

News snaps

Gas supply to Sunamganj suspended

SUNAMGANJ, July 26: Due to a leak in the Sylhet-Sunamganj gas line at Khasiamara near Doarabazar thana headquarters, Jalalabad Gas Transmission Company has suspended gas supply in the town, reports UNB.

Sources said some 2,000 subscribers in the town have been facing acute fuel crisis due to the sudden suspension of gas supply on July 14. Officials here said on Sunday the gas supply will resume by August 15 after the installation of a bypass line as the main gas line cannot be repaired. The repair work on the main line is expected to begin after the recession of water from the area.

Tree fair in Ctg from July 28

CHITTAGONG, July 26: A four-day "tree fair" aimed at motivating the people in tree plantation will begin on Patenga embankment here from July 28, reports BSS.

Organised by Chittagong City Corporation, the fair will be inaugurated by Forest and Environment Minister Begum Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury as the chief guest.

Smuggled goods seized

SATKHIRA, July 26: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 78,000 from different border areas in the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

The goods recovered while being smuggled into the country included mangoes, milk powder, cattle, cotton cloth and steel utensils and the contraband seized while being smuggled out to India included brass, metals and polyester cloths. The smuggled goods were deposited with the local Customs godown. However, no one claimed the ownership of the goods.

Sculpture to be built in Rangpur

RANGPUR, July 26: Rangpur Pourashava has decided to build a triangular sculpture at the old Press Club crossing in the town, reports UNB.

Officials said the sculpture will be built with a couple of pyramids, a symbol of peace, at a cost Tk 10 lakh. The construction works are expected to begin soon.

Afforestation programme in Comilla

COMILLA, July 26: The Forest Department has taken up a programme to plant different varieties of saplings in 365 kilometres of roads and embankments in greater Comilla district under its Social Afforestation Scheme, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the programme will cover 195 kilometres in Comilla, 89 kilometres in Chandpur and 81 kilometres in Brahmanbaria. Besides, 90 hectares of fallow land will be brought under this programme in the current season.

Discussion on life of Prophet

TANGAIL, July 26: A discussion meeting on the life and teachings of the holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), organised jointly by the district administration and Islamic Foundation, was held at local public library premises on the occasion of the MiladunNabi, reports BSS.

Alhaj Abdul Mannan MP was the chief guest on the occasion. Presided over by Abdul Kayum, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sattar Khan, Advocate Mirza Tofazzal Hossain Mukul, Advocate AbdullaHusseini Wasek and Shamsuzzaman Khan.

LGED project work progressing

CHANDPUR, July 26: About one hundred and seven projects have been taken up by the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) at a cost of Tk 10 crore 73 lakh during the current year in Chandpur district, reports BSS.

According to an official sources, the projects included construction of roads, reconstruction of roads, construction of bridges and culverts. Besides, five baily bridges will be constructed in five thanas of the district. About 75 per cent works of these projects have already been completed.

Tk 4cr BKB loan for farmers

MAGURA, July 26: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has disbursed Tk 4.14 crore loan among 8,000 farmers in four thanas of the district in the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Mohammad Reissuddin, the bank's Regional Manager in Magura, said the loan money was disbursed among the farmers through its 16 branches. The amount was given for cultivating different crops purchase of bullocks, irrigation pumps, pisciculture, dairy and poultry farming and for small business. During the same period the bank realised outstanding loan of Tk 6.75 crore.

Workshop on AIDS in Pabna

PABNA, July 26: HIV/AIDS was found in about 20,000 human bodies in Bangladesh, of them 77 have been detected and four already died of the disease since its detection in 1989, said Dr Saaid Rahman, reports UNB.

He was addressing a workshop on AIDS/HIV, jointly organised by Voluntary Health Services Society, Dhaka and Sweeny Unnayan, Rajshahi, at Karitas auditorium here recently. The speakers of the workshop said AIDS mainly spread by sexual intercourse, homosexuality and transfusion of blood.

CUJ rally held

CHITTAGONG, July 26: The Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) recently observed the Journalists Repression Day through holding rally and discussion in the press club auditorium here, reports BSS.

Presided over by the President of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) Anjan Kumar Sen, the rally was addressed, among others, by Vice-President of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Kazi Zafrul Islam, Executive Member of BFUJ Mohammad Yusuf, President of Chittagong Press Club Abu Sufian, former President Ataul Hakim, General Secretary Helaluddin Chowdhury, CUJ Vice President Noor Mohammad Rafique and former president and secretaries of CUJ Swapan Kumar Mohajan and Shahidul Alam.

Serious river erosion in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 26: Erosion by the river Jamuna took an alarming turn in the district rendering 268 families of 10 villages in three thanas homeless recently, reports UNB.

