

Mirpur traders

FROM PAGE 1

11 months for refusing to pay tolls to criminals, alleged that gang leader Shahadat and his men called over 100 traders in Mirpur for tolls in the last two days.

"Shahadat called me yesterday and demanded toll. He said they have killed Aftab and it will be my turn if I refuse to pay the money," a trader seeking anonymity told The Daily Star yesterday.

A number of traders claimed to have received similar threats from the gang.

A business leader said their members are receiving such phone threats every day, but few dare to inform the police.

The business community in Mirpur burst into protest and shut down their shops when another business leader Kazi Shahidullah was killed allegedly by the same gang on August 12.

The killers have yet to be nabbed although after the murder on August 12 Deputy Commissioner (West) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Kahinor Miah assured the businessmen of hunting down Shahidullah's killers.

"If the killers of Shahidullah and other businessmen were arrested and brought to book, Aftab would not have been killed," Manik Miah, president of Co-operative Super Market at Mirpur-1, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Another businessman said besides the businessmen, every individual owning multi-storey building in Mirpur has to pay tolls to the criminals regularly.

Traders accuse local political leaders of sheltering the criminals. They also alleged that police and Rapid Action Battalion seem reluctant to arrest the goons due to pressure from an influential quarter.

Officer-in-Charge of Mirpur Police Station Abdur Rob, however, denied the allegation and said, "They have so far arrested 50 criminals since the killing of Shahidullah."

He, however, admitted that they could not arrest any top-notch

criminal yet.

THREAT TO AFTAB'S FAMILY

The suspected murderers of Aftab have been making phone calls to his family members since he was shot near his house on Sunday and threatening to kill his brother and sons.

"I received a call on Wednesday night. The caller identified him as Shahadat and threatened to kill my children, if the four people who have been arrested are not released," Aftab's wife Jahanara Begum told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I have lost my husband and now passing days fearing for my children," a sobbing Jahanara said.

Besides, the criminals have threatened to kill Aftab's brother Afroz if the family does not withdraw the case filed for the murder.

PROTESTS

The businessmen in Mirpur yesterday brought out a procession in the area with the body of Aftab. The body was taken to his residence at Block-E in Mirpur Section-2 at about 11:00am.

Later, Aftab was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.

They also held a rally at Mirpur-1 and demanded arrest and punishment of the killers.

In the evening, the business leaders sat down with Dhaka City Shop Owners Association and decided to withdraw the indefinite strike, which was announced on Wednesday after Aftab had breathed his last after fighting for life for over four long days.

The meeting decided that all traders will wear black badges today and tomorrow to mourn the death of their slain leader.

They will hold a meeting on Sunday and announce the next course of programmes to protest the killing of Aftab.

Outlaws target

FROM PAGE 20

Mofiz, 28, was caught at Karnoghosh village of Tarash upazila.

They also recovered the bullet-ridden body of the outlaw killed in Wednesday's attack from under a culvert in Bhagail area under Tarash upazila yesterday morning. As of last night, the dead could not be identified.

Sources said the arrestees during interrogation confessed their involvement in the attack, but did not give any information about the looted arms.

A police official yesterday said the police fear more attacks from the PBPC and said they have found a list of probable targets of the outlawed communist outfit.

Law enforcers have identified several police stations and outposts as vulnerable and deployed additional forces there. Sources said Atrai and Raninagar police stations and several outposts in Naogoon, Pinhazari outpost in Nandigram upazila and Kumira Panditpukur investigation centre in Bogra, Tarash and Royganj police stations in Sirajganj, and Naldanga Police Station in Natore are on the list.

Additional contingents of Armed Police Battalion, Range Reserve Force, Rapid Action Battalion and Bangladesh Rifles have been deployed to step up security at the police stations and outposts in the northern region.

None of over a hundred firearms looted by the outlawed communist outfits from the northern police bases since 1973 could be retrieved so far. Sources said the retrieval has become difficult as some of the people accused of the looting became elected people's representatives at local governments and have close links with lawmakers.

