

RRI Newsletter

Issue-27 A quarterly Newsletter of RRI September 2025

"Revive the endangered river"
-Hon'ble Advisor, MoWR



56TH BOG MEETING OF RRI

The 56th Board of Governors (BoG) meeting of RRI was held on July 23, 2025 at Honorable Advisor's office, Pani Bhabon, 72 Green Road, Dhaka. The meeting was chaired by Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Honorable Adviser, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Mr. Nazmul Ahsan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and all respected members of the BoG attended the meeting.

At the very beginning of the meeting. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Honorable Adviser and the Chairperson of the RRI BoG, started her introductory speech by remembering the participation of the youth and students and all the martyrs and wounded patriots who sacrificed their lives during July 2024, showing the bold commitment to build a non-discriminatory, modern technology-based, sustainable water management system in the country. Then she welcomed all the honorable members of the BoG and requested everyone to introduce themselves.



After a brief introduction by the members and a welcome speech by the Chairperson, Director General, RRI, S M Abu Horayra, Joint Secretary, gave a detailed presentation as per the request by the Chairperson. In the presentation, DG, RRI, clearly addressed all the time-bound agenda of the 56th BoG meeting including the achievements of the last 55th BoG

meeting decisions. He also affirmed to the BoG about the commitment and dedication of RRI to continue as a Center of Excellence in the Water Sector Research. After the presentation, all the BoG members appreciated the invaluable activities performed by RRI and joined in an enthusiastic detailed discussion.

The BoG emphasized the introduction of an Internee system and stressed the importance of research on sustainable water resource management through nature-based solutions. Several important decisions and directives were issued during the meeting.

NEW FACE AS SENIOR SECRETARY, MoWR

Mr. Md. Mokabbir Hossain has been appointed as Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources on 19 August 2025. due to post-retirement leave (PRL) of previous secretary, Mr. Nazmul Ahsan. Mr. Hossain was borned at Kulaura Upazila of Moulvibazar District in January 1967. Personally Mr. Hossain is married and a proud father of a daughter.

(Cont'd on page 3)



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF RRI

River Research Institute (RRI), a statutory institution in Bangladesh, is tasked with conducting research on the country's water resource management using various tools and software. Since its inception, it has contributed to the nation through physical and mathematical modeling in key infrastructure development. To maintain progress, a meeting on RRI's research activities was held on July 23, 2025, at Pani Bhaban, 72 Green Road, Dhaka, attended by Honorable Advisor, Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Nazmul Ahsan, Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources. During the meeting, the Director General of RRI, S M Abu Horayra, Joint Secretary, provided an overview of activities and thanks to Honorable Advisor of MoWR and Secretary of MoWR for their continuous support and giving increased fund to do research ever before. Three team leader presented updates on their respective ongoing

research projects. Additionally, the Director, Geotechnical Research Directorate, Dr. Md. Alauddin Hossain presented new research proposals focusing on different aspects of various rivers of Bangladesh, submitted by RRI scientists. These proposals were discussed and are set to be reviewed in the upcoming Research Management Committee meeting for budget allocation as well as approval. Dr. Fatima Rukshana, PSO, also presented an action plan addressing sand mining across rivers of Bangladesh, enriched by inputs and directions from the Honorable Advisor. Experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) involved in ongoing research attended the meeting, and it is hoped that these proposals will receive adequate funding.



FOLLOW UP MEETING WITH DG, RRI AT DHAKA OFFICE

Just after 56th BoG meeting of RRI, S M Abu Horayra, Director General sat with the all the officers / scientists at RRI Dhaka office, 72 Green Road, Panthapath. DG, RRI brief some important issues to be completed immediately as instructed from BoG meeting. For particular issues, DG, RRI appoint several scientists to make the draft on that matter.



NEW FACES AS SENIOR SECRETARY, MoWR....(Cont'd from page 1)

Mr. Md Mokabbir Hossain started his career in Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) cadre in 1991. Over the years, Mr. Hossain has held various key positions within the Government, showcasing his versatility and expertise in diverse domains. Before assuming his current role as Senior Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources he served as Senior Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology, Public Security Division; Chairman (Senior Secretary) Bangladesh Energy & Power Research Council, Secretary, Security Service Division and Chairman (Secretary) to Board of Land Appeal.

Mr. Hossain achieved Post Graduation Degree from University of Dhaka Bangladesh. Mr. Hossain acquired trainings on multidimensional issues in different reputed universities and training institutes of home and abroad including Australian Federal Police College, Australia; Institute of Health Management Research, India and Renmin University, China. RRI family wish him good health, good time and all the success in the future.

NEW RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Engr. Md. Matiar Rahman Mondol and Dr. Engr. Md. Alauddin Hossain (from left to right respectively) has been appointed as Director (In charge) for Hydraulic Research Directorate and Geotechnical Research Directorate in addition to their regular duties. RRI expects them to continue to take on challenges with the same enthusiasm and resilience that has brought them this far, while also mentoring and guiding the next generation of scientists, and fostering an environment where creativity and innovation can flourish. RRI wishes them the best for their future endeavors.



FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR MR. NAZMUL AHSAN, SECRETARY, MoWR

River Research Institute (RRI) organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony on 17 August 2025, to honor Mr. Nazmul Ahsan's retirement., the Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources. He did his graduation and post-graduation degree in Physics from Dhaka University. Mr. Ahsan joined the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) on 25 April 1994 as an administration cadre in the 13th batch. He served as the deputy commissioner of Khulna District and Satkhira District. In 2013, Mr. Ahsan served as a deputy secretary in the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. On 11 December 2022, Mr. Nazmul

Ahsan was appointed the secretary to the Ministry of Water Resources and served the secretariate until 17th August 2025. During his time at MoWR, he visited RRI several times in different occasion. He looks after and patronize the scientist through Director General of RRI to come forward to solve the key issues of Water resources sectors. After a very successful career, his post-retirement leave (PRL) has been started from 17 August 2025. RRI family wish him good health, good time and all the success in the future.



FAREWELL CEREMONY TO A LIVING LEGEND

River Research Institute (RRI) organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony on 29th July, 2025 to honor Engr. Pintu Kanungoe's retirement. Engr. Pintu Kanungoe started his journey at RRI in January 05, 1991 as a Scientific Officer. Then he was promoted to Senior Scientific Officer, Principal Scientific Officer and Chief Scientific Officer on March 1999, November 2005 and November 2014 respectively. He took the charge of Director, Hydraulic Research Directorate in May 2019 and become full Director of the same directorate in September 2023. He also performed the duty as Director of Admin and Finance Directorate for over a year. In his academic career, he completed Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from BUET. He also completed Master's degree in River Engineering and River Basin Development in 1997 from IHE, Delft, The Netherlands. Mr. Kanungoe was a

dynamic scientist who implemented a number of research project and model studies in his career as a team leader. He was one of the longest serving professional and contributed a lot to RRI. He enriched the River Research Institute with new ideas and innovations. He demonstrated remarkable expertise and leadership in different fields specially in physical modelling and Mathematical Modelling using MIKE Software. RRI family will remember him for a long time for his contribution to RRI. After a very successful career, his post-retirement leave (PRL) has been started from 29 June 2025 and due to unavoidable reasons, the farewell ceremony organized later on 29th July, 2025. RRI family wish him good health, good time and all the success in the future.



FAREWELL CEREMONY TO A GROUP OF STAFF

Recently seven staffs of RRI successfully completed their job life as rule of Government of Bangladesh, after one's age reached at 59 years and they have gone to post-retirement leave (PRL) in different time. On 01st September, 2025, RRI Staff welfare committee arranged a farewell ceremony for seven staffs namely Md. Shoriful Islam, Soil Technician, Md. Mokhlukar Rahman, Telephone Operator, Md. Nazrul Islam, Soil Technician, Md. Fazlur Rahman, Office Assistant cum Computer Operator, Md. Abdul Malek, Model Technician, Md. Liakat Hossain Khan, Soil Technician, Md. Alauddin Matubbor, Driver (from left to right respectively) and gave them Crest, Flower bouquet and Memento. RRI family wish them good health, good time and all the success in the future.



WE DEEPLY MOURN

With deepest sorrow, sharing you all that Mr. Md. Abdul Mozid Sarkar, Lab Technician Grade-C, worked at Sediment, Chemical Lab under Geotechnical Research Directorate of RRI, has passed away (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun) on 07 September, 2025 at around 06.30 AM due to Several disease. He was a very honest, sincere and dedicated staff of RRI and contributed a lot in RRI. He was only 58 Years old. He left behind his beloved wife and two sons. His funeral was arranged at his hometown Bogura. All the members of RRI are heartbroken at the sad demise of Md. Abdul Mozid Sarkar. RRI family extremely grieving for his immature and sudden departure. Heartiest condolence and sincere sympathy to the bereaved family



members on this difficult time. RRI's thoughts and prayers are forever for his work and active contribution. May his soul rest in eternal peace and may Allah grant him a place in the paradise.