The homeless people of sadar, Shahjadpur and Chouiali thanas took shelter on the embankment of water development board and other safer places. Official sources said some 50 feet of the Shalabari ghat was washed away causing concern among the people of the area. During the period, standing crops including aman, paddy, sesame, kaun and jute on 1,000 acres of lands in 14 unions of Sadar, Kazipur, Chouiali, Belkuchi and Shahjadpur thanas were submerged.

School bldg works inaugurated

NOAKHALI, July 26: State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader inaugurated construction work of five school buildings involving Tk 35 lakh in Sadar thana here recently, reports UNB.

These are: Bhulay Hat High School, Aushadha Girls High School, Aushadha Government Primary School, Mayer Hat High School and Nurattappur Registered Primary School.

4,325 applied for 73 posts of teachers

MANIKGANJ, July 26: A total of 4,325 persons have applied for 73 posts of assistant teachers of primary schools in Manikganj district recently, reports BSS.

According to the district primary education office, thana-wise vacancy is as follows: 16 in Singair, 15 in Harirampur, nine in Daulatpur, 15 in Saturia, eight in Ghior, five in Shivalaya and five in Manikganj thana. Necessary preparation for holding the examination on June 27 to select the applicants to the post has already been completed.

Workshop on sugarcane cultivation

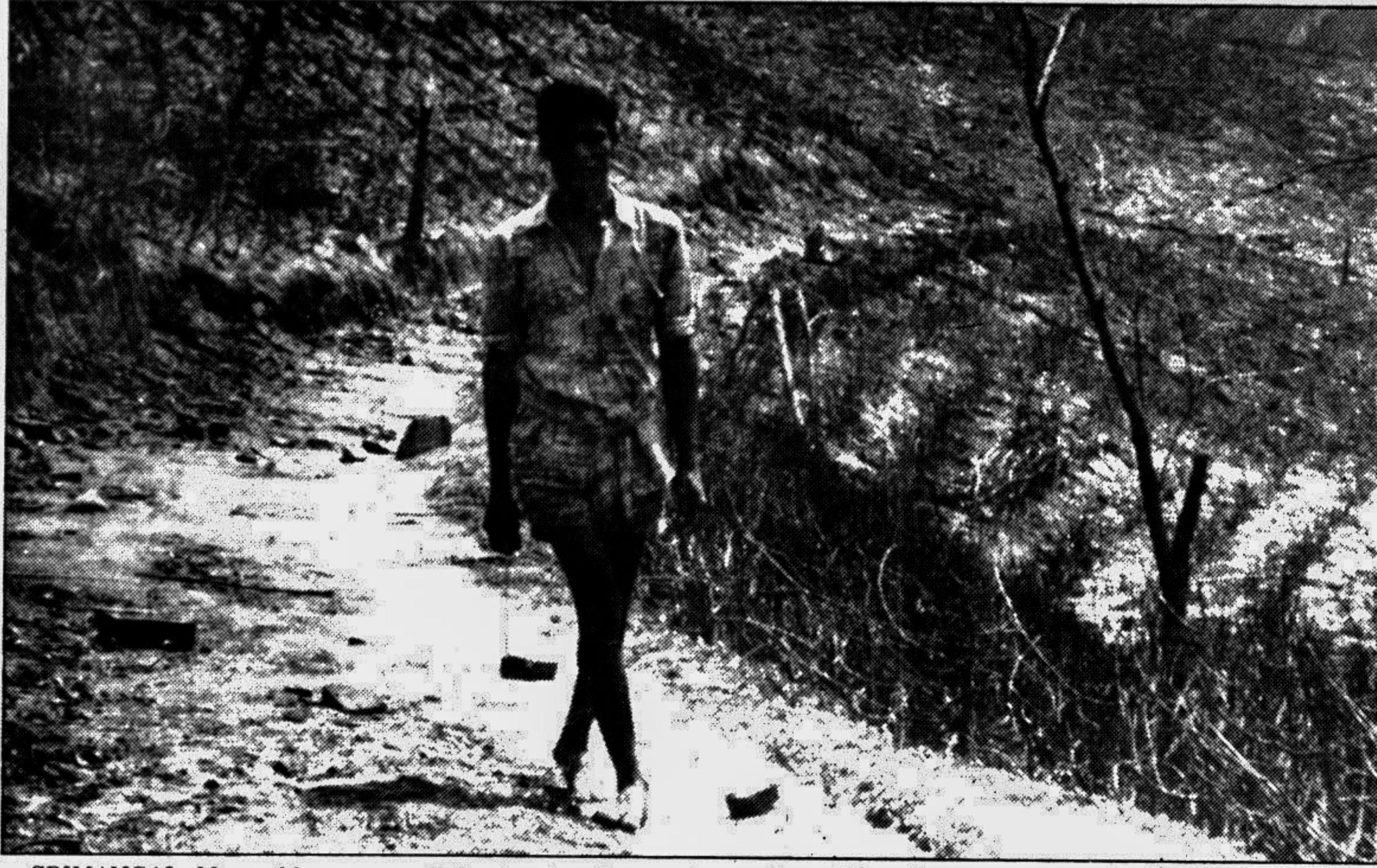
SUNAMGANJ, July 26: A 3-day workshop on modern method of sugarcane cultivation concluded recently at the seminar room of the Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, reports BSS.

