

### 10,000 boys, girls in Magura could not get admission in primary schools

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH, Aug 2:** More than ten thousand boys and girls in four thanas of Magura district have been deprived of primary education, it is learnt.  
 According to a survey conducted by Magura district education department, the number of boys and girls aged between 6 and 10 years in four thanas, Magura sadar, Sripur, Salikha and Mohammadpur in the district is 1,41,231. Out of the total 1,31,000 students got admission to different primary schools of the district so far. Boys and girls aged 5 years and above are only eligible for admission in the primary schools, sources said.

It was also learnt from the sources that a large number of boys and girls aged below 5 years can not go to schools due to lack of provision of the primary schools. These boys or girls were not included in the survey of the district education department as school going students.

Sources said, the number of primary schools in the district are very few. There are only 267 government primary schools and 166 non-government registered primary schools in four thanas of the district.

Besides, more than 100 non-government primary schools have not been registered so far. Most of the non-government primary schools are facing manifold problems due to lack of facilities, it was learnt.

According to sources, only 14,282 students of nine unions were brought under the Food for Education Programme this year. Sources also said that the attendance in these primary schools is not satisfactory. But attendance is increasing gradually. Severe poverty, negligence of illiterate guardians, child-labour are mainly liable for poor attendances, it was gathered.

### New executives of Rajshahi Bar Assoc

**From Our Correspondent**  
**RAJSHAHI, Aug 2:** Alhaj Mujibur Rahman Talukder and Syed Ekramur Rasul were elected the president and the general secretary respectively in the elections of Rajshahi Bar Association Executive Body.

The elections was held on Thursday last but the result was announced on Saturday. Alhaj Mujibur Rahman got 272 votes and Syed Ekramur Rasul 261 votes. A total of two panels — BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party backed Talukder-Rasul Parishad, Awami League and left parties backed Jullur-Mansoor Parishad and an independent incomplete panels took part in the contest.

### Husband allegedly kills wife

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH, Aug 2:** Maleka Khatun, 32, a house wife of village Dudsar in Saikupa thana of the district was allegedly killed by her husband Thursday, it is learnt.

According to police sources, Maleka might have been killed after torturing and later pesticide was spread over her mouth, it is apprehended.

An UD case was lodged with Saikupa thana in this connection and the body was sent to morgue for post mortem.

# Recent floods in Sirajganj damage property worth Tk 71cr

From Our Correspondent



SIRAJGANJ: The Post Office Road in the town was badly affected by the recent flood. — Star photo

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 2: The recent devastating floods have incurred heavy loss of property and valuables amounting to Taka more than 71 crore in Sirajganj district alone.

According to the estimate of district administration, it is learnt that 1900 villages out of 2350 of all the 79 unions in nine thana areas were affected by floods. More than 16 lakh people of three lakh families were flood affected and other 40,000 families were rendered homeless due to erosion of the mighty Jamuna. Four seventy-nine educational institutions and 20,000 houses were damaged. Besides, 798 kilometres of roads were totally and 1174 kilometres partly damaged. A total of 47 kilometre

embankment and 246 bridges and culverts collapsed during floods. Standing crops on 2,53,951 acres of land also went under flood water. Official report says that 769 cattleheads, 1803 goats, 35,525 poultry birds and 1,45,775 trees died of inundation. The district administration has confirmed 12 deaths till July 23 but unofficial death toll rises to 45 in Sirajganj district caused by drowning, electrocution and snake biting.