PROMOTION AS CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

Dr. Moniruzzaman Khan Eusufzai has been promoted to Chief Scientific Officer from Principal Scientific Officer on 06 August 2025. He hails from Tangail district. Dr. Eusufzai earned his B.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh, in 1998, followed by an MS in Irrigation and Water Management (IWM) from the same institution in 2000. He was awarded the prestigious Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship and completed his PhD in Regional Resources Engineering from Iwate University, Japan in 2008. Following his PhD, he served as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow under Japan's Ministry of Science and Technology in 2010, conducting research in the Climate Change Research Team at the National Agricultural Research Center for the Tohoku Region (NARCT), Morioka, Iwate. In 2014, he received the Young International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and carried out research at the State Key Laboratory of Urban and Regional Ecology (SKLURE), Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES), Beijing, China.

Dr. Eusufzai has authored over 25 scientific journal articles, many in high-impact Science Citation Index (SCI) journals, along with several book chapters. He is a Life Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), and a member of the Geological Society of America (GSA) and the Japanese Society of Irrigation, Reclamation, and Drainage Engineering (JSIRDE). As Project Director of the *Institutional Development and Capacity Building of RRI (Phase-II)* project, he oversaw the acquisition of advanced equipment, software, and training programs, significantly enhancing RRI's technical capabilities and competitiveness. Renowned for his expertise, leadership, and innovative thinking, Dr. Eusufzai has consistently advanced RRI's mission through innovative research, successful project execution, and effective team leadership. His collaborative approach and commitment to excellence have made a lasting impact on the organization.



ZOOM MEETING WITH HONORABLE ADVISOR AND SECRETARY OF MOWR

River Research Institute (RRI) is responsible for conducting research on the country's water resource management issues. Few days back at 56th BoG meeting of RRI, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Honorable Advisor of MoWR, outlined several investigative approaches pertaining to river studies. After getting the preliminary idea from Honorable Advisor of MoWR, S M Abu Horayra, Director General of RRI, designated four scientists to prepare a research proposal and present their approach to solving the issue. Scientists have done their brainstorming and gave ppt presentation on July 27, 2025 through Zoom online meeting platform. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Honorable Advisor of MoWR and Nazmul Ahsan, Secretary

of MoWR were joined the meeting. S M Abu Horayra, DG, RRI conduct the meeting. Dr. Engr. Md. Alauddin Hossain, Director (GR), and Engr. Md. Matiar Rahman Mondol, Director (HR) and all the scientist were attached in the Zoom meeting. Those proposals were discussed and sent to Honorable Advisor of MoWR for further review. Honorable



Advisor of MoWR emphasizes to initiate the works as early as possible. To finalize the research proposals, a committee was formed and the work is under process.

FROM CLASSROOM TO FIELD: LEARNING THE SCIENCE BEHIND RIVERS

A group of students of Department of disaster management and environmental science from the Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) recently undertook an educational visit to the River Research Institute (RRI) on 8 August 2025 under the supervision of their course instructor. The visit was organized with the objective of enhancing students' understanding of river systems and exposing them to ongoing scientific research in this field.

Upon arrival, the team was welcomed by researchers who provided a detailed orientation on the institution's activities. Students were introduced to various aspects of river research, including techniques of physical modelling, Mathematical Modelling as well as Engineering properties of Soil, Material testing and Quality Inspection, sediment and water quality parameters. Demonstrations were also given on the use of modern instruments related to different research study.

The visit enabled students to experience the practical dimensions of their academic knowledge and offered valuable insights into the role of river research in sustainable development. The program concluded with an interactive session, leaving students motivated for further study.



RRI DHAKA OFFICE LABORATORY VISITED BY SECRETARY, MoWR

Mr. Nazmul Ahsan., secretary of Ministry of Water Resources visited River Research Institute, Dhaka Office on 14th August 2025. He was welcomed by Director General of RRI. He visited all the facilities currently available at the RRI Dhaka Office. Mr. Nayan Chandra Ghosh, Senior Scientific Officer, provided a brief overview of the equipment's and its use cases. Mr Ahsan later had a discussion meeting with all officers and staff. In his last visit to RRI, he wished RRI would lead in solving water resources-related issues with its expert scientists.



