

Drastic cut in Teesta irrigation project area

Boro farming threatened for poor water flow

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Nilphamari

Drastic fall in the flow of Teesta River in the ongoing Boro season threatens irrigation in vast paddy fields under Teesta irrigation project in Nilphamari, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Faced with the situation, authorities this year have brought down the target of irrigation under the project to 40,000 hectares of land against 60,000 hectares last year, Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

As in last year, they have introduced 'rationing system' under which water is supplied to project canals by rotation for irrigating the Boro lands.

But the situation is worse now as flow of the river is only 810 to 850 cusec in the middle of March against 1500 to 2000 cusec flow last year.

Around 4,000 cusec water flow would be needed in the dry season for smooth irrigation in around 60,000 hectares of lands.

The project has infrastructure to irrigate up to 1,11,000 hectares of land if there is sufficient flow in the Teesta.

This situation has arisen due to unilateral water withdrawal by India at its Gajal Doba barrage point in 100km upstream from Teesta barrage, said experts and BWDB sources. India constructed Gajal Doba barrage in 1987.

At many points in Bangladesh part, the river has now turned into a streamlet with water depths as low as 10 centimetres.



A woman takes her cattle through the dried up bed of the Teesta that sees drastic fall in flow in the upstream of the river's barrage during the dry season.

PHOTO: STAR

In the dried up river bed farmers are cultivating Boro, maize and other crops. Even cattle are grazing in the chars that emerged in the upstream within about 400 metres from the Teesta barrage.

In the 'restricted zone' declared by WDB, stretching 100 feet in the upstream from the barrage, the authorities managed through dredging some 12-feet water depth for safety of the barrage, sources said.

Bangladesh is getting the small quantity of water that is seeping through the Gajal Doba barrage, which is about 33 metres higher than the Teesta

barrage area, said a WDB high official at Dalia division.

The authorities are now providing irrigation to farmers through rationing system.

"We had to wait for about 15 days to get our next rationing turn. During the long interval, our paddy plants turn reddish, cracks develop on lands and massive pest attack occurs," Mizanur Rahman, a farmer of Chanderhaat village in Sadar upazila, said.

During visit to different areas under the project, this correspondent saw farmers irrigating their lands with diesel-run shallow pumps or lifting water from wells using

manual labour.

Demanding adequate irrigation from the project canals, farmers recently put barricades on roads at Gangachara in Rangpur district and Chirir Bandar in Dinajpur district.

When contacted, Dalia division Executive Engineer Atikur Rahman said, "Due to low flow of water in Teesta River, we have to reduce the irrigation area in the Boro season. Sharing of Teesta water between Bangladesh and India is the only way to solve the problem. But it is a matter of political settlement."

Sylhet medical normal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Normalcy returned to Sylhet Osmani Medical College as the students agitating in protest against attack on their fellows by outsiders on Friday attended their classes yesterday.

The students started boycotting classes from Saturday demanding arrest of the attackers including local ward councillor Abdur Raquib Bablu and his younger brother Lablu.

They alleged that Bablu and his brother led the attack on some students during cricket tournament on the college playground on Friday.

The students put the administrative building and some other classrooms under lock and key and submitted a memorandum to the principal. Bablu's supporters also took out a procession on the street in front of the medical college hospital on Sunday protesting students' bid to tarnish the image of the CCC councillor.

However, City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran sat with the college authorities, local people and the agitating students separately. The situation came to normal after he assured them of taking necessary steps against those responsible for Friday's incident.

BCL men raid Shibir hostel

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Netrakona

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists on Sunday entered Shibir's hostel "Hossain Chhatrabas" near Netrakona University College in the town and ransacked some rooms and attacked the inmates.

Chhatra Shibir, the student front of Jamaat, was declared 'unwanted' by BCL in the college following the recent clash at Rajshahi University.

Police and local people said BCL of Netrakona University College brought out a procession from the campus and raided the hostel.

Shibir activists fled the hostel during the attack.

Outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz gives death threats

Openly distributes leaflets, fires blank shots in Kushtia markets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) has openly distributed leaflets threatening the law enforcement agencies of 'any action anytime' including killing of some people at a few places in Kushtia.

Some 20725 armed members of GMF came to Bittipara Bazar in Kushtia Sadar upazila at about 8:30pm on Sunday and made an announcement through loudspeakers asking people to take their leaflets, locals told this correspondent yesterday morning.

After giving leaflets to some people in the market area, the outlaws fired several blank shots and left.

Later they distributed leaflets in Ujagram, Gajna-

bipur, Abdalpur, Ratulpura and some other areas and left the places firing blank shots, people said.

Informed, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police rushed to the spots and seized a large number of computer-composed leaflets.

In the leaflets, the outlaws said they killed businessman Ashrafur Islam Bokul on December 21 last year for 'helping' police to kill GMF leaders Majid, Nobin and Saddam from December 6 to 9.

They threatened to kill several people including outlawed Gono Bahini chief Azibor Rahman alias Azibor chairman, younger brother of slain trader Anisur Rahman Jhantu, Obaidul Islam and

Amirul Islam.

Blaming 'crossfire killings', the outfit warned law enforcers of 'any action anytime'.

The outfit would like to help the present government for its successful work in and abroad, read the leaflets.

Sources including law enforcers said several outlawed parties and gangs are trying to get reorganised under around 40 top leaders, some of whom have returned to the areas through maintaining close link with political leaders, mostly from the ruling party.

Kushtia Superintendent of Police Mosleh Uddin Ahmed said they will take stern action against criminals including outlawed cadres in the district.

Mongla dockers may start fast unto death again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sacked dock workers of Mongla Port have again threatened to go on fast unto death to press home their five-point demand.

The demands include payment of all arrears, arrest of those responsible for undermining the image of the port, repeal of Dock Workers Management Board Abolition Ordinance, abolition of berth operating system introduced from August last year and removal of the corrupt port officials.

The dockers, who began fast unto death last month on the premises of Mongla Sramik Sangha office, withdrew the programme getting assurance from KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque that their demands would be met

by March 15.

Shahabuddin Ahmed, general secretary of Dock Workers Association said, "we are quite disappointed as KCC mayor has already backtracked from his assurance seeking more time until next June and refusing to accept demands for abolition of berth operating system at a high level meeting held on Saturday."

High officials of Mongla Port Authority, chairman of Mongla Upazila Parishad and leaders of Dock Workers Association and stevedores Association were present at the meeting.

"We have no other alternative but to resume our agitation programme as mayor has threatened dire consequence for any further agitation at the port," said Dock Workers Association leaders.

ASSAULT ON COP 10 Sylhet medical staff sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday filed a case against a ward master and nine other staff of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for attacking an on-duty police constable at the hospital on Sunday.

A police official said ward master Raoshan Habib and none of his fellows have been made accused in the case.

The other accused are Firoz, Shamim, Habib, Mahbub Ahmed, Jahangir, Shah Alam, Bulbul, Ali Akbar and Zahir.

Sources said, hospital security guards had an altercation with some visitors Sunday Afternoon. As some policemen from hospital police camp reached the scene, the hospital employees became agitated and at one stage swooped on them, leaving constable Sohag injured.

In the evening, SMP withdrew its camp from the hospital.

Septic tank on FF's grave sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

Freedom fighters and local elite yesterday jointly formed a human chain in the town and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Jhenidah demanding punishment to a 'war criminal (rajakar)' for constructing a septic tank of a latrine on a freedom fighter's grave.

Jalal Uddin allegedly occupied the land where freedom fighter Bashir Uddin was buried and built the septic tank, alleged Karmiza Shirin Camy, daughter of Bashir at a press conference at Jhenidah Press Club after submission of the memo. District unit command of freedom fighters organised the press conference.

Camy said that criminals had killed her father in 1978. Later, he was buried at Arappur in the town.

Jalal grabbed the land through illegal means. The freedom fighter's family tried to prevent the culprit from doing such 'inhuman act' but in vain, Camy said.

After the press conference, the freedom fighters brought out a procession in the town.

Youth gets life for killing mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cnauabganj

A youth was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for killing his mother at Ramchandrapur College Para village under Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj.

District and Sessions Judge of Chapainawabganj Hrishikesh Saha handed down the verdict in presence of convict Abdur Rahim alias Harun, 30.

According to the prosecution story, addict Abdur Rahim demanded money from his mother Rebina Begum, 50, to buy drugs on August 14, 2006.

As his mother refused to pay, he became angry and locked in an altercation.

At one stage he stabbed Rebina with a knife. Then the convict also tried to commit suicide with the same knife.

Locals rushed Rebina to hospital where the doctor declared her dead.

Father Tazemul Haque later lodged a murder case against Harun with the Sadar police station.

HAJEE DANESH UNIVERSITY

Indefinite class boycott to press 3-pt demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

The students of veterinary and animal science department at Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) yesterday began an indefinite class boycott to realise their three-point demand including enhancement of internship allowance.

The two other demands are opening of master's class under vet faculty and introduction of education tour for the students.

At a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club yesterday, the students of veterinary and animal science department alleged that the university authorities give Tk 4,300 instead of Tk 5,000 monthly allowance to each intern and

are yet to provide necessary educational facilities for the student of the department.

They demanded that the authorities increase internship allowance to Tk 6,800 as Chittagong and Shylhet vet universities are paying the amount to the interns. They also demanded payment of arrear allowance to 42 interns.

The vet students urged the university authorities to meet their demands by March 17. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme the following day.

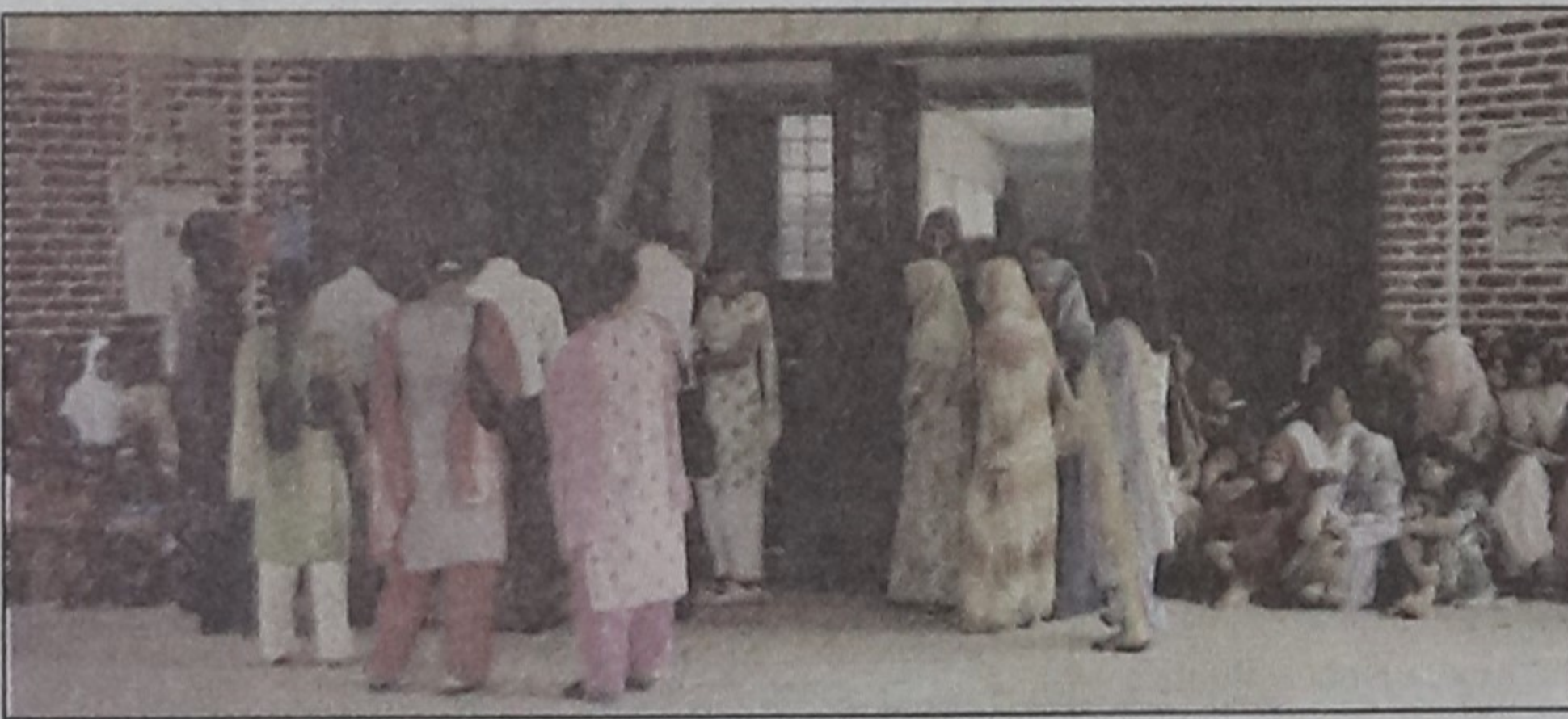
Meanwhile, the female students yesterday laid a siege to the academic building of the university demanding construction of a new hostel for them. They also threatened class boycott from March 17 if the demand was met by this time.

