



Gabtoli point of the river Turag to have one of the four major landing stations.

FIRST PHASE OF CIRCULAR WATERWAY PROJECT

Fund needed to buy land for landing stations

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

The first phase of the circular waterway project of Dhaka awaits fund to acquire land for construction of major landing stations.

"We need to acquire private land, chosen by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). The land ministry is processing papers and we are now waiting for the fund for land," a BIWTA official said.

The first phase of the Tk 36 crore project that covers 29.5km of Buriganga and Turag rivers from Sadarghat to Ashulia spent Tk 8 crore on construction of a major landing station at Swarighat with two pontoons, two steel gangways, a terminal building, a transit shed and a connecting road.

"We have finished dredging of 9km -- from Basila to Mirpur -- of the 17km river, but our work came to a halt as we need to keep soil for construction of landing stations," the project director said.

The BIWTA hopes to get Tk 15 crore in revised ADP (annual development programme) 2004 for land acquisition, dredging and construction of other landing stations and Tk 13 crore in the next fiscal year.

The project director hopes the project would be complete by 2004-end. The deadline for opening the waterways for

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navigation was June 2005, but the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne), approving the fund on September 3, 2003, advanced the deadline from 2005 to 2004 to enhance the pace of the work.

Considering river traffic round the city, the project planned four major landing stations at Swarighat, Gabtoli,

Aminbazar and Ashulia, as many minor stations and two staircases. Making the rivers wider and deeper took centre stage in the project, as 60 percent of the budget is allocated for dredging, 25 percent for land acquisition and 15 percent for landing facilities.

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain inaugurated minor landing stations at

Kholamora and Basila for public navigation.

Two reinforced concrete (RCC) construction staircases and toll stations were set up at Nawabganj and Rayerbazar for the benefit of local boat traffic.

"The construction of minor landing stations at Shinnir Tek near Mirpur zoo and at Biruliabazar is going on in earnest," the project director said.

The second phase of the circular waterway project is scheduled to begin in July 2004, which will connect Balu and Shitalkhya rivers, which encircle the city. If the first phase misses the deadline, the second phase may hang in the balance, BIWTA officials said.

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The circular waterways will reduce traffic jam on city roads, as more people will use them for navigation.

Navigation and dredging will bring flow to the rivers -- also useful to fisheries, as the polluted water will not be stagnant.

Dhaka is one of the few cities in the world gifted by circular waterways that could enhance the beauty and develop the environment.

Ginger too hot to taste

Suger, eggs, baby food pricey; fish disappear; vegetables dearer

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Ginger price has soared further in the last few days and reached its 'all-time high' at Tk. 90 a kilogram.

Besides, eggs, sugar and baby food that made another round of rise last week showed no signs of let-up.

The supply of fish has fallen to an alarming level and prices went beyond reach of a majority of buyers.

Despite the satisfactory supply of different types of vegetables, prices were on the increase.

Soyabean oil remained steady at its exorbitant price of Tk 56 a litre and onion was selling at Tk 15-16 per kilogram.

During a visit to the city's kitchen markets at Karwan Bazar, Hatirpool, New Market and Shantinagar yesterday this correspondent found that ginger was selling at Tk 85-90, up from last week's Tk 70-75 a kilogram.

Retailers blamed wholesalers for the price hike. But at a meeting with the commerce minister last Saturday importers urged the government to withdraw the full 22.5 per cent duty on ginger. Local production was poor this year they said, adding there will be no new harvest till November. Side by side, the price of ginger increased more than four times in the international market, they informed. Compared to last year's \$200 a ton, they now import at around \$ 800-1000 from Indonesia, China and India. They however,



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

pointed out that the price would have been less than Tk 60 if the authorities had control over retailers.

Powdered milk was selling at Tk 240-245 a kilogram, up from Tk 220-230 only two weeks ago. Hundreds of mothers and children protested the price hike with empty feeders at the Central Shaheed Minar on April 10. They also observed a token hunger strike there.

Sugar price rose from Tk 30 to Tk 33 last week. Traders blamed the fall in local production and rise in import cost. Although the government approved import of one-lakh metric tons of sugar on April 10 by the Bangladesh Food and Sugar Industries Corporation, they (traders) saw no chance of early stability because of the time factor.

Eggs became further dearer and were selling at Tk 54, which was Tk 48, a dozen just a week ago. Farm chickens also marked an increase of Tk

5 per kilogram and was selling at Tk 75.

Soyabean oil was selling at Tk 56 showing no signs of let-up. Import of more than 3.21 lakh tons of unrefined oil in the last three months failed to make any effect on the market.

Local and fresh fish have almost disappeared in the last few weeks. Prices of any fish were above the reach of any buyer. A pair of medium-size *hilsha* was selling at Tk 400-500. Besides, *ruhi* (local) rose by Tk 20-25 a kilogram to Tk 140-160. Similarly twenty pieces of small *koi* cost Tk 250-300, *pabda* Tk 300-350 a kilogram, *boal* Tk 150-180, *mola* Tk 120, *batashi* Tk 150, cat fish Tk 300-350 and *rupchanda* Tk 200-260.

All types of vegetables including tomato, carrot, cucumber, gourd, beans, and papaya marked 15-20 per cent price increase.

Rice prices, however, were more or less stable last week.

GREEN MANGOES ARRIVE



Green mangoes, a summer attraction, are already in the city markets. This vendor was demanding Tk 36 a dozen, which is still too pricey for many.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Intl Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223
National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundaban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

TIPS
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l - Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday 3 pm - 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chhatter- Mailbagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachatter
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan