



A frantic effort by the workers of the WDB to repair Gaibandha town protection embankment where breaches developed at five points, left, three villagers took shelter on the damaged Dhalai flood protection embankment in Moulvibazar yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

## People suffer as busy road at Bogra not built in three years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

People in Bogra town and the adjoining areas are suffering a lot due to non-completion of construction work of the busy Kabi Nazrul Islam Sarak for over three years.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) started construction of the road under a special project at a cost of Tk 128 crore in February 2003.

The work was scheduled to be completed by 2005, but it was stalled after completion of a por-

tion of the road due to alleged negligence of contractors, departmental sources said.

However, the contractors said the work was not completed due to fund constraint.

Meanwhile, the RHD officials said the proposed fund was Tk 128 crore but the authorities reduced it to Tk 78 crore 14 lakh 29 thousand. Most of the fund was spent for giving compensation to the house owners and land owners who were affected due to the project. An amount of Tk 30 crore was spent as compensation, said an official of

the department.

At present, transport vehicles can not ply and passers-by can not move due to accumulation of mud and rubbish on the busy road.

Meanwhile, construction of a nine-kilometre road from Banani to Matidaly and a three-kilometre road from Satmataha to Timmatha started in February 2003. Only four per cent work of the road stretching from Satmataha to Timmatha was completed in last three years, departmental sources said.



Accumulated mud on the under construction Kabi Nazul Islam Sarak hinders smooth plying of vehicles and movement of passers-by in Bogra. The road construction has been stalled due to alleged negligence of contractors and fund constraint.

## EMBANKMENTS DAMAGED

# Gaibandha town threatened, village in Moulvibazar goes under river

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Gaibandha town is being threatened while a portion of a village in Moulvibazar has gone under the river due to development of breaches at two flood protection embankments in the areas.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Gaibandha town has been threatened due to development of breaches at 10 points of the town protection embankment, according to sources in the Water Development Board (WDB).

The breaches were developed due to surging water of flood caused following onrush of water from upper catchment along the Ghagot basin. If the situation

remains static, floodwater might overflow the embankment causing inundation of the pourashava area.

The embankment is most vulnerable at five points, said Gaibandha WDB executive engineer. The most alarming situation is at Goderhat point, he said.

High officials including the chief engineer and the superintending engineer of WDB, Rangpur region visited the affected points. They assured people that they are repairing the damaged portion of the embankment by creating fund on an emergency basis, said WDB chief engineer Abdul Wadud Mia.

The Ghagot was flowing 20 centimetre above the danger mark while the Teesta and the Brahmaputra were flowing below

the red marks on Sunday evening.

Meanwhile, the WDB stored thousands of concert blocks for dumping in the erosion affected areas of Fulchhari upazila. At present, the Fulchhari Upazila Parishad building is on the verge of collapse. Local Shaheed Miner complex and the mass grave of martyred freedom fighters are also threatened.

Five villages in Khatlamari union under the upazila have been submerged due to flood water causing extensive damage to standing crops.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent reports: A portion of a Hiramat village under Madhabpur union in Kamalgaon upazila went under the River Dhalai following development of breaches at the newly-constructed Dhalai flood protection embankment.

Twelve affected indigenous Monipuri families Hiramat already left their village in search of new shelter.

Meanwhile, other families have left the village during last year's flood.

State Minister for Water Resources Goutam Chakravarty visited the village after the flood and allocated funds to construct Dhalai flood protection embankment on emergency basis. But it has been alleged that the local administration did not construct the embankment in due time. They started its work in the rainy season in an unplanned manner. At present the work remains incomplete, alleged people. This has resulted in damage of the embankment and inundation of the village, they alleged.

However, Madhabpur Union Parishad (UP) chairman Pushpa

Kumar Kanu denied the allegations saying, the work was completed as per schedule.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Bogra: At least 1,450 families rendered homeless in Kurigram due to river erosion in a week.

About 13 square kilometre (skm) areas of Rajibpur Sadar and Mohongonj union in Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram have been eroded by three rivers including the Brahmaputra.

Kurigram Deputy Commissioner (DC) office sources said that at least 8,000 people have been living under the open sky since last week.

A senior official said that 1,700 hectares of cultivable land have been eroded by the Bramaputra, Sonavory and Halholia rivers in last week.

Sources in Rajibpur Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO) said a four-kilometre embankment eroded in Rajibpur upazila last week. But Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is yet to take any initiative to protect the area.

At least 250 families took shelter on embankments on the rivers Bramaputra, Halholia and Sonavory. As many as, 25-kilometre road was damaged in two unions of Rajibpur upazila during the period.

Kurigram DC Azizur Rahman told journalists a special message was sent to the ministry concerned to send relief materials including 8,000 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards for the distressed people.

Our Khagrachhari Correspondent reports: River erosion turned serious in the hill district following swelling of almost all the rivers in the ongoing rainy season.

Many people in Khagrachhari Sadar, Dighinala, Laxmichhari, Mohalchhari, Manikchhari and Ramgour upazilas reportedly shifted their homesteads to safer places.

Local people said, water in the rivers Chenghi, Maimee and Feni swelled by one and a half feet within 10 days of the rainy season. High tide due to onrush of hilly water might be the reason of massive erosion, they said.

The worst affected villages are situated on the bank of the rivers Chenghi, Maimee and Feni in Gonjapara, Shavdamiyapara, Rajamonipara, Khabangpuriya, Aparnachowdhuripara in Sadar upazila, Patemanagar, Sutakarnapara, Latiban, Barkal, Abilashpara in Panchhari upazila, Anandapara, Lasaripara in Laxmichhari upazila, Sonaiful, Mohamuni, Darogapara in Ramgour upazila, Boalkhali, Hasinsonpur, Merong, Babuchhara in Dighinala upazila and Babupara, and Mohalchhari upazila.

