

District roundup

SATKHIRA

Indian trawler loaded with salt seized

July 12: Bangladesh Rifles seized an Indian trawler loaded with salt worth over Taka 50,000 while it was intruding into Bangladesh territory through the Raimongal river in Kaira thana on Friday noon, reports UNB.

A contingent of BDR jawans of Nildumar Camp seized the trawler and recovered the contraband during their patrol in the river with a speed boat. Sensing the arrival of the BDR jawans, the inmates of the trawler jumped into the river and managed to escape.

The seized trawler and salt were deposited with the Basantapur Customs godown. A case was filed with the police.

JHENIDAH

Farmer slaughtered by miscreants

July 12: A farmer of Pol Bhaturia village in Harinakundu thana was slaughtered by the outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party activists on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of armed miscreants numbering about 9 called out Mujibur Rahman (45) from his house at about 11 pm and slaughtered him on a nearby road.

The reason behind the brutal killing could not be known. However, police recovered a leaflet of Purba Bangla Communist Party beside the body.

Police sent the body to the Jhenidah hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

COMILLA

Old woman killed in road mishap

July 12: An old woman was killed on the spot and six others were seriously injured in a road accident on Comilla by pass road Friday noon, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred when a micro-bus collided head on with a truck coming from opposite direction. The identity of the ill-fated woman could not be known immediately.

The dead and the injured were the passengers of the micro-bus. The injured were rushed to the Comilla General Hospital.

Police seized both the vehicles but both the drivers managed to flee.

A case was filed with the Kotwali Police.

One gets life-term for killing wife

July 12: A man sentenced to life imprisonment on charge of killing his wife, court sources said here on Sunday, reports UNB.

The convicted Badu Mia was also fined Taka 5,000 or in default to suffer one year rigorous imprisonment more.

The case, in brief, was that Badu Mia of village Eshchadi in Taraganj thana of the district beat his wife mercilessly causing her instant death following a family feud on June 16, 1991.

District and Sessions Judge Ali Asgar Khan after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on Tuesday.

FENI

Dacoits hurt 3, loot Tk 20,000

July 12: Three people including a woman were seriously injured when dacoits opened fire on them at village Shadapur in Companiganj thana of the district, reports UNB.

Villagers said a gang of robbers raided the house of Siddiqui on June 24 and when inmates raised hue and cry the dacoits opened fire on them injuring the houseowner, his son Tauhid and maid servant Anwar Begum seriously.

They decamped with cash Taka 20,000. The injured were sent to Noakhali sadar hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: A poor father of village Azizfapur in Daganbhuiyan thana Friday appealed to the Home Minister to direct the district administration to rescue his kidnapped daughter without further delay.

The victim Yasmin married to Mohammad Hanif of Ramgati thana in Laxmipur district was kidnapped from her father's house on June 9 by some miscreants.

District administration could not rescue her even after 30 days of her kidnapping in spite of a specific case with the local police against six miscreants.

The poor father went door to door to the town fathers to help rescue her daughter. Local people said alleging that police could not even arrest one of the culprits though they are moving freely.

MAULVIBAZAR

Saifur opens 2 more bridges

July 12: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated two more bridges on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Khalishpur and Sadhupatti under Moulvi bazar district on Saturday, reports BSS.

In all seven bridges have been opened to traffic on the highway, built with the British government's financial assistance under priority-B project.

Construction work on another 17 bridges under the same project is nearing completion at Dhaka-Khulna, Chittagong-Rangamati and Sylhet-Tamabil highways. The length of these bridges ranges between 15 to 85 meter.

Addressing a spontaneous gathering at Sarkar Bazar, the Finance Minister said the democratic government of Begum Khaleda Zia would continue its endeavour to build an effective communication network throughout the country.

He asked the people from all walks of life to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with a view to consolidating democracy and development oriented politics launched by the present government.

Earlier, the Finance Minister reviewed the progress of the post-flood rehabilitation programme in Sri Mongal Town Hall.

FARIDPUR

Tributes paid to Shamsuddin Molla

July 12: The second death anniversary of eminent politician and lawyer Shamsuddin Molla was observed here with due respect, reports BSS.

Shamsuddin Molla Smriti Prishad, Awami League, Chhatra League, Jubo League and other front organisations jointly chalked out elaborate programme to observe the day in a befitting manner.

He was an Awami League central committee member and an MNA during the erstwhile Pakistan period and was elected Member of Parliament in 1973 elections. He was also the Vice-President of Bangladesh Bar Council and President of Faridpur District Bar Association.

Party workers and well-wishers placed wreaths at the graveyard of late Molla at his village home at Chumurdhi under Bhanga thana.

Quran khwan and milad mahfil was arranged where people from all sections of the society took part.

A discussion meeting was also arranged at the local Awami League office where speakers paid rich tributes to the deceased for his contributions in the socio-political arena of the country.

KHULNA

32,170 pieces of Saudi meat arrive at Mongla Port

July 12: Bangladesh received 32,170 pieces of Saudi meat at the Mongla Port on Saturday, reports UNB.

The Saudi government had granted 55,000 pieces of sacrificial meat for Bangladesh this year.

Earlier, 23,830 pieces were handed over to the Bangladesh authorities at Chittagong Port for all districts of Chittagong division and six districts of Dhaka Division.

Islamic Development Bank representative Ali Ishaq Al Hashemi formally handed over the rest pieces of meat on behalf of the Saudi government to Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Moktadir on Saturday.

These pieces will be distributed among the rest of the districts of Dhaka Division and all districts of Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions, officials said.

The DIG Police of Khulna range, Ashraf Huda, Chairman of the Port Nazrul Hossain and the Deputy Commissioners of Khulna and Bagchhat were present on the occasion.

