

'Gold mine' of fishes in deep sea yet to be fully exploited

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Most of the marine resources of both demersal (ground level) and pelagic (surface level) species in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Bay of Bengal known as "gold-mine" of fishes, reportedly remains untapped and unexploited, sources said.

As a result, huge fish population mainly pelagic species known as "white fish", face natural extinction every year with the expiry of their life-cycle. The phenomenon also leads to pollution in fishing grounds in the Bay of Bengal, sources added.

Marine officials and experts here, attribute absence of pragmatic measures and non-availability of required facilities as the reasons behind under-exploitation of marine resources from the country's EEZ.

Lack of proper survey for assessment of total stock position of fish-folks could be attributed as another reason for failure in fish harvesting diver-

sification from the deep sea, they said.

Talking to this correspondent an official of Marine Fish Research Project said, "deep sea trawling in our EEZ prey mainly on shrimps living in the ground level of water."

"But the fishes known as pelagic species and living in the surface level are almost ignored, despite their high local and export demands" the official expressed.

The pelagic fishes include tuna, macro, herring, cuttlefish, sardine, anchovy and sharks etc. Some white fishes including hilsha, latia and pomprent are netted by the less skilled fishermen from shallow water in the bay only to sell in the local markets, official reports said.

Reports also said, no specific survey was so far conducted even to explore, assess and exploit the tuna and tuna like fish resources in EEZ, though a Thai-Bangladesh joint survey in 1979 on demersal fishes showed their presence in abundance. Regional coun-

tries like Maldives and Sri Lanka have already begun to harvest those white fishes for exports, reports added.

Other surveys conducted after the independence provided varied reports on stock position of exploitable marine resources, officials sources said, adding that those reports estimated the highest possible reserve of shrimps at around 9000 tons per year. Marine scientists however, pegged down the figure at 8000 tons, mentioning it as the maximum sustainable yield.

The yearly harvests of shrimps averaged between 2000 to 3000 tons per year, according to officials.

Those surveys also preliminarily ascertained the stock of "whitefishes" at around 160,000 tons upto 100 meter depth and 190,000 tons upto 200 meter depth, officials sources informed.

Experts also believe that the fish reserve in EEZ may exceed those figures as the surveys were conducted several years ago.

There are four rich shrimp grounds in the country's EEZ including Swatch of no ground renowned as Gold-Mine located at the opposite of Khulna, middle ground at the opposite of Patuakhali, South Patch situated west of Cox's Bazar and North Patch at west of Kutubdia, according to marine fisheries sources.

According to marine fisheries department and FAO reports, about 2500 tons of traditional white fishes are discarded into sea water every year by the shrimp trawlers as they prefer shrimps due to their high export value.

At present, 52 fishing trawlers of 13 local and four joint venture companies, are operating in the deep sea to harvest marine resources, official reports say.

Meanwhile, catch of shrimps by each trawler from deep sea now stands at 500 kgs to 600 kgs per day on average while the viable quantity for a trawler is estimated at about 300 kgs per day, official reports added.

Role of bank for uplift of entrepreneurship stressed

A 6-day training course on entrepreneurship development concluded in Dhaka on Sunday at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) premises, reports BSS.

Conducted by BIBM this course was intended to familiarise the participants about the role of banks in the entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh. Participants were drawn from different banks and financial institutions, according to a press release.

The concluding session of the course was chaired by M A H Nurul Islam Choudhuri,

Director General, BIBM. Choudhuri also distributed certificates among the trainees. Choudhuri, in his brief speech, explained the importance of the course and expressed the hope that the participants, trained in the course, had acquired knowledge about techniques for identifying entrepreneurs, appropriate projects and steps to be taken for entrepreneurship development.

Messrs Mahmood Ahmad and Md Saidur Rahman, BIBM faculty members, served as coordinators of the course.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Table with columns: Berth No, Name of Vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival, Date of Leaving. Lists various vessels like Samudra Rani, Continent-1, Ji Lin, etc.

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, Last Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port. Lists vessels like Knud Jespersen 20/4, Simara Express, etc.

TANKER DUE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, Last Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port. Lists tankers like Gurya, Sonja, etc.

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like Eporyma, Banglar Jyoti.

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like Altair Express, Xin Ji.

VESSELS NOT READY

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like Chippam, Banglar Shourab.

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like Fleistella, Erotas.

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 26/04/93

Table with columns: Outgoing, Incoming. Lists vessel movements like J/5, M/7, etc.

Table with columns: Currency, Selling B.C., I.T. (C), Buying OD Transfers. Lists exchange rates for US Dollar, Pound Sterling, etc.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on April 25, 26 and 27.

Table with columns: Currency, Selling B.C., I.T. (C), Buying OD Transfers. Lists exchange rates for US Dollar, Pound Sterling, etc.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on April 25, 1993

Gainers dominate floor

Business at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) resulted in further addition of figures benefitting specially volume on Sunday. Although, both the turnovers showed increases, volume performed a double twist to finish at more than hundred per cent rise.

As many as 31,507.75 issues traded on the day as against Saturday's 15003 issues, a rise of 110.00 per cent.

Value on the otherhand, showed a smaller rise of only 13.43 per cent. Shares worth Taka 1168483.00 were sold on the day against Saturday's Taka 1030102.00.

Thirty-nine stocks appeared to fight gain and loss game on the floor. A large number of companies gained prices with Peoples Insurance gripping the major share of the gain. It gained by more than eleven per cent crossing Taka 225.00 and settled of Taka 250.00. Ten companies lost prices. Rupan Oil heavily suffered having cost 7.03 per cent of its prices. Only six companies traded at previous rates.

The composite index stepped ahead with addition of 1.22 points from Saturday's 377.024 and closed at 378.2470.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

Table with columns: DSE Share Price Index, Market Capitalisation (Tk), Turnover in Volume, Turnover in Value (Tk). Shows values like 378.2470, 10,813,957,302.00, etc.

Table with columns: Company's name, Previous price, Closing price, Change (absolute), Change (% over price), Number of Share sold. Lists gains for City Bank, IDLC Ltd, etc.

Table with columns: Company's name, Previous price, Closing price, Change (absolute), Change (% over price), Number of Share sold. Lists losses for IFIC, Uttara Bank, etc.

Traded at previous rates (06) Shares: Bangladesh Autocars (55), Bangladesh Thal Aluminium (60), Dhaka Vegetable (40), Modern Dying (35), The Ibsnata (60), Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) (30).

DSE SHARES AND DEBENTURES

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists various banks and companies like A.B. Bank, City Bank, etc.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists pharmaceuticals and chemicals like Ambee Pharma, Bangla Process, etc.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists engineering companies like Arab Automobiles, Asia Pipes, etc.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists food and allied products like A.B. Discuit, Alpha Tobacco, etc.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists miscellaneous items like Bengali Tannery, Aramit, etc.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists services like Bangladesh Hotel, Bd. Service, etc.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists fuel and power related items like BD Oxygen, Eastern Lubricant, etc.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML Tk. Lists jute related items like Ahad Jute, Anowara Jute, etc.

Dutch envoy, officials visit KSFL, TTML factories

H Gajentaan, the Ambassador, Mrs Gajentaan and J M de Waard, First Secretary, Development (Industry sector) of the Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka visited Kader Synthetic Fibres Ltd (KSFL) and Tamijuddin Textile Mills Ltd (TTML) on April 24, says a press release.

Md Sahabuddin Ahmed, Managing Director, KSFL and Director, TTML received them at the factory sites and showed them different sections of the factories.

The KSFL, the most modern plant in this region and the largest polyester filament yarn manufacturing plant in Bangladesh which will produce polyester filament yarn from chips.

The Project is expected to start commercial production sometime in July this year. KSFL has been financed by Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Finance Land Investment Corporation Ltd (AFIC), Saudi-Agricultural Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Ltd (SABINCO) and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB).

TTML, a 44,000-spindle textile spinning mills was set up jointly with FMO and started production since February 11, 1989.

Special credit for distressed rural women

FENI, Apr 25: The government has launched a special credit programme for distressed rural women in all districts to help them with self-employment generation, says BSS.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman said this while disbursing credit money among women at a simple ceremony at Zahir Rathan auditorium in the city Sunday.

The Minister said, for the purpose, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has provided a fund of Taka 2.74 crore to the women's affairs department.

She said, the present government is eager to associate womenfolk in the mainstream of development activities.

