

## National

## Nor'wester lashes Sirajganj One thousand thatched houses damaged

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 30: Nor'wester lashed different thanas in Sirajganj district on May 18 last damaging more than one thousand thatched houses. Hundreds of trees were uprooted and the electric poles collapsed.

It is gathered that on May 18 evening, storm at the speed of 80 to 100 kilometers per hours which lasted for about twenty-five minutes lashed the thanas of Belkuchi, Kamarkhanda, Chowhali and Sirajganj thana.

Gusty wind followed by heavy down pour and hails damaged standing IRRI crop of about three thousand acres of land. The flood shelter of Belkuchi collapsed rendering the inmate police constables homeless. None however was injured. The Muktijoddha Sangshad, Retired Sainik Club and veranda of Alhaj Siddique High School was also flown

away.

Power supply is Kazipur, Kamarkhanda and Belkuchi disrupted as at least twenty electrical poles were collapsed.

Three telephone poles were also damaged.

Vehicular traffic in Sirajganj — Enayetur route remained suspended for about fourteen hours as the roads near Khidir and Kadda were blocked by uprooted trees. According to information received at late, at least one thousand thatched houses mainly in the charlands of Sirajganj thana and Belkuchi thanas were badly damaged. Sufferings of cattle sellers in Shohagpur hat was extreme.

Loss of valuables and property was primarily estimated to Taka fifty crores. Shahidullah Khan MP of Sirajganj-5 constituency visited the storm affected areas of Belkuchi and Kamarkhanda thanas.

## At last they managed to return home

SIRAJGONJ, May 30: Kohinoor Begum, 18, and her sister Selina Khatoon, 8, who were trafficked to Pakistan with the collaboration of her husband and his brother, at last managed to return to the country, says UNB.

Police sources said, Kohinoor Begum, daughter of day labourer Saidul Islam of Gaya-hata village under Ullapara thana, was rapped by Sirajul Islam of east Ramkrishnapur village in June, 1992. A case was filed in this connection with the police.

Later she was married to Sirajul according to the arbitration by village elders on July 13, 1992 and the case was withdrawn. But after the marriage she was being tortured by the inmates of her husband.

On July 17, 1993, Sirajul and his elder brother Fazul on the plea to enjoy a cinema show took her along with her sister Selina to Dhaka and rented a house at Bashabo and took a signature from her in

blank stamp paper forcefully and sold them to woman trafficker Sohrab Ali of Tengrakhali village in Bakergonj thana of Barisal district for Tk 70,000. Sohrab again sold them to another woman trafficker of India.

After keeping them in different places of India for about one and a half months along with 15 other young women, they were sold to Pakistani woman trafficker, Babu Miah. They used to reside in a room there under lock and key.

On January 1, this year Kohinoor found that Babu Miah forgot to lock the door of their house. She along with her sister managed to flee and reached home with the help of Haji Shahidul Islam and his wife of Musa Colony, Karachi.

Kohinoor filed a case with the Ullapara Magistrate Court narrating the incident. She also alleged that the accused were threatening her to withdraw the case.

## 450 uplift schemes completed in 10 thanas of Barisal

BARISAL, May 30: At least 450 development schemes have been completed in 10 thanas of Barisal district under Test Relief Programme during the last year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 870 metric tons of wheat were utilised for the successful completion of the schemes.

The schemes included construction of bridges, repair of roads, development of educational institutions and other works, the sources added.

Hundreds of jobless people were engaged in the uplift schemes.

BSS adds: Telephone and Telegraph Board, Barisal Division, earned a revenue of about Taka 6.0 lakh in eleven months till March through 13

card phones in ten district. According to an official source, card phones were introduced in the districts of Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur under Barisal Telephone and Telegraph Board in April, 1993.

Two card phones are in operation in each of Barisal, Patuakhali and Faridpur districts while one card phone is in service in each of the districts of Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Barguna, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur.

Meanwhile, T and T Board has taken up a decision to install four ISD card phones, two each in Barisal and Patuakhali districts.

## 11 meet with unnatural deaths in Rangpur

RANGPUR, May 30: Eleven people including one housewife and a minor girl met with unnatural deaths in the district during the last week, reports UNB.

According to police, Jahiruddin (60) of village Shadobpur in Kotwali thana was killed Friday by his rivals in a dispute over gambling.

Two people were killed in two separate road accidents Saturday near Mithapukur thana on Rangpur-Bogra highway.

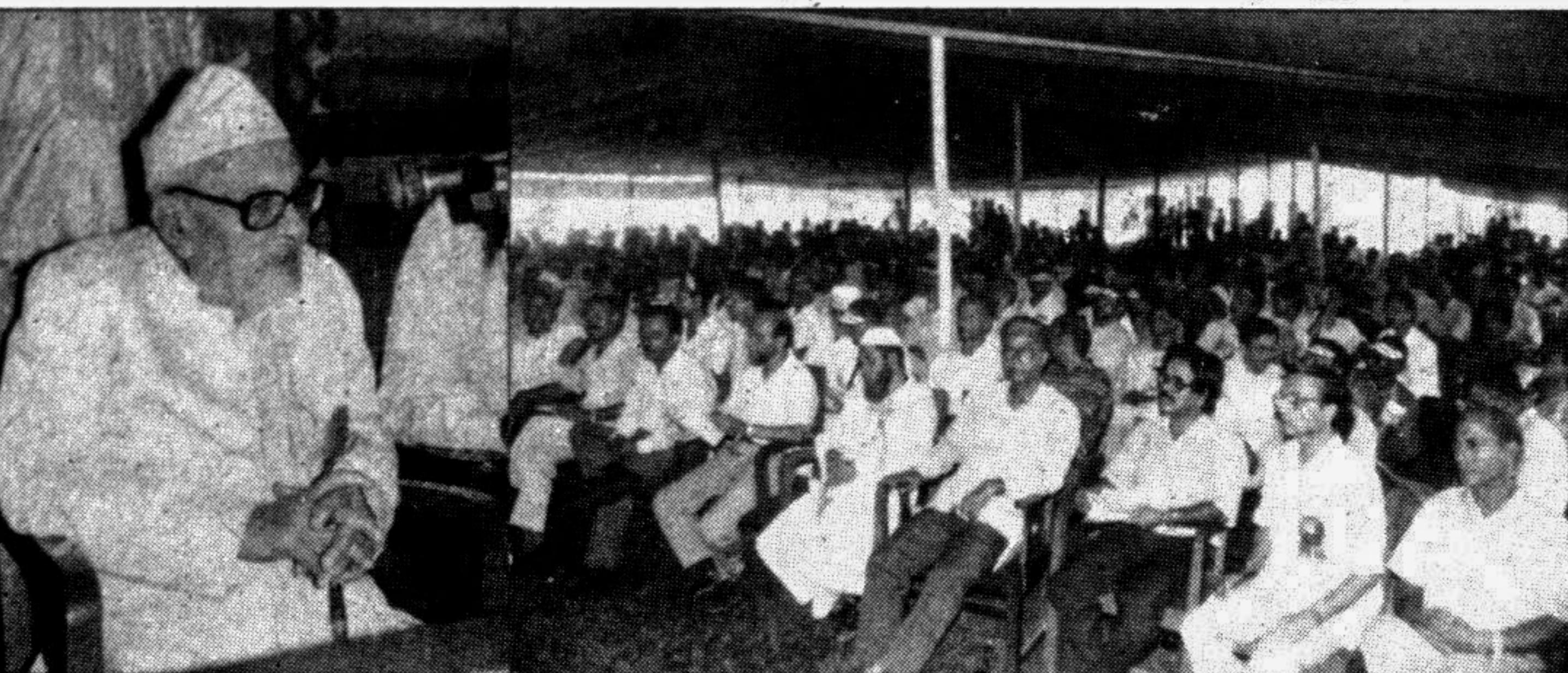
## Card phone at Benapole check post introduced

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 30: Card phone has been introduced in Benapole immigration check-post, customs house but the facility of nation-wide dialling (NWD) is yet to be provided to its telephone exchange at Sharsha, nor it has been provided with the facility of International Telephone Exchange (ITE) sources say that necessary equipments and machinery for this works are in store.