For instance, the prime accused of looting firearms from the police at Athgharia in Pabna in 1986 later became a union parishad chairman, while another key accusee of Gurudaspur arms looting in Natore in 1987 is a close associate of a ruling party lawmaker.

Several years ago, communist outlaws undertook a move to 'free' some northern districts including Naogoon, Natore and Rajshahi, and since have been raiding the police outposts in the region to gather arms and ammunition.

Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies (Cus) and vice president Bapa, said the project must be implemented keeping in view the Detailed Area Planning Project and the Strategic Transport Policy under Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), which are now being completed.

"We have formally asked the authorities to demarcate at least 40 percent of the 124 square kilometre area as retention ponds and canals, without which the city would become unliveable," Nazrul said.

The project is also planned without a feasibility study on the existing western embankment that causes serious waterlogging due to lack of flood and waste water retention ponds. Unabated unplanned urbanisation on the western part of the city has engulfed all canals and water retention ponds, leaving a vast area from Tongi to Kellar Mor most vulnerable to waterlogging.

Dhaka Wasa's Drainage Section spends crores of taka in vain to pump out water from different areas within the western embankment, which get waterlogged during the rainy season.

Architect Iqbal Habib, member-secretary of the Urbanisation and City Governance Sub-committee of Bapa, emphasised immediate demarcation and protection of the water bodies and channels in the eastern part of the city to avert an environmental disaster.

"We suggest applying the experience gathered from the cases of the western embankment and DND (Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra) project before the eastern bypass project is launched," he said.

At an inter-ministerial meeting in October last year, Rajuk was given the responsibility of 'macro level' planning of the area. But it is yet to do so.

Billions of cubic metres of sand is being dumped to fill up the low-lying areas to accommodate housing projects every day. Miles of natural canals and ponds have been filled up. In Khilgaon, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works is filling up a big area under a rehabilitation programme to compensate those who lost their land to Kamapur railway station more than 50 years ago. Housing companies have embarked on filling up whatever is left of the flood plains in Boather, Gaoir, Joarsahara, Baidarter, Meradia, Goran, Madartek and Mandara areas.

According to experts at Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the volume of average rainfall in Dhaka is between 1,400 mm and 1,600 mm during the four months of monsoon beginning in June. The monsoon rain, in addition to flood water and other liquid wastes, generates so much water within the embankment that many parts of the city goes under water due to lack of proper drainage.

"If you are thinking of encompassing such a large area with a dyke, the first thing you have to think of is drainage," said one expert requesting anonymity.

The 30-km western embankment, protecting an area of 136 sq km from Tongi railway bridge to Kellar Mor in Lalbagh was completed two years ago. During the rainy season, when drainage from inside the embankment becomes impossible due to rise in water level outside, serious water logging takes place in parts of Mirpur, Shyamoli, Mohammadpur, Rayer Bazaar, Hazaribagh, Nawabganj, Lalbagh and Imanganj. The water that gets logged for months is mainly tannery and other industrial wastes, and it exposes millions living in these areas to health hazards.

Asking about the environmental impact of such indiscriminate land filling, he said, "In a country where the home minister has to file a general diary with police station for protection from land grabbers, we can do little."

Unless the government moves immediately to demarcate the canals and flood retention ponds, the entire eastern fringe is set to be "an environmental nightmare" as soon as the embankment-cum-bypass is completed, experts at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) said.

Eastern bypass

FROM PAGE 1

resulting in permanent waterlogging and other hazards.

Most of the low-lying land in the bypass project area is now in the grip of private housing companies and individuals. From Khilkhet to Kanchpur along the river Balu, massive signboards have been installed announcing the start of mega housing projects.

The 30-km bypass-cum-embankment would encompass the 124 square km area from Tongi railway bridge to Kanchpur bridge.

The project would be implemented by seven ministries with the water resources ministry in the lead. A UK-based consultant and its associates are now updating all previous studies on the project, officially called Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Embankment Cum Eastern Bypass Road Multipurpose Project, for a fee of Tk 2.9 crore. The company is likely to submit its final report by March next year.

