Irrigation of 12,000 acres uncertain in Moulvibazar

WDB fails to renovate Monu river canals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Siltation and other obstructions in the irrigation canals are hampering normal irrigation to 12,000 acres of Boro lands under Monu River Irrigation Project (MRIP) in Moulvibazar district while Water Development Board (WDB) is failing to re-excavate the canals.

In absence of re-excavation, the canal beds are being silted up and aquatic plants including water hyacinths are growing, eventually obstructing the normal flow of water for the croplands, farmers said.

The MRIP was implemented in and around the 'Kawadighi Haor' areas under Rajnagar and Moulvibazar Sadar upazila in 1983 to provide irrigation facility for 12 thousand acres of land in dry season, sources in Moulvibazar WDB said.

The project aimed at increasing production through cultivation of three yearly crops on a land.

A barrage was constructed over the Monu river at Matarkapon village, facilitating diversion of water from the river to the irrigation areas of the project through 80 kilometre-long canals. In December every year, the WDB closes the gates of the barrage and open sluice gates to divert water from the river to irrigation canals.

However the beneficiary farmers of the MRIP said, banks of the irrigation canals have been damaged at many points, different species of weeds like aquatic plants and water hyacinths have grown in the canal bed which created obstructions to normal flow of water. Besides, canal beds in most places have been silted up and poor people constructed huts on the canal banks. Local people said the WDB have not taken any steps to re-excavate these canals for long.

During a recent visit to Monu Project areas at Ekatuna, Rajnagar and Panchgaon, this correspondent saw dying irrigation canals at many points. At places, local people created ridge of earth on the canal beds for fishing. Growth of aquatic plants and water hyacinths in the canals obstructs normal flow of water.

Moulvibazar WDB Sub-divisional Engineer Abul Hussain said canals under Monu Project could not be renovated due to fund constraints. He, however, claimed that they have worked in some areas to clear the obstructions from the canals and a project for excavation of irrigation canals, repair of canal banks and expansion of irrigation area has been taken.

He said, now about eight thousand acres of land are getting the irrigation facility from Monu project, and the area of land is increasing.

Low-income groups demand loan waiver in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Slum-dwellers and low-income people of Barisal city and adjacent villages yesterday handed over a memorandum to the Barisal deputy commissioner, demanding total exemption of their arrear micro-credit refund instalments till June 2008.

The poor families, severely affected by Sidr, would not be able to deposit instalments for their micro-credit loans given by different NGOs and banks unless their arrear dues are exempted, they said.

They also demanded disbursement of interest-free and easy-term micro-credit loans for the Sidr-affected people of the region immediately.

As Kishani Sava helped the poor people to submit the memorandum, Barisal Deputy Commissioner Manjur-e-Ilahi assured them of forwarding it to higher authorities.

PHOTO: STAR

Demanding waiver of bank loans and micro credit, low-income people from Barisal city and adjacent villages yesterday demonstrated in front of the office of deputy commissioner, who assured sending their memorandum to higher authorities.

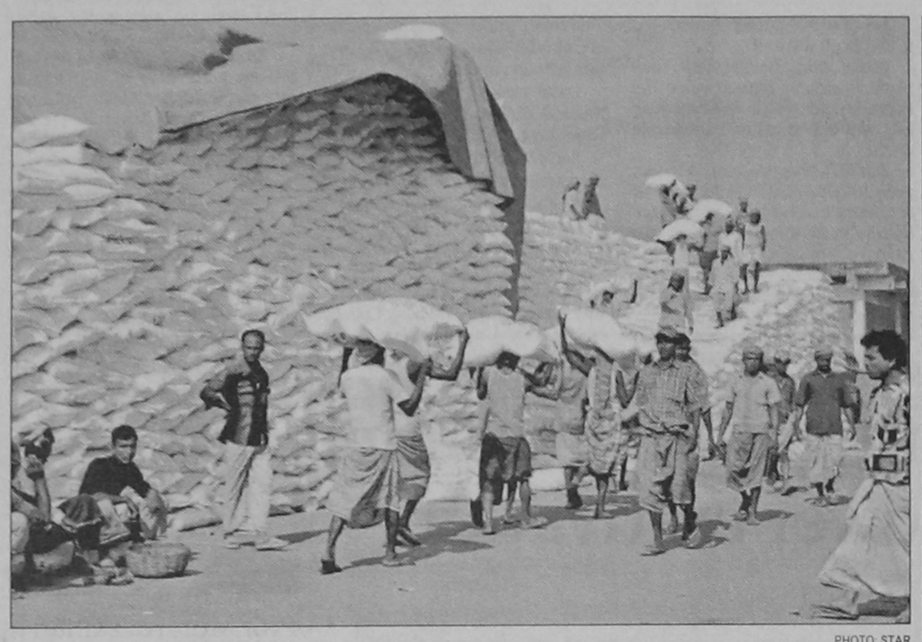

PHOTO: STAR

Carried by small boats from big vessels, sacks of fertiliser being stacked at Baghabari port for transport to other districts. Big vessels and barges cannot reach the port due to poor navigability of Jamuna.