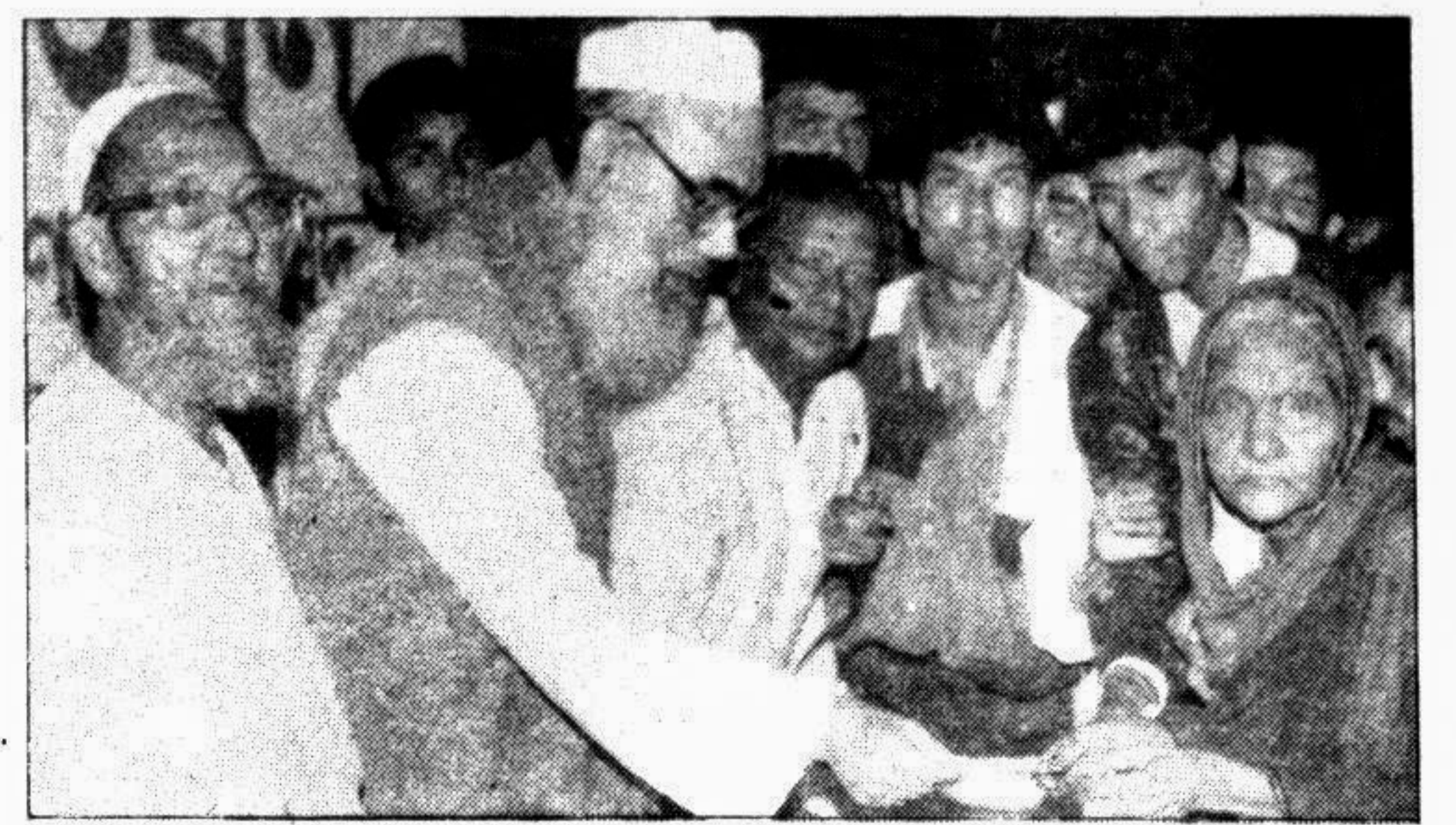
During floods, the water level of Jamuna rose one metre above the danger mark. Road communication on Sirajganj-Kazipur and Sirajganj-Kamarkhanda-Belkuchi-Enayetpur routes was disrupted as about 200 feet area of road at Salnavita

in Kazipur and 300 feet area at Banbaria under sadar thana were washed away and are yet to be restored. Besides, flood control embankment at Khudbandi, Banglabazar, Raotara, Hossainpur, Meghulla and Makra were eroded causing easy access of flood water in the western part of Brahmaputra flood control embankment. Still about three lakh people remain marooned as stagnant flood water can not flow out. As observed on July 24, erstwhile Belkuchi court complex, Shahzadpur Sreetajala sub-health centre and Onarpur Union Parishad office are under knee-deep flood water. Boats are still plying at Subarnasara on Chala-Jamtoll road. About one lakh people living in remote

charlands of Kazipur, Belkuchi, Sirajganj sadar and Chowhali thanas are passing their days without food as relief materials can hardly be supplied to them due to heavy current and waves of Jamuna.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has so far sanctioned Taka seven lakh in cash, 730 metric tons of wheat, 350 metric tons of rice, 3500 pieces of sarees, 1493 pieces of lungis, 700 tins of biscuit and a number of old clothes, sandals and jerrycans for the flood affected people. State Minister of Establishment Barrister Aminul Islam supervised relief operation for about a week and Shohidullah Khan, MP, is coordinating relief operations round-the-clock. Besides, Bangladesh Awami League, Red Crescent Society and other organisations have also intensified relief operation in the district.

Four Sirajganj-based Non-Government (voluntary) Organisations (NGOs) including Sirajganj Uttar Mohila Sangstha (SUMS), NDP, PRS and ORKIS have started a co-ordinated relief operation in Sirajganj sadar, Belkuchi and Kazipur thanas with the help of ADAB and CARITAS. When contacted, a source at SUMS told The Daily Star that 10 kgs rice, one kg salt, one kg pulse and three kgs of potato have been distributed to each of 2,500 families selected under project areas from July 23. Besides, ADAB and CARITAS have taken up a 3-year rehabilitation programme in the flood affected areas of selected villages in Sirajganj.



