

## One electrocuted in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, July 15: One Khalafat Hossain, 40, was electrocuted Saturday and died at Jhenidah sadar hospital early Sunday morning.  
His brother Rashed, 30, also received severe electric shock in the same electricity mishap at Kabirpur, Saikupa.

## Young man falls from trawler, drowns

From Our Correspondent  
SATHIRA, July 15: One youngman drowned when he fell from a running trawler in the river Kabodak recently.

According to eyewitnesses, on the day of occurrence one Belal, 30, of village Gagrarnari under Shyamnagar thana was on board a trawler and when the trawler reached near Gabura in the river Kabodak, all of a sudden he fell from the trawler. The other passengers tried to rescue the victim but in vain. After three days of the incident, his relatives rescued the decomposed body of Belal from the charland near Jalakhali under Shyamnagar thana of the district.

## Vehicles collide head-on: 10 injured

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, July 15: At least 10 persons were injured, two of them seriously in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck near Seikhpura Bazar in Saikupa thana of the district on July 11 afternoon, according to police sources.

Reports say, the accident occurred when a Jhenidah-bound truck, Jessore Ta-457 allegedly hit a bus coming from opposite direction. At this vehicle of Anil Paribahan bus was badly damaged and 10 passengers received injuries. Of the injured seven were rushed to Jhenidah and Kushtia sadar hospitals.

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

## Wanted motor bike snatcher arrested

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, July 15: Jhenidah police nabbed a wanted accused from Kalabagan Hatkhola in the town on July 11 afternoon, according to police sources.

Police said Uzzal, 28, of village Pababati in sadar thana was allegedly involved in snatching motor cycles and other related criminal activities. He was wanted for long. On receiving a secret information police was able to arrest Uzzal.

## Body recovered

From Our Correspondent  
GAIBANDHA, July 15: Gaibandha sadar thana police recovered body of one Mojibur Rahman of village Bhagabanpur under Gaibandha sadar thana from a jute field early last week.

According to police the victim Mojibur Rahman, 50, had gone to one of his relatives house at the same village on July 4. At dead of night when he came out of the room in response to call of nature suddenly he was attacked by some unknown assailants. The killers took him to the nearby jute field where they were allegedly killed.

On getting information Gaibandha thana police recovered the body from the jute field and sent to morgue. A case was filed.

## Heavy rainfall damages standing crops in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent  
FARIDPUR, July 12: The rise of water level in the river Padma and heavy showers have caused extensive damage to standing ams and aman paddy on several hundred acres of low-lying char land along the Padma in six unions. The affected unions included Char Madhabdia, North Channur, Decree Char, Ishanogalpur in Sadar thana and Char Bhadrashan and Char Jhawanda in Char Bhadrashan thana, local people said.

## Three alleged snatchers held

From Our Correspondent  
BRAHMANBARIA, July 12: Three alleged snatchers were caught red-handed by local people at Ashuganj on July 7, witnesses said.  
According to police sources, two snatchers were caught red-handed while they were snatching money from two officials of Ashuganj Power Development Board (PDB) near Ashuganj rail gate in the evening.  
They alleged snatchers were Hira Mia 22, and Mubarak 17 who were handed over to the Ashuganj police station.  
Police and Ansar in another incident arrested one Billal aged about 18, an alleged snatcher while he was snatching money from one passer-by near Ashuganj Zia Fertilizer Company Limited in the evening on July 7.



Flood-hit Bridge Road area of Gaibandha town. The photo was taken on Sunday afternoon. — Star photo by K M Rezaul Hoque

## Who shall be the king?

BANDARBAN, July 15: Hot discussion is on in the hill district about the selection of the New Bomang circle king, report UNB.

But the king family of the district remained silent about their future king even after one month of the death of king Mong Shoi Pru Chowdhury.

Reliable sources said three aged members of late Bomang circle king Mong Shoi Pru Chowdhury's family are interested to take over the position, which is very much prestigious in the circle.

The interested persons are Aong Soi Pru Chowdhury (81), KS Pru Chowdhury (62) and SA Pru Chowdhury. The other family members aspirant for the position are DC Pru, Chahla Pru Mimi, Aau Cha Pru, Mong Noue Pru, Sai Chai Pru, Noming Pru and Sai Aong Pru.

According to the Bomang circle tradition, the eldest one is generally given the prestigious position of King but at the same time physical strength, mobility and education are given the priority for selecting the king. Social position is also considered as first priority.

Local people said noted tribal leader and former Food Minister Aong Soi Pru Chowdhury 81, is the eldest one of the circle while MS Pru Chowdhury 62, has no adequate social connection. It is also learnt that noted social worker Hala Thorai Pru showed no interest for the position.

People of the circle are eagerly waiting to see who will take the responsibility of their new king.

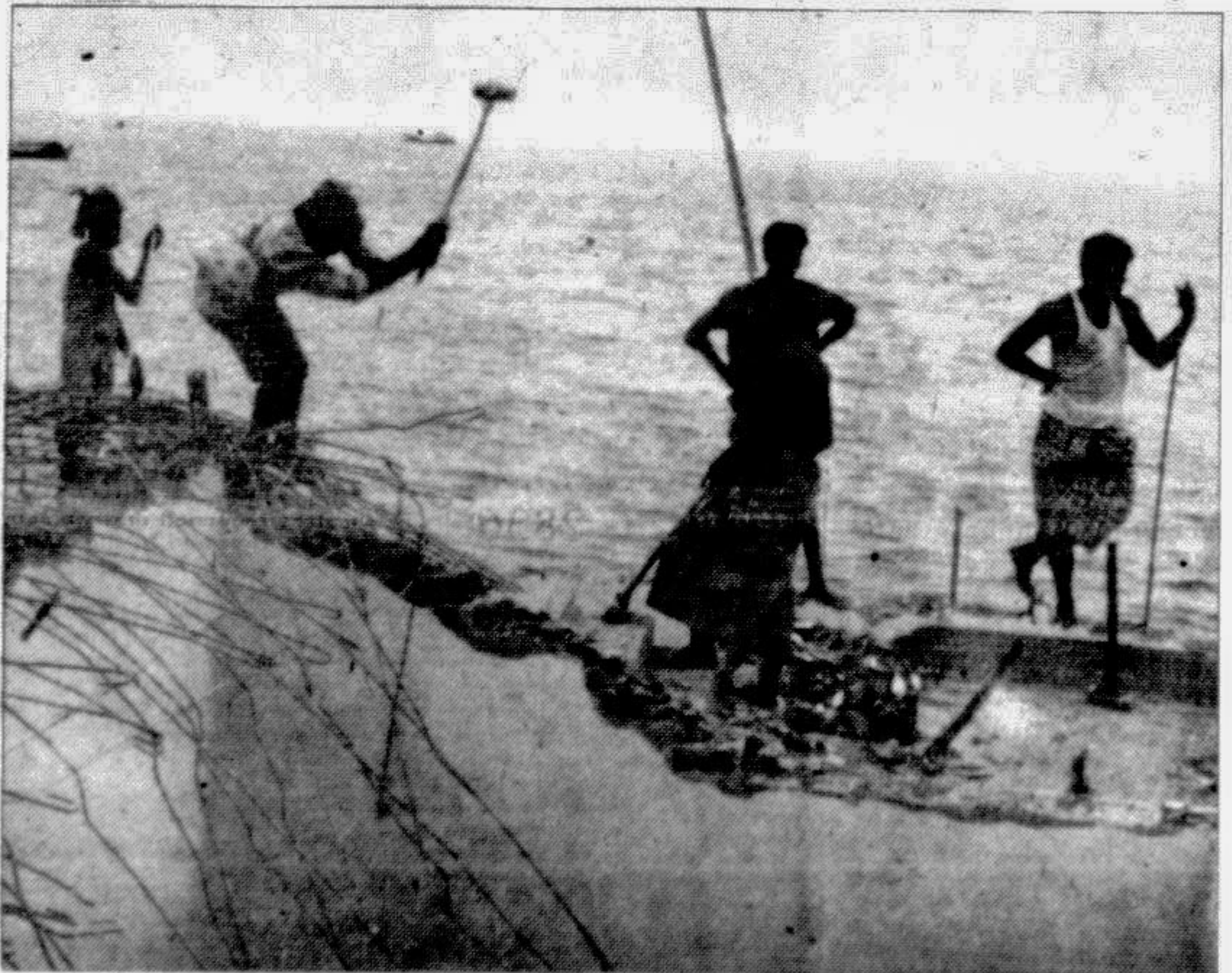
## Protest meeting condemning arrest of newsmen