Killings by BSF dominate Satkhira flag meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A battalion level flag meeting between the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) was held at Taluigachhi border in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Officials of the border guards of Bangladesh and India agreed to resolve disputes including major ones through discussion and taking timely measures.

BDR and BSF also decided to avoid untoward incidents.

The Commanding Officer (CO) of 41, Rifles Battalion of Satkhira, Lt Col A M Saidur Rahman and the Commandant of 126, BSF Battalion A R Astana led teams of their respective countries. Major Kamrul, Operations Officer of 41, Rifles Battalion was also present.

Trans-border problems including women and children trafficking, crossing of border by criminals, smuggling, drug peddling and other issues were discussed.

In the meeting, BDR raised the issue of killing Bangladeshi cattle traders by BSF off and on along the borders instead of arresting them.

BSF claimed that their men opened fire at smugglers who entered Indian territory for the purpose of smuggling cattle and other goods.

However, the BSF officials showed positive attitude in resolving the disputes through talks by holding flag meeting, a BDR official said.

CASES FOR MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

BCC ward commissioner, headmaster sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, BARISAL

Polonius Gouda, suspended headmaster of Barisal Udayan Secondary Missionary School in the city and BCC ward commissioner Mosharraf Ali Khan Badsha were sent to jail Tuesday evening after they surrendered before court.

Court sources said Polonius was suspended in a case for alleged misappropriation of Tk 1.74 lakh from the school fund. The case was filed on June 10 last year by the school managing committee. Police submitted charge sheet of the case in December last year.

He obtained bail from High Court and surrendered before the trial court on Tuesday on expiry of the bail period.

Mainuddin Islam, chief metropolitan magistrate of Barisal, sent him to jail, rejecting his permanent bail prayer.

Polonius also accused in another case for alleged misappropriation of Tk. 18.7 lakh from the school fund. Ward commissioner Badsha was tried in absentia and convicted to five years' imprisonment for misappropriating over Tk 2 core through illegal VOIP business.

Small farmers upset by Nilphamari REB decision

Pumps with less than 3 HP motors won't get power

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Hundreds of small farmers in the district are upset as Nilphamari Polli Bidyut Samity under Rural Electrification Board (REB) has made it mandatory to install at least 3 horsepower (HP) power pumps for irrigation during the current Irri-Boro season.

Usually, small farmers prefer 1 to 1.5 horsepower pumps for their small holdings. Such pumps consume less electricity and hence are less costly for them, some farmers told this correspondent.

Sources in the district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said farmers, after the setback in Amon production due to flooding twice this year, now pin hopes on Irri-Boro to recover the losses. So the AED has targeted to bring 75,663 hectares under Irri-Boro in the current season, which is 3,000 hectares more than last year's area.

A major portion of lands are irrigated with small pumps using electricity from REB. A total of 5,016 power pumps and 82 deep tubewells are operated in the district during the dry season, AED sources said.

This year, farmers have applied for power connection to more 1,600 pumps, the sources said.

REB inspectors inspected most of the sights and recommended power connection. Farmers also deposited Tk 3000 as security many and Tk 2000 as wiring fee for each small irrigation pump.

But after visit by officials of the REB engineering department, farmers were told that power connection would not be given to pumps using motors less 3 HP. Pumps having 1 or 2 horsepower will not get power connection, they were told.

Ali Ahmed, a small farmer at Titpara village in Dinda upazila, said he uses a pump with 1.5 HP motor. "I do not need a bigger pump for my lands", he said.

Some farmers said they did not face such a situation in getting power for irrigation earlier.

The price of a 1-1.5 HP pump is Tk 6,500 to Tk 7,500 and that of 3 HP motor is Tk 13,000 to Tk 14,000, farmers said.

The farmer said the REB created the problem at a time when they were preparing to go for winter cropping.