They withdrew the siege programme after an hour, as a three-member teachers delegation on behalf of the university authorities assured them of taking their demand into cognisance.

They alleged the university has one female hostel with 359 seats for 1000 students. So seven to 10 female students have to stay in a room.

"We have been demanding for construction of a new hostel for long, but the authorities concerned did not pay heed to the demand. Therefore, we have no other alternative but to launching movement to press for the demand," they said.

The acting VC Prof Ruhul Amin could not be contacted over cellphone despite repeated attempts.



Female students of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University block the entrance of the academic building yesterday demanding construction of new halls.

PHOTO: STAR

Jute mills won't be shut down any more

They will be made profitable again: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Jute and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui yesterday said that his government will take all necessary steps to economically develop the south-western (S-W) region of the country.

The minister was talking to local journalists after visiting Mongla Sea Port and Mongla Export Processing Zone at noon.

He further said that the government sincerely wants to reopen Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) for which there will be a comprehensive technical and feasibility study.

KNM was shut down six years ago as it incurred huge

losses.

The minister reiterated that no more Jute mill will be shut down.

Earlier, on Sunday, he said in Khulna that no jute mill will be shut down in future as economic development of the country greatly depends on development of industries.

He said this at a press conference which was also addressed by the minister for industries Dilip Barua and state minister for labour and employment Begum Mannujan Sufian.

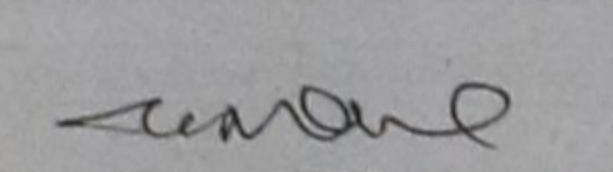
The three ministers came to Khulna on Sunday from Dhaka to discuss some nagging industrial issues.

The jute minister said his

government is pledge-bound to turn all jute mills into profitable units again. "But it will take time as we have inherited a crippled economy," he added.

"You can take it for granted that KNM will again go into operation as it was one of the election pledges of the government." "But it will also take time as we have to conduct a comprehensive technical study before reopening them," industries minister Dilip Barua said.

