

National

News snaps

Miladunnabi observed in Faridpur

Eid-e-Miladunnabi was observed at Biswa Zaker Manjil, Faridpur on Friday with due religious fervour, says a press release.

Milad mahfil, zikr and discussion meetings were held on the occasion.

Girl drowns in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 20: A two-year-old girl drowned in a pond at village Takhalpuri under Sripur thana in the district recently.

Lipi, 2, the victim, daughter of Taba Mondal drowned in the pond of a neighbour Harun Mondal when she was playing beside the bank of the pond.

Education Week observed in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, July 20: A week long thana-level programme of 'National Education Week' concluded here recently, reports BSS.

On the occasion, Manikganj Sadar Thana National Education Week Observance Committee organised elaborate programmes. Competition on 14 items including qirat, hand, Nazrul song, Tagore song, folk song, dance, essay writing, recitation extempore speech and hand writing competition were held among the secondary school and college students.

Sramik League leader dead

RANGPUR, July 20: Mohammad Ali Mousub, former secretary of district Sramik League died of heart attack on Saturday morning at his residence at New Engineer Para here. He was 60, reports BSS.

Late Ali was suffering from diabetes and other complications. He was buried at Munshipara graveyard.

Juba League leader buried

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 20: Juba League leader Kabiruzzaman was laid to rest at his village at Hazampara in Salkupa thana recently.

Kabir received bullet injuries near Kichhukhan cinema hall on the night of July 8 in Salkupa. He was rushed to Dhaka PG Hospital and succumbed to his injuries there later on.

Lightning claims 7

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 20: Seven persons including six children and one young man were killed by lightning in village Bhabanaduar under Daulatpur thana in the district.

Eye-witnesses said, they took shelter in a shop during heavy rain on July 14. At that time they became the victims of lightning. The identify of four victims could be gathered. The other victims are: Khairul, 10, Iqbar Hossain, 12, Zahedul Islam, 10 and Kalu, 18.

Extension work of hospital uncertain

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 20: Extension work of the sadar hospital from 50 seat to 100 has become uncertain due to unknown reasons, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said work order to construct the building was given two years back after maintaining all official procedures including tender inviting. But the construction work is yet to start. Concerned sources said there was a flaw in the blue print of the proposed building. The construction plan was abandoned following the detection of the defect by the engineers of the health department. But no initiative was taken after that.

Youth held for violating girl

KISHOREGANJ, July 20: Police arrested a young man on charge of violating a minor girl in Pakundia thana of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

The alleged rapist was identified as Shamsul Alam, 19, son of M Ibrahim of Dagdaga village in Pakundia thana. Police said Shamsul violated a minor girl, 7, at a jute field of the village on Saturday morning. The girl was admitted to sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Principal held for demanding dowry

PATUAKHALI, July 20: The magistrate court has issued a warrant of arrest against a principal of madrasa here following a case filed by his second wife for demanding dowry, reports UNB.

Rahima Begum, second wife of Moulana Delwar Hossain, Principal of Kutubpur Anisur Senior Madrasa in Amalti thana filed the case recently stating that her husband illegally demanded Tk 10,000 and a bicycle to her widow mother as dowry. Rahima got married as second wife with Delwar Hossain on August 22 in 1996. After a couple of months the Maulana started demanding the dowry. Rahima said following her failure to bring the money he forced her to stay at her mother's house.

Man killed in road mishap

SIRAJGANJ, July 20: An unidentified man was killed and another 25 were injured in a mishap at Choriyoshika on Bogra-Nagarbari road on early Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the incident occurred at 4:30 am when a Dhaka bound coach from Gaibandha collided with a truck parked beside the road. Of the injured, 17 were admitted to Ullahpara Purnimagar Health Complex, Sirajganj General Hospital and Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital in critical condition. A case was filed and police seized the bus. But its driver and helper managed to flee the scene.

Seminar on biogas tech

SATKHIRA, July 20: A seminar on biogas technology was held at Deputy Commissioners conference room, recently, reports BSS.

The seminar was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Abdus Salam. Abu Taher Khan, Senior Scientific Officer of energy, research and development institute, and Rashidul Haider, Sub-Assistant Engineer of Biogas Technology of Satkhira discussed biogas technology in detail. Pourasava chairman, thana nirbahi officer, thana livestock officer, Ansar and VDP officers, union parishad chairman and members of the district council, pourasava commissioners and other district and thana-level officers attended the seminar.