When contacted, assistant general manage of the Polli Bidyut Samity Md. Moinuddin said it is mandatory to use at least 3 HP motors in power pumps as per REB irrigation policy.

"We are following REB instructions," he added.

Photo exhibition begins in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A three-day photographic exhibition began at Khulna Press Club auditorium yesterday.

Pathways of Women's Empowerment (PWE), a research programme of BRAC University organised the exhibition which was opened by The Daily Tribune editor Begum Ferdousi Ali.

The objective of the exhibition is to understand what enables women to empower themselves and sustain changes in gender power relations.

Thirteen professional photographers including three women are participating in the exhibition, said PWE project coordinator Ismat Jahan.

Two travel agents sued for cheating pilgrims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Two directors of a travel agent in Dhaka have been sued for cheating 19 Hajj pilgrims.

They are accused are Romjan Ali Dhali, manager of Dhaka office of Messrs Jebrik Travels and his wife Akhtar Banu alias Hira of Shushilgati village in Debhata upazila.

Maroof Hossain, son of Abdul Matin of Kalaroa town filed the case against them with the additional judicial magistrate's court here.

After hearing, Judge Nasim Reja of Additional Judicial Magistrate's Court summoned the accused to appear before court within 15 days of issuance of the summon.

Complaint, Maroof said each of 19 pilgrims including himself deposited between Tk 170,000 to 190,000 to Messrs Jebrik Travel at Concord Shopping Complex in Dhaka. They deposited the money as per directive of the two accused. Confirming their flight on December 14, the accused asked them to come to Dhaka on December 12. But actually, they could not arrange the flights. The frauds assured them to send them to Mekkah on December 15 but the two accused fled away leaving them in Dhaka.

5 get life for murder in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A court here yesterday sentenced five killers, two of them in absentia, to suffer life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in Mobarak Ali Murder Case.

The convicts are Sohrab, Alamgir Sikdar, Jahangir Sikdar, Zamal Sikdar and Milon Mallik. Of them, Zamal Sikdar are absconding.

First Additional District Judge of Barisal Siddikul Arefin Chowdhury handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom after examining 15 witnesses and other evidences.

Each of the convicts were also fined Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six months more imprisonment.

Prosecution story, in brief, is that Mobarak Ali was beaten to death by the accused for protesting an attempt of acid throwing on two neighbour women at Kadirabad village in Mehendiganj upazila on February 7, 2004.

Ambiya Begum, wife of the victim lodged a murder case the next day with Mehendiganj police station against the accused. Sub-inspector (SI) Masud Rana framed charges against the accused on November 4.

আইনগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এই মর্মে অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, গত ১৮/১২/০৭ইং তারিখে **ফকির মনিরুজ্জামান** গং, পিতা-মরহুম ইউসুফ আলী, সাং-৪০নং নিউ চাষাড়া, জামতলা, থানা-ফতুল্লা, জেলা-নারায়নগঞ্জ নিম্ন তপছিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি **হাইবারটেক স্পিনিং মিলস্ লিমিটেড** ও **হাইবারটেক এগ্রো লিমিটেড**, সাং-৬২/১ সোনালীবাগ, মগবাজার, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে উহার ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, প্রকৌশলী, **এ, জেড, এম, শাহরিয়ার জামান** এর নিকট হইতে খরিদ করার উদ্দেশ্যে একটি বায়না চুক্তিপত্রে আবদ্ধ হইয়াছেন। তপছিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি সম্পর্কে কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের দাবী দাওয়া থাকিলে উক্ত দাবীর সমর্থনে যাবতীয় বৈধ কাগজ পত্র সহ অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ০৭(সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগ করিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইলো। অন্যথায় তপছিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি নিষ্কন্টক ও সঠিক বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে এবং ভবিষ্যতে এতদ্ব সংক্রান্ত সকল প্রকার দাবী বা আপত্তি আইনতঃ অগ্রাহ্য হইবে।

"তপছিল"

জিলা-গাজীপুর, থানা ও সাব রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিস শ্রীপুর অধীন ঢাকা কালেক্টরীর তৌজিভুক্ত সেঃ মেঃ ৪৩নং মৌজা শ্রীপুরস্থিত। সি,এস, ৪ ও ৫নং এস,এ, ৩১৩ ও ১২৮নং আর,এস, ৫০৪, ৫০৫ ও ৫০৬নং খতিয়ান এবং নামজারী জমাভাগ-৩১৩/৫০৫, ১২৮/৫০৪ ও ১২৮/৫০৬নং খতিয়ান জোত-৩১২১, ১৪৮৪, ১৪৮২ ও ২৭৭৭নং