SYLHET: Leaders and workers of Greater Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad distributed relief materials among the flood victims in Companyganj thana recently. — Star photo

### From Natore district Jute output target may fall by 25 pc this year

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 2: The jute production may fall short by huge amount this year in Baraigram thana due to unprecedented drought followed by sudden devastating flood at the beginning and at the end of jute season respectively, it is apprehended.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, about 1,700 hectares of land in 12 unions of Baraigram thana were brought under jute cultivation during this season. Of them, 1,000 hectares of land were targeted for tossa variety and 700 hectares of land for local variety of jute. The production target was fixed at 16,650 bales of jute including 10,350 bales of tossa variety.

But the farmers have been able to cultivate jute on about 1,275 hectares of land including 875 hectares of land for tossa. It is 425 hectares

short of the target. The production will fall by 25 per cent, it is expected.

Jute cultivation is also not expected to attain the target due to drought during the sowing season. Generally jute seeds are sown within the month of April and the harvesting season in the period from July to August.

During the sowing season, lands were very dry and the weather was unfavourable for sowing jute-seeds. Farmers had to wait and after a long time, rain came in May. It was too late for jute cultivation.

On the other hand, during this current harvesting season, flood has gripped most of the thana areas inundating huge jute crop fields.

In this situation, most of the farmers of the region are passing their days in despair.

### Barguna transport workers begin indefinite strike

From Staff Correspondent

BARISHAL, Aug 2: Transport movement from Barguna to the rest of the country remained suspended from this morning following a strike call given by the road transport workers of Barguna district.

According to sources, school students called a half-day hartal yesterday in Barguna town demanding reintroduction of the question bank in the next SSC exams.

During the hartal hours the students brought out a procession and some unruly students damaged nine buses. Four transport workers were also injured.

### Dispute over construction of polders in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 2: The construction work of polder Nos 2 and 4 of the West Gopalganj Small Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation Project could not be completed within the scheduled time as the land owners were not paid the compensation for acquiring their land and due to the local people's demand for constructing the water control structures at the canals mouth.

The higher authorities ordered to complete the construction of West Gopalganj Small Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation Project by last June. Though other formalities for implementation of the project were performed to implement within the scheduled time but the land owners insisted the earth-work of polder Nos 2 and 4 be constructed at canals mouth as they were not paid the compensation for acquiring their land for the project. Moreover, the local high yielding paddy cultivators resisted the closing of the canals mouth without constructing the water control structures there as they irrigate the fields from the canals.

The local people including farmers within polder Nos 2 and 4 of the project irrigate water to their high yielding paddy fields, the flood water recedes through the canals which also serves as a means of navigation. They fish in the canals and collect fish-feed, namely, the snail for shrimp culture and also the canal water is used for domestic purposes. As such the local people have been resisting to close the canals' mouth and demanding to construct the water control structures there.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: The Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Eusuff Ali addressing (C) the teachers of RU after July 22 incident in which several students were injured in a clash between two political student wings, JCD and ICS. The VC also addressed the officers of the university (L) following the incident briefing them about the latest situation in the campus. — Star photos

## No relief sanctioned for erosion, flood victims yet

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 2: Woes of flood hit people of Kushtia particularly in three thanas have mounted as no relief measures has yet been taken.

The affected areas are now threatened with erosion and the people have been alerted to go for safer places as erosion with tremendous havoc may devour their homestead at any moment. The places are, four unions of Daulatpur thana, 2 unions of Bheramara Talbaria union of Mirpur thana and Jagannathpur union of Kumarkhali thana. Besides, more residential buildings of Kumarkhali pourashava area and some part of Jayanabad village are on the verge of collapse due to erosion.

The people of the area have been suffering for want of drinking water, sufficient foodgrains, adequate medicine for combating water-borne diseases and scarcity of house building materials for reconstruction of houses damaged by flood and erosion.

The relief materials and

cash grant for those unfortunate people have not yet been declared by the government. The district administration has not yet taken any measure to mitigate their sufferings, it was alleged.

A group of journalists from Kushtia visited the affected places on Friday and talked to the homeless people who have taken shelter in Philipnagar High School premises and on the Raita-Bhurka embankment. They narrated their battle against the fury of flood and subsequent erosion that have devoured their hearts and homes and vast tract to cultivable land.

They said that the main river Ganges was flowing eight miles from the present course in 1972 and as a precautionary measure 12 mile long Raita-Mohiskundi flood protection embankment was constructed in 1972. But this year the embankment has been devoured by the fury of erosion.

It may be mentioned that most of the people in the

flood hit areas have become jobless and became dependent on relief materials. Hundreds of cattleheads have died due to serious scarcity of fodder in the affected areas as well.

Cholera, diarrhoea, and dysentery have broken out in the flood hit areas in an epidemic form. Scarcity of drinking water has been attributed for outbreak of the diseases. Government has claimed that a number of medical teams were working in the flood hit areas and giving inoculation and vaccination to the people against the diseases.

Meanwhile prices of rice and other essential have shot up beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people. If adequate measures were not taken by the government immediately famine like condition will prevail and situation would go beyond control. Open marketing sale of rice by government has not yet been started in affected areas or any where in Kushtia.

### 2 cops suspended on charges of rape, forgery

SAVAR, Aug 2: Two police constables of Savar thana were suspended today on separate charges of rape and forgery, reports UNB.

The suspended constables are Hashmat Ali and Masud Rana.

Hashmat Ali was suspended for attempting to violate Monwara Begum, 30, of Dakkhinpara in Savar municipal area on July 23.

Hashmat, in a drunken condition, reportedly went to the house of Monwara Begum at night and tried to molest her. When Monwara raised alarm for help, local people rushed to the spot and caught the constable from her house.

Later, Hashmat was handed over to the Savar police station.

Masud Rana was suspended on charge of taking bribe by showing a false warrant of arrest from one Kohinor Begum of Savar municipal area on July 27.

### 2 women held with pistols

From Staff Correspondent  
 SYLHET, Aug 2: The BDR personnel caught two women while they were carrying two pistols near Moglabazar border of Doarabazar thana of Sunamganj district on Thursday morning.

The BDR jawans of Moglabazar BOP while were patrolling in the border, challenged a group of three persons including two women as they were entering into the Bangladesh territory. The gang tried to flee. The BDR men chased them and caught hold of the two women while the male member managed to escape leaving behind a pistol. Two other pistols were also recovered from the possession of the women.

On interrogation, the women confessed that, they were carrying the pistols with their male companion Ashique Miah from across the borders.

They were identified as Jobeda Khatun, 40, wife of Shamsul Haque of village Reckpara and Ful Meher Khatun, 35, wife of Abdul Majid of village Bashtala both under Doarabazar thana.

The BDR later handed over them to the police, alongwith the pistols. A case had been started with Doarabazar thana.

## 'I wanted to go to school but my parents' did not support the idea

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 2: Lack of proper environment and motivation as well as severe poverty, some poor guardians show reluctance in sending their children to primary schools, particularly at Shahzadapur union under Sarail thana of the district, according to a recent survey.

Most of the villagers of Shahzadapur union are farmers. They take their children away from the schools and engage them as farm labourers during the peak time of harvesting seasons. The parents encourage their children to work in the fields, rather than sending them to school.

On the other hand, some children who are very poor do not go to school at all. They work in the fields, pull rickshaws and work in garages and in hotels. They also work as day labourers for a nominal wage. Though the income of these children are meagre, it does help

their families. Parents feel it is better for their families to send the children to work instead of sending them to schools, chiefly due to extreme poverty.

Most of the inhabitants of Shahzadapur village are very poor and illiterate. The people are not aware of the importance of education, nor they have any ability to pursue their children's education.

When contacted, Tunt, 12, a maid servant, daughter of a day labourer Hasim of Shahzadapur village, told this correspondent that her parents and three brothers are illiterate. Her parents never encouraged them to go to school. Once she tried to seek admission in a Proshika-run NGO school but her parents did not allow her to do so. She said that her younger brother was very eager to go to school but he had no clothes. Her elder

brother, Tikka is a day labourer like two other and her mother, Umbi, is a house-maid.

Marufa Begum, a college student, said that she has been struggling to pursue her education but her neighbours are against her quest and the illiterate persons speak ill of her. Her father died of TB and her only brother Moni Mia is a day labourer. Marufa Begum works in a Proshika-run school in order to run their poor family.

Moriap Begum, a teacher of Shahzadapur non-government primary school, informed this correspondent that most of the students of her school belonged to very poor families. These students leave the school during the harvesting period. "It is very difficult to keep them in class during this time of the year. Parents demand that children work at least for, a while."

Hand, the children of poor families of Ashugonj area too have turned day labourers. A poor boy told this correspondent that to assist his poor family he was forced to become a rickshaw-puller.

Sheik Muhammad Nurul Islam, a local elite, said that due to frequent natural calamities from 1988 most of the people of this village are passing a very hard time. The poor have to earn their bread one way or the other, he said.

Sk Md Nurul Islam, a member of the managing committee of the West Shahzadapur Government Primary School said that they have been trying to motivate the people for education. To ensure education for all children, Food for Education Programme (FFP) should be introduced here immediately, he said which may at least provide support for the hungry parents.



JHENIDAH: Jahidunnabi Kalu, central committee member Grameen Samaz Kendra (GSK), a Dhaka-based NGO distributing loans among the society members as a part of their poverty alleviation programme. Dilip Kumar Kundu, Manager GSK is also seen. — Star photo