Serious river erosion in Manikganj

SAVAR, July 20: Erosion by the Padma and the Jamuna rivers have taken serious turn and nearly 2,000 families were rendered homeless due to the erosion in the last week, reports UNB.

In last 25 years, the two rivers eroded 200 villages and 50,000 acres of arable land in three thanas of the district. The rivers played havoc affecting nearly 70,000 families during the period. Some 70 industrial units were also engulfed by the rivers. A total of 30,000 families of 10 unions in Harirampur thana, about 30,000 families of 90 villages in Daulatpur thana and about 10,000 families of 30 villages in Shibalaya thana have been rendered homeless by the erosion.

Journalists asked to foil distortion bid

KHULNA July 20: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak called upon the newsmen to depict the true history of Liberation War to the future generation so that they are not misguided by the distortion attempt of certain quarters, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing the 26th anniversary of the local 'Daily Janmabhumi' and 'Ruma Smriti Padak' giving ceremony at the press club here recently. The minister said the role of newspaper is very important in building a nation and establishing social justice in a country. Referring to the past repression on the journalists, Razzak said the present government believes in the press freedom and created congenial environment for objective journalism.

Traffic system deteriorates in Maijdee

MAIJDEE COURT, July 20: Traffic system in the district headquarters has deteriorated in last six months and number road accidents are also on rise, reports UNB.

There are about seven unauthorised taxi, tempo and rickshaw stands at seven points on the main road of the town, creating trouble to traffic and movement of pedestrians. Moreover, the drivers and helpers of these small motorised vehicles take excess passengers endangering their lives. The onrush of rickshaws from the surrounding areas of this small town also increased sharply and of about 5,500 rickshaws, 3,000 are plying without licence.

4 killed in Naogaon road mishap

NAOGAON, July 20: Four persons were killed and more than 50 others injured recently when two passenger buses collided near Ulashpur bridge, a few miles from here, reports BSS.

Eye-witnesses said, three passengers died on the spot and the other victim succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. More than 15 injured persons have been admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Naogaon Sadar Hospital.

2 BCP activists killed in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 20: Two activists of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) Haque group were killed on the spot and another seriously injured at village Bherakhali in Harinakundu thana of the district on July 17 night, according to police sources.

Police said, a gang of armedmen numbering 16 caught Kushol, 40, Shukur Ali, 26, and Badaruddin, 25, from the same village at about 11pm on the day. They were returning home after enjoying a TV programme. They slaughtered all of them. Kushol and Shukur Ali died on the spot and Badaruddin was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. The killers are apprehended to be the activists of Purabangla Communist Party, police said.

RU Press Club slates attack on newsman

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 20: Rajshahi University Press Club at an emergency meeting held on Saturday evening condemned the attack on NM Jahangir Alam, university correspondent of the Daily Sangbad.

It has been alleged, Saiful Islam Rashel, president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (SP), RU unit, attacked him.

The meeting was chaired by Tareq Chowdhury.

RU Press Club has threatened to boycott all kinds of news coverage of Chhatra League if the attacker does not apologise.

Magura Poura chairman, 3 others sued

MAGURA, July 20: A case was filed against the pourasava chairman, two officials and a contractor on Monday for misappropriating money by making false voucher, bill for sanctioning government fund without doing any assigned work, reports UNB.

According to the complaints, Magura pourasava authorities took up a project and sanctioned Tk 78,125 for construction and repair of kutchha road at Shibrampur and Batikadanga.

Magura pourasava chairman Mahubul Haq Siddique in connivance with officer Sukumar Saha and assistant engineer Shoyeb Uddin, issued work order for implementing the project making Amal Kumar Biswas contractor through a secret tender.

Without doing any work of the project, they made false vouchers, passed the bill and issued cheque of Tk 67,015 on June 10. Amal Kumar drew the sum from Uttara Bank, Magura branch, the complaints added.

Matia visits flood-hit areas

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury on Thursday visited the flood affected areas of Chittagong, Rangamati and Bandarban districts, reports UNB.

At Reserve Bazar in Rangamati district town, the minister met the family members of the victims of last week's landslide that left 13 people killed there.

She conveyed her sympathies for them.

Anwar Hossain, an employee of Agriculture Extension Department, was also killed in the tragic incident.

The minister enquired about the damage of standing crops in the flood-hit areas.