Only initiative to start the work by the department is lacking.

Establishment of a full-fledged Land Port Authority at Benapole will ensure solution of all problems fetching more revenue earnings through export and imports.



SYLHET: National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of re-union of the Sylhet Government Boys' High School held recently. — Star photo

## 10 southern districts

## Target of IRRI, Boro output may not be achieved

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, May 30: Zila Parishad of Moulvibazar has taken up a scheme to develop Madhav-Kunda Waterfall — as a tourist and picnic spot.

According to the Zila Parishad source — the scheme included construction of a rest house, a canteen for tourists, a picnic spot and a parking center for vehicles of tourists.

The Zila Parishad has allocated Taka twelve lakh to implement the scheme.

It is mentionable here that, Madhav-Kunda waterfall is noted for its scenic beauty. It is situated at Patharia Hills within Baralekha thana under Moulvibazar district.

It is about seven kilometers away from Dakshinbagh railway station of Kulaura-Shahbazar railway section with some land routes.

The source said, in last year the target was achieved to two lakh thirty three thousand four hundred forty one hectares out of targeted two lakh forty seven

thousand six hundred hectares.

Last year nine lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty three metric tons of paddy was produced in ten southern districts.

As a result the target of IRRI-boro may not be achieved.

According to a source related to agriculture department, in ten southern districts such as Jessor, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga a target of ten lakh thirty-nine thousand hectares but it was cultivated in 2 lakh 3 thousand 4 hundred 61 hectares.

The source said, in last year the target was achieved to two lakh thirty three thousand four hundred forty one hectares out of targeted two lakh forty seven

thousand six hundred hectares.

Further uncontrolled price of fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipments throw the farmers in trouble, farmers said. They also said, irrigation has become an acute problem to them.

The Gangas Kabadak (G-K) Project failed to supply water for irrigation. Due to load shading of power farmers were deprived of irrigation water for more than a month, it was reported.

As a result, the farmers are not keenly interested to cultivate IRRI and boro as previous.

Further, mainly government is not at all interested to pur-

chase paddy or rice through procurement programme. To meet the requirement the farmers are compelled to sell paddy earlier.

In this season the production may be achieved at eight lakh sixty eight thousand four hundred forty metric tons which is seventy eight thousand three hundred ninety three metric tons lesser than last year. Some experts of agriculture department and farmers opined that the production rate of irrigation depended crops is higher than selling price.

The farmers have to sale their paddy at a low rate after harvesting.

Further, mainly government

## BRDB gives Tk 11 cr loan for rural development in Barisal

BARISAL, May 29: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) Barisal, disbursed loans amounting to Taka eleven crore one lakh twenty eight thousand under rural cooperative scheme in ten thanas of the district till December 31, last, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed among 33405 members of 1280 different landless cooperative societies in the project areas to support self-employment programme like cattle and poultry farming, paddy husking, pisciculture, handicrafts, and small trade.

Meanwhile, BRDB has provided training to 8,365 members of the district under the programme in the above trades for skill development.

BRDB has also disbursed a sum of Taka 58 lakh among 4,914 women members in the period under population control and gender development projects in Barisal Sadar, Bakergonj, Agaikjhara, Gournadi

and Babuganj thanas of the district for their conscious and social development.

BRDB has enrolled so far 36,827 marginal farmers through 1,358 village based Krishi Samabaya Samites in ten thanas of Barisal district to ensure rural development through cooperatives here.

This Krishi Samabaya Samites have undertaken a programme to cultivate paddy over 24,240 acres of land through the use of 607 power pumps.

Besides, BRDB disbursed a loan amounting to Tk 7.17 lakh under village child development project among 1,836 members under 150 groups in Guthia union of Wazirpur thana till December 31, last to develop the socio-economic conditions of the rural distressed women and children, the source added.