An inter-ministerial meeting in July classified the project as the second most important one in terms of national priority to reduce poverty.

Minister for Water Resources Hafiz Uddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that his ministry could not intervene to save the canals and other wetlands on the eastern fringe of the city until the study reports were submitted and the project was officially launched. Moreover, funds for the project are yet to be procured fully, he said.

"Here we are talking about very influential developers who are widely known as land grabbers. There seems to be no way to stop them," Hafiz said.

Asked about the environmental impact of such indiscriminate land filling, he said, "In a country where the home minister has to file a general diary with police station for protection from land grabbers, we can do little."

Unless the government moves immediately to demarcate the canals and flood retention ponds, the entire eastern fringe is set to be "an environmental nightmare" as soon as the embankment-cum-bypass is completed, experts at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) said.

Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies (Cus) and vice president Bapa, said the project must be implemented keeping in view the Detailed Area Planning Project and the Strategic Transport Policy under Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), which are now being completed.

"We have formally asked the authorities to demarcate at least 40 percent of the 124 square kilometre area as retention ponds and canals, without which the city would become unliveable," Nazrul said.

The project is also planned without a feasibility study on the existing western embankment that causes serious waterlogging due to lack of flood and waste water retention ponds. Unabated unplanned urbanisation on the western part of the city has engulfed all canals and water retention ponds, leaving a vast area from Tongi to Kellar Mor most vulnerable to waterlogging.

Dhaka Wasa's Drainage Section spends crores of taka in vain to pump out water from different areas within the western embankment, which get waterlogged during the rainy season.

Architect Iqbal Habib, member-secretary of the Urbanisation and City Governance Sub-committee of Bapa, emphasised immediate demarcation and protection of the water bodies and channels in the eastern part of the city to avert an environmental disaster.

"We suggest applying the experience gathered from the cases of the western embankment and DND (Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra) project before the eastern bypass project is launched," he said.

At an inter-ministerial meeting in October last year, Rajuk was given the responsibility of 'macro level' planning of the area. But it is yet to do so.

Billions of cubic metres of sand is being dumped to fill up the low-lying areas to accommodate housing projects every day. Miles of natural canals and ponds have been filled up. In Khilgaon, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works is filling up a big area under a rehabilitation programme to compensate those who lost their land to Kamapur railway station more than 50 years ago. Housing companies have embarked on filling up whatever is left of the flood plains in Boather, Gaoir, Joarsahara, Baidarter, Meradia, Goran, Madartek and Mandara areas.

According to experts at Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the volume of average rainfall in Dhaka is between 1,400 mm and 1,600 mm during the four months of monsoon beginning in June. The monsoon rain, in addition to flood water and other liquid wastes, generates so much water within the embankment that many parts of the city goes under water due to lack of proper drainage.

"If you are thinking of encompassing such a large area with a dyke, the first thing you have to think of is drainage," said one expert requesting anonymity.

The 30-km western embankment, protecting an area of 136 sq km from Tongi railway bridge to Kellar Mor in Lalbagh was completed two years ago. During the rainy season, when drainage from inside the embankment becomes impossible due to rise in water level outside, serious water logging takes place in parts of Mirpur, Shyamoli, Mohammadpur, Rayer Bazaar, Hazaribagh, Nawabganj, Lalbagh and Imanganj. The water that gets logged for months is mainly tannery and other industrial wastes, and it exposes millions living in these areas to health hazards.

Asking about the environmental impact of such indiscriminate land filling, he said, "In a country where the home minister has to file a general diary with police station for protection from land grabbers, we can do little."

Unless the government moves immediately to demarcate the canals and flood retention ponds, the entire eastern fringe is set to be "an environmental nightmare" as soon as the embankment-cum-bypass is completed, experts at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) said.

ence gathered from the cases of the western embankment and DND (Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra) project before the eastern bypass project is launched," he said.

At an inter-ministerial meeting in October last year, Rajuk was given the responsibility of 'macro level' planning of the area. But it is yet to do so.