JAMALPUR, July 15: A protest meeting was held at local press club on Tuesday condemning the arrest of Banglar Bani Tangaill correspondent and issuing warrant of arrest against the Ittefaq correspondent, reports UNB.

The meeting presided over by club president Shafiq Zaman condemned what they said the false case lodged by Deputy Commissioner to harass the two journalists.

The speakers' also demanded immediate withdrawal of the cases and transfer of the DC.

Among others, journalists Mostafa Babul, M A Jalil, Shahin Ahmed Sharif, Sadegur Rahman Polash, Mukul Rana, Aminul Islam Parvez, Hafiz Raihan and Lintu Bhoumik spoke at the meeting.



DESTRUCTION: Padma erosion in Munshiganj district. — Star photo

## Indian cement being sold in forged bags

From Our Correspondent  
CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, July 15: Indian cement being repacked in the forged China cement bags are being sold at random in the markets of Chapai Nawabganj as well as in the markets of other districts of the country, it is alleged.

It is reported that some dishonest cement importers import cement of lower quality from India at a low cost and taking the cement out from the original bags repack them in some forged Chinese bags which they buy reportedly from some secret bag makers of Dhaka.

The process of repacking of Indian cement in the forged bags has been reportedly going on in some cement godowns at the Sonamasjid land custom areas.

Being reported from a reliable and secret source this reporter went to Sonamasjid and

visited some of the cement godowns in disguise and found in a godown a lot of empty bags which were marked with 'dragon' and 'eagle' signs. The bags also had label reading 'Made in China'.

In another godown some labourers were found engaged in repacking Indian cement in the forged bags reading, 'Made in China'. The bags were kept in a corner of the godown.

While talking to these labourers they said that they were only carrying out the order of the owner of the godown.

It was also known that these cement will be sent to the different districts of the country.

According to the local observers, an immediate investigation and proper action against these cheat importers have become necessary.

## 15 injured in tornado

From Our Correspondent  
GAIBANDHA, July 15: A severe tornado battered three villages under Gaibandha sadar thana on Friday noon. The affected villages are Kuptola Durgapur and Chowdhurypara. Several dwellings institutes and trees were raged to the ground injuring 15 persons.

It was a rainy day on July 12 just after Jummaah prayer when a tornado hit the areas.

## 15 injured in road mishap

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, July 15: At least 15 persons were injured, 4 of them seriously, when a bus met with an accident on the Barguna-Patuakhali road Wednesday.

Witnesses said, a passenger bus of Sattar Paribahan bound for Patuakhali from Khepupara fell into a roadside ditch when the vehicle tried to give side to a speeding truck.

## Flood hits Gaibandha again

From Our Correspondent  
GAIBANDHA, July 15: Fresh Flood for the second time in a month hit the district Sunday. More areas of four Thanas under the district were submerged by flood water.

Three different wards of Gaibandha pourashava already went under knee-deep water. Most of the houses under pourashava were submerged.

Meanwhile, all the rivers in the district are in spate and the water level is increasing gradually. Everyday fresh areas are experiencing inundation. About 60,000 people in different part of flood hit areas are marooned. A large creek developed at Lalchamer area along Brahmaputra flood control embankment creating numerous problems.

Flood situation is deteriorating every hour. The situation may become worse within the course of next two days. Road communication with remote areas has already been snapped due to inundation of roads at different points.

## Bravo!

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 15: At last the father was compelled to hand over his son to police finding no other alternative!

Shahinur Islam Babu, 15, a student of class ten studying in a local high school was allegedly involved with drug abuse, terrorism and some other anti-social elements. His father, Alauddin Ahmed of Adarshapara in the town tried to get Shahinur back to good life but after several attempts failed.

