

Disruption in loading, unloading vehicles

# Hundreds of vehicles remain stranded at Nagarbari

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 14: Due to the sudden rise in the water-level caused by flood in the river Jamuna, the ferryghats and their pontoons both in Nagarbari and Aricha ferryghats have partially gone under water. This has caused difficulties in anchoring the ferries plying between the two ghats.

The problem has become so acute that every now and then, pontoons on both the ferry ghats were being rendered quite unserviceable. Road-communication between the eastern and north-western parts of the country has been severely disrupted in the last few days.

The situation has further aggravated due to shortage of

ferries plying between the two ghats. Five ferries have been sent for repair, according to terminal sources.

As the ferry services between Sirajganj-Bhuapur ghats were lying suspended for months together and all the trucks, buses, coaches and all other vehicles travelling to and from 16 north-western districts thousands of other vehicles similarly coming from Dhaka, Chittagong etc with their destination to the said 16 districts of North Bengal be-

came completely dependant on the Aricha-Nagarbari ferryghats which have been overburdened with the abnormally high pressure of increasing number of vehicles crossing the river everyday through these two ferry ghats. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has in the meantime, several times to accommodate anchoring of the ferries for ensuring safe loading and unloading. The situation has arisen in both, Aricha and Nagarbari ferryghats.

There are five pontoons in the Aricha ghat and only two pontoons in Nagarbari ferry ghat. A BIWTA official, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that at least two pontoons of Aricha ghat and one of Nagarbari ferry ghat badly needed repairing and at the same time shifting to a safer place. Thus, huge wastage of time has become almost a daily feature throwing thousand of passengers and vehicles into possible sufferings.

An official of the police department engaged in controlling traffic in Nagarbari ferry ghat said that jams of vehicles of worst type and of unmanageable nature have almost turned into a daily feature. The sufferings of passengers, drivers, have gone beyond all limits. Inadequate number of policemen in the Nagarbari ghat police camp were also being over-worked as they with their inadequate number of staff were being compelled to work day and night for managing the situation prevailing at the moment.

## BDR raids inter-city train: Contrabands worth Tk 11 lakh seized

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, July 14: The BDR-jawans of 23 battalion launching an anti-smuggling drive in the 'Parabat', an inter-city train at Marashani railway station, seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 11 lakh recently.

Acting on a secret information, some BDR-jawans headed by Nayek Subadar Anzad Husain raided the Dhaka bound 'Parabat' train at Marashani rail station under Brahmanbaria and seized 597 pieces of smuggled Indian sarees, 30 bottles of Indian drugs and 750 grams of ganja worth about Taka 11 lakh 86 thousand.

According to BDR-handout, they also arrested two suspected smugglers in this connection.

All smuggled goods were deposited at local Akhawara customs office godowns and two arrested smugglers were handed over to police.

## Over 5 lakh workers of Sylhet Div have to seek legal solution in Ctg court

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, July 14: More than 5 lakh labourers, workers and employees have been suffering a lot due to the absence of a labour court in the divisional headquarters of Sylhet for long.

These people engaged in various types of works with a large number of small and big size industrial units and 153 tea gardens in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj districts have to go to the labour court in Chittagong seeking legal solution to their job and wages related disputes. It causes much hardship for them due to the security and communication problems. So they have to endure even unlawful acts of the owners or authorities very often. It was learnt.

There are 156 tea gardens in the district of Moulvibazar, some one hundred in the district of Habiganj and some 250 in Sylhet district. Besides, a good number of these are located in and around Srimangal. Arrangements were made

to run the labour court temporarily at Srimangal with a view to facilitating the number of tea garden labourers. But, it was later withdrawn on the ground of security. Transportation of case related papers and documents also became another problem, sources said. Besides, the poor litigants had to bear huge financial losses for engaging lawyers from Chittagong.

So, many feel inability in seeking legal solution from the courts.

No effective measure has yet been taken to meet the long felt demand of lakhs of labourers, workers and employees in four districts of the division. It may be stated here that, Sylhet was made an administrative division in 1994.

Establishment of a labour court in the divisional headquarters of Sylhet accordance with the government provision at an early date would mitigate the unfold sufferings of the huge number of labourers. It is widely felt.

Brahmaputra, Jamuna erode fresh areas

# Erosion intensifies in Jamalpur: Thousands becoming landless

From Meherullah

JAMALPUR, July 14: The erosion of the Jamuna and Brahmaputra has turned serious in the district during the current rainy season.

The Jamuna and Brahmaputra river erosion already devouring vast tract of land in the district, continues to grab fresh areas threatening, educational institutions, markets, residential areas, government offices and railway Ferry Port.

Like every year, the devastating erosion has once again taken serious turn with the rise in the water level in the rivers. This year too, erosion has forced thousands of people homeless already. About five lakh people, mostly poor, have taken shelter on roads, embankment, unused railway routes and other places. The rail way ghat which was earlier shifted to a new site, needs shifting again as the river neighbouring the area continues to engulf new areas. Many of the shops at the Bahadurabad railway ghat area were devoured recently by the erosion, according to witnesses and victims of those areas.

Measures so far taken by the concerned authority to check erosion in the district were alleged too inadequate. Thousands of acres of crop land in the district, grabbed by the river erosion during the past years, has seriously affected crop output from the district. This year too, standing crop were affected by both, drought and erosion.

According to unofficial sources more than 12 square miles, including 90 per cent areas in five unions of Islampur thana have been washed away by the river erosion in the last five years. The worst affected unions are: Chinaduli, Nowarpura, Shapdari, Kulkandi, and Belgassa.

Erosion in the district continues to affect rural poor who have lost at least 25,000 acres of crop land in the past few years. About 122 villages in five

unions of Islampur thana alone were affected forcing hundreds of people to take shelter in different places. It was alleged that the erosion hit people were not provided with any relief goods. Many of the victims have fallen sick who urgently need medicare.

The severe erosion has also threatened many building and similar structures. The 100-year old Gopal Bazar, Gopal High School and madrasa would probably not escape the threat of erosion. The Jamalpur Dewanganj road, at

acres of crop land are affected by the flood water every year.

When contacted, a source of operation and maintenance division of Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) informed this correspondent that smooth maintenance and repairing works of the embankment could not be possible as both sides of Harindara embankment are occupied by the landless people.

The newly constructed Flood Action Plan (FAP) embankment a total cost of Taka 53 crore face threat of erosion

ing materials among same affected families and the remaining families have still been remaining homeless.

Erosion affected landless people who are mostly agricultural labourers were facing starvation. Scarcity of drinking water, clothings and medicine were also prevailing. When contacted some erosion victims told this correspondent that they took shelter on the embankment after they had lost their land due to the erosion of the river Jamuna and Brahmaputra. Different NGO, in the meantime, are helping those people providing food and house building materials. But that too in far too small quantity. Recently they have submitted an application to the Dewanganj thana authorities asking for their rehabilitation. Nurul Islam, Chairman of Shapdari union under Islampur thana told this correspondent that he took shelter in Islampur thana officer staff quarters after he lost his home stead by the Jamuna erosion.

Another victim says he lost 180 acres of crops land including homestead eroded by the Jamuna. Md. Faku Phalgun ex-MP of Jamalpur-3 constituency said, 'I have been giving in this union for 50 years, but I never witnessed such a devastating erosion'.

Total damage was estimated at Taka 25,000 crore after the liberation period in the all affected areas in the district, according to local NGOs and elites of the district.

Water Development Board could not stop the erosion after taking measures spending huge amount of money. The board under took erosion protection measures at a cost of Taka 180 crore in the district for construction of embankment cum-road. Implementation of the plan will be delayed, sources said.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to check the erosion and send relief materials for the affected people.



JAMALPUR: Erosion affected Bahadurabad ghat area. — Star photo

Kangakusha village only 15 feet away from the river bank, may collapse any day, according to local people.

The Madarganj thana court building also face similar condition by the Jamuna erosion.

Meanwhile, a 40 miles long portion out of total 63 miles long Harindara flood control and irrigation embankment from Bahadurabad ghat to Jagannathganj ghat has been washed away by the erosion of river Jamuna during the last 10 years. As a result 65,000

of Jamuna river during the current rainy season. Same portion of the embankment was already eroded. When contacted an engineer of FAP told this correspondent that 'The FAP embankment could not finish the work, so it is natural that some portion of the embankment' experienced erosion.

Due to pressure of flood water the Dewanganj and Islampur portion of the embankment was damaged. Different NGO distributed house build-

ing materials for the affected people.

# Pabna Cadet College students dominate RB SSC merit list

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 14: In the just published results of SSC examination held this year under the Rajshahi Board, the examinees from Pabna district made a remarkable position in the merit list. As many as 14 examinees from this district found their names in the said list.

of the said 14, seven were from Pabna Cadet College alone. Three more were from Pabna Zilla School, two from the Sara Marwari High School of Ishardi, and one each from Bera Bepin Behari High School and from the North Bengal Paper Mills High School.

The seven meritorious students who found their names in the combined merit list from Pabna Cadet College are: Ashif Ahmed Anik, with eight letters, stood second; Monirul Islam, with eight letters, stood seventh; Sardar Anisul Haque, with six letters, stood eleventh; Md Qamrul Islam, with seven letters, stood fifteenth and Zubair Al Mahmud, with seven letters, occupied twentieth place in the science

group. Besides, Dewan Muhammad Al-Amin, with three letters, stood sixth and Asif Kabir with letters in six subjects, occupied seventh place in the combined merit list from social science group.

Besides, three SSC examinees from Pabna Zilla School, namely, Md Mujibul Hasan with eight letters, stood second; Md Ferdous Sarwar Saikat, with seven letters, stood fourth and Muhammad Jshaque Ali, with eight letters stood ninth in the combined merit list of science group.



Mujibul Hasan with his mother

## Hasan wants to be a computer engineer

From Our Correspondent:

PABNA, July 14. Md Mujibul Hasan stood second from the Rajshahi Board in the SSC examination held this year from the general science group. Appearing from Pabna Zilla School, Mujibul Hasan obtained letters in eight subjects with 938 marks in aggregate. Hasan wants to become a computer engineer.

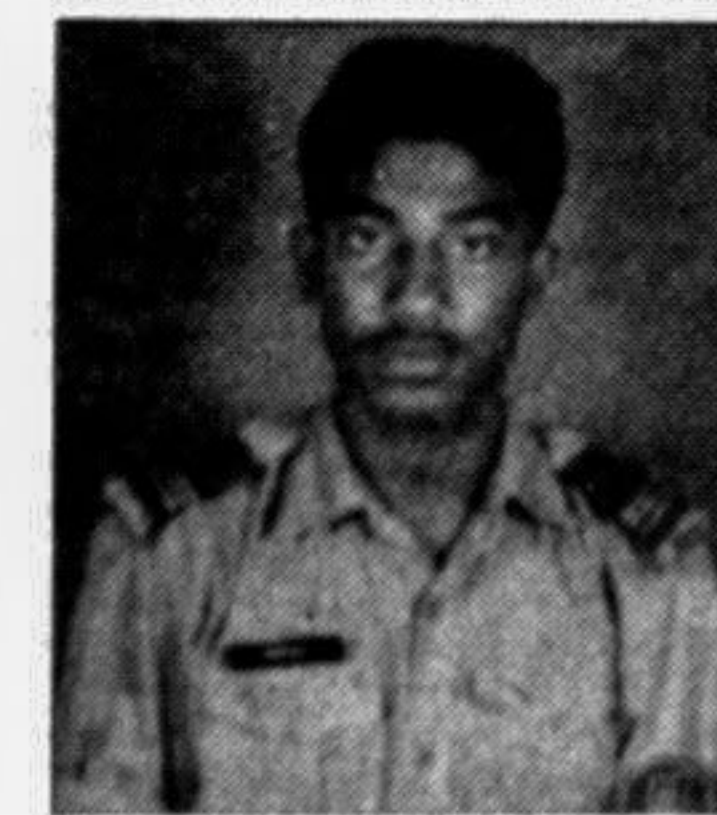
His father, Professor Dr So-laiman Miah, ex-professor of English in the Government Edward College is now serving in the D.G. Office, Secondary Education II, Dhaka.



Asif Ahmed Anik



Qamrul Islam



Sardar Anisul Haque



Zubair Al-Mahmud



Dewan Md-Al Amin



Monirul Islam



Asif Kabir

science group. They are: Debabrata Paul, with eight letters stood eleventh while Omar Faruque Sarkar, with eight letters, stood thirteenth.

Miss Naznin Tarana with six letters, occupied ninth place in the women's merit list in the General Science Group. She appeared from North Bengal Paper Mills High School of Paksey, Pabna.

One more female candidate, Miss Sharmin Akhtar, with four letters, occupied fourth place in the women's merit list from Social Science Group. She appeared in the SSC examination from Bepin Behari High School, Bera, Pabna.

## Rokan wants to join army



From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 14: Cadet Sheikh Mohammad Rokanzaman of Jhenidah Cadet College stood first in combined merit list securing 935 marks in Jessore Board SSC examination. He got letters in seven subjects (English, Mathematics, Geography, Islamic Religion, Agriculture and Higher Mathematics).

Rokan's father, Sheikh Mohammad Qamrurazzaman is the production manager of Sonali Jute Mills in Khulna. Rokan wants to serve the nation by joining the army. His hobby is reading books, sports and stamp collection.

## Suman wants to join army

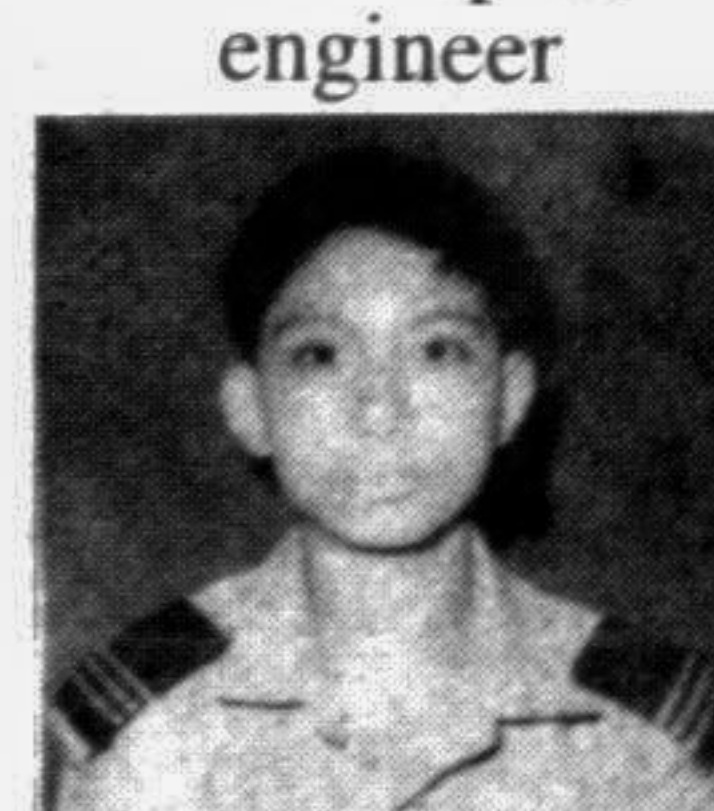


From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 14: A S M Suman Mahmud of Jhenidah Cadet College (Cadet No. 1588) stood second in Jessore Board SSC examination. Suman got 931 securing eight letters in English, Mathematics, Geography, General Science, Agriculture, Higher Mathematics and Islamic Religion.

Suman's father, Md Salim Mollah of Jhenidah Stadiumpara is a businessman. Suman wants to join army. His hobby is reading books, sports and composing poems. He usually studied 8 hours a day.

## Partha wants to be a computer engineer



From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 14: Cadet Partha Halder of Jhenidah Cadet College stood third in Jessore Board SSC examination. Securing 928 marks Partha got letters in English, Bengali, Mathematics, Geography, Karmamukhi, General Science, Agriculture and Higher Mathematics.

His father, Batul Krishna Halder is an officer of Anti Corruption Bureau at Jhenidah. Partha wants to become a computer engineer.

## Parveen wants to become a doctor



From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 14: Mousumi Parveen wants to be a doctor. Mousumi, student of Natore Government Women's School stood tenth in the SSC examination from science group in Rajshahi Education Board, held this year. She got letters in General Mathematics, General Science, Religious studies, Higher Mathematics and Home Economics securing 892 marks in total.

Mousumi, daughter of Mozammel Hossain said that she was expecting such a result. And she studied 8 to 9 hours a day.

## Nigar stands 2nd among girl students from Ctg Board



From Our Correspondent

Gulshan Nigar Chaudhury (Swati) stood 2nd in the SSC examination of Chittagong Board this year amongst the girl students and 12th in the combined merit list from Science Group from BWA School (Bangladesh Mohila Samity Girls' High School), Chittagong. She secured 894 marks with letters in six subjects.

She is the 2nd daughter of Najmul Huq Choudhury, Managing Director of Van Ommeren Tank Terminal Bangladesh Limited and International Oil Mills Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong

# Flood water recedes, sufferings of affected people increase

From K M Rezaul Hoque

GAIBANDHA, July 14: Overall flood situation in the district improved gradually with the recession of water level in Teesta and Brahmaputra basin despite heavy downpour since last four days.

According to district relief office four thanas of the district namely Fulchari, Gaibandha sadar, Shaghata and Sunderganj were badly affected by recent flash flood. Total 21,280 people have been affected by flood water. About 2,500 dwellings have been shattered by surging water and 43,250 houses affected partially. Standing crops including seedlings on 14,400 acres were damaged completely and crops on 7,600 acres affected partially by the flood water. About 103 kilometres kuccha roads were washed away creating ditch and potholes at different points. Total 24 educational institutes were ragged to the ground; all these were learned during visit to the spots by this correspondent.

With the recession of water level in Brahmaputra basin erosion along the western bank intensified alarmingly in the district. Within the course of last three days 1,500 dwelling houses together with 500 acres of cultivable lands were eroded by the surging water. Erosion has taken serious turn at Bhatiyapara, Harichandi, Dacatiyer Char, Alger Char, Chowmohoni, Utter Khatiyamari, Purbo Gabgachi, Kanchipara and Sayedpur under Fulchari thana, Gobindi, Haldia and Bharalkhali under Shaghata thana, Mollerchar, Baguria and Dhutechora under Gaibandha sadar thana, Belka, Lalchamar and Kapasia under Sunderganj thana.

During the last 3 days one

primary school and a Tahsil office are badly hit the erosion. Puribogabgachi primary school built four years ago spending Tk 4,20,000 is now on the verge of extinction at any time. Besides, an age-old building constructed during the British regime at Baguria under Gaibandha sadar thana recently used as Tahsil office is facing extinction at any moment as



GAIBANDHA: Flood water receding from many areas of the district. The photo, taken on last Thursday, shows Baguria Tahsil office partially submerged by flood water. — Star photo

the erosion of river Brahmaputra seriously hit its walls. Authority however sold this abandoned building at an auction bid at Tk 14,500.

Being driven out by the seasonal natural calamity about 1200 erosion victim families have taken shelter on nearby flood control embankment or abandoned high land under

open sky. They are suffering badly for want of food and work.

When contacted District Relief Officer told this correspondent that only 25 metric tons of wheat, 10 metric tons of rice was available in hand. Of that 7 tons of wheat and 5 tons of rice were distributed among the affected people. Meanwhile, government allocated

10 metric tons of rice, cash Tk 20,000, 200 pieces of sarees and 200 piece of Lungis and 250 cartoon of biscuit, as immediate help of the flood victims. Besides, the Prime Minister in her recent visit allocated Taka five lakh for the rehabilitation of erosion affected people of the district.

# Benapole Customs earns Tk 617 cr in 1995-96 fiscal year

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 14: Jessore office of Commissioner Customs Excise and VAT (Value Added Taxes) earned revenue worth Taka 617 crore 46 lakh during the fiscal 1995-96, said office source of the commissioner.

According to source, Taka 490 crore 36 lakh was earned on account of import duty VAT. Supplementary tax and miscellaneous taxes from Benapole and Darsana Stations during this fiscal. This earning was Taka 92 crore 81 lakh more than that of fiscal 1994-95 and in term of percentage it was up by 18.16 per cent. It was Taka 37 crore 74 lakh in excess of the budget estimate for 1994-95 and up by 80 per cent, the source added.

giving head office earning.

The source said that Taka 260 cr 8 lakh as import duty, Taka 205 crore 3 lakh as VAT, Taka 2 crore 30 lakh as supplementary tax and Taka 19 crore 81 lakh as miscellaneous taxes were included in the total earnings for this fiscal.

Besides Taka 33 crore 20 lakh as advance income tax and Taka 22 crore 65 lakh as licence fee was also earned during this fiscal.

Another source said that a total of Taka 407 crore 25 lakh on account of import duty VAT supplementary tax and miscellaneous taxes were earned from Benapole Station. It was 87 crore 27 lakh more than that of fiscal 1994-95 from the same station and up by 24.93 per cent more than the previous fiscal. It was also Taka 28 crore 4 lakh more than the

estimated budget being up by 6.85 per cent. Again Taka 25 crore 32 lakh on account of advance income tax and Taka 19 crore 37 lakh on account of licence fee was earned from the Benapole station during the fiscal under review, the source added.

From service charges and country products of local level, earnings on account of excise duty, VAT supplementary tax and turn over taxes amounted to Taka 127 crore 10 lakh in the fiscal 1995-96. It was than Taka 24 crore 65 lakh more than that of fiscal 1994-95.

It was up by 24.08 per cent and Taka 20 crore 78 lakh more than the budget estimated by NBR (National Board of Revenue) and up by 19.54 per cent, the source informed.