Billions of cubic metres of sand is being dumped to fill up the low-lying areas to accommodate housing projects every day. Miles of natural canals and ponds have been filled up. In Khilgaon, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works is filling up a big area under a rehabilitation programme to compensate those who lost their land to Kamapur railway station more than 50 years ago. Housing companies have embarked on filling up whatever is left of the flood plains in Boather, Gaoir, Joarsahara, Baidarter, Meradia, Goran, Madartek and Mandara areas.

According to experts at Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the volume of average rainfall in Dhaka is between 1,400 mm and 1,600 mm during the four months of monsoon beginning in June. The monsoon rain, in addition to flood water and other liquid wastes, generates so much water within the embankment that many parts of the city goes under water due to lack of proper drainage.

"If you are thinking of encompassing such a large area with a dyke, the first thing you have to think of is drainage," said one expert requesting anonymity.

The 30-km western embankment, protecting an area of 136 sq km from Tongi railway bridge to Kellar Mor in Lalbagh was completed two years ago. During the rainy season, when drainage from inside the embankment becomes impossible due to rise in water level outside, serious water logging takes place in parts of Mirpur, Shyamoli, Mohammadpur, Rayer Bazaar, Hazaribagh, Nawabganj, Lalbagh and Imanganj. The water that gets logged for months is mainly tannery and other industrial wastes, and it exposes millions living in these areas to health hazards.

Asking about the environmental impact of such indiscriminate land filling, he said, "In a country where the home minister has to file a general diary with police station for protection from land grabbers, we can do little."

Unless the government moves immediately to demarcate the canals and flood retention ponds, the entire eastern fringe is set to be "an environmental nightmare" as soon as the embankment-cum-bypass is completed, experts at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) said.

Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies (Cus) and vice president Bapa, said the project must be implemented keeping in view the Detailed Area Planning Project and the Strategic Transport Policy under Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), which are now being completed.

"We have formally asked the authorities to demarcate at least 40 percent of the 124 square kilometre area as retention ponds and canals, without which the city would become unliveable," Nazrul said.

The project is also planned without a feasibility study on the existing western embankment that causes serious waterlogging due to lack of flood and waste water retention ponds. Unabated unplanned urbanisation on the western part of the city has engulfed all canals and water retention ponds, leaving a vast area from Tongi to Kellar Mor most vulnerable to waterlogging.

Dhaka Wasa's Drainage Section spends crores of taka in vain to pump out water from different areas within the western embankment, which get waterlogged during the rainy season.

Architect Iqbal Habib, member-secretary of the Urbanisation and City Governance Sub-committee of Bapa, emphasised immediate demarcation and protection of the water bodies and channels in the eastern part of the city to avert an environmental disaster.

"We suggest applying the experience gathered from the cases of the western embankment and DND (Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra) project before the eastern bypass project is launched," he said.

At an inter-ministerial meeting in October last year, Rajuk was given the responsibility of 'macro level' planning of the area. But it is yet to do so.

Billions of cubic metres of sand is being dumped to fill up the low-lying areas to accommodate housing projects every day. Miles of natural canals and ponds have been filled up. In Khilgaon, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works is filling up a big area under a rehabilitation programme to compensate those who lost their land to Kamapur railway station more than 50 years ago. Housing companies have embarked on filling up whatever is left of the flood plains in Boather, Gaoir, Joarsahara, Baidarter, Meradia, Goran, Madartek and Mandara areas.

According to experts at Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the volume of average rainfall in Dhaka is between 1,400 mm and 1,600 mm during the four months of monsoon beginning in June. The monsoon rain, in addition to flood water and other liquid wastes, generates so much water within the embankment that many parts of the city goes under water due to lack of proper drainage.

"If you are thinking of encompassing such a large area with a dyke, the first thing you have to think of is drainage," said one expert requesting anonymity.

The 30-km western embankment, protecting an area of 136 sq km from Tongi railway bridge to Kellar Mor in Lalbagh was completed two years ago. During the rainy season, when drainage from inside the embankment becomes impossible due to rise in water level outside, serious water logging takes place in parts of Mirpur, Shyamoli, Mohammadpur, Rayer Bazaar, Hazaribagh, Nawabganj, Lalbagh and Imanganj. The water that gets logged for months is mainly tannery and other industrial wastes, and it exposes millions living in these areas to health hazards.

