

JULY 21, 1983, THURSDAY

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BODY:

Bangladesh and India reached an agreement here today on sharing the waters of the teesta river but made no progress on the sharing of the waters of the Ganges river.

the agreement was the result of the three-day 25th meeting of the joint rivers commission of the two countries to discuss the sharing of the waters of the border rivers.

the teesta river, one of the boundary rivers between the two countries, flows from India into northern Bangladesh and then into the jamna (brahmaputra) river. under the agreement which runs till 1985, Bangladesh will get 36 percent and india 39 percent of the waters of the river in dry seasons and the remaining 25 percent will be unallocated. these portions are subjected to reallocation after scientific researches are completed.

the sharing of the waters of the Ganges is a long outstanding problem between the two countries since India built a barrage at farakha years ago to divert waters to Calcutta in the dry season. both countries have made proposals for a solution of the problem but each has turned down the proposals put forth by the other. the current meeting of the joint rivers commission agreed on the necessity for further examination of the proposals.

the next meeting of the commission will be held in new Delhi in October.