

Chemical tests show River water in s-western zone contain high level of salinity

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 31: Salinity has penetrated into all major rivers of south-western zone of the country in massive form following adverse effects of Farakka Barrage.

Report on test of sample water in Khulna Soil Development Institute and Khulna News Print Mill Laboratory, indicates that salinity containing in all river water of this zone, is all time high.

According to information, sample water collected by Khulna Soil Development Institute from river Bhoirab near Rupsha Ferry Ghat, Golmari river near Kea Bridge of Dumuria, Daratana river near Bagherhat, Poshher river at Mongla Port, presented this result. Test report further indicated that Bhoirab river now contains 3022 PPM of

salinity. Golmari contains 4900 PPM Daratana 4482 and Poshher 6300 PPM while sample water collected from river Bhoirab near Khalishpur of Khulna in February last showed salinity 1750 PPM. During same period in 1992, it was 350 PPM.

Normally salinity in these rivers increases in Mid-May. This year, it has crossed the normal level and sharply rose in advance.

During current season, cultivation of winter crops have been severely hampered due to use of water from these rivers for irrigation.

According to experts, course of river water has been radically changed following construction of Farakka barrage over the river Ganges. As a result, water flow of the

Ganges has drastically reduced. At the backdrop of this, saline water has begun to enter the river Bhoirab and other tributaries of the Padma. It is moving upperstreams steadily. Growth of trees, their regeneration, production of crops have been affected following on-rush of saline water from Bay of Bengal.

Production capacity of Newspaper Mill and Hard Board Mill and their proper functioning have been largely affected due to entrance of saline water. The fate of Goalpara Power Project is also at stake. Non availability of fresh sweet water has been cause of this problem.

Reports also say, water from Modhumati river is being collected and transported to

meet the ever worsening situation and everything becomes uncertain as to how long this temporary measure will help the mills in this region.

Over five thousand hand tubewells in the district, Jessore have gone out of order and vast bulk of population are suffering mostly due to acute scarcity of drinking water. A good number of shallow tubewells in Chowgacha, Sharsha, Jhinkergacha, Sadar, Monirampur and Keshabpur of Jessore district, have stopped functioning following further fall in underground water level.

The supply of drinking water in Jessore municipal area, has deteriorated due to this situation. Most private tubewells have become defunct.

In fact, the entire situation is now facing a challenge.

More farmers starting to appreciate cultivating cotton in Jessore region

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Mar 31: Cotton-cultivation is gaining popularity rapidly in Jessore region among farmers as profitable cash crop.

According to an official source, during the outgoing harvesting season, a total of 19,500 tons of cotton was produced on 20,137 hectares of land including 10,269 hectares in Jessore and 9868 hectares in Jhenidah districts with production rate of one ton per hectare on average.

It is learnt, from December through March is cotton harvesting season. From July to October is sowing season. During coming season, Lohagora thana in Narail and Kolaroa thana in Satkhira, will be brought under cotton cultivation as per extension programme drawn up by Cotton Development Board (CDB), while other districts of the region will be taken under extensive and intensive cultivation programme.

ply of quality seeds to them at fair price. Fieldmen have been deployed to provide them with adequate technical know-how and help get credit facilities from banks.

When contacted, Deputy Director, of CDB, Cotton Development Board, Jessore region, Abu Taher told The Daily Star that all formalities have been readied to set up unit offices at Lohagora and Kolaroa thanas to organise and motivate farmers for cotton cultivation to begin from coming season. He said that CDB keeps sharp eye on progress on culti-

increase in production nine-tenths spinning mills under private initiatives have been founded throughout this region. Giving details, he said that five spinning mills have been founded at Jhikergachha, three at Keshabpur one at Rajganj, three at Monirampur, two at Jessore Sadar, one at Navaron, also in Jessore district, two at Kotchandpur, one at Jhenidah district and one in Magura. Besides, there is one government spinning mill, founded at Jhikergachha in Jessore.

It was learnt that 98 per

cent of total production is taken by private spinners while rest two per cent, hardly is shared by the government.

When contacted farmers of Jhikergachha, Chowgachha and Monirampur, said that high rate offered by private spinners have tempted them to carry their produce to private mills. Rate of cotton at present is between Taka one thousand and one thousand one hundred fifty per 40 kg. They also alleged that the rate offered at government mills is



A cotton field in Jessore district before harvesting.

— Star photo

According to statistical report of cotton cultivation in this region during 1990-91, cotton was cultivated on 48,165 acres of land. In 1991-92 it was cultivated on 50,981 acres of land. In 1992-93, a total of 54,350 acres was brought under this cultivation scheme. In 1993-94 it was cultivated on a total of 60,125 acres. The trend shows every season more areas were brought under cotton cultivation scheme.

A source of Cotton Development Board (CDB) said that with determined effort to expand cultivation area and boost productions, staffed with efficient fielders, 19 unit offices have been set up in different places of Jessore. Sixteen such offices have also been set up in Jhenidah district for the same purpose.

Directly patronised and supervised by CDB, cotton cultivation, its growth, production and marketing system have occupied very good position among all cash crops market. Cumulative effects of these have attracted farmers in rural areas to prefer cotton cultivation in large scale. In a bid to assist farmers, arrangement has been made by CDB for sup-

vation with attention to increase both cultivation and production. He further informed that rain-fed condition is the main factor that has lured the farmers to accept it widely. It is not irrigation-based, he added.

In reply to a question how far our national requirement of cotton yarn is met by local production, the Dy Director informed that only 25 per cent is met at the moment. Rest is imported.

He said that with massive

under nomenclature of Kushtia region has been created.

Seed multiplications and research centre at Jogodishpur of Chowgachha thana in Jessore is working as training centre providing technical knowledge in cotton cultivation to farmers of Jessore and Kushtia regions. In fact, this centre is entirely meant for these two regions. It has already proved its utility and justified the establishment at the backdrop of progress achieved in cotton cultivation in this area.

Police said, the boat with 505 bags of fertilizer allotted for Pabna Deputy Commissioner from Jamuna Fertilizer Factory was halted by farmers at char Naisandha in sadar thana. They looted 150 bags of fertilizer.

Hearing the news, police from Sirajganj and Jagannathganj Ghat rushed to the spot and recovered 116 bags of fertilizer.

They also nabbed Abdul Jalil and Solaiman from the spot. A case was filed with the police.

Achinbrikha — a mysterious tree

From HB Khan

KURIGRAM, Mar 31: What sort of tree is it? When was it planted? Why it has a strange fragrance nobody knows. A sparkling witness of the past, a miraculous tree, is now on the brink of extinction.

People of the locality call it Achinbrikha (an unknown tree). With it associated are host of primitive tales and mythological stories. Located just a few furlongs from the Togrhaiat Railway Station in Joydevbarat mouja in Chakirpasha union (ward number-3) under Rajarhat thana, about eight miles away from Kurigram district town, the tree has been standing there giving its blissful shade since long long time. The soothing shade of the tree sets one to think of its origin, but the query still remains unanswered.

Achinbrikha being unknown, people from far-flung villages often converge there to have a glance at it. Its fluid is white just like milk, its leaves are visible round the year. But it is strange that the leaves falling from the tree on the ground are not visible at all and the old leaves of the tree are replaced overnight.

The local Hindus celebrate their Puja under the tree every two years, said Paramananda Roy.

The leaves and bark of the tree may be sent to Dhaka for chemical test.

There is no denying the fact that the tree is a priceless treasure. If the authorities pay no attention to it the legendary witness of the course of eternity will soon vanish.



A partial view of the Achinbrikha. — Star photo

To onlookers, the tree is an enigma, a big note of interrogation. It was named Achinbrikha. The village too was named after this unknown tree as "Achingachh village".

A number of mythological stories are well related with the birth of the tree. One such story according to Paramananda Roy, 80, oldest man of the village who came to know the story from his father, Darpa Narayan Roy (died at the age of 80) and his grandfather, Kandura Roy (died at the age of 100 when the age of Paramananda Roy was only 16), a conjuror brought the tree by air from "Kamrup Kamakha", while another legend said that an unknown Pir (saint) brought it from the far-west and planted it there so that people at large could enjoy blissful shade under it.

Good mango production expected this year

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Mar 31: Favourable weather is expected to help exceed mango production target in greater Rajshahi region during the current season, according to unofficial reports. But the sudden gust of wind at mid Falgun and the unprecedented rainfall this year have slightly affected mango production prospect.

