

## Attack on JP office protested

GAIBANDHA, Apr 7: A protest procession and meeting of Zilla Jatiya Party was held Monday against bomb attack at Jatiya Party office.

A victory procession of BNP while passing through Jatiya Party office that night a bomb exploded inside the JP office in which three JP activists, Shafiqul, Farhad and Rafiqul sustained severe injuries. Left democratic front held a meeting Monday at local Shaheed Miner demanding restoration of law and order.

## Gun, stolen goods recovered

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 7: Police recovered a one-barrel rifle from an abandoned house at Kazipur in the poura area reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the Kazipur area and recovered the gun, last week.

Meanwhile, police recovered some stolen goods from Mouria area in the town. The goods were stolen from the house of a school teacher.

## 7,000 cubic feet of timber seized at Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Apr 7: Rangamati Forest Division seized 7,005 cubic feet of teak and "garai" timber worth about Tk 50 lakh during the fast six months till March 30, reports UNB.

According to a forest official, the forest rangers seized the timber with the help of local people from different parts of reserved forest.

Illegal selling of trees and unauthorised passing of wood from the deep forest have been causing serious deforestation in the area for a long period, forest officials said.

However, the Forest Division sold in auction the seized timber at about Tk 16 lakh during the period.

## Khulna police commissioner blamed for partisan role

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, Apr 7: BNP and JCD leaders at a rally here this afternoon strongly criticised the Police Commissioner and the Police Super of Khulna for their alleged partisan role in dealing with political clashes after the formation of the caretaker government.

Former MP Nargis Ali alleged that the police commissioner and the police super were harbouring the armed terrorists of a political party while harassing BNP and JCD activists. She said the two police officers were acting as per advice of local Awami league leaders.

Meanwhile, the liaison committee in a press statement alleged that JCD armed terrorists wanted in connection with several murder cases were still moving freely.

A top police official denied the charges.

## Benapole Port badly needs a bus terminal

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Apr 7: Passengers' trouble, traffic-jam road accidents, import and export problems are becoming more acute at Benapole Port following absence of bus terminal since long.

According to reports, hundreds of buses, mini-buses, private cars, coaches, tempo and night coaches operate commercial services to and from here every day. They are seen to park on the main road that runs to other side of the border from Jessore. Lack of terminal in this border area has led to this awkward situation causing difficulty to all concerned, the report said.

Report also said that a traffic unit has been posted there to control the traffic movement recently. Instead they are otherwise busy in some other business it is alleged. As such, there has been no improvement in the situation, the report said.

According to another source, the entire Benapole Bazar, has virtually turned into bus terminal. Giving details, the source said that local bus stand has been set up in front of Sonali Bank, mini bus stand in the centre of the bazar, night coaches in front of the BDR camp and the truck stand spreading to check post from C&F Agents Associations office. Benapole Port area, in fact, looks like a big bus/truck terminal to any outsider.

This sort of parking of vehicles in disorderly manner on the main road, is creating problems for easy movement of any pedestrians not to speak of vans or rickshaws, trucks carrying imported or exported cargo, and passport holders coming or going to India, are also becoming victims of circumstances.

It is reported that such trucks remain stranded for days together to off load goods adversely affecting the position of perishable goods in particular.

## National

## Fund crisis stalls Chalan Beel project again

From MA Ali Himu

NATORE, Apr 7: The work on Chalan Beel project is likely to remain incomplete for want of fund even this year too, it is learnt.

The work on the 44 crore taka project was started in 1976 and it was stopped in 1984 for financial crisis.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) started the project in this region with a view to control flood and extraction of water. The Chalan Beel project areas are divided into 4 polders.

The polders included the beel areas of Natore, Pabna, Bogra, Naogaon and Rajshahi districts.

Primarily World Food Programme (WFP) and International Development Agency (IDA) financed the project.

The project includes con-

struction of 200 km long flood control embankment, digging of 300 km long canal, building of 24 regulators, 250 sluice gates, 55 bridges and 132 culverts.

One hundred ninety seven km of flood control embankment, 104 km of canal, 12 regulators, 93 sluice gates and three bridges were completed till 1984, a BWDB source informed.

The work on the project could save food grains on 2.14 lakh acres of land under the project area from flood and could help produce an additional amount of food grains worth about Taka 10 crore.

The World Bank, however, assured rehabilitation of the project with the financial assistance of some donor agencies. The implementation of

the rehabilitation programme needs about Taka 10 crore but no donor agency has yet agreed to finance the project.

The rehabilitation work includes construction of 426 km long embankment, digging of 356 km of canal, construction of 16 regulators, 57 sluice gates, 171 km long road, four bridges and 47 culverts, it is learnt.