Rahman said, rural distressed women will be able to find their jobs in poultry and cattle-rearing, pisciculture, kitchen gardening and small businesses by utilising the credit.

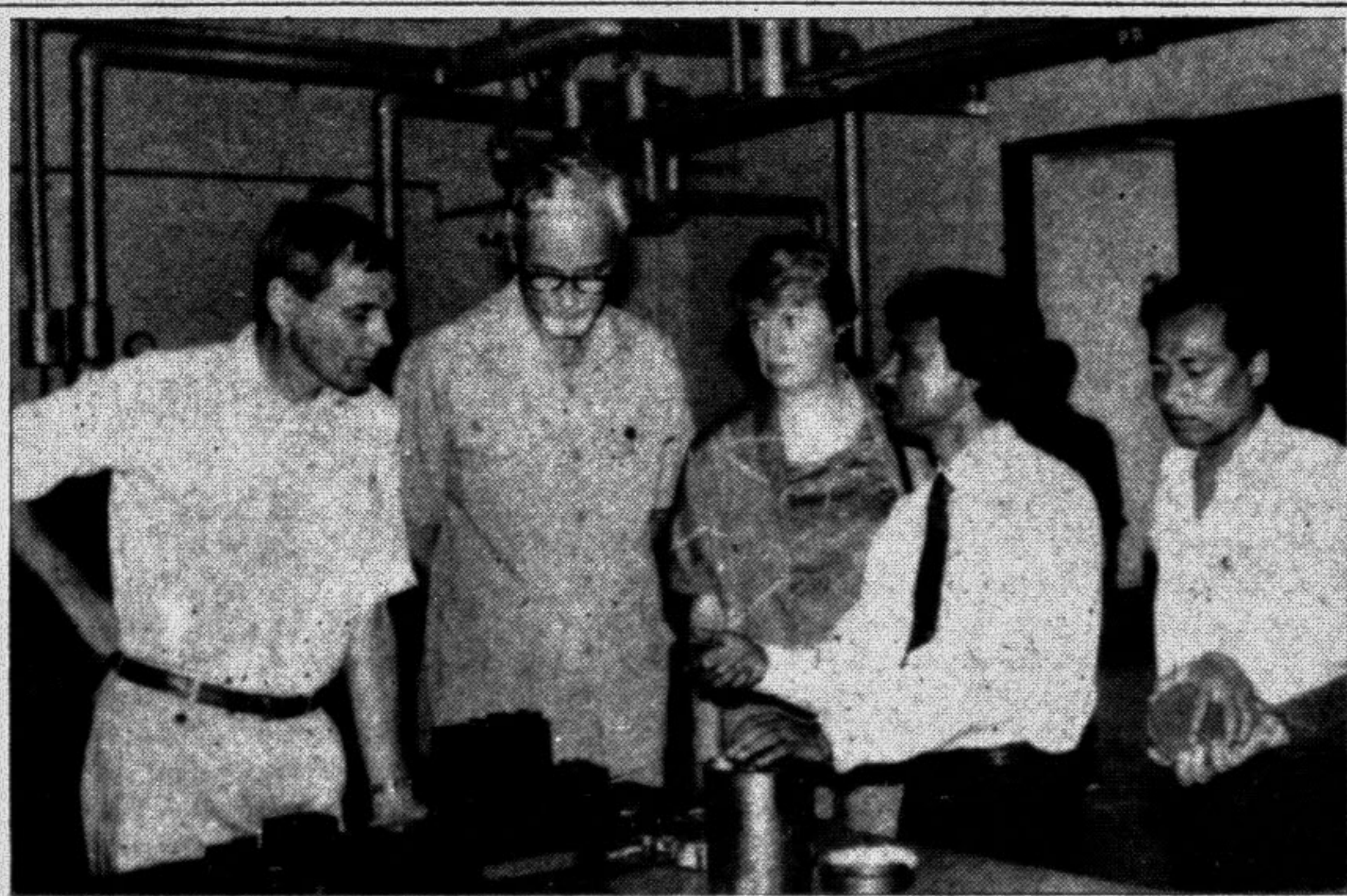
She disbursed about two lakh Taka among 95 rural women of Feni district.

Begum Halima Khatun MP, director of women's affairs department and additional district magistrate of Feni were present on the occasion.

Bilateral ties with DPRK to grow more

The Ambassador of North Korea to Bangladesh Chang Won Suk called on Secretary General of BNP and LGKD and Cooperatives Minister Barister Abdus Salam Talukder in the city Sunday, says BSS.

The minister and the ambassador discussed matters of mutual interest. During the discussion they expressed the hope that the existing relation of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened.



H Gajentaan, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Mrs Gajentaan and J M de Waard, First Secretary, Development (IS) visiting Kader Synthetic Fibres Ltd (KSFL) on April 24. Md Sahabuddin Ahmed, MD of KSFL received the guests and showed them different sections of the factory.

Australia may contribute more \$ 3m \$ 9m Dutch aid to boost rice output using less pesticides

The Netherlands is contributing about nine million dollar to a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) field programme aimed at boosting rice production reducing use of pesticides in Asia, a United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) press release said, reports BSS.

The Dutch contribution will be used to deploy FAO's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Australia will pledge additional three million dollar by 1997, about two million people are expected to resort to the environmental-friendly IPM-strategy. In addition, at least

10000 staff of governmental and non-governmental organisations will become IPM trainers.

Along with Asian government, FAO so far has successfully trained more than 500,000 farmers in the region to grow rice without heavy use of pesticides.

In 1992, the Netherlands contributed about 52 million dollar which represented over 20 per cent of FAO's trust fund programme.

IPM has so far succeeded in reducing excessive reliance of rice farmers on chemicals. It is based on growing healthy crops, protecting the pest's natural enemies and applying pesticides selectively and only when absolute necessary.

Pesticide use has been reduced so far in nine Asian countries by about 50 per cent. The savings in pesticide costs and government subsidies have been estimated at over one billion dollar the most dramatic example of a national IPM project has been Indonesia.

The new funding by the Netherlands and Australia will be mainly used for educating trainers in the field. The programme will rely on existing field facilities rather than new administrative infrastructure.

IPM in rice is based on more than 20 years of research by national agricultural research systems and international centres such as the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

Dredging of silted rivers needed to face flood

NARSINGDI, Apr 25: Initiatives for dredging the country's silted rivers were urged on Sunday to effectively face the flood problems and ensure the natural course of ecology, reports BSS.

The opinion came out in a seminar of north-east regional water management project (flood action plan, FAP-6) at Narsingdi Circuit House here which was attended by the experts and local peoples representatives.

Siltation in the country's rivers in the main reason of flood problems for which, dredging is the natural solution. Construction of embankments and other structural setups should come as the secondary consideration only in cases where they are necessary, the participants of the seminar said.

Local MPs of the district, district and thana level officials, elite, UP chairmen, representatives of farmers and fishermen cooperatives, professional groups, NGOs and social organisations attended the seminar to point out the flood problems and other related issues of their respective

areas and fields and out line their solutions.

Flood Plan Coordination Organisation (FPKO) of the government and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which is funding 1.46 crore US dollar for the FAP-6 project jointly organised the seminar.

Identifying the problems of Narsingdi and adjoining area, a part of the northeastern regional water management project, FAP-6 studies said most of the drainage channels of the areas have been silted up and re-excavations of them have also become difficult following high ground water uplift measures. Flooding is further aggravated by back flows through the channels, it said.

The study in this regard suggested some measures to minimise the problems which include construction of flood embankment, drainage improvement projects, rehabilitation of existing Water Development Board projects, development of fish sanctuaries, and low land forestry.

Taking part in the discussion local MP Sardar Sakhawati Hossain Bakul stressed the need for proper coordination

among the government offices in implementation the development projects to avoid wastage of money and resources.

He said delay in development activities, particularly in water management projects, in fact disrupt the main objectives of the project.

Ataur Rahman Khan, MP, urged the authorities to take immediate steps so that un-planned urbanisation might not cause problems for the agricultural development and water management projects of the areas.

Shamsuddin Ahmed, MP, appreciated the efforts for ensuring people's participation in formulating flood control and development policies.

He also mentioned some specific problems of his area and urged for their immediate solutions.

Acting superintending engineer of FPKO A M Shaif, deputy commissioner of Narsingdi Abdus Samad Malik, chief engineer of the central region of BWDB Abdus Salam, FAP officials Majibul Haq and Abul Kashem spoke on the occasion beside others.