BRDB, Barisal region planted 2,62,526 saplings of various plants under social development activities in this period. BRDB also provided training to 3,474 members of an outlawed political party for use developed chullis (oven) in the rural areas. Besides, BRDB brought 77 per cent of rural people under coverage of pure drinking water, 41 per cent sanitary latrines, 93 per cent literacy programme.

A total of 3,02,400 hectares of land will be brought under transplanted aman cultivation in ten southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) during the current summer season.

The districts are: Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, the production target of aman paddy has been fixed at 17,93,812 metric tons.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has undertaken a programme to distribute seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other inputs among the farmers of the districts to make the programme a success.

## Setting up of Benapole Land Port Authority

## Delay hampers uniform uplift of Benapole Road check-post

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, May 30: Works on a total of 74 development schemes has been going on in full swing in Sylhet district with a total expenditure of Taka 4 crore 45 lakh under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) under the supervision of Local Government Engineering Department.

When contacted, an official source informed this correspondent that, of the total number of schemes, 41 being implemented with a targeted expenditure of Taka 3 crore 82 lakh in different thanas of the district. The source further informed that, 50 per cent of the works in these schemes relating to the development of the 45 kilometre long connecting roads in the rural areas. Works on all these schemes will be completed by the end of next month, the source informed.

There is no denying the fact that Benapole Land Port earns record revenue every year be-

ing the average income between 350 crore and 400 crore which is far more than that of neighbouring Mongla Port.

It may be noted here that Benapole Port is still controlled and managed by Mongla Port Authority (MPA). Indifference of MPA have generated many problems at Benapole Port stunting its growth and progress.

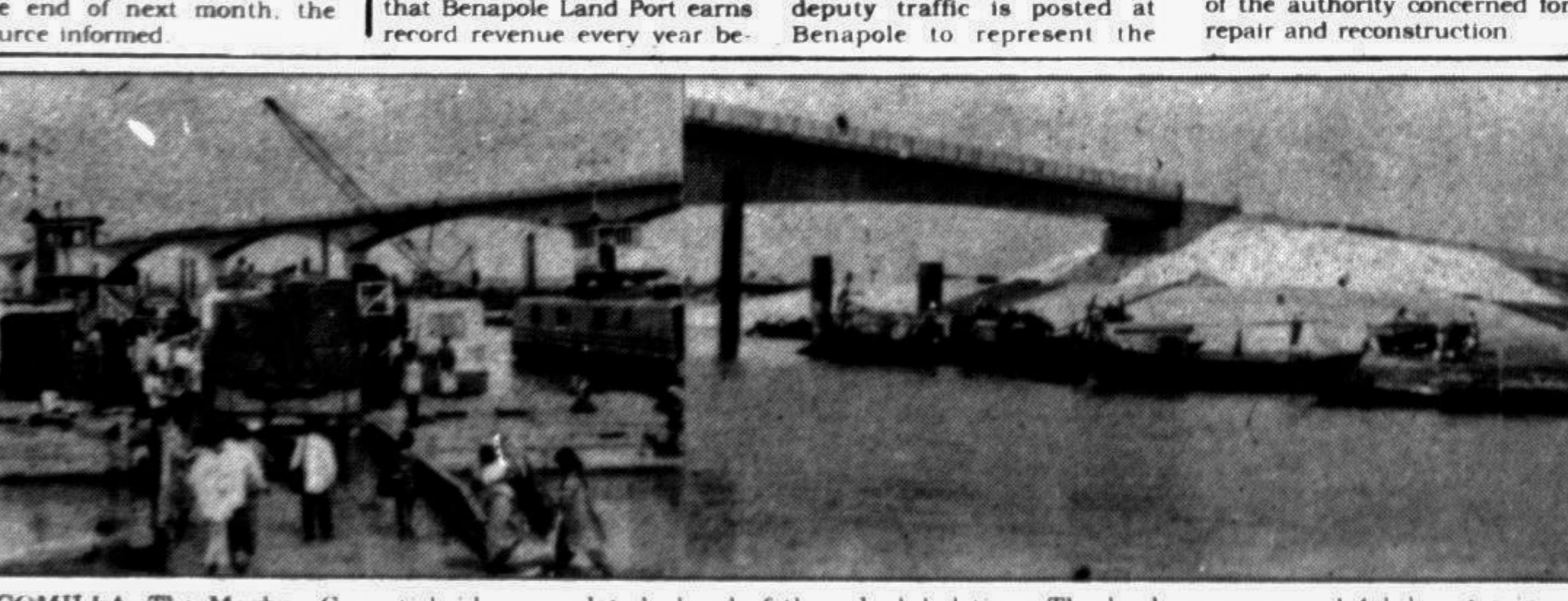
According to reports, warehouse facilities are becoming limited causing mounting problems to imports and the clearing and forwarding agents in cargo handling promptly.