Asking about the environmental impact of such indiscriminate land filling, he said, "In a country where the home minister has to file a general diary with police station for protection from land grabbers, we can do little."

Unless the government moves immediately to demarcate the canals and flood retention ponds, the entire eastern fringe is set to be "an environmental nightmare" as soon as the embankment-cum-bypass is completed, experts at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) said.

Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies (Cus) and vice president Bapa, said the project must be implemented keeping in view the Detailed Area Planning Project and the Strategic Transport Policy under Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), which are now being completed.

"We have formally asked the authorities to demarcate at least 40 percent of the 124 square kilometre area as retention ponds and canals, without which the city would become unliveable," Nazrul said.

The project is also planned without a feasibility study on the existing western embankment that causes serious waterlogging due to lack of flood and waste water retention ponds. Unabated unplanned urbanisation on the western part of the city has engulfed all canals and water retention ponds, leaving a vast area from Tongi to Kellar Mor most vulnerable to waterlogging.

Militancy

FROM PAGE 20

year in their respective fields.

Ahmed said, "People from various professions have come to me, they said if the political situation have been a bit more stable they could have made still better progress."

According to the central bank governor's estimates, the economy will see a 6.5 to 6.8 percent GDP growth and a 9 percent industrial growth in the current fiscal year. Most of the banks have made good profits and the amounts of their default loans have also come down, he said, adding, as the businessmen are making good profit the loan repayment rate is also very good.

But, the governor observed, "The people in the financial sector don't want uncertainty. Now, if the uncertainty is not removed, if the non-economic issues can't be resolved, the achievements made so far can't be sustained."

Turning to the macro-economy, Ahmed said in the first week of January the BB will make an advance policy statement on the steps it will undertake in the coming months so that both the public and the private sector can adjust themselves accordingly.

On the recent rise in government borrowing from the banking system, the governor said the pay hike of government employees and the delayed disbursement of the World Bank's Development Support Credit (DSC) forced the government to do that.

But, after the release of the DSC instalment this week, the borrowing has started to come down. Besides, he said, the government also has increased the interest rate on saving instruments to scale it down.

The governor admitted that the ever-increasing borrowing has been flaring up the inflation and said the central bank has repeatedly advised the finance ministry to abstain from excessive bank borrowing.

Ahmed said, apart from monetary policy, there are some other reasons for the inflation flare-up. "But, he said, "those are beyond our jurisdiction and we have informed the commerce ministry about these issues."

The production of rice has been good, he said, and other consumer products have also been imported adequately. "But, for some reasons, these are not coming to the market. Perhaps they are being hoarded," he remarked.

The governor said inflation is less in India, because the business people there do not hoard.

Gulistan-Jatrabari

FROM PAGE 1

this regard within a week.

The meeting was told that the construction of the flyover would need less time, money and space if it is done without removing the existing settlements.

"If the settlements are removed it will take more time, additional cost and space for constructing the proposed flyover," Bhuiyan told journalists after the meeting.

Vice Chancellor of Buet Prof Dr Mohammad Ali Mortuza told BDNEWS that the proposed flyover could be built keeping the existing settlements of the area intact.

Replying to a question he said approximately Tk 700 crore will be needed to implement the flyover project.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Haque, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud and Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman, the Buet vice chancellor and officials of the ministries concerned, officials of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) were present at the meeting.

DU teacher

FROM PAGE 20

our job difficult. Your research about the militants creates problems for us."

The letters even threatened his son and daughters, "You can hide yourself in any country in the world. We will find you. You cannot escape. But how will you save your daughters? Or your son?"

Expressing their concern Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) demanded immediate steps against the people responsible. "We demand proper security for Gias," Duta President AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star.

"We informed the vice-chancellor of the incident. He assured us of taking all-out measures in this regard," he added.

