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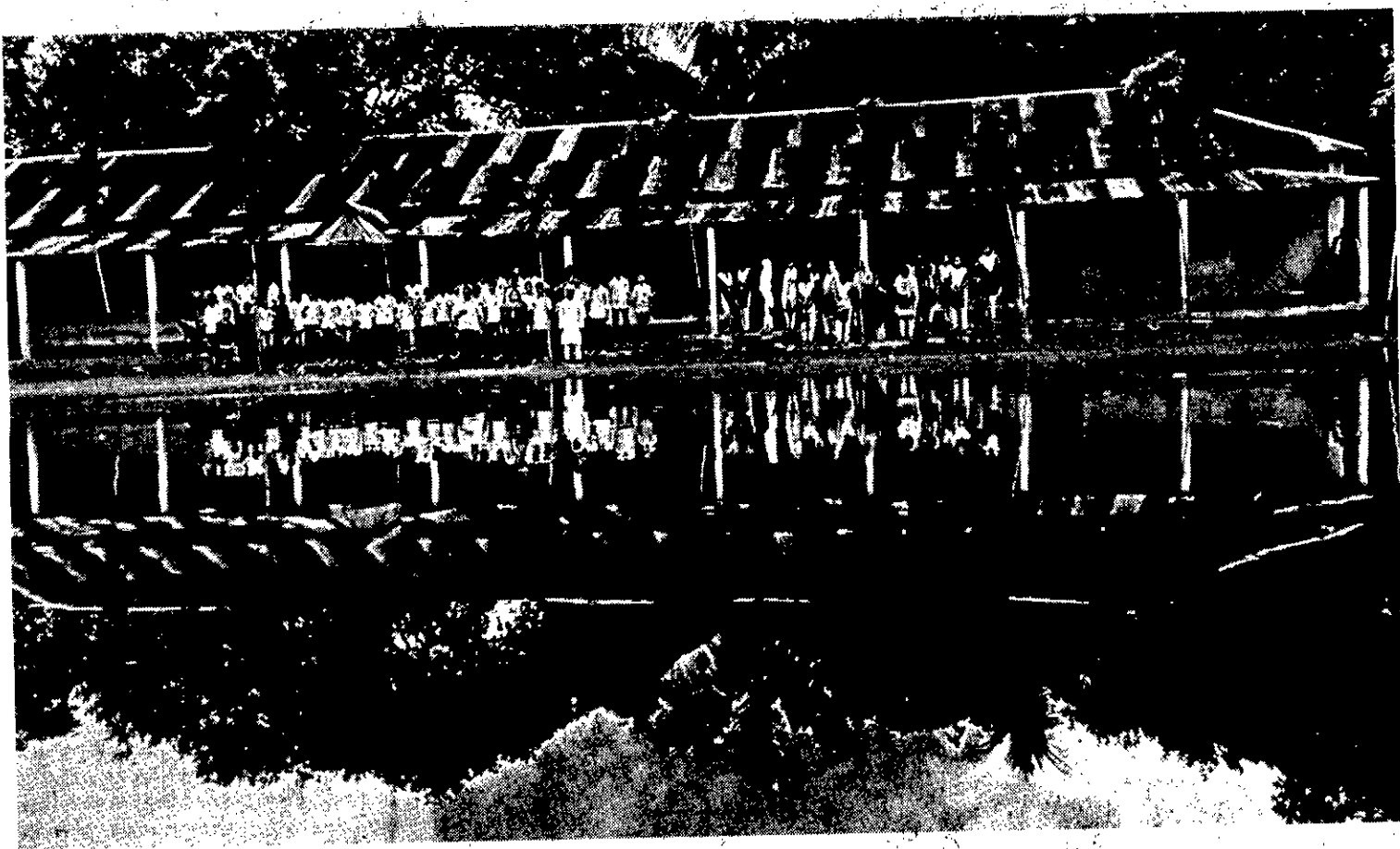


PHOTO: STAR

The ground of Kharua Barail High School in Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila remains under water half of the year. The photo was taken recently.

School waterlogged half of the year!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The playground of a school in Gafargaon upazila remains under rainwater for almost half of the year, creating sufferings for the students.

Kharua Barail High School, with primary section, was established in 1952 on 92 decimals of land. It has around 1,200 students at present.

"The school ground remains submerged due to rainwater from May to October every year. The situation has been prevailing since 2006 due to unplanned construction of houses around the school, which prevents drainage of the water," headmaster Bina Debnath said.

The school ground is the only open space in the area for the students as well as children of adjacent villages to play in, she said.

Bina said she requested the authorities concerned several times to solve

the problem, but no action has been taken yet.

Waterlogging occurs even after slight rain and continues for months, said school managing committee president Sadiqur Rahman Sujon.

Due to waterlogging for almost half of the year, we cannot even move freely on the compound, said students Shihab, Arafat, Siam and Jahangir.

The football teams of both girls and boys have a good reputation at the upazila level and they are also showing good performance in other games like cricket, the headmaster said.

This year's inter-school football tournament has begun and the girls had to practise at an abandoned field near the school, she added.

Lamenting the prevailing situation, Riya, captain of the girls' team, said they could prepare properly if their

ground was fit.

Riya and her team members demanded immediate solution to the problem.

Upazila Secondary Education Officer Belayet Hossain said he along with Upazila Nirbahi Officer Dr Shamim Rahman, Upazila Engineer Tofazzal Hossain and Rawna Union Parishad Chairman Shahabul Alam visited the school last week.

They are planning to drain out the stagnant water from the school ground, Belayet said, adding that the problem was created as there is no drainage system to pump out the water. "The problem will be solved on an emergency basis," he said.

The football and cricket teams of the school show good performance every year and the players should be given proper facilities for practising round the year, Belayet said.

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