Thirty sugarcane cultivators of Tahirkhola thana of the district took part in the workshop. Specialists discussed in the workshop various modern methods of sugarcane cultivation to achieve optimum production. Abdul Mutaleb, Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department inaugurated the workshop.

Miladunnabi celebrated in Jessore

JESSORE, July 26: A milad and discussion to mark the Eid-e-Miladunnabi was held recently at the KHN Junior School under Monirampur thana here, reports BSS.

Presided over by Anwar Hossain, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the school, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Abdul Mannan, Headmaster of the school, Nirod Bihari Mondal and Mukul Chandra Mondal. Students and teachers of the school and Katakhalia Primary School and local elite were present in the discussion.



SIRIMANGAL: Magurhara gas well fire has burnt many tea gardens. Photo shows an affected tea garden of Fulbari Tea Estate.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Tourist spots of S-W dists need to be preserved

Monojit Kumar Das

MAGURA, July 26: The historical places in South western districts, like Raja Sitaram's palace, temple, and ponds in Muhammadrupur of Magura district, Khan Jahan Ali's Shat Gambuj Mosque in Bagerhat, Great Poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta's birth place at Sagardari on the Kopotok river Jessor, Rabindra Nath Tagore's father-in-law's house at Dakkhil Dih in Khulna district, Amjhupi Lord Cleves's Kuti in Chuadanga district, Lalan Fakir's mazar at Cheuri and Rabindra Nath's Kutibari on the bank of the Padma at Shilaikhola in Kushtia district and Muijibnagar at Baidyanath Tal in Meherpur district. Due to indifference of BPC in developing the existing historical places most of historical spots have been lost in oblivion.

While the historical places at thana headquarters in Muhammadrupur of Magura district are: Sitaram Raja's 'Rajbari' (Palace), temples, Dighi, Nader Chand ghat on the Madhumoti river. These are getting

dilapidated due to lack of proper attention and negligence of the concerned authorities.

Besides, some other places of historical interests also in the south western region like Poet Golam Mostafa's residence at Monoharpur in Sylhet, the residence of Kalipada Basu (KP) Basu famous mathematician at Harisankarpur in Jhenidah district, the residence of Poet Kali Kader Naaz at Muidia village near Sripur thana headquarters in Magura district, Kalu Gaj Champhabatis mazar at Barobazar, Garib Shah's mazar at Nohata in Magura district, the residence of Mir Mosaraf, famous Bengali litterateur at Lahiripara and Kangal Harinath's memorial at Kumarkhali in Kushtia are lying neglected. As a result all the historical places will be ruined very soon, it is apprehended.

The local elite appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps so develop the historical places with a view to enriching our heritage.

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River erosion affects 200 villages

MANIKGANJ, July 26: The tributaries of two major rivers flowing through five thanas of the district have eroded a vast tract of land of more than 200 villages, reports UNB.

According to Flood and Disaster Warning Centre at Aricha, the erosion began with the increasing of water levels of these rivers and washed away many dwelling houses in Shibalaya, Gheor, Daulatpur, Saturia and Harirampur thanas.

Although the Padma and the Jamuna started receding, the centre said, these tributaries including Ichhamati, Kaliganga and Dholeshwari continued to rise during the last few days.

The sources said a portion of the Padma-Jamuna embankment at north side of Aricha ghat has already been eroded leaving the use of the ghat risky.

The two-storied building of Gheor Degree College is under threat and the breach at both sides of the roads of Sreedhara bridge stopped the road communication with Dhaka.

It is alleged that the embankment at Aricha and Gheor ghat went into the rivers following the negligence of the authority.

The affected people are taking shelter on high lands or premises of educational institutions. Many of them rushed to the city in search of jobs for their livelihood in absence of any work and relief activities.

Children of these areas are suffering from malnutrition, local people said.

Divorce rate up in villages of Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 26: The number of unregistered marriages has increased in most of the villages of the district.