It is learnt that MPA does not meet regularly at Benapole to review the situation. One deputy traffic is posted at Benapole to represent the

MPA. But his role is disappointing following lack of sufficient powers in taking decision.

It is reported that importers now feel discouraged to run their transactions through this route due to lack of prompt services by MPA. It is also reported that revenue earnings of Benapole port has chance of being reduced if the quality of management in the port is not revised immediately.

Sources say that two kilometre road from Benapole Bus Stand to Benapole check-post is in deplorable condition for a long time for want of attention of the authority concerned for repair and reconstruction.



COMILLA: The Meghna-Gumti bridge completed ahead of the scheduled time. The bridge measures 1.4 kilometre in length connecting the capital city with the port city of Chittagong. Thousands of vehicles cross the river using ferry services at Daudkandi. The bridge will soon be open to traffic saving at least 45 minutes road communication. — Star photo

## District roundup

### BARISAL

#### Workshop on production of food-grains

May 30: A two-day workshop on "influence of soil and salinity on the production of food-grains" concluded at the Barisal Development Society (BDS) Auditorium premises on Monday, reports BSS.

Organised by the Barisal Agriculture Extension Department, the workshop was inaugurated by S B Sarkar, Director, southern Region Agriculture Development Programme.

Dr GM Sanaullah, Chief Scientific Officer, Regional Rice Research Institute, Barisal, SC Dam, Senior Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute, Patuakhali and Mr A Aziz Senior Scientific Officer, Soil Development Institute, Barisal, conducted the workshop.

A total of 38 officials and two assistant agriculture officials took part in the workshop from seven southern districts.

S B Sarkar gave away the certificates among the participants on the concluding day.

Another report says, a three day training course for field-workers of the agriculture extension department on Health and Family Planning concluded at the thana parishad auditorium on Monday.

Organised by the Bangladesh Applied Nutrition, Research and Training Institute, the concluding function was attended by Nawshaba Nasrin, General Secretary, Central Co-Operative Society, as chief guest.

A total of 43 field-workers participated in this training programme from eleven southern districts of Barisal agriculture zone.

The chief guest gave away the certificates among the participants.

As a result, the farmers are not keenly interested to cultivate IRRI and boro as previous.

Senior Assistant Judge issued show cause notice on Saturday on the basis of the Sherpur district.

When contacted over telephone the ADC (Revenue) Shahjahan Kabir said that unauthorized occupation from the land was evicted, according to government rules.

The arrested are: Hedayul Islam, Atiar Rahman and Bulbul Karim. Arms and ammunition recovered included one Indian pistol, one shutter gun and four rounds of bullets.

Police arrested them when they were holding a secret meeting of the party at a garden in village Matpara in Bheramara thana of the district.

Another report adds: A youth was stabbed mercilessly near Kushtia Court Railway Station on Saturday by a gang of miscreants.

The victim Khandaker Mahbubul Huq Ripon, 18, was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

A case has been filed with the police.

Dr. Mosharraf tells Rangamati JCD confce

## Demand for caretaker govt unconstitutional

RANGAMATI, May 29: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has called upon all democratic forces to forge strong national unity for institutionalising and consolidating democracy, independence and sovereignty of the country, reports BSS.