

# Teesta drying up killing many Nilphamari rivers

## Irrigation, fish farming at stake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Teesta, the biggest river in the district, has alarmingly dried up, posing threat to several other linked rivers in Nilphamari.

Lack of excavation or dredging has contributed to worsening the situation that has put irrigation and fish projects at stake.

In the recent past, all the 20 rivers in the district saw more or less water flow even during the dry season. Several of the rivers, small or big, are tributaries of the Teesta.

After building of Gojal Doba barrage in Indian territory, 110 km in the upstream

from Teesta barrage at Dalia point in Nilphamari district a few years ago, India started unilaterally withdrawing water from the river to irrigate agricultural land in their part.

With insufficient water flow in Teesta, water level in its tributaries and other small rivers in the area has fallen down alarmingly and the river beds have dried up.

As a consequence, Teesta Irrigation Project, the country's largest project of the kind, cannot be made fully effective.

Due to disturbance in fish breeding with shrinking of water areas, many species of local fishes have become extinct and thousands of

fishermen have given up their ancestral profession of fishing.

Official list of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in Nilphamari mentions eight rivers in the district, namely, Teesta, Charal Kanta, Deunai, Buri Khora, Buri Teesta, Jamineswari, Kharkharia and Dhajjan, BWDB sources said.

But the official list excludes quite a few other rivers flowing through the district, which are now in a critical condition.

Farmers are preparing Boro seedbeds and cultivating paddy in most areas of the dried up river beds.

In some places influential

people of villages around the rivers illegally occupied the dried up river beds and turned them into plain lands by filling with earth to use it for regular cultivation.

The sub divisional engineer of BWDB in Nilphamari, Nural Islam said they had informed the higher authorities to excavate a few rivers on priority basis.

"Reasonable sharing of Teesta water is the only way to improve the ecological situation in the area. But it is still to be achieved despite a few meetings between Bangladesh and Indian governments," environmental activist Golam Mostafa of NGOCAMP said.



Farmers preparing seedbeds for Boro cultivation on the dried up bed of Jamuneswari River in Nilphamari Sadar upazila as all the rivers including Teesta in the district see drastic fall in flow. PHOTO: STAR

## Landless allege bid to evict from khas land

RU CORRESPONDENT

Around 100 landless people at a press conference here yesterday alleged that some influential people with the help of police are trying to evict them from khas land in Borobila area under Poba upazila.

The landless farmers said they have been growing crops on around 174.93 acres of khas land since 1997 under the banner of 'Darusa Bhumihin Samity'.

"Recently, some local influential people claimed their ownership on the khas land showing false documents and looted our crops," they alleged at the press conference held at local press club.

They said the cadres of the influential people also beat up some landless people as they tried to prevent them from looting crops.

At midnight of February 2, they alleged, Poba police led by Sub Inspector Kamrul went to landless Bodor's house after a local influential lodged a theft case against him.

Failing to nab Bodor, Police severely beat up his wife Aklima who is now undergoing treatment at Poba Health Complex.

The landless people sought government protection and demanded punishment to local influential people and the policemen who are trying to evict them from Khas land.

Abdul Hakim, president of Darusa Bhumihin Samity, read out a written statement at the conference.

SI Kamrul could not be contacted over telephone, as he was not available at the police station.

# Indefinite strike at Akhaura land port

## Release of truck, driver, helper demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A section of the business community yesterday called an indefinite strike demanding release of a truck driver, his helper and the seized truck, which paralysed activities at Akhaura land port.

Export and Import Association of Akhaura land port said truck driver Hafiz Uddin and helper Babul Mia were going to Agartala land port of India on Wednesday from the land port with the

stone-laden truck with valid documents.

On the way, a team of Border Security Force (BSF) of India seized their loaded truck and arrested them.

On hearing the news, the association stopped the loading and unloading work of Indian goods at Akhaura port.