Diarrhoea claims 5 lives in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, July 20: Diarrhoea claimed five lives and affected 215 people in Kaptai thana of the district in three days, reports UNB.

Officials said the water-borne disease broke out in the area with the onslaught of flash flood which displaced thousands of people of the district.

Nearly 2,000 people in different parts of the flood-hit areas in the district have been affected by diarrhoea.

A total of 52 medical teams are working in the affected areas to combat the disease.

After examining the witnesses and records.

Woman gets life for murdering step son

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 20: One Nazma Khatun was awarded life-term rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Taka 5,000 or in default to suffer RI for one year more on charge of killing her step son, court sources said.

According to the prosecution, in the evening of August 30, 1992, accused Nazma Khatun, second wife of Muslim Mia of village Perabanga in Kishoreganj thana took her 7-year old step son, Sujan to a neighbour's pond on plea of having bath. There she strangled Sujan. As a result, he died. The CID police later took Nazma Khatun into custody.

She confessed her guilt to the Magistrate. Police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against her.

After examining the witnesses and records.

Croploss making villagers poorer

NARAIL, July 20: The economic condition of rural people of the district deteriorated to a great extent due to croploss for the last few years, reports UNB.

Lack of employment opportunity in the absence of industry in the area has increased the misery of the people. The production of different crops in the district has decreased for want of quality seeds, adequate fertilizer and irrigation facilities.

The small and marginal farmers who constitute about 85 per cent of total population of the district are unable to cultivate their land properly for want of required capital.

The total population of the district is about eight lakh of which 12 per cent are engaged in business and services. The other 88 per cent depend on agriculture.

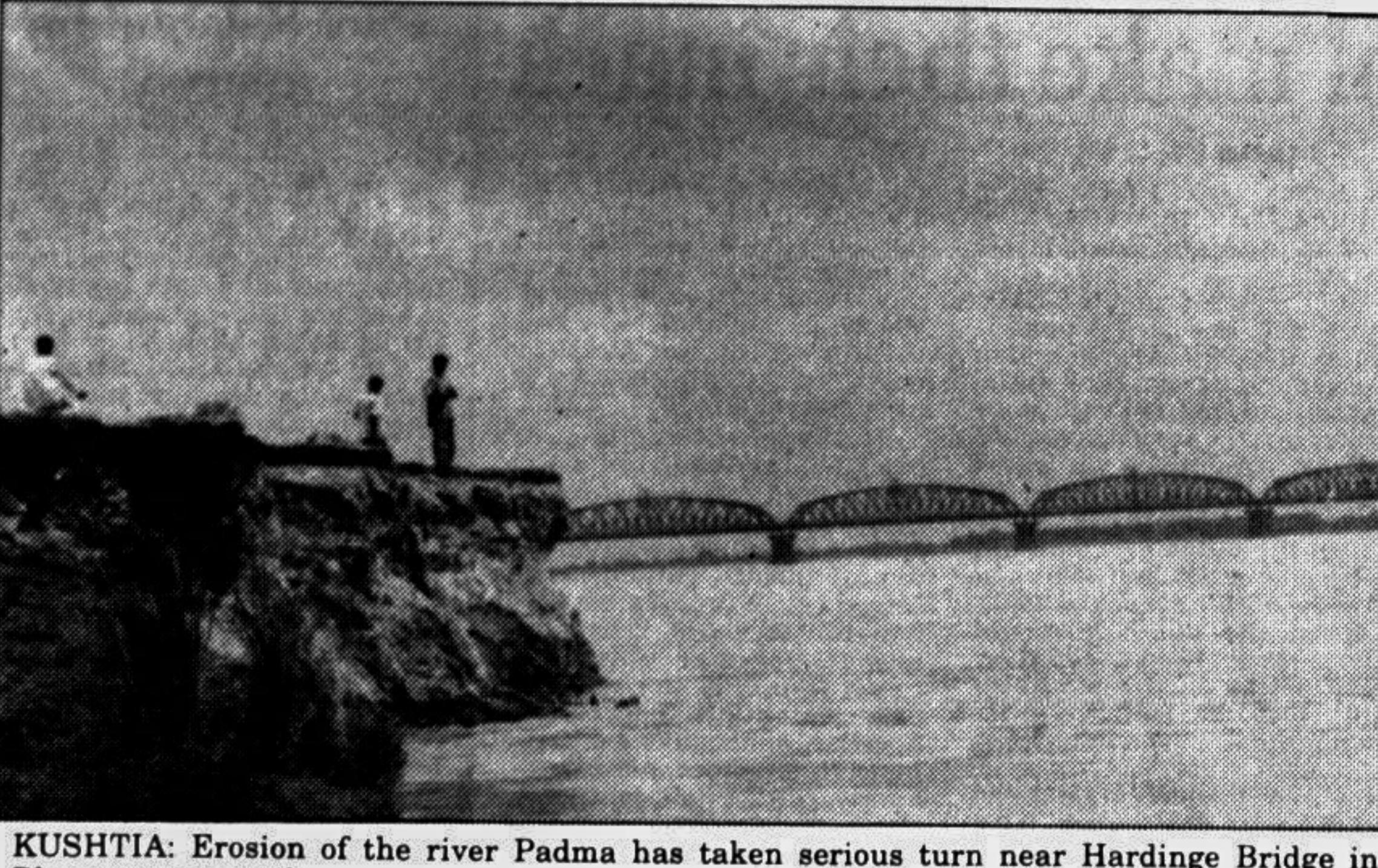
The landless people have to sell their cattle and utensils to maintain their livelihood.

