

National

India builds barrages across border

Life in Panchagargh, neighbouring districts totally handicapped

By Govinda Shil and Rafiq Hasan, back from Panchagargh.

Mar 9: Unilateral withdrawal of water from nine rivers following across the Panchagargh district by India at the upper streams has badly affected the irrigation, fishing and stone collecting activities of the local people.

The bed of river Mahananda is a vast source of hard stone which is collected by the villagers and sold for building constructions. A cross section of people while talking to The Daily Star said, barrages in the Mahananda and Karatoa, two important rivers, have severely affected the flora and fauna of the district.

The Daily Star team while visiting Bangla Bandha union adding since then fish catch and hard stone collection have been declined drastically.

He said, the river Mahananda, a common natural asset of both the countries, is the only income source of the poor villagers living along the stream.

All, a farmer and also a stone trader said, reserves of stones within Bangladesh territory has fallen mentionably due to the creation of the barrier.

The people of Jharua Para village of Bangla Bandha union

dry Bihar and West Bengal provinces for irrigation.

The district has nine common rivers, namely, Mahananda, Karatoa, Gorra, Tiranai, Rana Chandi, Berong, Dahook, Versa and Chawal, flowing over Bangladesh and Indian territories.

"I can clearly recall that the barrage has been built after liberation," said Mohammad Nawshat Ali of Bangla Bandha union adding since then fish catch and hard stone collection have been declined drastically.

Another fellow old villager of Yogi-jot, Alam Shah said, India was damaging the local economy in two ways, extracting water unilaterally during the dry seasons and creating flush flood due to opening of the sluice gates during rainy seasons.

He noted another way of harming the local economy was India's use of west-bank sluice gates which hits the Bangladesh territory with

mighty current and eroding cultivable lands.

"India, the upper riparian country, has made several barrages and dams to divert water of Mahananda, Karatoa and other rivers," said Mirza Golam Hafiz, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

The Minister told The Daily Star at the Panchagargh Circuit House that the withdrawal of water by India had affected the district's poor farmers who were not able to irrigate their lands by using underground water.

The nine rivers, flowing over the Panchagargh district, might be a good source of irrigation of this fertile land which is 150 feet above the sea level, said the Law Minister and an uncontested MP of the sixth parliamentary election.

He said, the farmers of the district harvest only a single crop-rice round the year due to lack of water. "If water flow is ensured, the district, food basket of the country might increase the harvests many fold," the Minister pointed out.

Abdul Jabbar, a project coordinator of the Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDERS) of Tetulia said, India had built the barrage over Mahananda some 20 years back.

Jobber added, these days, fish catch has drastically declined in this almost dead river (Mahananda). "If there was a water sharing agreement between Bangladesh and India the farmers would be benefited a lot," he said.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star, a water expert of the Dhaka University K B Sajjadur Rashid said, water in an international river basin is a shared environmental resource. He said, the principle of equitable utilisation does not and cannot allow the upper riparian to ignore or veto the rights of the lower riparian.

Rashid said, India was establishing barrages and other establishments over most of the common rivers flowing across both the countries violating the convention of International Law Commission.



The photo shows partial view of river Mahananda near Bangla Bandha. Lack of flow of water has caused massive siltation in the river. — Star photo by Emran Hossain

REB expanding its services in Jhenidah villages

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 9: Rural Electrification Board (REB) is marching ahead with its new project in Jhenidah district to give better service in remote areas.

According to REB sources, their project area covers 1,961 square kilometre. Their allocated lines stretches 1,580 kilometres. REB had completed 60km out of target of 250 this year. The rest 190km is likely to be completed on time, sources said.

An official of REB said that their Jhenidah project will be titled as "Area Based Rural Electrification 4th Phase-C"

which will provide electricity for 13.61 lakh people of 1,247 villages in 68 unions of Jhenidah sadar. Saikupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Mohepur thanas.

Taka one hundred one crore will be spent to complete the project, sources said. Sources informed that the project completion period is 1991-92 fiscal to 1998-99. Only 40 kilometres of line will be serviceable in Jhenidah this year at the initial stage. After completion of the project 24,800 domestic, 4,070 commercial, 265 deep tubewells

(DTW), 655 irrigation pump connections, and 590 industrial units will be provided with REB services, sources added.

