

News snaps

Suranjit visits Shayestaganj Bridge

SYLHET, July 15: Prime Minister's Parliament Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sen Gupta along with the local MPs on Monday visited the damaged Shayestaganj Bridge on Dhaka-Sylhet highway on the river Khowai, reports UNB.

Senior officials of the Roads and Highways department and the Water Development Board accompanied Gupta during the visit in the morning. The road communication on the highway was disrupted from Sunday.

Youngman stabbed to death

BOGRA, July 15: A youngman was stabbed to death by a group of unidentified miscreants at New Market in the town at about 9:30 on Monday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Masum, 20, son of Zulfikar Ali of Malatnagar in the town, was seriously injured when the group stabbed him while he along with a friend was passing through the market.

The victim was declared dead by the attending doctors at Mohammad Ali Hospital. Masum was reported to be an activist of local district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Miladunnabi programme in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, July 15: Islami Foundation Bangladesh and district administration Mymensingh have jointly chalked out a five-day programme from July 18 on the occasion of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, reports BSS.

The five-day programme includes literacy and cultural competitions and discussions on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SM). Distinguished Islami thinkers will participate in the discussions.

200 ring-wells set up in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, July 15: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has set up 200 ring-wells in the district under Cluster Village Project and Rural Water Supply Project-16 during the fiscal 1996-97, reports UNB.

The department is also implementing installation of 100 tara pumps after the recent cyclone in the district under the Rehabilitation Project. During the fiscal 1995-96, only 23 ring-wells have been set up in the district amid prevailing scarcity of water in the area.

Sirajganj Police Station may collapse

SIRAJGANJ, July 15: The Sadar police station building which is over 100 years old may collapse any moment due to damage caused by incessant rain for last few days, reports UNB.

The roof is leaking continuously hampering work in the thana. The plasters of the roof are falling down every now and then. The officials on duty are busy removing stagnant water to carry on their work. The Officer-in-Charge Javed Hasan said this dilapidated building may collapse any moment causing accident. The officers and police on duty are performing their duties amid fear of life.

Separate incidents kill 3 in Bhola

BHOLA, July 15: Three people were killed in separate incidents in the district in the last fortnight, reports UNB.

Police said two people allegedly committed suicide following family feuds and a minor girl was also crushed under the wheel of a speeding tempo. The dead were identified as rickshaw-puller Babul Hossain, 22, of Gazipur area of the town and Amina Begum, 20, of Choto Manika village of Borhanuddin thana. Police said Asma, 9, a student of class four, died on the spot being hit by the tempo near Daulatkhan. She met the tragic end of her life while the crossing the road.

Discussion on problem of drug

PATUAKHALI, July 15: A discussion on the problem of drug was held on July 8 at Amtali thana headquarters under Patuakhali district, reports BSS.

Mohammed Shah Alam, regional officer of Bangladesh Ahsania Mission was present at the meeting as chief guest. Nurul Alam, Advocate Shahabuddin, Mizanur Rahman, Paritosh Karmakar and Hedayetuzzaman, among others, discussed various aspects of the harmful effect of the use of drug. They called upon the people to make Bangladesh a drug-free society.

Discussion on Population Day

MYMENSINGH, July 15: A discussion meeting was held in the local zila parishad conference room on July 10 to mark the World Population Day, reports BSS.

Deputy Director of Family Planning Majibur Rahman presided over the discussion while Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh, Muhammad Rafiqul Islam attended the meeting as chief guest. Among others civil surgeon Dr Akbar Ali, Prof Mahmudul Hassan, Shakhawat Bakht Choudhury, Dr Mujibul Haq, Muazzem Hussain spoke on the occasion.

33 arrested from Savar

SAVAR, July 15: Police arrested a total of 53 people from different parts of the thana for their alleged involvement in various crimes including murder in the last one week, reports UNB.

A police contingent led by Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Belal Hossain arrested 37 people in separate raids from Shibabala thana, of them, three were homeopath practitioners. Of the arrested, 20 people were warrantees of different cases, seven accused of a snatching case and 10 accused of different smuggling cases.

One killed in rivals' clash

PABNA, July 15: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a fierce gunfight at Bakshipur of Bharara union in Sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said the gunbattle ensued at the village between two rival groups following previous enmity. Shot-hit Moktar Hossain, 25, died on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Injured Kital Mondol, 30, and Yusuf Mondol, 40, were admitted to the hospital.

Uplift schemes implemented

CHUADANGA, July 15: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented two schemes under its rural development programme 18 in Chuadanga sadar thana during the last financial year at a total cost of Taka 2,84,26,165.00, reports BSS.

The implemented schemes are construction of a 10-mile road between Sarajganj and Hizolgar and construction of a box-culvert over the river Chittra on Barasolua-Kalupole bazar road.

Rickshaw passenger killed in road mishap

COMILLA, July 15: A teenaged rickshaw passenger was killed in a road accident near Jafarganj Bazar in Debidwar thana on Sylhet-Dhaka highway on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Motahar Hossain, 15, died on the spot when a Dhaka-bound speeding bus from Companiganj hit the rickshaw from behind in the morning. The body was sent to Comilla Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police seized the bus and arrested its driver from Chandina.

Landless on rise in Noakhali

NOAKHALI, July 15: Number of landless farmers are on rise in the district due to various reasons, reports UNB.

According to a survey, number of landless farmers stood at one lakh in six thanas of the district. Farmers are losing land due to river erosion and other natural disasters. At present they became almost destitute and live a miserable life.

Farmers are being exploited by money-lenders who takes high interest from them and they are always under heavy burden of loan as they do not get proper price for their produce.

2 killed in separate incidents

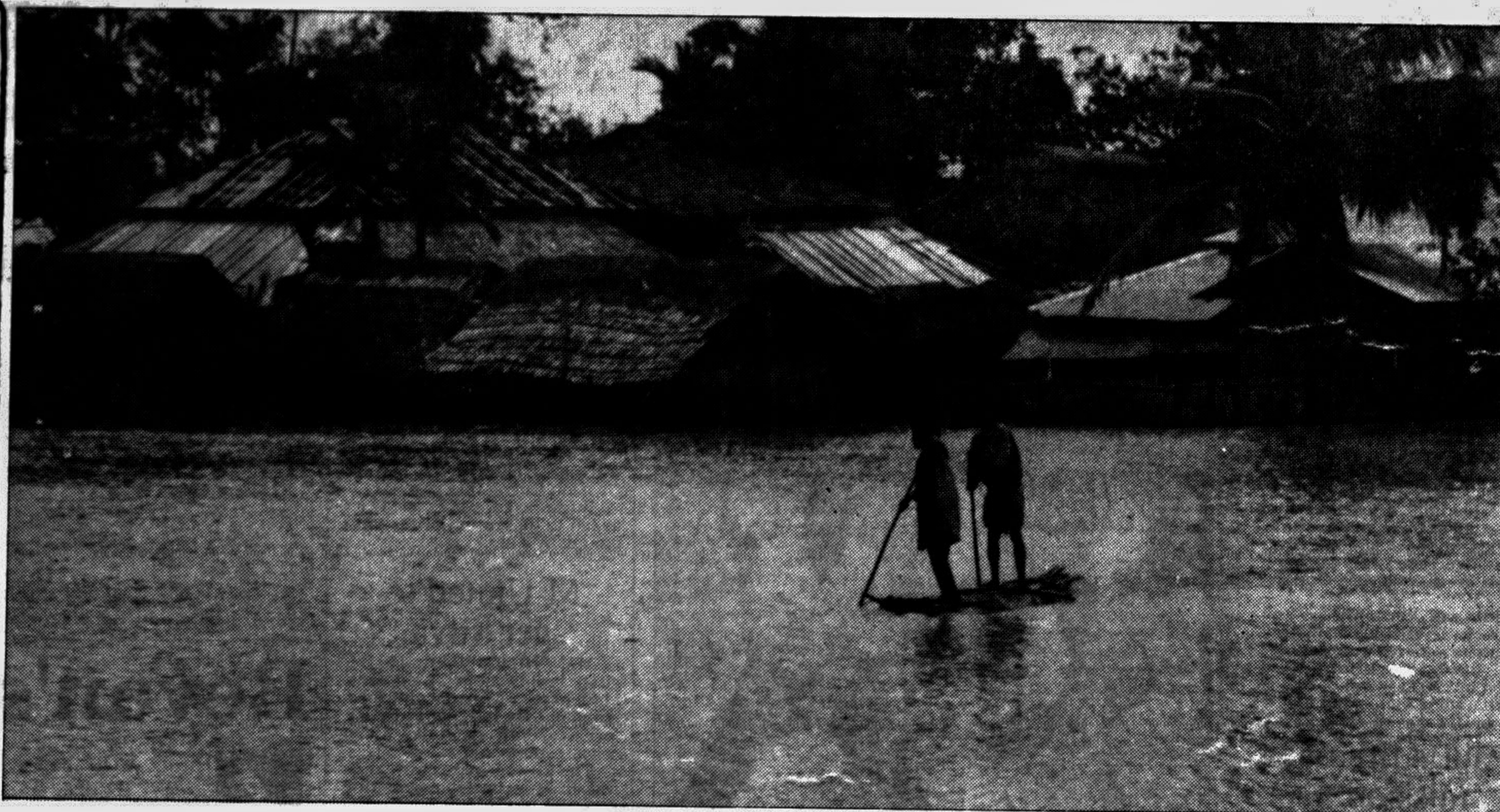
SIRAJGANJ, July 15: An old man and a woman died in the district in separate incidents in last two days, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Refaz Fakir, 60, of village Tukrashongachha in Sadar thana was electrocuted recently when he came in contact with a live electric wire. In another incident, Rahima Khatun, 46, of village Tekani in Kazipur thana was killed by lightning.

Development works progressing fast

RANGPUR, July 15: The work on the project for development of women and children in Mithapukur thana of the district is progressing fast, reports UNB.

Ministry of Information is implementing the project with the financial assistance from UNICEF to create mass awareness among the people of the area about their life and living by the year 2000. Five mobile bioscope show, four community meetings and four cultural programmes will be held every month for making the programme as success. Besides, local leaders will be given training so that they can create consciousness among the people of their respective areas.



COX'S BAZAR: The flood situation has been worsening in the district due to continuous onrush of hilly waters. The picture was taken from village Kakara under Chokoria thana in the district by our Cox's Bazar correspondent recently.

Hasan desires to be an Army officer

Sheikh Syeed Hasan of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 12th in the Secondary School



Certificate (SSC) examination (Science group) this year under Jessor Board, says a press release.

He scored 911 marks with six letters.

Hasan wants to be an Army officer.



JESSORE: Juthi was rescued from the clutch of child-lifters in the district town by local people recently. - Star photo

Post-cyclone rehabilitation works progressing in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 15: The post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation activities in the cyclone and tidal surge affected Cox's Bazar district are going on in full swing, according to official sources.

Reconstruction work of cyclone damaged embankments along with hydraulic control structures has been going on in full swing in the coastal areas of the district on an urgent basis. Bangladesh Water Development Board, Chittagong zone is implementing the programme.

To complete the reconstruction work an amount of Tk 12 crore and 56 lakh was sanctioned. Officials said, the reconstruction work which is progressing steadily. So far about 75 per cent works have been done. When completed it is expected that a vast tract of land will be saved from erosion during monsoon tides and from onrush of saline water. This will also help the farmers to produce paddy besides saving homesteads and shrimp projects.

Reconstruction of 27 km coastal embankment and 48

hydraulic control structures has been taken up on an emergency basis in Cox's Bazar with a view to protecting arable land from inundation by saline water.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 52 km. coastal embankment was damaged completely while 220km coastal embankment, out of 2,000 embankments were damaged partially in the cyclonic storm of May 19 last.

According to primary assessment, the loss was estimated at Taka 35 crore and 67 lakh.

According to District Relief Office sources, relief goods including Taka 46 lakh have so far been distributed among the affected people of two pourashavas and seven thanas of the district.

Meanwhile, the government has sanctioned an amount of Taka 37 lakh under post-cyclone agricultural rehabilitation programme for cyclone-hit farmers of Cox's Bazar district. The relief goods distributed among the affected people included 470 tonnes of rice as gen-

eral relief, 3,120 kilograms of chira, 33,700 pieces of sarees, 4,825 pieces of lungis, 820 nos. of tents, 112 rolls of polythene, 6,500 pieces of utensils, 3,500 pieces of old cloths, 4,195 pieces of water containers, 1,300 tins of biscuits, 4,900 pieces of gajjes, 5,500 pieces of plates, 7,000 pieces of glasses, 350 water filters, 230 pieces of water tanks, 925 pieces of hurricanes, 1000 pieces of sauspans, baby wears and ready made cloths 14,000 pieces, 347 cartons of Saudi food, 2,500 metres of cloths, 6,000 pieces of candles and one tonne of powder milk.

Besides 16 kg of rice are being given to each of the total 40,000 affected families under two pourashavas and seven thanas of the district under the programme of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF). The Government has already sanctioned 1,293 tonnes of rice under this programme. The Government also distributed 11,830 bundles of CI sheets and an amount of Taka 75 as house building grants by the district administration and the Armed Forces among the cyclone victims.

Ban on selling non-iodised salt being defied in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 15: Non-iodised salt is being sold in almost all the markets of Chandpur district defying government ban on it.

Despite ban on its sell the commodity is being sold in different markets with impunity. The ignorant people are purchasing non-iodised salt due to its cheaper rates. According to market sources one kilogram of iodised salt is being sold between Tk 10 to Tk 12 while the price of one kilo non-iodised salt is Tk 7 to Tk 8. As non-iodised salt is cheaper, the consumers are always purchasing it from the market.

It is alleged some traders sell non-iodised salt lavelling as iodised salt. It is also reported that almost all packets of salts

which are sold at different markets are dirty.

It may be mentioned, iodine deficiency may cause resulting in like goitre, dwarfism, squinted and mental and physical retardation.

The government has made it mandatory to all salt factories of the country to produce and sell iodised salts.

There are about 35 salt refinery industries in Chandpur. Only 12 salt industries are producing iodised salt.

It is alleged that the rest of salt industries are not producing iodised salt.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has undertaken a scheme to supply machines for mixing iodine with salt in all salt industries of the

district. After receiving machines from UNICEF some industries did not install those machines in their respective industries.

According to UNICEF only 40 per cent people take iodised salt in the district. UNICEF in cooperation with the district administration organised seminars in different parts of the district for installing iodised mixing machines in all salt industries as early as possible.

Salt industry owners and workers were also given training by UNICEF about the techniques of mixing iodine with salt. UNICEF urged all salt industries owners to implement government order strictly in respect of selling, producing and storing iodised salt.

In response to a female artiste's appeal

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, July 15: An artiste of Manirampur Jatra party heaved a sigh of relief when an order of judicial enquiry was given by the court to investigate into a complaint filed by her against a Sub-Inspector (SI) of police.

According to court sources, the complainant of the case Purnima Rani Dey went underground to avoid harassment by the (SI) of Manirampur thana.

The alleged SI, Ali Azam brought Purnima to Manirampur thana on May 30 last with a foul design. He gave her pressure to file a case in the thana against some local responsible persons. But Purnima refused to comply.

Having failed the SI compelled her to sign on a stamp. She disclosed this in details to the neighbours after returning home. The next day, she was again taken to the thana by the SI. Under coercion he obtained her signature on a plain paper.

Realising the consequence she became nervous. She went underground and remained there till issuance of the order by court in response to her complaint.

It was alleged that earlier Purnima narrowly escaped the attack on her by a group of kidnappers who tried to rape her during her return from a rehearsal at night. The attack was made under provocation of an interested quarter.

Purnima divorced by her husband a few years ago, was living with her poor parents of Manirampur. She took up Jatra

as her profession to earn livelihood.

According to another source, this is not the only allegation against SI Ali Azam.

A joint petition, was submitted



Purnima Rani Dey

ted to Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Khulna Range against him for immediate enquiry into his alleged corruption and abuse of power along with extortion of money from innocent people by involving them in concocted cases.

8 killed by outlawed party

KHULNA, July 15: During last one and a half years eight people were killed by the outlawed Purbia Bangla Communist Party in Rupsha thana here, reports UNB.

According to local people none was arrested during the period in this connection. The bandits, as a result, are carrying out their heinous activities desperately causing deterioration of law and order. The commoners are passing their days in extreme insecurity. The people killed by the activists were identified as UP member Yad Ali, Azim and Ahad of Nornia village, police constable Kuddus, shrimp enclosure trader Madhu, BNP worker Abu Sayed Tarun, Zabbar Fakir and Riaz Fakir of Nandanpur village in the thana.

Kushtia Newsletter

KUSHTIA, July 15: One person was convicted on charge of kidnapping Mahmuda Parveen, 15, and marrying against her will.

He was sentenced to suffer 7 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The case in brief is that on November 3, 1996 Abdul son of Paroshulla of village Baria Takimara under the sadar thana kidnapped Mahmuda Parveen, 15, daughter of Zaher Ali Shaikh of the same village and married her. The elder brother of the victim filed a case accusing 4 persons including Abdul in Kushtia police station.

Police after investigation submitted the chargesheet accusing six persons under the Women and Children Repression Act.

Saiful Alam, Special District and Sessions Judge after examining witnesses found Abdul guilty and awarded the punishment. Other accused persons were acquitted as charges against them were not proved beyond doubt. The case was conducted by Advocate Abu Jafar Siddique Public Prosecutor (PP) on behalf of the state and advocate Alimul Huq appeared for the accused.

Killers' punishment demanded

The people of Bahadurpur and Mokarrampur unions held a protest meeting in the premises of Bheramara thana parishad recently demanding exemplary punishment to those responsible for murdering Abdul Kader, 4, at Chargopalpur

Scarcity of quality seeds hits jute farming

The target of jute production in Chuadanga and adjoining districts may not be achieved in the coming harvesting season for want of quality seeds.

The farmers of the district have bought date expired Indian smuggled jute seeds from unscrupulous traders.

They could realise their fault after 15 to 20 days of sowing the time expired seeds.

The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) authorities could not supply jute seeds to the growers as a result the growth of the new plants was not satisfactory. About 20 thousand hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation programme this year. The target of production will not be achieved because of low quality seeds and want of rainfall.



Horses are no more used in battlefield by kings. Rather the common people use the animal in their grim battle for survival. They earn their livelihood using horses now-a-days.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin