

# Train movement through Bahadurabad uncertain

## 1,000 feet track virtually hanging at Balashi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Restoration of direct train communication between northern districts and Dhaka is uncertain as the tracks between Trimohoni and Teestamuk Ghat in Gaibandha has been badly damaged by flood. About 1,000 feet of the track is virtually hanging at Balashi as the soil underneath has been washed away.

This correspondent during a visit to the spot yesterday saw strong current of water is flowing under the track, washing away the oil. The breached portion of the line will turn into a canal if the situation continues.

The railway ferry service between Teestamuk Ghat and Bahadurabad Ghat is suspended for over a fortnight. It will not resume till the damaged portion of the track is renovated. This will take a long time, railway officials said.

"It will take a long time to renovate the damaged rail track. Work will begin after complete recession of water", an official said.

Earth filling work to renovate the track is uncertain as there is still water allaround,officials said.

Inter-city Teesta Express and another passenger train now shuttle between Trimuhuni and Dinajpur.



Over 1000 feet rail tracks between Trimohoni and Teestamukh Ghat in Gaibandha are virtually hanging as the soil underneath has been washed away by flood.

Inter-city Ekota starting from Dinajpur and goes to Dhaka through Parbatipur, Santahar and Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge.

"Everything depends on the nature. WE can not say anything at the moment

as the Brahmaputra is still in spate and doing havoc in the area", another official said.

In the last two days, the river devoured vast areas in Kamarjani, Gohat and Karaibari in Gaibandha

Sadar upazila and Balashi, Sayedpur, Fazlupur and Gajaria in Fulchhari upazila. Over 250 families were rendered homeless in two days, officials said.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HAQ

### Gopalganj BCL leader's killing protested

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out processions and held rallies in the city and on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus on Sunday protesting the killing of BCL Gopalganj Vice-president Rakib Hossain Tushar in police firing.

The procession on the RU campus was led by the its RU unit president Ibrahim Hossain Moon and general secretary Ayen Uddin.

Speakers at the campus rally said the BNP-Jamaat government must bear the responsibility of the killing.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits and threatened of a tougher movement for failure.

They also called upon pro-liberation forces to unite to launch a movement to against the government.

The rally was presided over by BCL central join secretary Kamruzzman Chanchal.

The procession in the city was led by BCL city unit president Abdul Momin and general secretary Zedu Sarker.

At a rally held at the Zero Point, BCL leaders called upon the people to protest killings by the government.

The BCL unit at Rajshahi University of Engineer and Technology (RUET) in a statement also condemned the killing and demanded punishment of the killers.

# 'Protect Bhola from erosion' Procession, rally held in town

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A procession was brought out and a rally held in Bhola town on Sunday demanding immediate government steps to protect the people of Bhola from continuous erosion by Meghna river.

The Bhola District and Town Protection Sangram Parishad organised the programme, followed by handing over of a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

The processionists paraded the main roads of the town and held a rally in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The rally was addressed by among others, Alhaj Golam Nabi Almagir, Convenor of the Parishad.

The speakers said the 15 lakh people of Bhola will launch tougher agitation if steps are not taken to protect them from erosion and flooding.

They said the area of Bhola is shrinking only due to erosion and lack of protection embankments.

Besides, fishes worth crores of Taka have been washed away and other resources damaged by the current floods, they said.

The mighty river devoured about two hundred square kilometer area of Bhola, Daulat Khan and Tajumuddin upazilas in the last few years displacing about two lakh people but the government did not take any measure to stop the erosion or to rehabilitate the landless people.

The erosion took a serious turn during the current flood, rendering over 50,000 people homeless. The displaced people are leading a subhuman life on river banks and high lands.

Most areas of Bhola Sadar, Daulatkhan and Tajumuddin upazilas are now inundated as the sea level is still 3 to 5 feet above the normal level due to the influence of full moon.

Several thousand marooned people in the areas and are without food and drinking water, according to reports reaching the district town.

The speakers claimed that the district administration did not give any relief to the flood affected and displaced people.



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the procession brought out in Bhola town on Sunday demanding government steps to protect the island from erosion by the Meghna.

### Girl students lock principal's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Hundreds of students of Patuakhali Government Women's College brought out a procession on the campus on Sunday demanding removal of their principal and a teacher.

Students also locked the room of the principal and all the class rooms of the college.

The demands came following principal's failure to punish a teacher for his objectionable behaviour. The controversial teacher is ATM Harun-or-Rashid, an associate professor of Philosophy Depart-ment who proposed love to a female student of Class 12 named Shathi through a letter on July 29. Later, Shathi informed the matter to the principal for taking necessary action on the same day. But the principal did not take any punitive measure against Harun.

In protest, the students boycotted their classes and brought out the procession.

Being informed, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-General) Bazlur Rashid rushed there and unlocked the principal's room.

On contact, Acting Principal Abdus Sattar told this correspondent he formed a committee headed by Associate Professor Lutfunnesa Begum to investigate the allegations against Harun-or-Rashid.

Meanwhile, the matter was already informed to the concerned DG.

### Bomb explodes in front of Khulna JP leader's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A powerful bomb exploded in front of the house of former lawmaker and city unit president of Jatiya Party Alhaj Abul Hossain in Nirala residential area here on Saturday.

Unidentified miscreants threw the bomb, but none sustained injuries. The JP leader was staying in his house during the explosion.

# Rugged roads emerge

## Vehicles ply 3 out of 19 pucca roads

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A devastated picture of roads in Sylhet is surfacing as the flood-water is receding from different areas.

Communication has been restored on only three of the 19 roads in the district but vehicles are moving with great caution as those have been badly damaged.

The 59 km Sylhet-Tamabil-Jafflong road and the 52 km Beanibazar-Golapganj-Fenchu-ganj road are somehow usable.

A total of 243 km pucca roads out of 538 km in Sylhet district have been badly damaged by the flood, sources in the Roads & Highways Department said.

The 43 km Sylhet-Sutarkandi road,

which links five upazilas is also badly affected as many points of the road were under 4 to 10 feet water for ten days. There are big potholes on it at several places.

Vehicles are however plying the road with great risk.

Buses and minibuses to Jakiganj are using an alternate road through Moglabazar and Dhakadakshin Bazaar. At least Tk 29 crore is needed for making the pucca roads and highways somehow usable, they said talking to this correspondent yesterday.

The damage to feeder roads, bridges and culverts are yet to be ascertained as portions of many of those are still under water.

"You can well imagine the damage

as those were under water for weeks", a high official of the RHD said.

Many of the kutchra roads have been completely washed away, he said.

Transportation of goods to most of the rural areas through vehicles is being greatly hampered, resulting in price hike of essentials.

Leaders of the Greater Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad handed over a memorandum to the Deputy commissioner on Saturday demanding immediate steps to repair the roads.

They also demanded repair of the Surma dyke at Singpur, which caused the havoc to many of the roads in the district.

Copies of the memorandum were also sent to the RHD.

### ILLEGAL TOLL

## Tk 4.32 lakh LGED project stopped in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Extortionists obstructed work on a Tk 4.32 lakh LGED (Local Govern-ment Engineering Department) road construction project in Sadar upazila here since May 15.

Beginning in April this year, LGED finished 25 per cent of work on the 2.5-kilometre Lawkathighat Shrirampur Road Project. On May 15, about 20 extortionists deman-ded Tk 2 lakh from the chairman of the project committee who refused to pay the money. At this stage the extortionists forced stop the work. From then on the work was stopped.

Local people told this correspon-

dent, a union BNP leader, Mamun Mia wanted to be chairman of the project committee violating government rule. As his desire was not fulfilled, he became rival of the legal chairman of the project committee, GM Ali, a Union Parishad (UP) member. Mamun created obstacles from the very beginning of the work. He sent the extortionists to halt the work, local people told this correspon-

dent. On contact, Project committee chairman GM Ali informed he had already received Tk 80,000 in third installment to complete the next phase of the work. But he could not start it due to obstacles created by his rivals, he added.

## UNO's removal demanded in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Ignoring sufferings from devastating flood, several hundred people brought out a procession and held a rally at Sadulapur upazila headquarters on Sunday demanding removal of the UNO within 24 hours and threatened of tougher agitation for noncompliance.