At last on July 12 he handed his son to Jhenidah police sources said.

## One sentenced to life for violating minor girl in Pabna

From Our Correspondent  
PABNA, July 15: One person was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment for violating a minor girl recently.

The court convicted Md Ibrahim of village Bhajpara under Pabna sadar thana for raping Rima Khatoun of Pabna sadar thana on September 6, 1995.

According to police investigation, Rima was violated in a field near her house in Bhajpara. The convict after committing the crime threatened Rima not to tell anyone about the incident. However, Rima on reaching home narrated the whole story to her mother who immediately afterwards lodged a case.

Mohammad Ali, District and Sessions Judge of the special tribunal sentenced the accused on charge of violating the victim.

## 13 alleged hookers, smugglers arrested in Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent  
BRAHMANBARIA, July 15: Brahmanbaria police arrested 10 alleged prostitutes and three women smugglers in separate drives in the district town on July 7, police sources said.

According to sources, Brahmanbaria DB police launching a drive at local Titas Hotel arrested 7 alleged prostitutes and two unruly young boys.

They were: Sheikh Akter, Shamia Akter, Monni Akter, Jahannara Begum, Shahinur Akter, Shirin Rousan Begum, Md. Sabir Mia and Krishna Day. They were sent to court.

In another incident, police raiding local Kotwali bus stand arrested three alleged women smugglers and recovered 30 bottles of phensedyl syrup from their possession. The arrested three smugglers were: Amna, Shofia and Juhera.

Besides, Jahirul Islam, in-charge of Brahmanbaria rail station police nabbed three prostitutes and one broker from the railway platform.

All of the arrested persons were sent to the court.

## Abducted girl rescued

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 15: One Namessa Khatoun, 15, daughter of one Ibad Ali of village Nayabari under Bera thana, who was abducted and allegedly raped, kept under confinement for long five weeks, was rescued recently from the house of one Shahid Pramanik of Kashinathpur Pashchimpura under Santhia thana by the villagers and handed over to police. A case has been registered.

It is learnt from the police sources that two armed youths named Abdul, son of Mozal Haque and Abdus Sattar, son of late Hossain Ali Pramanik of village Nayabari abducted the minor girl at gun point and took her away to an unknown destination where she was kept confined and raped.

On July 3, the helpless girl was found in the house of said Shahid Pramanik in village Kashinathpur, Pashchimpura. The two unknown youths were often found to enter into the house.

Santhia police, as per further instruction of the court, produced Namessa Khatoun, the victim, before the civil surgeon, Pabna, for medical examination on July 9, 1996.

Police investigation has been proceeding but the two accused were allegedly absconding and could not be arrested as yet.

## Occasional pilferage of imported goods at Benapole alleged

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 15: Imported goods in Indian truck is reportedly facing law and order problem at Benapole Port. Lack of security by Port Authority has led to this situation, said sources.

According to information, import through this port remained suspended for couple of days, when Indian truck drivers called for strike for indefinite period from July 3 last in protest against pilferage by a group of miscreants of valuable goods from loaded trucks standing before ware house gate July 2 last.

The issue was settled amicably and truck drivers resumed their duties as usual from July 6 last.

When contacted, a source of Customs Department told this correspondent that their job was only to assess import duty and collect them. Responsibility to receive the consignment and arrange protection was the affair of Port Authority, the source said.

When contacted a source of Port Authority told that their staff strength was too small to handle the cargo. Still then

they were trying hard to render their services despite all limitation. The source also informed that all the problems were taken up with the authority for action but the result was yet to come. It may be noted here that Benapole Port is under control of Mongla Port Authority (MPA).

There is no denying the fact that hundreds of loaded Indian trucks with goods worth Taka thousands of crores standing for days together crowd the Benapole warehouse gate starting right from Benapole check-post crossing the distance of over two kilometres daily.

Surprisingly, there is no security guard from the Port Authority to take care of these trucks remaining out side port nor there is any police out post for control of the area excepting Traffic Police to manage traffic movement only.

Benapole route was opened in 1972 for import of goods from India in small scale. Its importance grew with increase of trade-volume in course of time.

## Headmaster of a school arrested on charge of cheating

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 15: Abdur Razzaque, 42, headmaster of Babur Char Government Primary School in Sadarpur thana was arrested on July 3 on charge of cheating eight persons, police source said.

Abdur Razzaque allegedly took Taka over two lakh from eight persons of the locality on assurance of sending them to Malaysia for jobs there. He deferred the matter of sending them to Malaysia for months together on different false excuses. At this, suspicion arose in the minds of the persons who had given him the money in good faith. When they put pressure on him for refunding the money, Abdur Razzaque went into hiding.

A case was lodged against Abdur Razzaque who surrendered at Kotwali thana and prayed for bail. But the court sent him to Faridpur district jail, rejecting his bail prayer.

## PIO suspended allegedly for misappropriating wheat

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 15: A Project Implementation Officer (PIO) of Saikupa thana of the district has been suspended for his alleged involvement in misappropriation of 27,323 metric tons of wheat worth Taka about six lakh under food for works programme, it was learnt.

According to department sources, Rawshan Ali, Thana Project Implementation Officer, Saikupa allegedly misappropriated 14.69 metric tons of wheat sanctioned for Banglata-Sokatipara road reconstruction project, 6.011 metric tons of wheat sanctioned for Baguta High School project and 6.61 metric tons of wheat sanctioned for Brahmapur-Charmaukuri road reconstruction project allegedly in collaboration with concerned project chairman.

The total projects were shown in black and white submitting master rolls while in existence of 2,000 ft of earth work against 900 kilograms of wheat was found.

After thorough investigation authority ordered the project chairman to recover the wheat at no delay. Otherwise, legal action would be taken against them.

When contacted District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO), Jhenidah admitted the fact and told that the PIO already has been suspended. The DRRO also said that on April 19 this year when Mir Shamsul Haque, Deputy Secretary (Relief) Ministry of Disaster, Management and Relief, and Executive Engineer and the DRRO himself visited three projects, Tribeni-Charpura road reconstruction project, Sherpur-Golakhnagar road reconstruction project and Krishnapur Bazar road reconstruction project, the PIO failed to show any project. But master rolls were submitted against all the projects as completed.

While she was on her way home alone, the alleged rapist, Kashem tied the mouth of Parween with cloth, took her inside an abandoned shop and violated her by force at Nancy bazar. The passers-by on hearing the cry of the victim for help rushed there, rescued her and caught the alleged rapist red-handed. The rescuers informed the police, police quoted the eye-witnesses and the victim to have said.

## Two persons selling fake coins arrested

From Our Correspondent  
GAIBANDHA, July 15: Sadullapur thana police arrested two persons and recovered 357 pieces of counterfeit British silver coins from their possession on July 9.

According to police on July 8 accused Abdur Mannan and his partner Quddus Mia came to Maldanga bazar under Sadullapur thana with a view to selling aluminium made counterfeit British silver coins. On hearing the fact, Naldanga union parishad members Abul Kashem and Abul Hossain in disguise of buyers appeared before the fake coin dealer Abdur Mannan and asked him to sell some hundred such coins. They, however, settled a secret location in the market for the transaction of cash at 10 pm.

Accordingly the two UP members engaged a few other men around the location. When the coin dealers reached the spot on duty the men on guard caught them red-handed. In the next morning accused persons were handed over to police. Sadullapur thana police, however, recovered 357 pieces of fake coins from the possession of accused persons.

According to the confession of accused persons they are the members of an organised gang and inhabitants of village Farajipara under Gaibandha sadar thana. They have been trading fake gold bar and silver coins for pretty long time. Many of the innocent people are being cheated by this organised gang of miscreants.

## 12 sentenced to life in Khulna

KHULNA, July 15: Some 12 people were awarded life term imprisonment in two separate cases, court sources said today, reports UNB.

The District and Sessions Judge, M Araash Uddin, on Thursday gave the punishment to nine accused for murdering Ashraf of Harikhal village in Terokhada thana in the district. They were also fined Tk 2,000 each or in default to suffer one year more imprisonment.

The convicted are Babu Mollah, Akidul, Abu Bakar, Ismail, Yar Ali, Mosharrarf, Ayub, Quddus, Idris and Ali.

In another case Additional District and Sessions Judge Shahjahan Ahmed awarded life imprisonment to two people, Shahjahan Sheikh and Tariqul Islam, for murdering Jaber Sheikh of Batighata thana.

Two convicted were also fined Tk 5,000 each or in default to suffer two months more imprisonment.

## One convicted for possessing, trading heroin in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 15: One person was found guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment for possessing heroin recently.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that acting upon a secret information, the Deputy Director, Narcotics Control Department Pabna Sadar Circle, along with other officials and police force, raided the house of convict, Rafiqul Islam early in the morning on December 5, 1992, and recovered 29 grams of heroin from his possession after thoroughly searching his house, they also recovered other materials including measurement materials which proved that the accused was a heroin trader. All those materials were also seized and a specific case was lodged with Pabna thana.

## Road mishap: One killed

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 15: A Rickshaw van puller Masir 25 was killed in a road mishap when a bus dashed him at Kamarpur on Rangpur-Bogra highway on July 12. The ill-fated Van puller was staying at Kamarpur cross road.

## One arrested for violating teen-age girl in Khagrachhari

From CHT Correspondent:

KHAGRACHHARI, July 15: The Khagrachhari Kotwali police has here rounded up a person allegedly for violating a teen-age girl at Nancy bazar area in the town recently.

Parween Akhtar, 18 while on her way back home allegedly fell prey to sexual lust of Abul Kashem, 34 at Nancy bazar in the hilly town on July 10 afternoon, Khagrachhari, Kotwali thana police said.

Parween, daughter of Abdul Mazid of Shalbon cluster hamlet in sadar thana of the district lodged a case with the Khagrachhari Kotwali police accusing Kashem allegedly for outraging her immediately she was rescued by the passers-by.

While she was on her way home alone, the alleged rapist, Kashem tied the mouth of Parween with cloth, took her inside an abandoned shop and violated her by force at Nancy bazar. The passers-by on hearing the cry of the victim for help rushed there, rescued her and caught the alleged rapist red-handed. The rescuers informed the police, police quoted the eye-witnesses and the victim to have said.

The accused has been sent to jail the same day.

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## Erosion: Thousands of families made landless in Barisal Div

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, July 15: Continuous erosion in different rivers in southern district of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalakathi and Peropur under Barisal Division, meantime, engulfed a huge tracts of crop lands, business establishments and homesteads.

Erosion in the southern region of the country continued for about last twenty years. Due to erosion many rivers have been turned into mere canal. According to latest information thousands of people rendered homeless, took shelter on different embankments with their families. In that way these people have lost their ancestral crop land and houses forever.

Many of them, are still continuing their livelihood under open sky on embankments or in newly erected shum areas at

the outskirts of town areas in an inhuman manner.

Rahim Mia of Bakerganj told this correspondent that about ten years ago he had lost his house due to erosion of Tulatali river. Meantime, his only son went to Dhaka in search of work.

Rahim Mia, aged about 52, is maintaining his family working as a day labourer. I've no alternative, I had my own crop field, house and many other things about a decade ago, Rahim Mia said. Now, I've nothing, my son also left me. Rahim Mia is now living in a dilapidated cottage beside the house of a landlord in Bakerganj village.

Non-stop erosion could not be checked yet at Kauarchar along the river Kirton-Khola flowing by the Barisal town. Meantime, the main launchgahat is also under threat

by erosion. Besides, a huge portion of the BIWTA Work shop jetty, government-owned fish landing and processing centre have already been devoured in the river Kirtonkhola in last two weeks.

A huge tracts of land including homesteads of hundreds of people many shops and educational institutions have already been engulfed by the river Arial Khan in Babuganj thana area. Arial Khan river is turning wider at many points everyday eroding the Ilsha, Mirganj and other villages along the river-side. The mighty Meghna river, meanwhile, is eroding very fast at Sashiganj in Daulatkhan thana of Bhola.

Doarika Ferryghat in Barisal is also threatened by erosion of Sandhya river. Launchghat of Jhalakathi is also threatened by the erosion of that river.



An erosion affected area in Barisal. — Star photo