Seven proposed sub stations each of five Mega Volt Ampere (MVA) one in Jhenidah town, one at Saikupa, one at Saduhati, one at Hatgopalpur, one at Kaliganj, one at Kotchandpur and one at Mohepur will be installed. One office building-cum ware house at a cost of Taka (estimated) 1.06 crore, one rest house at a cost of Taka 27 lakh, one General Manager's quarter at a cost of Taka 14 lakh a three

storied officers quarter at a cost of Taka 49 lakh, a two storied quarter for the junior officers at a cost of Taka 35 lakh, two staff quarters at a cost of Taka 78 lakh are under construction.

Sixty to 94 per cent of construction work was completed so far for Pally Bidyut Samity (PBS). The rest of the work is likely to be completed by June this year, sources said.

REB sources further said that they will take necessary action for operation and maintenance on area based distributed system, active participation of the subscribers and members of the local societies to form local executive committees on direct voting system to avoid local problems and proper distribution system. Operation and Maintenance, distribution of lines and construction of sub-centres, connection of lines, systems loss, collection of bills etc. will be conducted by the society members themselves. They will also be responsible for only loss or any misconduct found, sources further added.

According to Rural Electrification Board sources, on October 29 in 1977 Pally Bidyut Samity (PBS) was established through an ordinance of REB.

It was learnt from various survey conducted recently that the number of school going children is increasing in rural areas where REB is serving.

The sources further informed that REB will finance Pally Bidyut Samity (PBS) on 30 years contract at the rate of three per cent interest per year.



JHENIDAH: Construction work of the REB building at Jhenidah town nearing completion. — Star photo

Irregularities, malpractice reported while doing land survey

From Our Correspondent  
CHANDPUR, Mar 9: Malpractice and irregularities in the preparation of land records and survey in all seven thanas of the district have been reported.

In the beginning the field work has been done in some areas by some officials of the settlement department. The land owners have allegedly been harassed by the settlement workers on different grounds. The land owners allegedly have to spend a huge amount of money to satisfy the officials. It is alleged that mistakes were found in many documents and objections and counter objections were raised to the assistant settlement officers in different thanas of the district. It is further alleged that the land owners who could not remain present at the time of survey in the filed have been victimised in cooperation with village touts. The real owner of the land with valid documents are reportedly being dragged in to chaos and confusion with no faults of their own. Sometimes lands were recorded with false documents.

Jail police, outsiders clash: 15 hurt

FENI, Mar 9: At least 15 people including four policemen were injured in a clash between the jail police and some outsiders at the local sub-jail on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said the clash erupted at about 1 pm when the armed outsiders attacked the jail to free some under trial prisoners. The jail inmates helped the outsiders.

The attackers blasted some home-made bombs during the three-hour clash. Police fired several blank shots to disperse the unruly outsiders.

Police SI Swapan Kumar, ASI Abul Kashem, constables Harun and Jafar and 11 others were injured in the clash.

Later, a joint team of police and BDR conducted operation at Mastarpara of the town and arrested 22 suspected people in this connection. Police refused to disclose their identity.

Deputy Commissioner and Police Super visited the jail after the incident. More police and BDR have been deployed to avert further incident.

No end to sufferings of telephone subscribers

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, Mar 9: Telephone subscribers of Saikupa, Harinakundu, Kotchandpur, Mohepur and Dakbangla telephone exchanges have been suffering badly due to shortage of telephone operators, faulty line, negligence of authorities and want of sufficient Operator Trunk Dialing (OTD) system of telephones.

According to reports, there is only four telephone operators in Saikupa telephone exchange out of required eight operators for 200 lines of telephone board. As a result the operators face trouble to control the two telephone boards and two OTD telephone. It was alleged. Further, Saikupa telephone exchange has no channel with Dhaka, Kushtia, Khulna, Jessore or other important stations. Here the calls have to depend on Jhenidah channel only.

Harinakundu telephone exchange running with only one telephone operator and two other Pally telecom and one muster roll-based messenger out of required four operators. As a result the subscribers have been suffering badly. It was reported.

It may be noted here that Harinakundu telephone exchange only operates between 6 am and 6 pm. As a result no telephone communication is not possible after 6 pm.

In Kotchandpur telephone exchange only five operators are performing duty instead of required nine operators. This exchange remains open between 6 am and 10 pm. This limited time, operators can hardly manage the exchange.

