

## Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources visits WARPO

The Honourable Minister for Water Resources Mr. Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, visited Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) on 4th August 2003. During his visit he met the officers of WARPO and had an open and congenial discussion on various issues of WARPO and water resources of the country. At the on set of discussion the Minister thanked DG and officers of WARPO for inviting him in this organization. The following main issues were discussed in the meeting:

The Minister mentioned with due importance that water is a scarce and single most important resource for our well being. That is why its proper uses to be ensured in all respects of our life. As Bangladesh is an agrarian country and its agricultural practices largely depend on water so we must take appropriate measures for its management, conservation and wise use.

It is unfortunate that as a lower riparian country we do not have any control on this valuable resource.

As a result our waters have faced aggression of others due to unilateral upstream diversion like the Farakka barrage across the Ganges. The Minister said that we will have to solve the problems like flood, water scarcity during the wet and dry season, river erosion and sedimentation by our own technologies. The Minister with great concern mentioned that the "River Linking Project" proposed by India is a dangerous project for us. WARPO should be well aware of it and should have clear directives for others on this issue. It is an important task of WARPO to make proper plan for saving country's water resources. He requested WARPO to take preliminary work to identify possible consequences of this project.

It has been observed in the past that we made delays in making plan for project preparation and its implementation. The cause behind this delay is to be identified and accordingly we should take appropriate measures to overcome this situation. The Minister said if required we would have to depend on our own resources and have to make our future plan accordingly. He mentioned with regret that we have many knowledgeable and experienced scientists in our country, but we don't have much output from them as we expected. Definitely we shall have to

come out of this situation for our own survival. The Minister expressed his positive opinion on WARPO's own permanent building when he was informed that since the creation of WARPO it is shifting from one place to another for which WARPO is losing its institutional memories.

He again thanked all the officers of WARPO and expressed his willingness to visit WARPO again within a short time.

Mr. Md. Sayef Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources also accompanied the minister during his visit and participated in the discussion.

He emphasized the need of development of WARPO as a complete organization with its own identity. He urged the necessity of assurance of optimal use and effective management of country's scarce and valuable water resources. He mentioned about the importance of WARPO's own permanent office building as well as the possible locations within Dhaka city. Hon'ble secretary also discussed some important aspects of WMIP reports and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan Project and hoped for timely completion of these projects.



From left: Mr. Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, BB, Minister, MoWR, Mr. Sayef Uddin, Secretary, MoWR, Mr. Md. Habib Ullah, Joint Secretary, MoWR and Mr. Md. Abdul Halim Mia, PSO, WARPO

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### WARPO OFFICE TO A NEW LOCATION !

WARPO office has been shifted from Gulshan Circle-1 to Banani on 1st July 2003. It is a two blocked building connected by a stair in the middle. The front block is four storied and the rear block is five storied. The ground floor is a open space for car parking, reception lobby, prayer room & drivers room.

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