

Bangladesh is the lowermost riparian country of the three mighty Himalayan Rivers the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. There are more than 400 rivers in Bangladesh of which 57 are transboundary rivers- 54 are common with our neighboring friendly country India and 3 are common with Myanmar. In fact 51 common rivers between Bangladesh and India are within the catchment of the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. The catchment area of these 3 Hymalayan rivers are about 1.72 million square kilometers of which only 7% of the catchment area lies in Bangladesh. It is worth mentioning that the water of these rivers shapes the live and livelihood of millions of peoples of Bangladesh.

I would like to mention here that the surface water availability in Bangladesh widely varies during monsoon and dry season. About 80% of annual water availability occurs during monsoon. As a result Bangladesh suffers from devastation of floods such as huge loss of lives and properties during monsoon. Moreover, during monsoon all the rivers carry huge silts from upstream which rise the river bed levels and as a result the rivers loss its water carrying capacity and accelerates in flooding. Sometimes flush floods occur during early monsoon causes huge damages in agriculture in the north-east part of Bangladesh. Bangladesh faces sever scarcity of water during dry season which causes insufficient supply of irrigation water, affects in navigation, forestry, fishery, salinity ingression and also affects the world's largest mangrove forest "the Sundarbans" situated in the south-west of Bangladesh.

The water governance of Bangladesh may be viewed in two ways like national and regional as well as sub-regional management. **As Bangladesh receives most of the water from outside the country, the water governance in**

**Bangladesh is a great challenge which virtually depends on reasonable and equitable sharing and management of the Transboundary Rivers basins.**

For equitable sharing and joint management of transboundary water resources for sustainable water security, Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was established in 1972 under the Joint Declaration of the Hon'ble Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India. Bangladesh has some success stories in the field of transboundary water management. For example after prolonged negotiation between India and Bangladesh a 30 years historical treaty named the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was signed between the two countries in 1996. The two countries are implementing this treaty as per provision of the Treaty since 1997. Furthermore, the draft interim water sharing agreements of another two transboundary rivers - the Teesta and Feni have been finalized and awaiting for signing by the two Governments. Also the data and information of other six transboundary rivers have been exchanged with a view to prepare the draft Interim Sharing Agreements of those rivers. Another most important transboundary cooperation exists between India and Bangladesh i.e. Bangladesh receives flood related data of a number of common rivers from upstream stations in India and China which helps Bangladesh to provide flood forecasting and warning during flood season and helps in saving lives and properties of the millions of peoples of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is continuing discussion with its co-riparian countries for the development and managing the waters of the common rivers and also pursuing for sub-regional cooperation i.e to form a common body say, Joint basin commission/organization with a aim for jointly developing projects in order to augment dry season flows, hydropower generation, flood moderation,

increase agriculture production, enhance navigation, river ecosystem, biodiversity and overall improvement of socio-economic condition of this region.