Later on Thursday night, instead of releasing them and the stone-laden truck, the Indian authorities handed over Hafiz and Babul to Akhaura customs officer who

sent them to Akhaur Police Station. Police sent them to court and they are now in jail custody.

Monir Hossain Babul, secretary of the association yesterday said the strike will continue until the driver, helper and the truck are released.

Contacted, Imtiaz Ahmed, custom officer at the port said loading and unloading for export and import through the port remained stopped due to the strike.

# 9 Khagrachhari AL leaders suspended

## Allegation of working for rebel candidate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Awami League (AL) Khagrachhari district unit has suspended nine leaders, including its secretary, for their alleged involvement in anti-party activities during December 29 parliamentary elections.

They were suspended at a meeting at district AL office yesterday with local MP Jastendra Lal Tripura in the chair.

The suspended leaders are district AL Secretary Mohammad Zahidul Alam,

Labour Affairs Secretary Mohammad Nur Hossen, Information & Research Secretary Advocate Abdul Momin, Sramik League Secretary Kamal Uddin Patwary, district Jubo League Joint Convener Resoursh Chakma, member Rafiqul Alam, district Krishok League Vice-President Abul Kashem, organising Secretary Sourav Talukder and district Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Secretary Mohammad Didarul Alam.

District AL leader Chai Thoang Marma told this correspondent that action was taken against the nine under article 46(Ka) of AL constitution as they worked for AL rebel candidate Mohammad Zahedul Alam during the election defying the decision of the central committee.

Terming the action illegal, suspended district AL secretary Zahedul said there is no such provision in AL constitution. "If necessary, I will fight it legally," he said.

BCL secretary Mohammad Didarul said AL district committee has no authority to suspend any student leader.

# Move to reopen KNM, resolve industrial crises

## Ministers may visit Khulna Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Industries Minister Dilip Barua and Jute and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddique are expected to visit Khulna on February 10 to discuss the issues relating to reopening of Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) and other industrial units.

Resolving crisis in the industries was one of the pledges made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her election rally in Khulna before the December 29 parliamentary elections.

During the visit, the ministers will also focus on other crises prevailing in jute mills and other units in the local industrial belt, said State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Manjujan Sufian.

Khulna Newsprint Mill (KNM) was shut down on November 30, 2002 on ground of being a losing enterprise due to severe financial crisis and other liabilities, including bank loans, amounting to over Tk300 crore.

After visiting the closed KNM on August 3, 2004, a

team of parliamentary standing committee of the eighth parliament submitted a report to the government with three suggestions for reopening it.

But the report gathered dust as the four-party alliance government made no positive response other than keeping it hanging with a motive to politicise the issue.

Later on January 31, 2005, the mill was handed over to Privatisation Board. The board, however, failed to give it to private sector as no buyer at home and abroad showed interest to purchase the mill taking responsibility of huge financial liabilities.

On December 26, 2005, a decision was taken by the government to hand over the land of the mill to Bangladesh Cottage Industries Corporation with a view to turn it into a shilpa park.

But Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation could not take possession of the land due to legal complications. As a result, shilpa park plan could not be implemented.



Actress Mazeda Mollik (Sharmili Ahmed), singer Andrew Kishore, cricketer Khaled Masud Pilot, playwright and director Ferdous Hasan, actor Arman Parvez Murad, film maker Enamul Karim Nirjhar and documentary maker and cameraman Aminur Rahman Bachchu at an award giving ceremony organised by Rajshahi Sangskritik Sangha at Padma Ranga Mancha in Rajshahi city on Friday. PHOTO: STAR

# Reception to 7 noted persons of Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Seven distinguished persons were accorded a warm reception at local Padma Ranga Mancha on Friday for winning national and international awards in recognition of their contributions to the respective fields.

Rajshahi Sangskritik Sangha (RSS), a 47-year-old cultural organisation, organised the reception ceremony.

The distinguished persons are actress Mazeda Mollik (Sharmili Ahmed), singer Andrew Kishore, cricketer Khaled Masud Pilot, playwright and director Ferdous Hasan, actor Arman Parvez Murad, film maker Enamul Karim Nirjhar and documentary maker and cameraman Aminur Rahman Bachchu.

