

RDA's water use model gets global recognition

WB invites RDA to present the model at its HQ on Feb 19



A homemaker at Garh Mohasthan washes her kitchen utensils with water supplied by one of the RDA projects designed to save water and electricity.

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,
Bogra

Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, is to present RDA-Model of Water Management at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC on February 19 for its adaptation across the globe.

The water management model uses underground pipes to irrigate fields and distribute drinking water to households from deep tube-wells which drastically reduce wastage of water.

The World Bank (WB) invited the RDA, a government organisation, to present its paper on the model at the Water Week 2009 scheduled for February 17-20 at its headquarters in the US capital.

WB Sector Manager of Water Anchor Energy and Water and Transport Abel Mejia and Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist and Water Anchor Water Week 2009 Coordinator Philippe Marin sent the invitation letter to MA Matin, director of Centre for Irrigation and Water Management of RDA, Bogra.

Matin started an experimental irrigation programme

named Buried Pipe Irrigation System in 1982 at Narhatta village of Kahalu upazila in Bogra to ensure more water to villagers, save electricity and minimise cost.

Initially the system saved 60 kilowatts of power. It covered 67 hectares of land instead of just 16 and saved six lakh litres of water every hour.

In 1987, the second phase of the experimental programme was introduced at Shashidani village in Bogra Sadar. In the second phase the facility of drinking water distribution from the same deep tube well was added.

"One, deep tube well provided drinking water for 2,200 people and ensured irrigation water for 60 hectares of land in the village," said Matin.

"Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) along with other government establishments have started replicating the RDA model throughout the country," he added.

The RDA used the model in more than 200 villages in 55

districts, sources said. A large amount of government money is being saved as the deep tube wells and the pipe network is owned by beneficiaries, claimed Matin. "For example the RDA completed a water supply project with eight deep tube wells at a cost of Tk 16 lakh on both sides of the Bangabandhu Bridge. The government in 1998 planned to complete the project spending Tk 1.36 crore," he said.

The RDA also implemented an arsenic- and iron-free water supply project on Jamuna Fertiliser Company premises at Tarakandi in Jamalpur spending Tk 3.25 crore whereas Japan wanted nearly 10 times more to complete the automatic water supply project, Matin claimed.

Jahangir Hossain, 40, a beneficiary of the model, of Garh Mohasthan village of Shibganj upazila in Bogra told The Daily Star that he harvests 6.75 tonnes of boro paddy from his one hectare of land on an average. "Before this irrigation system, there was no boro cultivation in the area," he said.

Sayda Begum, 35, wife of Mohammed Duliu Miah of the same village, said her family is now better protected against waterborne diseases as drinking water is supplied to her home through pipes.

"Most of the villagers were suffering from waterborne diseases before," she said. The RDA has been supplying drinking and irrigation water to the village for six years.

Deep tube well owner Jahangir said, "We have been providing arsenic- and iron-free drinking water for monthly Tk 10 per person. Each person gets 150 litres of water a day."

The RDA gave him the total cost of the well as soft loan, Matin said.

WB consultant Elizabeth Kleemeier and a few other WB water supply experts visited several project sites and recommended replicating the model worldwide, he added.

Before signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2002 to replicate this model worldwide, Jamal Sagir, director of Energy and Water of WB headquarters visited Basu Bibhara village of Shibganj in Bogra.

Food rationing for all on the cards

FROM PAGE 1
As she wanted to know about problems of Ansar and VDP, some senior officers demanded of the premier to give them "self-commanding power", include them in the UN peace-keeping mission and give them authority of investigation like the police department for "ensuring justice" in the rural areas.

In reply, Hasina said the government is considering setting up a separate structure for investigation within the police department. Ansar can be made a part of that separate investigation structure, she added.

She directed the home ministry to think what can be done to accommodate Ansar and VDP in the envisaged separate investigation mechanism.

About the demand regarding UN mission, she said though the choice of forces for sending in the peacekeeping missions totally depends on the UN authorities, she herself would look into the matter and try to take steps.

Hasina stressed the need for identifying fields of demands for human resources on the international market and sending abroad well-trained workforce.

She suggested the Ansar and VDP authorities to set up a Nursing Training Institute in the Ansar-VDP Academy Hospital

as such initiative will help create employment opportunities for the Ansar-VDP women members.

The country could earn huge foreign currency by sending skill nurses to different countries as house-keeping jobs are now widely acclaimed and standard jobs abroad, she said.