It is learnt that over 12 thousand hectares of land have been brought under mango cultivation in this region this year. Of the total land, 332

hectares of land have been brought under mango cultivation in Natore alone while 3,950 hectares of land in Rajshahi district, 410 hectares of land in Naogaon and 7,550 hectares of land in Champainawabganj district.

It is expected that over 50 to 55 thousand metric tons of mango will be produced from this region during the current season.

An expert said over 250 varieties of mangoes are found in this region.

Farmers loot fertilizer bags from boat

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 31: Farmers looted about 150 bags of fertilizer at a char in the river Jamuna when a fertilizer-loaded boat was coming to Sirajganj ghat Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said, the boat with 505 bags of fertilizer allotted for Pabna Deputy Commissioner from Jamuna Fertilizer Factory was halted by farmers at char Naisandha in sadar thana. They looted 150 bags of fertilizer.

Hearing the news, police from Sirajganj and Jagannathganj Ghat rushed to the spot and recovered 116 bags of fertilizer.

They also nabbed Abdul Jalil and Solaiman from the spot. A case was filed with the police.

If there are cracks they will be repaired

JAMALPUR, Mar 31: The science building of Government Ashiq Mahmud University College, constructed six months back at a cost of about one crore taka, has developed dangerous cracks, reports UNB.

The teachers and students alleged that the cracks have developed due to tricky devices applied during the construction of the building.

A group of local journalists while investigating the allegations observed that the building may collapse at any time as dangerous cracks have developed at many points of the roof and walls. They also witnessed the dilapidated condition of the floors of the building.

When contacted an Assistant Engineer of the local Facilities Department said, "cracks may develop due to defect in constructing the building," adding, "if there are cracks they will be repaired soon."

Lovers commit suicide

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 31: Two lovers allegedly committed suicide after being refused to marry each other in sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said Amirul Islam, 22, son of Asgar Ali of village Charkalia took poison Tuesday night as his parents refused his wedding with Nazma, 19, daughter of Abdul Karim of neighbouring village Sangachha Patal. He was rushed to the sadar hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Hearing the death news of Amirul, Nazma also took poison on the same night. She was taken to sadar hospital where she died Wednesday morning.

One chopped to death

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 31: A man was chopped to death at village Brahmagati in sadar thana of the district early Tuesday, police and villagers said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Mizanur Rahman, 35.

Family sources said some unidentified people called Mizan out of the house at about 4 am and killed him using sharp weapon.

Police recovered the body from a nearby sugarcane field at 7 in the morning.

A case was filed with sadar thana but none was arrested.

11 mishaps in Habiganj dist Property worth Tk 35 cr gutted in separate incidents

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 31: Properties worth about a total of Taka 35 crore were gutted in twelve fire incidents in different areas of Habiganj district during the last one month. As many as 370 dwelling houses and business establishments were burnt to ashes in these incidents.

In the midnight following March 23, a devastating fire took place at the thana headquarters of Madhabpur. The extent of damage in this incident was estimated to be about Taka thirty crore. The fire reportedly originated from a house near the bus stand and spread to adjacent houses and then to the dwelling houses. Fire fighting contingent from Habiganj, Ashuganj and at last from Srimangal also joined the local people to bring the fierce fire under control.

Gang attack leaves one dead, six injured

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 31: A man was killed and six others were injured when a gang of miscreants attacked them at village Paiker Char of Banchharampur thana on March 18.

The victim, Saiful Islam of Paiker Char village, died on the spot and the injured were admitted to the thana hospital.

According to the witnesses, one Shipon of the village was found guilty in a theft case in a village arbitration. But Shipon became angry with the judgement.

Shafiqul Islam, one of the arbitrators, while going home was attacked and killed by a gang led by Shipon. The six villagers who rushed to the spot to save Shafiqul came under attack and received grievous injuries.

Six other dwellings were gutted in another incident in the evening of March 19 at Ghoshpara area near Habiganj Court Station. Four families were rendered homeless in the incident which caused a loss of Taka twenty lakh. Valuables worth about Taka 70

21 posts of physicians lying vacant

BHOLA, Mar 31: People of all the seven thanas of the district are being deprived of medical facilities due to shortage of physicians in the health complexes, reports UNB.