RSS president Ajit Kumar Bhattacharya chaired the occasion while it was attended by Rajshahi City Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton as chief guest.

Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque distributed crests and Rajshahi silk wrapper among the celebrities.

Speakers hailed the personalities for their contributions to advancement of culture and sports in the country.

Mayor Liton said the cultural activities came to a halt in the north-western city of Rajshahi due to lack of government patronisation and religious bigotry of fanatics during last 20 years. He stressed the need for a cultural revolution to protect the cultural heritage of the region because what he said songs or plays can easily touch people's heart than thousands of words.

Sharmili Ahmed who received several awards including BACHSAS termed the reception to be much bigger than all other awards.

Andrew Kishore, the best national singer of 1982 said he was never delighted so much even getting the national singer award for seventh time in 2007.

Cricketer star Pilot stressed on the need for exploring the potential of young sportsmen.

Actor Rahmat Ali, also a member of RSS conducted the entire function. Omar Faruk Chowdhury MP and Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theater Federation, Number 22 ward councilor Abdul Hamid Sarker, RSS general secretary Anisur Rahman and joint secretary Mamunur Rashid were present among others.

### Invitation for Tender (Re-Tender)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Land (MOL)
2.	Agency	Directorate of Land Records and Surveys (DLRS)
3.	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Land Records and Surveys (DLRS)
4.	Procuring entity code	4637
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6.	Invitation for	Repair and maintenance of 18 nos. (approx.) of Total Station (Sokkia Set-2BII & Set-2CII)
7.	Invitation Ref No.	Bou/16/2000/2 <sup>nd</sup> Part/42/1(9)
8.	Date	04/02/09

**KEY INFORMATION**

9.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget and GOB.
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

11.	Tender package name	Repair and maintenance of 18 nos. (approx.) of Total Station (Sokkia Set-2BII & Set-2CII)
12.	Tender publication date	Between 05/02/09 and 07/02/09
13.	Tender last selling date	22/02/2009 at 4.00pm
14.	Tender submission date and time	23/02/2009 at 2.00pm
15.	Tender opening date and time	23/02/2009 at 2.30pm
16.	Name & address of the office(s):	Selling tender document (principal) Directorate of Land Records and Surveys (Survey Wing), 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. Selling tender document (others) (i) Secretary, Land Appeal Board, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. (ii) Deputy Land Reforms Commissioner (Admn), Land Reforms Board, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Land Records and Surveys (Survey Wing), 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Land Records and Surveys (Survey Wing), 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

17.	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) The firm must have 5 (five) years' updated experience in the relevant field or similar types of job. (ii) The firm must have the availability of up-to-date trade licence, tax payment certificate with TIN, VAT registration certificate, bank solvency certificate, etc of their own. (iii) The firm must have their company profile(s). (iv) The firm must have an authorization letter from the manufacturer of Total Station (Sokkia) and its relevant accessories, which they will supply for performing the assigned job(s).			
18.	Brief description of related services	Repair and maintenance of 18 nos. (approx.) of Total Station (Sokkia Set-2BII & Set-2CII)			
19.	Price of tender document	Tk 500.00 (five hundred) only (non-refundable)			
20.	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
1.	Repair and maintenance of 18 nos. (approx.) of Total Station (Sokkia Set-2BII & Set-2CII)	Directorate of Land Records and Surveys (Survey Wing), 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208		Tk 25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand) only	2 (two) weeks from the date of signing the contract agreement

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

21.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Rafiqul Islam
22.	Designation of official inviting tender	Director of Surveys
23.	Address of official inviting tender	Directorate of Land Records and Surveys (DLRS) 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
24.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 8111920(O), Fax: 9122849(O) e-mail: dgdlrs@gmail.com, website: www.dgdlrs.gov.bd
25.	The procurement entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

GD-682

Md. Rafiqul Islam  
Director of Surveys

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