She urged the Ansar commanders, VDP's union and village team leaders to create anti-terrorism public role against various crimes.

The PM also inaugurated the newly installed operation theatre of Bangladesh Ansar Academy.

Sheikh Hasina noted that a new dimension in security paradigm has emerged in the present-day world and said Bangladesh would have to attain competence in military sector to fit in the new order.

Also, she said, the nation needs to be built as a well-organised one imbued with a strong spirit of patriotism.

She told the function that the government will reform and modernise the Ansar and VDP by providing professional training and infrastructural development, including removing vehicle problems and increasing budgetary allocation for the development of human resources.

Hasina said she has a personal thinking about creating a trained, conscious and patriotic citizenry in every village through the nation-building activity of the Ansar-VDP force.

and took salute riding on an open car.

The prime minister was given a crest by the Ansar and VDP and she also gave the department a crest.

She distributed President Ansar and VDP medals to three members for their heroic role against various crimes.

The three members are Abdur Rahim and Abdus Sabur (President Ansar Medal) and Abdul Aziz (President VDP Medal).

Sheikh Hasina said she wants the Ansar and VDP play a leading role in stopping repression on women, removing gender discrimination and ensuring children's welfare.

Bangladesh will make all-out effort to ensure economic growth of the country with the work of all irrespective of party and opinion.

She urged the officers to take various innovative programmes to implement government's aim of building a modern digital Bangladesh by the year 2021.

Earlier, the prime minister addressed the 29th National Rally of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP at the ground of the Shaheed Anwar Academy.

State Minister Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, Home Affairs Secretary Abdul Karim and Director General of Ansar and VDP Maj. Gen. ATM Amin, local parliament members and senior army, navy, air force officials, diplomats were also present.

Ctg ammo haul

FROM PAGE 16

were the parties concerned in the case, none of them were included or interrogated by the IOs during their investigations carried out for over four and a half years.

"A chain of command among the parties had definitely worked at that time for giving safe passage to the arms consignment inside Bangladesh and the IO should focus on these issues during the investigation," said senior lawyer Rana Das Gupta, who stands for the accused in the case.

Persons like former home minister Lutfuzzaman Babar, former industries minister Matiur Rahman Nizami, the then officials from CUFL, Customs, CPA, Coast Guard and Navy can't skip their responsibility, he added.

Referring to the court's directives, he said scrutiny of the port's berthing list of vessels and inquiring role of coast guards, navy men and customs officials during the incident is necessary.

"Once the vessel, which carried the arms cache to the outer anchorage, could be identified then it will be easy to know the details, including the nature of the cargo, the names of the captain and crews, shipping agents etc," Rana Das said.

"The owners of the trawlers (FV Khazar Dan and FV Shah Amanat) should have been also quizzed as per court directives to know name of point at the outer anchorage and the vessel from where they loaded the arms into their trawlers," he said.

He alleged that there are

weaknesses and loopholes in the case as the IOs had skipped all these vital points during the investigation.

Public Prosecutor Ahsanul Hoque Hena alleged: "After the arms haul, two separate cases were filed, one under section-25/B of the Special Power Act for arms smuggling and the other under section-19 (ka) of the Arms Act. But it should be a single case under-25/B of the Special Power Act where the section-19 (ka) could have been included."

Pointing out the recent comments made by State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, both Hena and Rana Das stressed the need for active involvement of government to help bring a real headway or breakthrough in the case as the IO alone can't do enough.

They suggested formation of a strong monitoring cell or special team by the government to assist the IO in unearthing the mysteries of arms haul.

Sources said the new IO Md Moniruzzaman, ASP of CID, is yet to start his investigation into the case.

Earlier, two cases were filed with the Karnaphuli police station after the arms and ammunition were seized during off-loading from the boats at CUFL Jetty on April 2, 2004.

One of the cases was lodged under section-25/B of the Special Power Act for arms smuggling and the other under section-19 (ka) of the Arms Act.

However, out of the 43 accused in the two cases, all except two are now on bail.

Another shake-up in admin PMO secy changed

UNB, Dhaka

Food and Disaster Management Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman has been made secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in a major administrative shake-up yesterday.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana has been transferred to labour and employment ministry as secretary under the reshuffle which also saw a number of acting, additional and joint secretaries of the government changing their positions and postings.

Besides, Housing and Public Works Joint Secretary KM Mozammel Haque was transferred to education ministry, Joint Secretary (OSD) of Establishment Ministry Mohammad Monsur Ali Shikder to women and children affairs ministry, Executive Director of National Women Council Iqram Ahmed as joint secretary in commerce ministry, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation Director AKM Amir Hossain as joint secretary to health and family welfare ministry, Shipping Ministry Joint Secretary Mohammad Abdul Matin to industries ministry, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Director Niazuddin Miah as joint secretary to information and communication technology ministry, National Human Rights Commission Secretary Mohammad Aftab Uddin as joint secretary to tourism ministry while M Abdur Zaher to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation as its Director, said the handout.

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Re-Invitation for International Tender

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.
2. Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Power Development Board.
3. Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
4. Invitation for	Tender is invited for engineering, design, manufacture, inspection, testing, delivery to the site, installation, testing & commissioning, performance test and related civil and building works including necessary auxiliaries and ancillaries on turnkey basis of 150MW Combined Cycle Power Plant [100+50] at Chandpur Grid Sub-Station area, Chandpur having net output of 150MW ± 10% at site conditions of 35°C, 1,013 bar, 98% RH and two (2) years warranty period under Government of Bangladesh Financing having plant configuration of 1:1 [one GTG + one HRSG + STG].
5. Procurement method	Single Stage Open Tendering Method.
6. Project name	Construction of Chandpur 150MW Combine Cycle Power Plant and Associated Power Evacuation Facilities.
7. Source of funds	Government of Bangladesh.
8. Invitation for tenders Ref. & date	13-PDB(CS)/C&CA (Cont.) 04.003/F-158/08 dt. 11.02.2009.
9. Date of selling the tender document	From 18.02.2009.
10. Tender name	Engineering, design, manufacture, inspection, testing, delivery to the site, installation, testing & commissioning, performance test and related civil and building works including necessary auxiliaries and ancillaries on turnkey basis of 150 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant [100+50] at Chandpur Grid Sub-Station area.
11. Time for completion	Total time for completion of simple Cycle Unit 450 days & total time for completion of Combined Cycle Units shall not exceed 710 days (magnetization will start after 650 days) from the effective date of contract.
12. Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have the overseas experience of supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning on turnkey basis of the combined cycle/gas turbine/Steam Turbine Power Plants having minimum 150 MW (single unit) capacity for this project during last 10 (ten) years. The offered Gas Turbine and Steam Turbine Generating Units shall be of well-proven design and the offered model shall have satisfactory continuous commercial operation experience outside manufacturer's country for at least 2 (two) years.
13. Price of tender	Tk 25,000.00 (twenty five thousand) only.
14. Amount of tender security	The amount of tender securities: US\$ 700,000 (US Dollar seven hundred thousand) only.
15. Validity of tender and tender security	180 (one hundred eighty) days and 180 +28-208 (two hundred eight) days respectively from the date of tender (Technical & Financial Proposal) opening.
16. Name and address of the office for selling the tender document	Director, Directorate of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh. On submission of a written application and upon payment of Tk. 25,000 (twenty five thousand) only in the form of Pay-Order/Demand Draft in favour of Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
17. Name of the officer inviting the tender	Md Abdul Jalil.
18. Designation and address inviting the tender	Secretary, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (1st Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000.
19. Name and address of the office for receiving the tenders	Secretary, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (1st Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.
20. Name of address of the office opening tenders	Secretary, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (1st Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.
21. Last date and time for selling of the tender document	30.03.2009 up to 3.00 pm (BST).
22. Last date and time for submission of tenders	31.03.2009 at 11.00am (BST).
23. Date and time for opening of the tenders [Envelope 1: Technical & Financial Proposal]	The tenders shall be opened on 31.03.2009 at 12.00 noon BST (tenderer authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders).
24. Special instructions	BPDB would welcome any query, which the tenderer may have concerning the tender document of the project. The queries shall be addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (1st Floor), Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh with a copy to the Project Director, Chandpur 150MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Project, Bidyut Bhaban, 10th Floor, 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000. The queries shall have to be made by letter or fax and to be received not later than 15 (fifteen) days before tender closing. However, any delay by BPDB in providing information to such query will not be considered as a reason for extending the tender submission date. Each tenderer before submitting proposal may visit the site of the proposed Power Plant adjacent to Chandpur Grid Sub-Station Area, Chandpur at their own cost to determine the existing conditions and limitations. Tenderer have to take prior permission from the competent authority before visiting the site. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Md Abdul Jalil
Secretary
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Dhaka

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