Bumper potato output expected, price declines in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent  
CHANDPUR, Mar 9: The harvesting of potato has been started in the district, one of the richest potato growing areas of the country.

Bumper potato production is expected this year. But the potato growers alleged that they are compelled to sell the potato below the cost of production.

About 20,000 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation in the district during the current season.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation and the Agriculture Extension Department supplied seeds and other agricultural inputs to the potato growers. Encouraged by good price of potato last year, the potato growers have increased the cultivation area to almost double. Potato was cultivated on about 10,000 hectares of land last year. Meanwhile, potato plants in some areas of the district have been attacked by various diseases. Farmers are compelled to use adulterated insecticides.

The price of insecticides are increasing day by day.

Development works in progress under WDB in Feni

FENI, Mar 9: Bangladesh Water Development Board has undertaken various development works in the district in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The board sanctioned Tk 2.05 crore and 1,919 metric tons of wheat for the schemes including re-excavation of canals and construction and repair of embankments.

Under the programme, some 73 km portion of 29 canals of the district will be re-excavated spending Tk 2.05 crore. The programme will be implemented with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank.

The sanctioned wheat would be utilized for removing silt from the river Feni near Kazirhat regulator, construction of a guide bank near Sonagazi regulator and repairing breaches in the embankment of the Silonia river at Parshuram.

Thirty per cent work of the schemes have already been done and the rest is expected to be completed within the current year, official sources said.

**Government of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Road Division, B. Baria

**Tender Inviting Notice**

- Tender Notice No: 141/E.E. R.H.D. Road Divn, B. Baria during the year 1995-96.
- Name of works: Picking up the existing damaged pavement & providing flexible pavement with box cutting, sand cushioning, sub-base, macadam, bituminous carpeting & seal coat at part of 5th K.M. of Dharkhar-Akhaura Road under B. Baria Road Division during the year 1995-96.
- Estimated cost: Tk. 13,88,404/-
- Earnest money: Tk. 27,768/- in B.D./T.C. Pratikrasha Sanchaya Patra/5 years B.D. Sanchaya Patra or Bonus Sanchaya Patra to be deposited in favour of the undersigned.
- Name of office in which tender documents will be available for purchases: The Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Comilla/Chandpur/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Planning (Road & Bridge) Division, Dhaka, all SDE's office under B. Baria Road Division, and office of the undersigned.
- Name of office in which tender will be received: The Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla/The Superintending Engineer (RHD), Comilla Road Circle, Comilla/The Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka office of the undersigned.
- Time allowed for completion of work: 40 (Forty) days.
- Last date of selling of Tender: Up to 16-3-96 during office hours.
- Last date & time of receipt of Tender: Up to 12: 30 P. M. on 17-3-96.
- Last date & time of opening of Tender: At 12:00 Noon on 19-3-96.
- Eligibility of contractors: "A" to "D" general category contractor under RHD.
- Date of lottery: At 12:00 Noon on 21-03-96.
- Ch. to: 266/Development.

Md. Helal Uddin  
Executive Engineer (RHD)  
(current charge)  
Road Division, B. Baria.

DFP-4872-4/3  
G-345

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Chief Controller Imports & Exports  
111-113, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

**Public Notice**  
No. 70 (93-95)/Import (Import Trade Control)

Dated: 16 Faigun 1402 BS  
28-02-1996 Eng

All indentors, local agents of foreign goods & foreign trading companies doing business in Bangladesh are hereby requested to furnish information as per the following proforma to the Chief Controller, Imports & Exports, 111-113, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka by 20-3-96 within office hours.

Name & address of firm	Registration number & date	Name & address of foreign firm for which working as agent	Type of business (i.e. indenting/buying house/commission agent/marketing agent etc)	Name of goods	Remarks
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2. Besides this, any change/addition, if made in the above businesses, the office of the Chief Controller, Imports & Exports should be intimated of the same in writing within 7 (seven) days.

Sultan Mahmood  
Assistant Controller  
For Chief Controller  
Imports & Exports, Dhaka.  
Phone: 9550217

DFP-4684-2/3  
G-343

**Mongla Port Authority**  
Office of the Chief Engineer (M&E)  
Mongla, Bagerhat

No. MPA/CE(M&E)/117/96

**Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are invited from ABC licence holder Mongla Port Authority enlisted electrical contractors for the undermentioned work.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Enlisted electrical contractor	Price of tender (non-refundable)	Time limit
1	Construction of LT line with transformer at Benapole Land Port	Tk 15,67,990.14	Tk 32,000/-	A Class	Tk 500/-	60 (sixty) days

Tender document can be collected from the undersigned's Mongla office, office of the Executive Engineer (C), Division-4, MPA Khulna; Assistant Traffic Manager's office, Benapole Land Port; Liaison Officer's office, MPA, Rest House, 10 Nayapattan, Dhaka subject to prior permission, during office hours up to 01.04.96 (18.12.1402 BS). Tenders will be received at the above offices up to 12.00 Noon of 02.04.96 (19.12.1402 BS) and opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence (if any) of the tenders, at the above offices. Earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Mongla Port Authority, Mongla should be deposited with the tender document; otherwise the tender document will be treated as cancelled. Other terms & conditions and rules & regulations are given in the tender document.

As per decision of this Authority, 0.25% will be deducted (non-refundable) from the value of the executed work towards Officers/Employees Welfare Fund.

The contractor can purchase the tender document himself or his representative may purchase it producing the authorisation letter with his signature & photograph duly attested by the contractor for the prescribed work. To prove validity of the licence, the original licence register shall have to be produced at the time of purchasing tender schedule. Contractors/firms shall have to submit VAT registration certificate at the time of purchasing tender schedule. Otherwise no tender document will be sold to them. As per Govt rules, VAT will be deducted from the bill of the executed work.

Mongla Port Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or to reject all the tenders without assigning any reason.

Md. Ruhul Amin Sheikh  
Chief Engineer (M&E)  
Mongla Port Authority, Mongla  
Bagerhat

MPA/Board/Jana/1221  
DFP-4758-3/3  
G-344

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
No. 23/95-96

Sealed tenders for the following works are invited. Tender documents may be purchased up to 20.3.96 from the National Bank Ltd., G. L. Roy Road, Rangpur branch, Rangpur/Sonali Bank, Saidpur branch, Saidpur, Nilphamari/Sonali Bank WAPDA Bhaban branch, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka. Tender will be received on 19.3.96, 20.3.96 during office hours and on 21.3.96 up to 12.00 Noon in the office of the Executive Engineer, Rangpur Canal Division/Executive Engineer, Saidpur W.D. Division-I, BWDB, Saidpur, Nilphamari and Executive Engineer, Dhaka C & M Division-II, BWDB, 156-157 (Rupali Sadon), Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka. Earnest money will have to be deposited by Bank Draft in favour of the Deputy Director, Regional Accounting Centre, BWDB, Rangpur. Tender will be opened on 21.3.96 at 12.30 PM by the respective heads of the offices in presence of the tenderers, who will remain present.

**LIST OF WORK**

Name of project	Tender No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money 2.5%	Time allowed for completion of work	Contractor eligible to submit tender	Cost of tender document
Teesta Barrage Project	23/95-96	1. Construction of C. C. Canal lining of T <sub>4</sub> T Canal in P. S. Kishoreganj, Dist. Nilphamari during 1995-96 (length 7500 ft.)	45,43,367/-	Tk. 38,585/-	75 days	"B" Class of BWDB	Tk. 750/- per set
do	do	2. Construction of C. C. Canal lining of T <sub>5</sub> T Canal in P. S. Kishoreganj, Dist. Nilphamari during 1995-96 (length 3000 ft.)	5,44,970/-	Tk. 13,625/-	60 days	"C" Class of BWDB	Tk. 400/- per set

PANI-453/95-96  
DFP-5038-5/3  
G-342

Executive Engineer  
Rangpur Canal Division  
BWDB, Rangpur

**Meeting condemns assault, arrest of journalists**

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, Mar 9: A meeting was held at Jhenidah Press Club premises in protest against recent arrest and assault on journalists and attack on newspapers with Sheikh Mizanur Rahman, President Jhenidah Press Club in the chair.

Among others M Saiful Masud, Aminur Rahman, Ali Ansari, Jahid Hossain Biplob, Delwar Kabir and Azizur Rahman Salam spoke on the occasion. The speakers condemned the incidents and demanded release of the arrested journalists at no delay. The speakers further demanded exemplary punishment of the guilty persons involved with the mishapening.