministry of Education
Rajshahi Zone
No: 6(T)/Very Old/EE/FD/Raj/2001-2002 Dated: 30-06-2002

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from Facilities Department enlisted A-1 class contractors for reconstruction and renovation of selected educational institutions under the project titled "Construction of Educational Institutions Building and Reconstruction of Very Old (40 years and above) Building".

a) Estimated cost per group	Tk 21,000,000/00
b) Amount of earnest money per group	Tk 42,000/00
c) Price of tender document per set	Tk 750/00 (non-refundable).
d) Time limit for completion of work per group	06 (six) months.
e) Last date & time of purchasing tender document	29-07-2002 (up to office hours).
f) Date & time of submitting tender document	31-07-2002 up to 1:00 pm.
g) Date & time of opening tender document	31-07-2002 at 2:00 pm in presents (if any) of the tenderers.
h) Offices where tender document to be had at and received at	Office of the Chief Engineer, Facilities Department, Rajshahi Bhaban, Dhaka; Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Deputy Commissioner, Rajshahi; Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Rajshahi/Rangpur/Bogra/Dinajpur/Pabna/Naogaon/Kurigram/Panchagarh Zone, and Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department Rajshahi & Chapainawabganj District.

- List group no. & location etc. of selected educational institutions will be available in the tender document.
- Earnest money should be submitted with each tender through Pay-Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the "Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Rajshahi Zone, Rajshahi".
- Permission to purchase tender document should be obtained from the proper authority on production of original copy of the undementioned papers.
 - Registration Book
 - Up-to-date license renewal certificate.
 - Up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate.
 - Up-to-date VAT registration certificate.
- If the quoted rate is more than 5% (five per cent) below the estimated cost, the tender will be treated as cancelled outright.
- If the work is cancelled or name of educational institution changed under any circumstance, the contractor cannot claim any financial benefit.
- Bill will be paid subject to receipt of allotment. But the contractor will be bound to complete the work within the prescribed time limit.
- Income Tax & VAT will be deducted as per government rules.
- If the rate quoted by more than one tenderer happens to be the same in group, then contractor for the group will be selected through lottery at the office of the undersign on 25/08/2002 in presence (if any) of the tenderers. The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason.

DFP-17187-02/07
G-1792

Arun Chandra Dutta
Executive Engineer.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show
Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with the High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Anjarjal Yatra' directed by Gautam Ghose. Venue: High Commission of India, Cultural Centre, Satmasjid Road. Time: 6:30pm.

Painting exhibition
The first solo painting exhibition of Fahmida Khatun will be inaugurated by eminent artist Prof Rafiqun Nabi. Venue: Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 2:00pm. The exhibition will remain open till July 15 from 11:00am to 8:00pm daily.

Seminar
The inaugural ceremony of a seminar on 'Impact of Agriculture and Rural Development on Poverty Alleviation in SAARC countries' will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:30am.

Tissue seminar
The inaugural ceremony of a seminar on 'Tissue Banking: Public and Professional Awareness', organised by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, will be held with Minister for Science, Information and Communication Technology Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre. Time: 9:00am.

Opening ceremony
The opening ceremony of the new Horizons Computer Learning Centre at UCEP Bangladesh will be held with Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Plot-283 Mirpur-2. Time: 11:00am.

Rotary Dhaka
Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel

Sonargaon. Time: 5:30pm.

Rotary Ramna
The installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:30pm.

SOS
On the occasion of its 30 years in Bangladesh, SOS Children's Villages organises discussion, prize-giving and cultural ceremony and the release of commemorative stamp with first-day cover. Post and Telecommunication Minister Barister Mohammad Aminul Haq will be the chief guest. Venue: SOS Children's Village auditorium, Shamoli. Time: 3:00pm.

Assembly
The Annual Dealers Assembly 2002 of GAZI tanks will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5:00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Get-together
The Russian Cultural Centre organises a get-together on the occasion of the 4th Foundation Year of Chekhov Theatre. Venue: Conference Hall of the Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

Prize-giving ceremony
The prize-giving ceremony of the UNFPA International Poster Contest 2002 will be held with State Minister for Health and Family Welfare as chief guest. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 5:30pm.

Meeting
Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) organises a meeting to celebrate the conferment of the 'Insignia of Officer de la Legion d' Honneur' on Ambassador Arshaduzzaman. Venue: House-22, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:15pm.

Notice for Inviting Toll Collection Bid

(RHD) Road Division, Panchagarh

- Toll collection bid notice no : 01 EE/PRD/2001-2002 (Fresh Call).
- Name of work : Collection of toll at Karotoa bridge on 24th KM of Boda-Debiganj-Domari-Jaldhaka road under RHD Road Division, Panchagarh during the year 2002-2003.
- Earnest money : Tk. 10% (ten per cent) of quoted amount to be submitted along with the quotation from any scheduled bank in the form of Bank Draft/Saving Certificate/ Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Panchagarh.
- Name of offices where the quotation bids will be received : 1) Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Rangpur Zone, Rangpur
2) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi.
3) Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Dinajpur/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
4) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Panchagarh Thakurgaon/Nilphamari/Dinajpur.
- Name of offices where bid papers will be available for sale during office hours : 1) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi.
2) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division-Panchagarh/Thakurgaon/Nilphaman/Dinajpur/Rangpur/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
- Period for toll collection : Up to 30-6-2003 from the date of agreement.
- Last date and time of selling bids paper (within office hour) : 22-07-2002
- Last date and time for receiving quotation bids : 23-07-2002 up to 12:30 PM.
- Date and time of opening quotation box : 23-07-2002 at 12:45 PM.
- Date and time of opening bids (office of the undersigned) : 27-07-2002 at 11:00 AM.
- Date and time of lottery (if necessary) : 27-07-2002 at 11:30 AM.
- Schedule price : Tk 500/- (Tk five hundred) only per set (not-refundable).

Md. Imdad Hossain
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division Panchagarh

DFP-17350-4/7/02
G-1802