

'This is not normal'

Fish shortage at Hakaluki haor leaves anglers in despair

MINTU DESHWARA

This is usually that time of the year when anglers of Hakaluki haor smile ear to ear. "This is the time to catch large hauls from the Haor," said angler Mansur Ali. "With the income from these few months, I have no trouble running my family of seven."

But those like Mansur aren't smiling this year. Owing to a shortage of water in the haor, fish have almost disappeared.

"I don't have any land, my only source of income is through fishing. If there aren't any fish in the haor, I don't know how I'm going to see out the year," a despondent Mansur told this correspondent.

"Hakaluki's fishers are facing a livelihood crisis," said Saidul Hasan Shipon, general secretary of Kulaura Sangbadik Samitee.

"I've seen many anglers toiling all day at the haor, but returning empty-handed. These are unprecedented scenes."

According to sources in the fisheries department, the haor is facing this shortage of water due to low rainfall last year and lack of upstream water.

During a recent visit to Islampur Bazar under Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar, this correspondent saw only a minimum amount of water in the canals, beels and reservoirs of the haor.

Local fishers were seen spending their time playing ludo as their luck had run out.

The same picture could be seen at Fenchuganj area of Sylhet, where many are dependent on the haor for their livelihood.

Contacted, Sultan Mahmud, assistant director of the Hilsa Resource Development and Management Project at the Dhaka Fisheries Department, said, "Hakaluki is a major source of fish stock. But the water here is drying up due to sand and sediment flowing in from connecting rivers."

As a solution, he proposed, "April is the breeding season for fish. If fishing is banned at the haor during that time, may be the fish can increase the next season."

He said he has already contacted the fisheries and livestock ministry in this regard, which has taken the matter seriously.



Like every day, anglers from Chilmari upazila's Ramna area go out into the Brahmaputra in search of fish. But these days, they mostly return empty-handed as the river has run out of fish stock. *Inset*, the same situation is faced by fishers of Hakaluki haor, who have no option but to idle out their time on the banks of the haor.

PHOTO: STAR



Where have all the fish gone?

As Brahmaputra's ecosystem loses balance, 7,000 fisher families land in trouble

S DILIP ROY

Prafulla Chandra Das' (48) fishing boat and nets have been drying out in the sun. His entire ancestry has been devoted to the same trade, and as such, Prafulla knows no other craft.

As fish stocks in the Brahmaputra have drastically decreased over the years, Prafulla is finding it hard to run his six-member family and pay off debt with the little money he earns from fishing.

The angler from Jorgachh Majhipara village under Chilmari upazila in Kurigram is one of 7,000 ancestral fishing families from 105 villages in the district which are suffering the same fate. Most of these families do not even have their own homestead, but live on khas land or other people's land.

"Even a few years ago, a group of four-five

anglers could catch 40-50 kg of fish per day. It has now come down to merely five-six kg, which gets us Tk 200-250 every day," he told this correspondent.

This is not enough for his family, he said, and especially not for the loans he took out at high interest from local moneylenders.

This loan is a common feature of the fisher families' life. "We are unable to provide for our families with the little money we make from fishing. This is why we're forced to take loans from the Mahajons," said Bisadu Chandra Das (47), a neighbour of Prafulla.

"The situation is especially bad from December to June, as water level falls during this period," he added.

Meanwhile, 84-year-old Ashu Chandra Das from Daspara village spoke of another woe. "We are deprived of our rights despite the 'Jal Jar Khal

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7 DIGs set to become additional IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Public Administration has recommended promotion of seven deputy inspector general ranked police officers to the rank of Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP).

They are: Abu Hasan Muhammad Tarik of Police Headquarters, Banaj Kumar Majumder of Police Bureau of Investigation, Dr Hasan ul Haider of Central Police Hospital in Dhaka, Monirul Islam of Special Branch of Police, Shahabuddin Khan of Barishal Metropolitan Police, Mahbubur Rahman of Industrial Police and Barrister Md Harun or Rashid of Mymensingh Range Police.

The recommendation was sent to the home ministry, requesting to issue a circular in this regard.

The letter mentioned that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 21 approved the recommendation for their promotion.

'Some other reason behind sanctions'

Says info minister on US step against Rab officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud at a programme yesterday said there must be some other reasons behind the US imposed sanctions against Rab officials.

When a country is developing, international forces try to pull it back, and to do that, they use narratives centring human rights and similar subjects, he said.