Civil Surgeon's office source said, 21 posts of physicians have been lying vacant in the seven thana hospitals for a long time.

They said, eight posts of physicians have been created for each thana health complex, but at present there are not more than five physicians in any health complex of the district.

Besides, there are no dental physicians since the last five years in any of the health complexes, causing much suffering to the 14 lakh people of the district.

The vacant posts of physicians are — one in sadar hospital, three each in Borhanuddin, Char Fasson and Daulat Khan, two in Lalimohon, four in Tajumuddin and five in Monpura thana health complexes.

Of the total 11 posts of specialists including four of surgery, two medicine and five gynae are lying vacant.

In the absence of residential medical officer, administrative functions of five health complexes are being hampered seriously, it is learnt.

Notice Inviting Tender No-34 (1994-95)

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from special Class-I, Class-II enlisted (Bldg) contractor of PWD Class-II enlisted (Bldg) contractor of Dhaka PWD, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka Class-III enlisted (Bldg) contractor of Dhaka PWD Circle-IV, Dhaka for execution of the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned and as well as by all the Executive Engineers under Dhaka PWD Circle-IV, Dhaka and Eden Bldg PWD Division, Dhaka on 12.4.95 up to 12.00 Noon and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM in presence of the contractors who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

Name of work : Vertical extension (Part) of Monohardi Thana Health Complex (Construction of Hall Room of the existing first floor of the Hospital Bldg) in the District of Narsingdi.

Estimated cost : Tk as per schedule.

Earnest money : Tk 2% of the estimated amount.

Time allowed for completion of work is 45 days from the date of issue of Work Order.

Contract documents, consisting of Bangladesh Form No 2911, schedule of items and conditions etc can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and all Executive Engineers under Dhaka PWD Circle-IV, Dhaka and Eden Bldg PWD Division, Dhaka on usual payment of all working days and hours up to 11.4.95.

DFF-7021-233 Executive Engineer
G-484 Narsingdi PWD Division, Narsingdi

Third Natural Gas Development Project Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd. (A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla) Zaman Manjil, Pathantulia, Sylhet-3100, Bangladesh

I. Notice of Prequalification

Date: 23rd February, 1995
IFB No.: 520915 (95)
ADB Loan No.: 1293 BAN (SF)

- The Government of Bangladesh has received a loan from the Special Fund of Asian Development Bank, hereinafter referred to as the ADB, in various currencies towards the cost of Third Natural Gas Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation to prequalify is issued.
- The Executing Agency of the Project, Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd, a company operating under Bangladesh law, hereinafter referred to as "the Employer," intends to prequalify contractors for the following contract under this project: The Directionally Drilled Two Nos. 10 Inch Dia River Crossing including supply of Grade B Seamless Epoxy coated pipes (one having channel width exceeding 200 meters and the other 250 meters) of Surma River located at Sylhet and Chhatak in Sylhet and Sunamganj Districts of Bangladesh. The Project is referred to as "Third Natural Gas Development Project, Part-D, Jalalabad Component".
- Prequalification is open to contractors and joint ventures of contractors from eligible member countries of the Asian Development Bank.
- A complete set of Prequalification Documents may be purchased by the contractor or its authorized representative/agent/associate on the submission of a written application to the following address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 2,000.00 (Taka Two Thousand) or US\$50.00 (United States Dollar Fifty) only.

The Project Manager
Third Natural Gas Development Project
Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
Zaman Manjil, Pathantulia, Sylhet-3100, Bangladesh.

OR

The Project Manager
Third Natural Gas Development Project
Jalalabad Gas T & D System Ltd.
Liaison Office, House No-5, Road 20/B, Sector-4,
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- Requests submitted by mail should include a certified cheque in the amount and currency indicated above in favour of Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd. In this case Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd. will promptly dispatch the documents by registered airmail, but under no circumstances can it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed to the applicant.
- Prequalification Documents will also be available from Bangladesh Diplomatic Mission in (a) Bonn, Germany (b) London, UK (c) Paris, France (d) Rome, Italy (e) Tokyo, Japan (f) Ottawa, Canada (g) Washington D.C, USA (h) Singapore.
- The request for Prequalification Documents must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for the Directionally Drilled Two (10" Dia Pipeline) River Crossing of Surma River including Supply of Pipes, Installation of Pipes, Testing, Dewatering etc."
- A minimum requirement for qualifications will be to have carried out qualification criteria in accordance with the "Instruction to Applicants".
- Submissions of applications for prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be either delivered by hand or by registered mail not later than 25th May, 1995 during office hours at:

The Project Manager
Third Natural Gas Development Project
Jalalabad Gas T & D System Ltd.
Liaison Office, House No. 5, Road 20/B, Sector-4,
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Envelope should be clearly marked "Application for Prequalification for the Directionally Drilled 2 Nos. (10 Inch Dia Pipeline) River Crossing of Surma River". Documents which are received late will not be considered and will be returned unopened.

"পাছ লামান; গাছের পরিচালনা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Md Abul Kashem
Project Manager
Third Natural Gas Development Project
DFF-6794-21/3
G-477

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়

পনপূর্ত ই/এম বিভাগ-৩, ঢাকা।

তারিখঃ ১৯-০৩-৯৫ইং
০৫-১২-১৪০১বং

দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-৬৬/১৯৯৪-৯৫ইং

নিম্নোক্ত কাজের জন্য পনপূর্ত অধিদপ্তর-এর তালিকাভুক্ত বিশেষ প্রথম শ্রেণী ইঞ্জিনিয়ার কাজের ১ম শ্রেণীর টিকাদারগণ যাহাদের জাতি ব্রিটিশ/ইন্ডিয়ান বাই বাই হতে বাংলাদেশ সরকার নং ২৯১১-এর মাধ্যমে "স্টেট কোট" অনুযায়ী নিম্নোক্তকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ০৯-০৪-৯৫ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পনপূর্ত ই/এম বিভাগ-১/২/৩/৪/৫/৬/৭/৮/৯/এম কারখানা বিভাগ/কার্টের কারখানা বিভাগ, ঢাকা ও পনপূর্ত ইডেন ভবন বিভাগ, ঢাকা দপ্তরে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাগে পুঁজি হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২-০৫ মিঃ এ দরপত্রসমূহের অর্থ বাতাসের মনোনীত প্রার্থীদের উপস্থিতিতে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। দরপত্রসমূহ বেলা ১২-০৫ মিঃ এ পনপূর্ত ইডেন ভবন বিভাগ, ঢাকা অফিস হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে রপ্তি ৭৭৫/- (সাত শত পঁচাত্তর) টাকা লান মুদ্রার বিনিময়ে (অফিসভায়ে) সর্বশেষ ৮-৪-৯৫ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত জমা করা যাইবে। প্রতিটি দরপত্রের সহিত উক্ত মুদ্রার উপর ২% (দুই শতাংশ) ভাগ হারে আমানতের টাকা নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, পনপূর্ত ই/এম বিভাগ-৩, ঢাকা-এর অনুমোদিত ব্যালান্সের যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পিও/এসডিআর/সিডি ব্যাংক অর্থাৎ দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্র জমা টিকাদার নিজের অর্থ তাহার দ্বারা স্বাক্ষরিত পর বহনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্ত ব্রিটিশ/ইন্ডিয়ান বাই বাই গ্যারান্টিয়ার কাগজপত্র দেবাহীয়া দরপত্র জমা করিতে পারিবেন।

নিম্নোক্তকর্তার কোন প্রকার করণ না দর্শাইয়া যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করিবার অধিকার সরকার করবেন।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাপ্তিস্থান	আমানতের টাকা	কার্য সম্পাদনের নির্ধারিত সময়সীমা
১।	ঢাকার মতিঝিল শিল্প ভবন ও উহার আনুষঙ্গিক ভবনসমূহের (মেইন ভবন, এনেক্স ভবন, পাড়ির গ্যারেজ ও মসজিদ ভবন) কৌশলিক বিশেষ সেরামতকরণ কাজ।	উক্ত মুদ্রার উপর ২% (দুই শতাংশ) ভাগ হারে	কার্যসম্পাদনের তারিখ হইতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিন।	০৯। আনু. তফসিলি নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী পনপূর্ত ই/এম বিভাগ-৩ সেহুদ বাগিচা, ঢাকা। ফোনঃ ২৫৪৯৭৬।

ডিএফপি-৭২৮৩-২৭/৩
৯-৪-৯৫