Most of the beels, ponds and rivers have either silted up or dried up hampering pisciculture. As a result, a large number of fishermen have become unemployed and passing days in hardship.

4 killed in Naogaon road mishap

NAOGAON, July 20: Four persons were killed and more than 50 others injured recently when two passenger buses collided near Ulashpur bridge, a few miles from here, reports BSS.

Eye-witnesses said, three passengers died on the spot and the other victim succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. More than 15 injured persons have been admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Naogaon Sadar Hospital.



KUSHTIA: Erosion of the river Padma has taken serious turn near Hardinge Bridge in Bheramara recently.

— Star photo

Jute cultivation target won't be achieved in 7 dists

By Staff Correspondent

July 2028 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation. Nine thousand six hundred forty-four hectares of land had been targeted for jute cultivation in Satkhira district but six thousand eight hundred six hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation. Three districts like Kushtia, Chaudanga and Meherpur were able to fulfil their target.

The target of jute cultivation in Kushtia, Chaudanga and Meherpur were 10,362, 11,465 and 10,661 hectares of land respectively. The target of jute cultivation in these three districts exceeded.

In Kushtia district, 11,582 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation, 12,156 hectares of land were cultivated in Chaudanga district and 12,806 hectares of land in Meherpur district. While talking to some established jute growers in Magura district they said, they are not getting good production of jute due to manifold problems. They faced problems to collect High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds during the period of sowing jute seeds. Because quality jute seeds were not available in the sale centres of BADC. As a result, most of jute growers had to depend on Indian low quality jute seeds. In many cases, dishonest seed dealers sold low quality seeds pouring in Indian bags. They branded low quality seeds as Debdash, Mahamaya, Krishan, Krishan.

When contacted, a group of jute cultivators in Sripur thana of Magura district hold this

correspondent that flowers bloomed in tender jute plants at premature stage during the current jute cultivation season. This happened due to low quality seeds. The jute growers also faced problems of decomposing jute due to water crisis. As a result, the production target of jute cultivation is unlikely to be achieved, they added.

It was also learnt from the farmers that they are not interested to cultivate jute as they do not get fair price of jute.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: For want of sufficient rainfall and apprehending lower price of jute the jute cultivators in four districts of greater Jessori district did not cultivate jute on their lands.

AED earmarked those lands for jute cultivation earlier.

While talking to a highly placed source of AED he said to this correspondent that sufficient rainfall was not available between March and May this year. Moreover the growers are generally deprived of fair price of jute.

The price of jute depends on the shipper and whole sale distributors of mills and private jute traders of Daulatpur market in Khulna district. They purchase jute from remote areas through their agents or pharsa on credit.

To avoid harassment by the agents, the jute growers lost interest to cultivate jute. Though jute was once the 'golden fibre' of our country, the growers lost interest yet to cultivate jute. Now they prefer to cultivate vegetables and other crops.

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammed Hussain presenting a BAU crest to the Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University Prof YD Pande during his recent visit at the Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Workshop on nursing of eye

A workshop on 'Primary Nursing of Eye', sponsored by Anderi Haphi of Germany was held at Moulvibazar BNSB Eye Hospital recently.

Whip of the Parliament, Abdus Shahid inaugurated the workshop. Presided over by GKM Nurul Ameen, Deputy Commissioner and district

Moulv