Whale shark

FROM PAGE 20

Bay, observed District Fisheries Officer Shahadat Hossain on hearing the news. The previous two whale sharks were caught here on December 17 and 21.

The scientific name of the species, the largest of all sharks and the largest fish, is rhinocodon typus and is called Bagha Hangor in Bangla. Although the white-spotted dark body of a whale shark can be as long as 50 feet, they are not aggressive. Whale shark is the least fearsome among the sharks, harmless to people and usually indifferent to divers.

This enormous shark, which lives a solitary life, is a filter feeder and sieves enormous amounts of plankton to eat through its gills as it swims. Its mouth is at the very front of its head, not on the underside of the head like most of the sharks. It has a wide, flat head, a rounded snout, small eyes, five very large gill slits, and two dorsal and two pectoral fins. Its tail has a top fin much larger than the lower fin. Its life span ranges from 100 to 150 years.

PM's speeches

FROM PAGE 1

giving provocative speeches against the opposition," AL General Secretary and 14-party coordinator Abdul Jalil said.

The opposition leaders urged the people to stay alert to any "evil designs" made by the government to prop up its "unavoidable" fall and its "ill efforts" to hang on to power at any cost.

Jalil said, "We will force the government to meet our demands of reforms in the caretaker government and in the Election Commission."

He said the prime minister has declared a war against the people and the opposition by keeping the BNP's alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami intact.

"The threats given by the prime minister in a discourteous manner have created a danger of pushing the country's political future to violence in a planned way," he added.

Jalil said the government even did not file any seditious cases against the militants, who declared war against the state, constitution, the judiciary and the rule of law.

Jalil said the premier gave four clear messages to the nation through her speech. First of all, she hinted that the BNP is determined to hold "another controversial election" by rejecting the opposition's reform proposals.

Secondly, she said the BNP will not leave Jamaat under any circumstances; thirdly, she will not take any effective steps against the militancy; and finally, she hinted that the entire administration is with the BNP, Jalil said.

He said the BNP-Jamaat alliance wants to retain power at any

cost by holding mock elections like that of February 15, 1996.

He urged the people to launch a tougher movement to realise their 23-point demand to establish a poverty-free country through reconstruction of the state, administration and society.

People expected that the prime minister will declare stern measures to uproot militancy to save the country's independence and democracy. But instead of taking those initiatives, she declared a war against the country, its people and the opposition, Jalil added.

"The prime minister's irresponsible comments prove the BNP-Jamaat wants the path of conflict instead of solving the present crisis."

He accused the BNP-Jamaat coalition of being the actual patron of the militants in the country as the bombers admitted their involvement with Jamaat.

But the prime minister and the BNP-Jamaat leaders termed the opposition movement against the militants a conspiracy hatched to split the ruling coalition, he said.

"We are not concerned about the coalition between BNP and anti-Liberation War Jamaat, but we are anxious about the rise of militancy in the country," Jalil added.

Senior leaders of the 14-party Abdur Razzak, MP, Tofail Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Sayed Jafar Sajjad, Nurul Islam, Dilip Barua, Bimal Biswas, Abdus Samad, among others, were present.

Experts meet today

FROM PAGE 1

Commission (JRC) in Dhaka last September, Bangladesh voiced concern over desertification of the Greater Sylhet region due to the construction of the dam on the Barak, the main feeder to the country's Meghna river system.

India, however, expressed its willingness to go ahead with the project, agreeing to provide Bangladesh with a detailed plan of the dam beforehand. If Bangladesh finds any problem upon reviewing the plan, India will take that into account, the Indian side agreed at the JRC meeting.

India also dispelled Bangladesh's concern, saying Tipaimukh is a power generating venture, not an irrigation scheme, and it would not affect Barak's flow to Kushiyara and Surma adversely. But the water experts at home are not assured about such guarantee.

Of the three main river systems in Bangladesh, the Meghna is considered a major lifeline and the Surma and Kushiyara are the sources of its water.

The water ministry and JRC sources in Dhaka yesterday told The Daily Star that a few weeks after the Dhaka meeting, Indian Water Resources Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmuni was replaced by Santosh Mohan Dev.