TREE PLANTATION PROGRAM AT RRI



BPATC PARTICIPANTS VISITED RRI



RECENTLY COMPLETED HYDRO-MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY

The River Research Institute (RRI) conducted a comprehensive hydro-morphological study for the Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (EGCB). The study assessed the stability of 386.44 acres of land proposed for the extension of existing solar power plant adjacent to the Little Feni River, to evaluate long-term river course dynamics. The title of the study was “Consultancy Services for Assessing the Future Course of surrounding Rivers beside the Proposed Solar Power Plant Project on 386.44 acre land at Sonagazi, Feni for EGCB Ltd”.

The Major Findings of the Study were as follows:

- The project site is at a safe distance from both the Feni and Little Feni rivers; no imminent threat of channel migration exists under current conditions.
- Collapse of the Musapur regulator increased localized erosion but is unlikely to revert the Little Feni River to its former downstream course.
- The Sandwip Channel shows historical shifts, but recent trends near the project area are stable and, in some locations, accretionary.
- The Feni River has shifted away from the site and experienced outfall shrinkage, creating favorable land accretion.
- The area is vulnerable to tidal, riverine, and storm surge flooding, requiring climate-resilient protective measures.

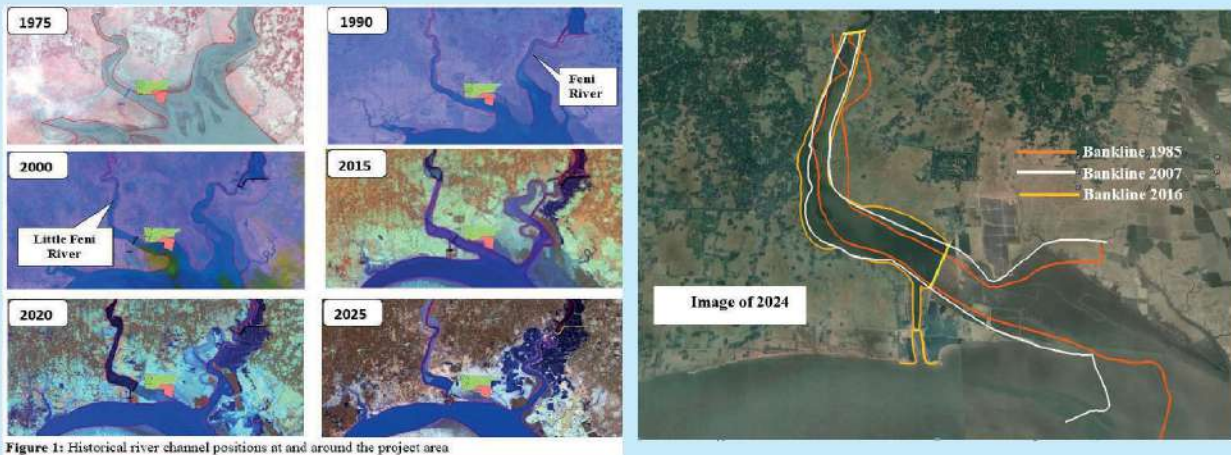


Figure 1: Historical river channel positions at and around the project area

Figure: Bankline's of the Lower Feni River in the year 1985, 2007 and 2016.

2nd MEETING OF COMMITTEE FORMED UNDER DECISIONS OF 56TH BoG OF RRI

As per decision of the agenda 01/2025 of 56th BoG meeting of RRI, Prof. Dr. Md. Manzoorul Kibria, Chattogram University and member of BoG, RRI chaired a meeting dated 18.09.2025 at RRI Modhumoti Conference room, Faridpur with all concerned members of the committee. Other members of the committee were connected over the zoom platform. Several important decisions and directives were issued during the meeting. Before the meeting began DG, RRI congratulates to Prof. Dr. Md. Manzoorul Kibria for visiting RRI and for taking the responsibility.



RRI's WORKING OPPORTUNITY IN PIPELINE

RRI is hoping to get opportunity to conduct several Physical modellings very soon linked to Railway connectivity Improvement Preparatory Facility Project funded by ADB. Two Senior officials (Mr. Shahidur Rahman Khan PEng, Hydrologist and AFM Shahidul Alam, River Training Works Specialist) visited RRI Faridpur Office on 19th August 2025 and share their

opinion with RRI officials through a discussion meeting. They described their desire / requirements. RRI Scientists replied that after reconnaissance survey, RRI will place details proposal of work to fulfill the issues. Both agreed and looking forward to make it happen. Director, Hydraulic Research Directorate welcomed them on behalf of DG, RRI.



RAINWATER HARVESTING - NATURE'S GIFT PRESERVED AT RRI LAKE

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Editorial Committee

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