খতিয়ান নম্বর			দাগ নম্বর		রকম	জমির পরিমাণ
সি,এস,	এস,এ,	আর,এস,	সি,এস, ও এস,এ,	আর,এস,		
৫	৩১৩	৫০৫	১৭৫৩	৭৬১৫	চালা	১৩৭.৫০ শতাংশ
৫	৩১৩	৫০৫	১৭৫৩	৭৬৪২	সাইল	২৫৩ শতাংশ
৫	৩১৩	৫০৫	১৭৫৪	৭৬১৬	সাইল	৭৯ শতাংশ
৪	১২৮	৫০৪	১৮৭১	৭৬১৭	পুকুর	৩২ শতাংশ
৪	১২৮	৫০৪	১৮৭১	৭৬১৮	বাইদ	৫০ শতাংশ
৪	১২৮	৫০৪	১৮৭১	৭৬১৯	বাইদ	৩৫ শতাংশ
৪	১২৮	৫০৪	১৮৭১	৭৬২০	চালা	৫০ শতাংশ
৪	১২৮	৫০৪	১৮৭১	৭৬২২	চালা	৫১ শতাংশ
৪	১২৮	৫০৬	১৮৭১	৭৬২৬	চালা	১৭৪ শতাংশ
					সর্বমোট=	৮৬১.৫০ শতাংশ

এডভোকেট জোবায়ের আহমেদ- জজ কোর্ট, নারায়নগঞ্জ।

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Office of the Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, WAPDA Building

Extension of date of BPDB's International Tender Notice

1.	Tender enquiry No.	Pur-425/2007 dated 19-11-2007.
2.	Tender package name	Procurement of spare parts for 3 GT Units of Bheramara Power Station, BPDB, Bheramara, Kushtia.
3.	Tender last selling date	17-01-2008 instead of 03-01-2008.
4.	Tender closing and opening date	21-01-2008 instead of 06-01-2008.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Md. Abduhu Ruhullah.
Director of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka

Biddyut/Jan-696(4)/06-1-08
GD-151

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Planning Commission
Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division
Capacity Building of SEI Division of the Planning Commission Project
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning.			
2	Agency	Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission.			
3	Procuring entity name	Capacity Building of SEI Division of the Planning Commission.			
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
5	invitation for	Procurement of Digital Photocopier.			
6	Invitation Ref No. & date	PC/PD/Cap-SEI/Purchase (Photocopier)/7(3)-2007, dt: 07/01/2008.			
KEY INFORMATION					
7	Procurement method	National open tendering method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
9	Project/programme code	9-1401-5100.			
10	Project/programme name	Capacity Building of SEI Division of the Planning Commission.			
11	Tender package No.	Package-1.			
12	Tender package name	Package-1: Digital Photocopier.			
13	Tender publication date				
14	Tender last selling date	31-01-2008 from 9.30am to 4.00pm.			
15	Tender closing date and time	03-02-2008	At 12.00 noon.		
16	Tender opening date and time	03-02-2008	At 12.30pm.		
17	Name & address of the office of selling, receiving & opening tender documents	Project Director, Capacity Building of SEI Division of the Planning Commission, Block-01, Room-19, Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
18	Eligibility of tenderer	Any reputed firm/distributor/supplier/manufacturer having up-to-date valid trade license, VAT, Tax registration certificates and bank solvency certificates with experience in supply & commissioning digital photocopiers to the autonomous and government organizations of Bangladesh.			
19	Brief description of goods	Procurement of Digital Photocopiers.			
20	Price of tender document	Tk 500.00 (five hundred) only.			
	Group	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days/weeks/months
	1	05 Nos digital photocopiers	Dhaka	Tk 30,000.00 (thirty thousand) only	60 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
21	Name of official inviting tender	Md Abdul Halim.			
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Joint Chief & Project Director.			
23	Address of official inviting tender	Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission, Block-01, Room-19, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.			
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	8114737 (Office).			
25	Special instructions: (a) The purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders prior to acceptance without assigning any reason whatsoever. (b) If the tender closing and opening date is disturbed by any unavoidable circumstances the next working day will be applicable for the same.				

Md Abdul Halim
Project Director
Capacity Building of SEI Division of the Planning Commission Project
Tel: 8114737 (Office)

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