While blaming the government of four-party alliance for crippling the jute mills, the jute minister also pointed at corruption by officials and CBA leaders.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর	
পরিদর্শন, উন্নয়ন ও কারিগরী সেবা বিভাগ	
১৬, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।	
Web: www.dgfood.gov.bd	
“দুটি সন্তানের বেশী নয়, একটি হলে ভাল হয়”	
খাদ্য অধিদপ্তরধীন বিভিন্ন সিএসডি, এলএসডি, পোর্ট ও ঘাটে স্থাপিত প্রাতিফর্ম ইলেকট্রনিক স্কেল নিয়মিত রক্ষাবেক্ষণ ও মেরামত এবং খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহের জন্য দরপত্র।	
১। মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ	খাদ্য ও দুর্গোপ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয়
২। এজেন্সী	খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর
৩। সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	মহাপরিচালক
৪। সংগ্রাহক সত্তার কোড	প্রযোজ্য নয়
৫। সংগ্রাহক সত্তার জেলা	ঢাকা।
৬। যে পণ্যের জন্য দরপত্র	খাদ্য অধিদপ্তরধীন বিভিন্ন সিএসডি, এলএসডি, পোর্ট ও ঘাটে স্থাপিত ৩৮৪টি ইলেকট্রনিক প্রাতিফর্ম স্কেল সমূহ ত্রৈমাসিক ভিত্তিতে রক্ষাবেক্ষণ ও মেরামত এবং খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহের জন্য দরপত্র।
৭। দরপত্রের সূত্র নং	পটিকা/উন্নয়ন-৭/২০০৮/৩১১ তারিখঃ ১১/০৩/২০০৯
৮। সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	Open Tender Method (Framework Contract)
৯। বাজেট ও তহবিল সূত্র	রাজস্ব বাজেট, বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
১০। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	১ (এক)
১১। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নাম	খাদ্য অধিদপ্তরধীন বিভিন্ন সিএসডি, এলএসডি, পোর্ট ও ঘাটে স্থাপিত ইলেকট্রনিক প্রাতিফর্ম স্কেল ত্রৈমাসিক ভিত্তিতে রক্ষাবেক্ষণ ও মেরামত এবং খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহের জন্য দরপত্র।
১২। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের শেষ তারিখ	১৬/৩/২০০৯
১৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	০৫/০৪/২০০৯
১৪। দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৪/২০০৯ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৪/২০০৯ বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১৬। দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী	পরিচালক, হিসাব ও অর্থ বিভাগ, কক্ষ নং-৪০১, ৫ম তলা, খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর, ১৬ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা।
১৭। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী	পরিচালক, পরিদর্শন, উন্নয়ন ও কারিগরী সেবা বিভাগ, কক্ষ নং ৫৩১, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর, ১৬ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা।
১৮। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	কক্ষ নং-৫৩১, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, পরিচালক, পরিদর্শন, উন্নয়ন ও কারিগরী সেবা বিভাগের অফিস কক্ষ, খাদ্য ভবন, খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর, ১৬, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা।
১৯। দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	কারিগরী যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন ইলেকট্রনিক প্রাতিফর্ম স্কেল রক্ষাবেক্ষণ ও মেরামতে সক্ষম প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী।
২০। দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা প্রতি সেট।
২১। দরপত্র জামানত (Tender Security)	“মহাপরিচালক, খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর” এর বরাবরে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে পে-অর্ডার অথবা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ ২৫,০০০.০০ (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা (ফেরৎযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।
২২। কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত (Performance Security)	চুক্তি সম্পাদন নোটিশ (Notification of award) প্রদানের ১৪ দিনের মধ্যে কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত বাবদ ৫০,০০০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে পে-অর্ডার অথবা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমা দিয়ে ২৮ দিনের মধ্যে চুক্তিপত্র সম্পাদন করতে হবে। কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত এর টাকা চুক্তির মেয়াদ অবসানের পর ফেরৎ দেয়া হবে।
২৩। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	আব্দুর রউফ
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২৬। সংগ্রাহক সত্তা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
 (আব্দুর রউফ) পরিচালক ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৯৯৮৮	
GD-1393	