Villagers shifted at least 45 houses of Gonjapara village in Sadar upazila to safer places in last one month due to massive erosion.

At least 15 villages in Sadar upazila are threatened by erosion, sources in the administration said.

Many educational institutions, government offices, BDR camps and mosque are at stake in four upazilas. Thousands of acres of cultivable land were already devoured by the rivers.

It has been alleged that the WDB officials are inactive to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

## DISCUSSION HELD

### 'Reform law to protect environment'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Discussions at a discussion held here stressed on reforming law for protection of environment.

The discussion on 'Role of Public Interest Litigation in Saving Environment' was organised by the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) on Sunday.

Held at Abdul Khalek Auditorium of Kheali Group Theatre in the city Sunday morning, the discussion was presided by Advocate Khalifa Saidur Rahman, former president of the district Bar Association. Barisal Deputy Commissioner Shawkat Nabi was present as chief guest. Speakers said local people want more participation of BELA for protecting environment.

## Diarrhoea claims 3 in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least three people including a child died of diarrhoea in four upazilas as the disease broke out in an epidemic form in the district during the last few days, local sources said.

Manikchhari hospital sources said, Shahin, 8, died at the hospital while more than 50 patients were admitted for treatment yesterday.

Hospital sources said two people died at a remote village in Maratilla in Panchhari upazila

while more than 150 were attacked by diarrhoea.

Malaria also broke out in the hilly areas. Twenty malaria patients are taking treatment at Mohalchhari Upazila Health Complex while 30 others are being treated at Lamichhari Upazila Health Complex.

As many as 200 people are now suffering from the diseases.

Khagrachhari Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr Belayet Hossain said they are well-prepared to fight malaria.

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### Open National Tender Notice

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| 01. Procurement Entity                  | : Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd. House # 41, Road # 27, Block A Banani, Dhaka 1213  |
| 02. Invitation for                      | : Procurement of Air-conditioning System  |
| 03. Invitation Ref No.                  | : TB/ SE/ LP-30/ 2005-2006/01   |
| 04. Date                                | : 14th June 2006  |
| 05. Procurement Method                  | : Open National Tender  |
| 06. Source of Fund                      | : Own fund  |
| 07. Tender Package No.                  | : LP/ Proj/ 02 : Aircon   |
| 08. Tender Selling Dates                | : a) Starts 25th June 2006<br>b) Ends 13th July 2006  |
| 09. Tender Closing Date, Time and Place | : 17th July 2006 at 12:00 Hrs at Teletalk Office  |
| 10. Tender Opening Date, Time and Place | : 17th July 2006 at 12:30 Hrs at Teletalk Office  |
| 11. Eligibility of Tenderer             | : Local Counterpart of International/ Representatives of National Firms manufacturing Air-conditioning Equipment          |
| 12. Description of Works                | : Supply of about 260 sets of Air-conditioning equipment for BTS sites of Teletalk  |
| 13. Tender Document Price               | : Tk. 500 (Five hundred) only (non-refundable)  |
| 14. Earnest Money                       | : 2.5% (Two and half percent) of the quoted price   |
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| 16. Address of Inviting Office          | : Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd. House # 41, Road # 27, Block A Banani, Dhaka 1213<br>Tel : 8851060 Extn : 204<br>Fax : 9882828 |

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- a) What potential obstacles did you face?
- b) Describe how you demonstrated determination and commitment.

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY TODAY

# 2 lakh Rohingyas yet to be enrolled as refugees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

About two lakh Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban are yet to be enrolled as refugees officially.

The refugees are among those who were displaced from Myanmar in last 15 years.

The district administration sources said, as many as 2,50,877 Rohingyas came to Bangladesh from Myanmar during 1991-'92 period.

Of them, 2.30 lakh refugees returned to their homeland, Myanmar under the joint supervision of Bangladesh Government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR)

from September, 1992 till now.

But more than one lakh Rohingyas illegally entered the Bangladesh territory crossing the Nafand Nakkongchari border. They are yet to be officially enlisted as refugees. They are now living in different parts of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban.

Many others are living in different refugee camps in Ukiah, Teknaf, Ramu and Nakkongchari upazilas.

State Minister for Communications Salauddin Ahmed MP, in a meeting of the district law and order committee held in December 29 last year asked the government officials to

enroll the unlisted Rohingyas so that they can be repatriated to their homeland in due time.

The district administration has conducted a survey of the Rohingyas who are still out of the official list and living in different areas of Cox's Bazar last year.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Md Habibur Rahman told The Daily Star a total of 50,230 Rohingyas are living in Cox's Bazar illegally. He said that they are now living at Teknaf, Ukhiya, Ramu, Chakoria, Pekua and Moheshkhali upazilas.

It is to be mentioned here that the United Nations General Assembly designated June 20 as

World Refugee Day in 2000 to recognise and celebrate the contribution of refugees throughout the world. Since then, World Refugee Day has become an annual commemoration marked by a variety of events in over a hundred countries. This year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will commemorate World Refugee Day for the fourth time with the inspirational theme: "To Feel at Home," in order to draw the public's attention to the millions of refugees world-wide who are forced to flee their homes.



A Rohingya camp at Kutupalong in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. As many as 2,50,877 Rohingyas came to Bangladesh from Myanmar in 1991. Of them 2.30 lakh refugees returned to their homeland. But about two lakh Rohingyas are still living in the hilly areas of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban illegally.

PHOTO: STAR