

Indo-Bangla talks on co-management of Brahmaputra River emphasised

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Noted environmentalist Prof Dr Ainun Nishat Wednesday stressed the need for holding multilateral dialogues between Bangladesh and India for co-management of the Brahmaputra river, reports BSS.

He identified lack of 'political integrity' as a barrier to equitable sharing of waters in the region and said proper management of rivers has a bearing on people's welfare and eco-system.

The expert was presenting the keynote paper at the inaugural session of a dialogue on 'Transitional Policy Dialogue for Improved Water Governance in Brahmaputra River', arranged by Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of BUET.

Former Adviser to the Caretaker government CM Shafi Sami addressed function as the chief guest.

Prof Shah Alam Khan gave the welcome speech while Prof Dr Mashfiquis Salehin of IWFM and Dr Anjal Prakash of SasiWATERS, India spoke as designated speakers.

Researchers, academicians, water professionals, representatives from Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) shared their ideas on the importance of co- management of Brahmaputra River by Bangladesh and India.

CM Shafi Sami described trans-boundary issue as an ethical one and said quality of governance of trans-boundary water resources additionally has a bearing on regional international peace and security.

Referring to the experts, he said that trans-boundary character of water resources combined with population pressures, competing national interests and increased water security will lead to intense inter-state conflicts.

There are many experts who predict that these conflicts will escalate to 'water wars' in the future threatening regional and international stability, he pointed out.

"Water is life. Water is an extra-ordinary precious endowment of nature and bounty of God. None can be denied or deprived of this precious bounty of God. All efforts must be made to ensure that its benefit is shared by all," said the former Secretary.

Dr Nishat, also Vice-chancellor of BRAC University, put emphasis on implementation of water related treaties between Bangladesh and India for regional peace, progress, stability and security.