They alleged at the rally that the UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) played a silent role and did not give correct information about the flood to higher authorities.

This kept the upazila virtually out of government's relief operation and aggravated their sufferings, speakers at the rally said.

They also alleged that the UNO filed a false case against four villagers including a Union Parishad member just to harass them.

The meeting, held on the premises of the UNO office, was addressed by, among others, local Jatiyatbadi Sramil Dal Convener Eaqubul Azad, Jubo Dal Secretary Abdul Halim Sarker, Awami League Secretary Shahrier Khan Biplob, college teacher Zakaria Kandker, JCD

leader Rafiqul Islam Rajua and Bongram UP Chairman Fazlul Kaiyum Huda.

While contacted over telephone, UNO Paritosh Chandra Das refuted the allegations.

He claimed that Fazlul Kaiyum Huda, mobilised the people against the upazila administration to fulfil his ill motives.

The UNO claimed that Huda drew Tk 28,270 from the UP account on June 29 without prior approval and misappropriated the amount. The Deputy Commissioner during a visit on July 19 detected the matter and issued a show-cause notice asking the UP chairman to deposit the misappropriated amount.

Instead of depositing the misappropriated amount, the UP chairman prepared some fake project papers, the UNO claimed.

"I have already sent a report on flood, stating that ten out of eleven unions have been inundated affecting 7,800 families", the UNO said.

The government has allocated 35 tonnes of rice for the affected people, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Pitiable condition of Sylhet-Kanaighat road, snapped on Saturday.

### SNAPS

#### Relief collection drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Members of Patuakhali Press Club have launched a drive to collect relief goods for flood affected people. They are going door to door in the town and urging people to contribute generously to the relief fund.

#### 4 fishermen rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four fishermen were rescued by Forest guards on Saturday after trading gunshots with pirates for over 20 minutes. The fishermen are Abdul Bari,32, Nilkanta Sarker,28, Abul Kalam,30, and Akbar Ali,30. Pirates abducted them for ransom amounting to Tk 50,000 at arms point from the Kobadak on July 28. After gunfight with Forest guards, the pirates escaped leaving behind the fishermen in a trawler. They also abandoned two home made guns. A case was recorded with Koyra Thana on Sunday.

### Hawker murdered after abduction in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A hawker was murdered after abduction allegedly by his elder brother and nephew at Shibpur in Satla union of Uzirpur upazila.

Hawker Abul Kalam Biswas,35, who used to sell cosmetic goods, was missing since his elder brother Lal Mia and nephew Mustafa called him out of his house on Wednesday, police and victim's family sources said.

Kalam's wife Maksuda Begum lodged a general diary with Uzirpur police station on Thursday.

Kalam's body was found in an abandoned house of nearby West Satla village on Saturday. Police recovered the body and sent it to morgue in Barisal for autopsy on Sunday.

This time Maksuda's wife lodged a murder case with Uzirpur police station accusing Lal Mia and Mustafa. She stated that his husband had a land dispute with the murderers.

Police said both the father and son are listed criminals and they are accused in seven cases including extortion, toll collection and other criminal activities.

### JCD leader Iqbal murder: AL man arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An Awami League (AL) leader was arrested by joint forces from his house at Bhandarkot union on Saturday, police said.

Arrested AL leader Rawhan Ali,44, is also a former chairman of Bhandarkot Union Parishad (UP) in Batiaghate upazila.

He was sent to Khulna district Jail on Sunday showing him arrested in JCD leader Iqbal Hossain murder case.

### 50 injured in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Uttar Laksmipur village in Nabinagar upazila on Sunday.

The clash was a sequel to long standing rivalry between two local influential persons --Muslim member and Gulam Hussain member-- over supremacy in the area, police said quoting villagers. Their supporters clashed on several occasions earlier also.



PHOTO: STAR

Clamour for doles... This was the scene when five persons from Brahmanbaria town went to flood affected Mojlishpur village with some cooked food recently. The five included Md Zahirul Haq, Syed Mizanur Reza, editor of a local daily and Md Hiru, a trader.

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