The BWDB, in this situation, has taken up a decision to start the rehabilitation programme with the surplus fund of the project in FCD. But the Board will not be able to complete the work, it is learnt.

Farmers of the project areas have urged the donor agencies and the government to assist the project immediately in the greater interest of the country.

## Water stagnation in Jakiganj haors

## Standing crops on 30,000 acres inundated

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 7: Standing paddy crops on about 30,000 acres of land in the haors in Jakiganj thana have gone under water due to water stagnation in the absence of any outlet of waters. Excessive rains for the last two days caused the situation in the low-lying areas.

The huge croplands in the Balai haor, Mailat haor and others in the thana have been inundated throwing thousands of farmers into great worries. The farmers have become totally disappointed in the prevailing situation.

It may be stated here that, the water stagnation in the said croplands along the haors in the thanas had been caused due to the blocking up of the entry points of the canals which originated from the rivers Surma and Kushiyara, pass through the north and south sides of the Jakiganj thana years back. The situation went serious during the last few years due to the silting of almost all the canals. The canals were blocked through the construction of a number of embankments, constructed without any long-term plan, said a number of leaders of the area. The farmers as well as the people of the thana have been demanding for cutting the entrypoints of the em-

bankments with a view to facilitate the water flow from the canals especially during the monsoon every year. But the concerned authorities took no action in this regard causing much inconvenience for the farmers in general almost every year.

In July 1993 several thousand farmers went to the entrypoint of the Telikhali embankment to cut the same. But, a contingent from the nearby border out post of BDR swooped on them and as many as five persons were shot dead.

Later, the government constituted a one-member enquiry commission with a District Judge for a Judicial enquiry into the incident. The commission headed by the District Judge of Kishoreganj Md Anwarul Haque submitted its report to the Government with some specific suggestions. But the report is yet to be published. No action in the light of the report has also been taken yet.

It is learnt from reliable sources that, the commission suggested for opening the entry points of all the canals in Jakiganj thana with a view to facilitating the huge croplands for cultivation as well as to save the crops from early flood and water stagnation which occur almost every year. Due to the

crop damage every year, thousands of farmers in the thana have been facing great loss. A good number of farmers are becoming being hardhit economically. Many are compelled to sell their croplands, even many of them sold out their homesteads.

In the prevailing situation, the number of landless farmers are on rise. A good number of farmers had also been engaged with smuggling to earn their livelihood in this bordering thana.

While talking to this correspondent, the secretary of Jakiganj Krishak Sangram Parishad Faizur Rahman Koshru said the authorities should take up a programme to open the starting points of all the canals originated from the rivers Surma and Kushiyara with a view to save the 30,000 acres of croplands from inundation every year as well as to save the thousands of poor farmers of the thana. The 90 per cent of the population have to depend on these lands, he added. He further said that, a number of deputations had been sent to the Water Development Board as well as to the Administrative officials in this regard. But, no effective measure has yet been taken. It has angered the people of the region, he viewed.

It is learnt from reliable sources that, the commission suggested for opening the entry points of all the canals in Jakiganj thana with a view to facilitating the huge croplands for cultivation as well as to save the crops from early flood and water stagnation which occur almost every year. Due to the

## Loan money worth Tk 61 cr remain outstanding

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 7: A total amount of Taka 61 crore 6 lakh 54 thousand loan money has been lying outstanding with different banks in the 8 thanas of the district of Habiganj. Authorities have registered a total of 1853 certificate cases to realise an amount of Taka 3 crore 77 lakh 62,000.

Of this, 245 certificate cases has been started for a total claim of Taka one crore 4 lakh 10 thousand in Habiganj sadar thana, 280 cases for a total claim of taka 42 lakh 54 thousand in Madhabpur, 304 cases for a total of Taka 59 lakh 89 thousand in Ajmiriganj, 461 cases for realising Taka one crore one lakh 7 thousand in Baniachang and 355 cases for Taka 17 lakh 18 thousand in Bahubal thana. Due to lodging of these cases, a legal measure are being taken against the poor farmers. Many farmers are now compelled to sell out their tilling bullocks even some of them have sold their homesteads to pay arrear loan amounts in the remote areas of the district.

Besides, due to the abnormal rise in the prices of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, irrigation equipment and natural calamities, the number of poor and marginal farmers had been on increase for the last few years in different thanas of the district.

In a condolence message, the President said that the atmosphere of the slums are causing severe health hazards.

Three persons identified as Akter Hossain, 26, Ismail, 23, and Abdul Hakim, 22, were picked up from the spot. A case has been filed with Gulshan thana.

Meanwhile, the detective

branch of police recovered 38 bullets in another raid at Omar Ali Lane in Gulshan thana Saturday night, police said.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message, the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser