



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES



COMMITTED TO

People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIV No.178

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 19, 2004

SRABAN 4, 1411 BS

JAMADIUL AWAL 29, 1425 HIJRI

20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

## Cave-in scare at DND dam

### All but Buriganga surge above danger mark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rushing waters blasted a hole in Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) flood protection embankment at Demra yesterday, as driving rains and upstream overflows sent rivers around the capital except for the Buriganga surging above the danger mark.

The cave-in in the dam sent chill down the spine of about one million people living by southern side of the dam.

The Water Development Board (WDB) said the dam subsided, but the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) claimed rats opened the hole.

Panic gripped locals after a labourer reported at around 4:00pm that floodwater was gushing in through the breaches of the dam.

Local lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed rushed to the site and stuffed the opening with bricks, sand and cement with the help of the locals. RHD and WDB officials, police and local administration took five hours to temporarily block the hole.

WDB Executive Engineer Iqbal Hossain said rats cannot open such holes. The road on the dam caved in creating what the engineer called 'piping' in technical term.

The dam could have cracked had the flow of floodwater continued for a couple of hours, Iqbal said.

"Waterlogging is a major problem in my constituency of around 50 lakh people on both sides of the dam and the permanent solution is to dig more canals to let the water pass to both sides," Salauddin Ahmed MP said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Hungry villagers scramble for relief that has long eluded them, as a Bogra Red Crescent Society worker distributes aid at Goshalbari Bazar in Bogra yesterday noon.

## Money made on victims' woes

### Flood-hit people accuse UP chairman of drawing relief for non-existent villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A union parishad (UP) chairman of Bogra's Dhanat upazila drew relief for 17 villages eight of which were obliterated from the map and the rest partially lost to river erosion 15 years ago, villagers alleged.

They also charged Bhandarbari UP chairman Belal Hossain Babu, accused of cutting Brahmaputra flood-control embankment on July 14 that killed 65 people and flooded the whole Dhanat and Kazipur upazilas in Sirajganj, with embezzling the relief goods.

Belal, who received 20 tonnes of rice and Tk 40,000 in cash after applying for 12,125 people on Friday, yesterday claimed he gave 10 tonnes of the rice to the flood-affected people in 17 villages.

But local residents said the villages of Baishakhi, Radhanagar,

Ramkrishnapur, Newsariakandi, Chouber, Kachugari, Bothuabhiha and Boraitoli were wiped off the map by river erosion 15 years ago.

Eighty percent land of Shahrabari, 30 percent of Baniajan village, 75 percent of Shimulbari, 50 of Pukuria and 50 percent of Bhutbari villages were also carried away by the Brahmaputra.

"He embezzled the relief materials," a villager stressed. "We did not get anything to eat."

Dhanat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Al Amin admitted that several villages the Bhandarbari UP chairman mentioned in his list did not exist.

Deputy Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Asadul Habib Dulu and local lawmaker Golam Mohammad Siraj, however, denied the allegations that Belal

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Govt trashes AP news

### Says report on killing of Indian militants in Dhaka concocted

BSS, AFP, Dhaka

The government in a statement yesterday termed a Guahati dailine AP news story that "a group of Indian insurgents were killed in Dhaka" false, baseless and concocted.

The statement said the news item published in the USA Today and broadcast by NDTV of India on July 17 and 18 claimed at least 25 Indian separatists were killed in an attack by gunmen in a hotel in Dhaka.

Dhaka wants to make it clear that the AP story is absolutely false and baseless as no such incident took place in Dhaka or elsewhere in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Clarification

The Power Development Board (PDB) in a clarification on the report headlined Power Sector Slumps on Political Prank published in The Daily Star Sunday said that the projection of 1000 megawatt load shedding next year is not true.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Bar meet plunges into chaos

### Pro-govt lawyers slam Rakan, ask him to withdraw remarks in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A meeting of the Supreme Court Bar Association to protest comments of two ministers plunged into chaos yesterday after pro-government lawyers slammed its president for what they said were his objectionable remarks against court and the chief justice.

Bar President Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud left the meeting after hurriedly passing a resolution of protest against remarks made by the law and communications ministers, who are also lawyers.

The pro-government lawyers held a 'counter meeting' at the same venue and blasted Rakan after he left the meeting. They claimed Rakan at Wednesday's Bar meeting described the chief justice as "chief injustice" and gave the Bar chief

seven days to withdraw his remark. Rakan however says he did not make such a remark about the chief justice. "So, there is no question of my withdrawing the remark."

On Wednesday, responding to a call by 186 Supreme Court lawyers across political divide on Tuesday, the Bar at a requisition meeting adopted a resolution demanding rearrangement of three of the four criminal motion benches of the High Court on the grounds that inefficient judges run these benches. Cases keep piling up and people languish in jails for months on end without trial because of the sluggishness of the benches to dispose of cases, it observed.

The adoption of the resolution and subsequent statements by Rakan on the state of judiciary upset

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## GRAFT IN POWER PROJECT Germany threatens to pull out 45m euro Sends govt final notice for an int'l audit

SHARIEF KHAN

Germany is set to withdraw a 45 million euro fund earmarked for the first phase of 450-megawatt Dhaka North Power Plant (DNPP) project and a related power transmission scheme of the Rural Power Company Ltd (RPCL) as the latter refuses to allow an audit of the corruption-ridden project.

German donor KfW had repeatedly written to the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the power ministry and the RPCL, and told the Bangladesh envoy in Germany that if the DNPP project were not made open by June to an international auditor for review, all funds for the project would be withdrawn.

The June deadline has expired, without seeing any positive government response to the warning. The KfW last week sent its final notice to

the ERD.

"We regret saying that the current position of RPC does not at all comply with project finance customs. It is a standard procedure that clients open their books if the financing bank requests insight," the KfW wrote in May. "RPCL's current refusal questions the general basis of cooperation between sponsor and beneficiary," it added.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud admitted the feud and imminent scrapping to The Daily Star last week saying the project has become uncertain due to lack of transparency.

In a report on the outcomes of his discussion with KfW executives, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Germany Alimul Haque wrote last month, "the KfW's main concerns...were about allegations of irregularities, lack of transparency

etc relating to the Dhaka North Power Plant project."

He quoted KfW First Vice President Uwe Ohls as saying that the German government was insistent on conducting an independent review of the project by a respected and skilled international organisation on the basis of the terms of references submitted by the KfW to the RPC.

But the RPC categorically refused to agree to such a review.

In this background, the KfW is literally forced to take back the funds it had promised for the DNPP and another project to supply DNPP's power to the national grid.

Following a report run by The Daily Star in January last on unbridled corruption in the DNPP, the KfW made a primary investigation into the project and found many

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## 'Golakata' Mujibar killed in shootout with police

### 3 'robbers' lynched at Lalbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notorious gangster 'Golakata' Mujibar was killed in a shootout with police in Motijheel in the early hours today, half an hour after a mob had beaten three alleged robbers dead and injured as many in Lalbagh.

Two police sub-inspectors Shahbuddin and Selim Sajjad also took bullets in the Motijheel skirmish and are now under treatment at Rajarbagh Police Line Hospital.

Tipped off that Mujibar, who had dodged arrest last Monday by gunning down a policeman and injuring two others in Mohammadpur, was hiding with his gang in a house at Peerjangi Majaar, a team of Motijheel police circled the house at 12:30am.

Sensing the police presence, the band opened fire in an attempt to break through the cordon,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Poor NBR record vexes Saifur

### Collection reflects only 20pc of feasible tax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at a meeting yesterday expressed serious dissatisfaction at the performance of the Income Tax Department (ITD) that collects only Tk 114 crore of Tk 4,500 crore in income tax.

The remaining part of income tax is collected automatically, an indication that the ITD of the National

Board of Revenue (NBR) performs far short of expectations, Saifur said.

"I am seriously dissatisfied with the poor performance of the Income Tax Department," he told the income tax officials at the finance ministry.

The income tax collection represents only 20 percent of what it should be, Saifur said.

This year's income tax collection target is set at Tk 6,277 crore, which is

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Professionals' tax tally unreal

STAR REPORT

Contractors are the highest taxpayers, while real estate developers and buying houses are the poorest of all, according to a National Board of Revenue (NBR) list of top taxpayers of seven professional groups.

Some top contractors, developers and engineering companies seem to

have paid no tax in the fiscal 2003-2004. Some developers, which are selling thousands of acres of land and hundreds of apartments, were not named.

The NBR, the highest revenue authority, submitted the list to the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry on Saturday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Expanding the horizon of our presence is our habit

1996- Bangladesh | 1998- Singapore | 2000- Malaysia

2004-Gulf  
Proud to be the  
1<sup>st</sup> Bangladeshi  
feeder operator in the Gulf



QC Container Line Limited, Sharif Mansion, 2nd Floor, 56-57 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

## Tigers missing runs

AL MUSABBIR Sadi, from Dambulla

After a less than impressive start to the tournament, runs have finally started to flow in the Eighth Asia Cup.

Pakistan scored a 300-plus total against the part-timers from Hong Kong in Colombo while Indian and hosts Sri Lanka were battling in what promises to be another high-scoring affair away at Dambulla last night.

Bangladesh on the other hand enjoyed their first break from cricket and training with a day trip to the outskirts of Colombo. But the Tigers,

already assured of a place in the second round, know that there will be a tough time ahead. They will have to score runs, which is something Dav Whatmore's boys have found difficult on a slow and low wicket.

Bangladesh will play the first second round match against the losers of India and Sri Lanka on July 21.

Although Habibul Bashar's men won convincingly against Hong Kong but their batting was found wanting in their next match against

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## Sri Lanka beat India

STAR REPORT

Sri Lanka held their nerves and saw off a late Indian assault to defeat them by 13 runs in their Asia Cup

one-day tournament Group B match in at Rangiri International Stadium in Dambulla last night.

Scores: Sri Lanka 282-4 in 50 overs, India 269-8 in 50 overs.



From your GP Mobile  
write **CRIC** and send\*  
SMS to **2777**  
In return SMS you will  
receive the latest cricket  
related information

Looking for real energy?  
**Drink Shark**

- Every can and bottle is a real power source.
- Quality is ensured by the overwhelming sales in 42 countries.
- ISO 9000/2000 Certification.
- Imported from Osotspa (Thailand), the leader in the energy drink market for over 40 years.

Power-Up Your Life!  
Life-এ ঢালুন জোয়ার