As a result large number of divorces are taking place. There is a strict law in the country that no girl below the age of 18 years and a youth below the age of 22 years can be wedded in wedlock. But in a survey conducted recently by a non-governmental organisation it was found that a good number of marriages are being held between the couples who are actually below the age of marriage as fixed by the government.

Some unscrupulous marriage registrars in exchange of a lucrative amount of money are executing these illegal marriages without registration. It is causing many untold social problems. This malpractice on the part of the registrars is depriving the government of revenue income in this sector.

The tendency of unregistered marriage is growing among the people because the registrars demand much more money as fees against 'Demohar.'

According to law the registrar will get only Taka four for Taka one thousand 'Demohar'. But in fact the registrars demand Taka 50 to 60 for one thousand taka 'Demohar'. This is why poor couples avoid registration of marriage and manage to get married by village Mouli in unregistered

water-logging multiplies Pabna people's miseries

PABNA, July 26: Water logging, environmental pollution and traffic congestion in the municipality have made lives of the residents miserable, reports UNB.

The residents have been facing water-logging caused by heavy downpour during this rainy season due to lack of adequate drainage system.

Most of the kutchha drains have already been silted up at different points by due to indiscriminate dumping of garbages by the dwellers.

After a slight rainfall, most of the roads go under water and remain submerged for hours hampering movement of the pedestrians. In the low-lying areas of the town, many houses also get submerged.

A section of the residents dump garbages on the roads polluting the environment.



JESSORE: Two child lifters have been arrested by Kotwali police from the district town recently — Star photo

Kushtia Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 26: Three miscreants violated a housewife one after another recently.

The incident happened in Char Amlapara of Kushtia town recently. Nasima has filed a case in Kushtia Police Station and has taken shelter under the police officials for her safety.

According to the victim, Nasima, wife of Monimul Islam was sleeping in her house. Her husband was away for business purpose. On the night of the incident 3 local terrorists entered into her room by breaking open the fencing of the room. They tied her mouth. They raped her one after another and left. Nasima then told the incident to her neighbours, but no action could be taken against the terrorists. Nasima went to Kushtia Police Station and filed a case accusing three. It is worth mentioning. Nasima is the mother of one child.

Scarcity of medicine

Scarcity of medicine in different health complexes of the district has been causing suffering to patients.

Local people alleged, ordinary medicines like dettol and paracetamol are not available in almost all thana health complexes.

A large number of people coming from remote areas to thana health complexes every day are to go back disappointed for lack of proper treatment and admission facilities. In absence of physicians, compounded or staff members give prescriptions to the patients, it is alleged.

The doctors posted in the rural areas are mostly reluctant to carry out their responsibility as they remain busy to be transferred to urban areas. Doctors are also seen busy with their private practices instead of attending patients in health complexes. Some physicians of the thana and union health complexes are unwilling to attend outdoor patients due to non-availability of medicines, it has been learnt.

Local people alleged that some dishonest officials of the health complexes are involved in selling medicines in the black market.

Dacoity

A dacoity was committed in the house of Mokshed Ali Mridha of village Jundiada under Bheramara under Dheramara thana recently.

A gang of 10 armed dacoits attacked the house at dead of night and tried to break open the door, but the son of house owner Chand, 27, resisted. The dacoits hit him with axes causing serious injury to him. The dacoits also injured two women and took away gold ornaments and other household materials worth Taka over one lakh and escaped safely.

A case has been registered with Bheramara Police Station in this connection.

2 JCD activists hurt in clash

Two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were injured in a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and JCD at Khoksa recently. Chase and counter chase took place in front of local Cinema Hall in

continuation with past enmity. The injured JCD activists are: Firoj Ahmed Bulbul, 22, and Ashim Saha, 18.

One gets life for violating girl

Saiful Alam, District Special and Session Judge convicted Palan Mia on charge of woman repression and rape. He sentenced him to suffer life imprisonment.

The case in brief is that on September 6, 1996 accused Palan Mia caught Sajeda, daughter of Abdul Shaikh of village Shimulia under the sadar thana when she went to their brinjal field. He tied her mouth with a napkin and violated her. When it was known Abdul Shaikh brought it to the notice of village headman but in vain. Then mother of Sajeda filed a case with Kushtia Police Station. After investigation police submitted chargesheet. Ultimately it was placed before the judge. He examined 17 witnesses. He was convinced and found Palan Mia guilty and awarded the punishment.

The case was conducted by Advocated Abu Jafar Siddique, APP and Advocate Zillur Rahman, a former PP Mia Rezaul Huq appeared for the accused.

21 arrested

Kushtia Zila Police conducted several raids in different places of the district and arrested 21 accused recently.