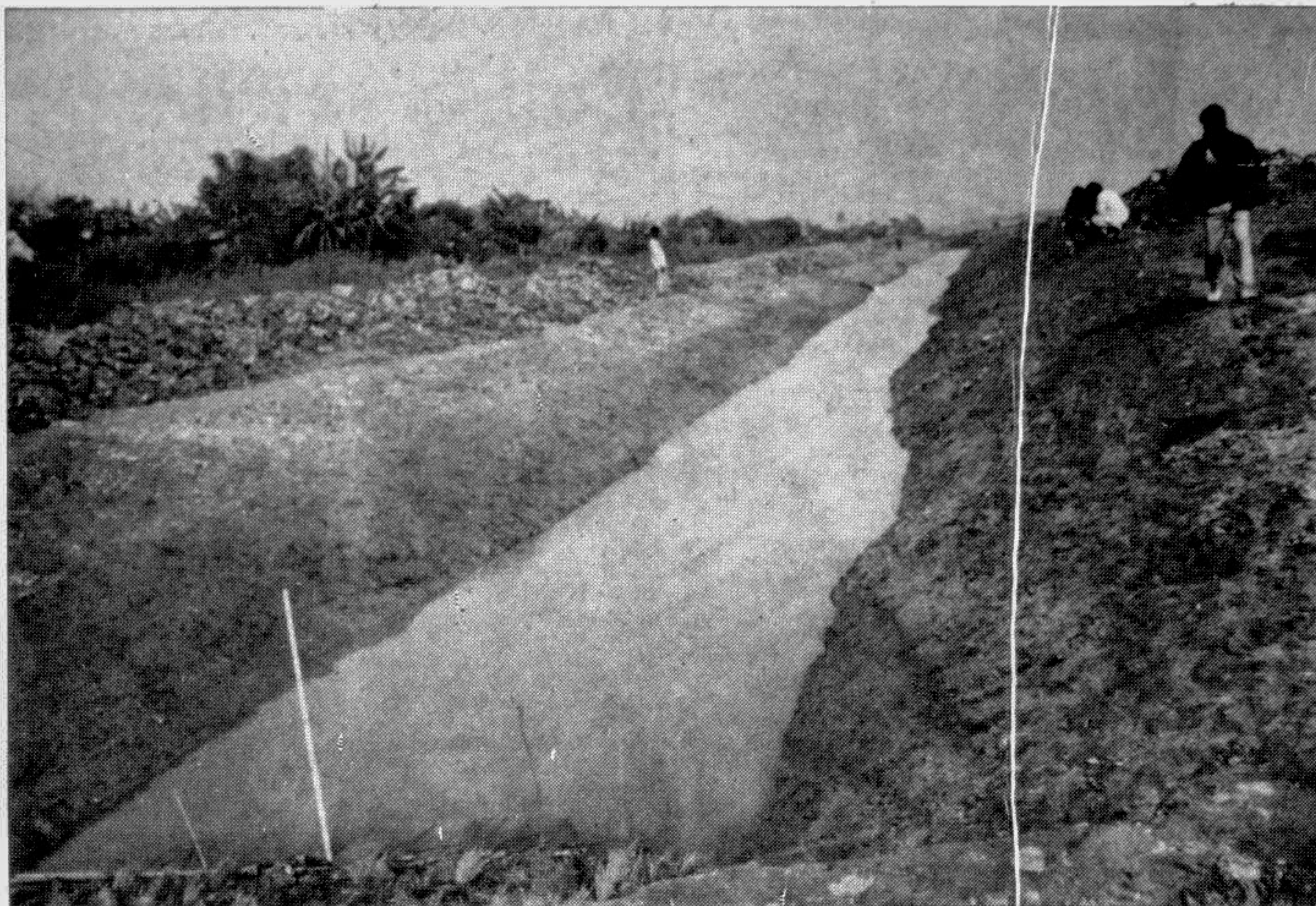
NARSINGDI

Four children drowned

July 12: Four children drowned in two incidents in Monohordi thana under Narsingdi district recently, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said Abdul Hossain (5), son of one Abdul Awal of village Baghob and Faruk (6), son of one Fazul Haq of village Chandanbari drowned in a pond while they were taking bath.

In another incident Tania (3), daughter of one Lal Miah and Parveen (3), daughter of an unknown person of the village Tekirpara drowned in a ditch.



A re-excavated irrigation canal in Daudkandi. The project has been completed with Japanese assistance.

Chilmari to Koikhali border area now smuggler's paradise

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 12: Five hundred ninety-eight kilometre-long border sprawling from Chilmari to Koikhali on south-west of the country, under Khulna Sector of BDR, has become smugglers' paradise in recent years.

According to unofficial estimate Indian goods, smuggled into the country, through this route, amounted to Taka fifteen thousand crore during the last three years from 1990 to 1992. Officially, it is only about eight hundred crore, only a fraction of the total amount. Goods that were seized from this area, while being smuggled into, from across the border, included sari, clothes, cattle, heroin, drugs, yarn, matches, machinery parts, cycle, onion, cosmetics, imitations, sugar, spices, narcotics, vegetables and fish.

According to witnesses, seizure was roughly one per cent of the total.

There is no denying the fact that this frontier is smugglers' delight. It is connected with India by surface route having network of easy and convenient communications. Smugglers on both side of the border have

close affinity with each other. Political changes in the country encourage smuggling as terrorists and professional criminals turn to illicit trade to earn money for purchase of arms and explosives to gear up terrorist activities.

Smuggling in this area, is a big business with more people becoming linked.

Smugglers use vast tract of this border, which is physically impossible to keep under constant control with limited manpower.

Since West Bengal Capital Calcutta is on proximity to this frontier, contrabands from different parts of India are collected here for transit to Bangladesh through this way.

Reports received here indicate that smugglers are aided by the police, BDR and Customs Department. They are also given tokens by police to carry out the business.

However, BDR personnel have taken a very drastic step in the border areas against this menace recently and a large number of smugglers in this area have surrendered of their own

Unregistered private clinics on rise

The number of private clinics without government registration, has been increasing at the town during recent years, said a source. According to information, such clinics are being set up in quite a large numbers at different places of the town in unplanned and indiscriminate way. Most of these clinics have no license from the Health Department.

Informal source also indicates that patronage and backing of the concerned department, is otherwise inviting such clinics to operate such way. It is alleged that growth of these clinics are causing heavy loss to the government as revenue.

Cases of unhygienic conditions, maltreatment and irregularities, have been reported against a number of the clinics during survey conducted unofficially by a team of government.

It is learnt that both registered and unregistered clinics in the town are functioning almost unabated defying the govern-

ment rules.

It is alleged that paid agents from each clinic are working to collect patients for admission. Allegations received here from patients indicate that doctors in local general hospital seem to be very irresponsible in attending patients in hospital. They are found to remain busy with clinic jobs rather than paying more attention to the hospital patients.

A registered private clinic, according to government rules, must fulfill the minimum requirements as per rules. Each shift should have a team of a MBBS doctor, three qualified nurses, one pharmacist, one midwife and a sweeper. Besides a clinic should have a capacity of minimum 10 beds along with, a modern operation theatre with necessary surgical equipment.

Most of the clinics however, lack these facilities violating the government rules. Allegations say the number of doctors attending patients are quite irregular despite proper visit rules. Further, most patients complain of maltreatment and doctors prescribing unnecessary medicines.

Notes From Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 12: A body of an unknown youngman was recovered by the police of Companiganj thana recently.

According to the reports, the body was found floating in the Jhauin beel. One getting information, a police party recovered the body from the Kararpan Band.

Classes resume

Classes of the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College will resume July 17 next after remaining closed for two and a half months. The decision was taken at a meeting held in the college with principal in the chair on Sunday last.

The college was closed since die following a series of clashes between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir on the college campus on May 3 last.

Valuables, gun looted

Armed miscreants looted away a gun and valuables worth about Taka two lakh from a house at Ambarkhana Baro bazar area of Sylhet town recently.

According to the reports, a gang of about 8 to 9 miscreants armed with deadly weapons entered the house of Hasib Chowdhury at about 3-30 am. They entered into the house by breaking open the grill and forced the inmates to gather in a room. They took away one SBBL gun, gold ornaments, money in cash and other valuables worth about Taka two lakh from the house.

Youngman killed in road mishap

A youngman was killed in a road mishap on Sylhet-Tamabil road at Tilagarh area recently.

According to reports, the victim, Matir Rahman, 30 was on his way to the Sylhet town from Majortila area on a motorcycle. A speeding truck (No. Sylhet-02-1177) from the opposite direction hit his cycle. He was rushed to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

The driver of the truck, however managed to escape from the spot along with the truck.

238 development schemes completed last year

FENI, July 12: At least 238 uplift schemes of construction and repair of roads, bridges and culverts at a cost of Taka 3.19 crore in five thanas were implemented in the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of the district and Thana Development Committee executed the schemes in Sadar, Chhagalnaiya, Parshuram, Sonagazi and Daganbhuiyan thanas.

According to official sources, work on construction of 21 roads and one bridge was completed at a cost of Taka 2.20 crore sanctioned by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The LGED also completed maintenance work on 94 roads and culverts at a cost of Taka 36 lakh sanctioned by Annual Development Programme (ADP). Thana Development Commi-

tee of five thanas of the district completed 122 schemes of reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts at a cost of Taka 63 lakh sanctioned by the ADP.

Another report says: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 5 lakh from Chhagalnaiya thana in the last one week.

The BDR jawans of 7 Rifle Battalion raided Arshadullah Saw Mill, Jasim Saw Mill and Abdul Ahad Saw Mill in Chhagalnaiya bazar and seized timber worth about Taka 4.52 lakh.

The BDR also raided two stores at Korerhat and seized Indian medicines and cosmetics worth about Taka 47,344.

The seized goods were handed over to the local customs authority.

Two separate cases were filed with the local police.

Cotton research centre to be set up

BANDARBAN, July 12: A cotton research centre is going to be set up here shortly. Extensive research to revive the once-traditional cash crop cotton of the hill tracts districts will be conducted in the centre, reports BSS.

This was revealed in a prize distribution ceremony among the Comilla cotton growers and field workers of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts of 1992 in local town hall here on Friday.

Manmaching MP was the chief guest. Bir Bahadur MP, Agriculture Secretary ANM Yousuf, ex-State Minister Aung Shue Prue Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

Manmaching said the present government aimed at balanced development of the country. The

government had undertaken steps to revive one-traditional cash crop of the three hill districts of Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Rangamati, she added, such steps would help to promote the lifestyle of the hill people.

Bir Bahadur said cotton growers were being provided with necessary government help and encouragement.

Agriculture Secretary said, the government was going to set up a 'cotton research centre' here to conduct a research on cotton crop and restore its glory.

Later, prizes were distributed among cotton growers and field workers. Masul Marma was adjudged first with her highest cotton crop 373 kg per acre.

Weavers need patronisation

BRAHMANBARIA, July 12: Traditional weaving industry in the district is on the verge of ruination due to lack of patronisation and price hike of raw materials, reports UNB.

About 55,000 weavers in all thanas of the district have been facing manifold problems to carry on their occupation for quite a long time, local people said.

The cost of the production has almost doubled due to abnormal price hike of cotton yarn, dyes and chemicals in the local markets.

Besides, lack of marketing facilities and influx of smuggled Indian clothes have compelled them to sell their produce below the cost of production.

While talking to UNB, the weavers told that they could not repay the outstanding loans owing to the decline in the demand for their commodities.

Finding no other alternative, some weavers already have given up their profession and working as day labourers for their very existence.

The weavers urged the concerned authority to patronise their cottage industry providing necessary fund and marketing facilities to continue their age-old occupation.

Another report says: Two people allegedly committed suicide in two separate incidents in the town on Monday, police said.

The dead were identified as Bela Khatun (18) and Rahim (25).

Bela, a maid servant, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself. The cause behind her suicide could not be known. After postmortem her body was sent to her village home at Dogachi in Pabna district.

In another incident, Rahim, father of two children of Collegepara area of the town allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a family feud, police said.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

45 injured in rival groups clash

MAGURA, July 12: At least 20 people were injured when two rival groups clashed at Mingram in Salkupa thana of the district Tuesday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, Akul Ali (22), Matir Rahman (48), Abdus Salam (28) and Yunus Ali (40) were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Witnesses said the two groups picked up a quarrel over past enmity and at one stage they attacked each other with sharp weapons, bamboo and clubs.

Separate cases were filed with the local police in this connection.

3 hurt in gas cylinder blast

Another report from Khulna adds: Three people were injured, one seriously, when a gas cylinder of a lorry got burst at Majumbar Bus Stand in the town on Sunday.

The incident occurred when the Welder Abdur Rashid (20) and other workers were repairing the cylinder. They were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital.

The condition of Abdur Rashid was stated to be critical. He received burn injuries.

Another report adds: A school student was electrocuted near Charakole Railway Station on Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Ramjan, a student of class eight of Putia village in Kumarkhali thana.

Witnesses said the boy came in touch with live wire when he was trying to take illegal connection to enjoy video films on TV.

Another report from Dinajpur says that a boy suddenly slipped into the river Atrai at Bhushirbandar in Chirirbandar thana on Thursday and drowned.

The victim Mostafa, son of Murshed of Noshadpur village

while walking along the bank of the river met the tragic end.

Local people rescued the body.

Another report from Satkhira says: At least 25 people were injured, six seriously, in a clash between two rival groups Saturday over the drainage of rain water through a roadside canal at Pantia in Kaliganj thana.

The canal was leased out to a local Juba committee for pisciculture.

The clash ensued in the morning when a group of people suddenly appeared on the spot and tried to drain out rain water through the canal, local people said.

The seriously injured Habibur (30), Jabbar (29), Rajab (55), Enam Ali (25), Aminul (15) and Matir (30) have been undergoing treatment at the local hospital.

A case was filed with the police and three people were arrested in this connection.

Brahmaputra erosion leaves 500 families homeless

GAIBANDHA, July 12: About 500 families of Gidari and Mollarchar unions under sadar thana became homeless due to erosion of the river Brahmaputra over the last few weeks, reports UNB.

The worst effected villages are Dhuchara, Analsara and Faliarghor under Gidari Union and Katcharchar, Tellarghor and Tellarghorperchar under Mollarchar union.

Besides, a vast tract of land of sadar thana had gone under flood water recently. A number of educational institutions in the affected areas remained closed due to flood.



RANGPUR: A scene from the drama 'Lakhi Nurjahan' written by Ariful Haque Raju, a local journalist of a national daily was staged at Rangpur Town Hall under the auspices of 'Bikon Natya and Sanskrit Kendra' recently.

— Star photo