Hasan Mahmud made these comments while addressing a programme of lawyers at Chattogram District Bar Association Auditorium.

Human rights are being violated in many countries that advocate for it. In the US, thousands of people are forcefully disappeared every year; many are killed, but human rights organisations never give statements against those incidents, he commented.

For example, a few days back, the independent human rights expert of UN urged the US to close the jail at Guantanamo Bay due to reports of torturing captives and violating human rights. But no human rights organisation has given a statement about this, he claimed.

Hasan Mahmud said to err is human; no one is above making mistakes, adding that if any Rab member is involved in wrongdoing, they face investigation, trial and punishment.

Khaleda Zia founded Rab in 2004, and many western countries have been giving assistance to it since then without any question, he said. "Why have issues been raised all of a sudden? There must be some reason behind it."

9CR JABS IN STOCK

At another programme yesterday, the minister stated that around 31 crore of Covid-19 vaccine doses have entered the country so far, and at

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II) (AF)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.726.07.046.2020.17 Date: 20/01/2022

Request for Expressions of Interest (Consulting Services-Firms Selection)

Country: Bangladesh
Name of Project: Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)-Additional Financing (P166295)
Credit No: 6327-BD
Assignment Title: Performance Audit Consultancy Services
Reference No. AF-S6.1

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of Additional Financing for the **Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)** and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services include multidisciplinary services for carrying out technical audit, financial, environmental and social safeguards audits including conduct third party monitoring for providing professional opinion on (i) the implementation of civil works under the project concerning design, BoQ and technical specifications (the technical audit); (ii) the project performance on financial management (the internal audit); and (iii) the compliance with respect to Environmental and Social Safeguard issues (the safeguard audit) under the project. The services will be implemented within a period of 4 months.

The main objectives of this consultancy services under the Terms of References (TOR) are to engage a team of experts to conduct third party monitoring for carrying out an analysis of the Project's implementation process while reviewing both the results and activities that have been completed and those in progress in terms of technical, financial as well as social and environmental safeguard issues. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained from www.lged.gov.bd or can be obtained at the address given below.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The firm selection criteria are:

- General experience of the Firm(s), relevance of core business and minimum 5 years in business.
- Relevant experience in similar assignments as per the TORs; especially the expertise and experience in conducting multi-disciplinary audits such as technical, financial, environmental safeguards and social safeguards audit are highly required.
- Relevant similar experience in a development partner (DP) funded project.
- Staffing and logistics of the firm as per qualification requirements for key experts in the TORs.

Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents in support of the abovementioned criteria:

- Registration paper of the firm(s);
- JV agreement/letter of intent (if applicable);
- Firm's brochure;
- Audited financial reports for last three years;
- Service experience record (completed within last 10 years) (including nature, total cost, total input in terms of man month, employer, location of service etc.);
- Detailed descriptions of all previous similar projects successfully completed;
- Experience summaries of key staff;
- A description of the consultant's proposed approach for the work; and
- All other items necessary to substantiate satisfaction of the evaluation criteria listed above and/or included in the TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 (Revised November 2017 and August 2018) ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate **clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy**. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. It is preferable to limit the maximum number of firms will be 04 (four) in an association including the Lead Firm.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualification Based Selection (CQS) Method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours. Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by **15/02/2022 up to 5:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time)**.

Md. Sohrab Ali
Project Director
Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II): Additional Financing
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)
LGED Bhaban, Level-11, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
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Tel: +880-2-44826200, E-mail: pdrtp2.lged@yahoo.com

Khaleida Zia founded Rab in 2004, and many western countries have been giving assistance to it since then without any question. Why have issues been raised all of a sudden? There must be some reason behind it.

Information Minister
Hasan Mahmud

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Master in Oceanography (MO)

KEY DATES/EVENTS
• Application Deadline: 28 February, 2022
• Written Examination: 04 March, 2022
• Viva Examination: 15-22 March, 2022
• Class start: 10 April, 2022

Note:
Along with written and viva voice result, candidate's previous academic records will also be considered for final selection.

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ELIGIBILITY
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• CRE : B.Sc. Engineering or equivalent/Civil Engineering/ Water Resources Engineering/ Environmental Engineering/Naval Architecture/ Ocean and Offshore Engineering/Mechanical Engineering.
• MO : Bachelor Degree in Oceanography, Geography and Environment, Geology, Zoology, Fisheries, Marine Science, Environmental Science, Physics, Botany, Chemistry or equivalent degree
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