

News snaps

3 youths crushed under wheels of train

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 20: Three youths faces tragic end of their tires and another injured on Friday night when they were run over by Inter-city Simanta Express train at Bagholl near Paksey Railway Station.

According to Ishurdi rain land police, five youth sat on the hanger of Khulna-bound Simanta Express. Suddenly, they fell down from the danger near Bagholl and were run over by the express train. Two of the victims were identified as Shaful Islam, 24, son of Sekendar Ali Sheikh and Selim, 22, son of Lutfar Rahman of West Tengri of Ishurdi. The injured youth has been admitted into Pabna General Hospital.

Hijacked trucks recovered

GAZIPUR, July 20: Police in separate drives recovered two hijacked trucks along with goods on Sunday from Rajendrapur area on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway, reports UNB.

A youth, identified as Abdul Aziz, 25, was arrested from Pubal area of Sadar thana in this connection. The cotton-laden truck of Amber Cotton Mills was hijacked by the miscreants from Pubal on Saturday. Another truck, which was carrying rice from Trishal of Mymensingh was hijacked from Vashantek area in the capital. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Zinc worth Tk 1.5 lakh seized

SYLHET, July 20: Bangladesh Rifles in a drive seized 780 kg zinc worth over Tk 1.5 lakh from east Saria in Zakiganj thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, the jawans raided the area and recovered the zinc in an abandoned condition. BDR sources said a gang of smugglers are active in the area since long with the patronisation of a vested quarter. The seized contraband was deposited with the local Customs office and a case was filed with the police.

College student commits suicide

NETRAKONA, July 20: A meritorious student of Netrakona Government University College allegedly committed suicide at his house at Malni area in Netrakona town on the night of July 12, reports BSS.

Police quoting his family sources said, Musarrat Hussain, 18, committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope in his bedroom. He allegedly committed suicide following his mental unrest. An unnatural death case was recorded with Netrakona Police Station in this connection.

Man killed by father

SATKHIRA, July 20: A man was allegedly killed by his father following an altercation with him in Debhata thana, police said here, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Abdur Razzak father of the victim Mostafizur Rahman, 25, of Sakhipur village picked up a quarrel last week with him when he returned from his father-in-law's house and at one stage beat him to death. After killing, the body was hanged from a mango tree and then sent to Debhata thana health complex and later allegedly buried without any autopsy. A case has been filed by the wife of the deceased with the local police.

12,000 couples took FP methods

SYLHET, July 20: A total of 12,000 fertile couples in the district took different Family Planning (FP) methods during the last year, reports UNB.

Some 1.86 lakh people are also taking different birth-control methods in the district, an official source said. The couples took different methods including vasectomy, injection, copper-T, birth-control pills, operation and condom. Nearly 1,066 officials and employees through 11 family planning local offices and 60 health and family welfare centers are working in this regard. Some non-governmental organisations like FAPBS, clinics, CARE, Rural Janakalyan Sangshad are also taking part in the family planning activities to make the programme a success.

Body recovered

KHULNA, July 20: The body of a young man was found inside a sack which was floating in the river Atarbaki at Srekalta area here on Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Monir Munshi, 26, son of Atiar Munshi of Mahisaguni village in Rupsha thana. According to police, at about 10 am local people found the sack floating in the river and informed the police. Police rushed to the spot and recovered the body. Rupsha police said Monir was a wanted in connection with terrorist activities. The body was sent to the hospital for autopsy.

One killed in Kushtia road accident

KUSHTIA, July 20: One person was killed and six others were injured in a road accident on Friday night on Kushtia-Jhenidah Highway near here, reports BSS. Police and hospital sources said the mishap took place when a baby taxi and a motor cycle collided head-on injuring seven persons. They were admitted to Kushtia Sadar Hospital where one person succumbed to his injuries. The victim was identified as Asadul, 22, of village Batail in Kushtia Sadar thana.

Jute to be cultivated on 5151 hectares

MANIKGANJ, July 20: District agriculture extension department brought a total of 5151 hectares under jute cultivation during the current season in seven thanas of the district, reports BSS.

The thanas are Manikganj sadar, Harirampur, Shibabala, Ghor, Daulatpur, Sataria and Singair. Of the total lands 3691 hectares were cultivated with local variety while 1460 hectares with Tosha.

BKB loan disbursed among farmers

PIROJPUR, July 20: The Krishi Bank regional office disbursed Tk 9.45 crore loan among the 9,965 farmers of the district during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of the amount, Tk 45.80 lakh was disbursed for Aus cultivation. Tk 40.35 lakh for Aman and Tk 179.89 lakh for Boro crops. The bank also disbursed Tk 116.84 lakh among the landless and marginal farmers to make them self-reliant. Besides, the bank disbursed Tk 50.33 lakh for buying bullocks and Tk 503.67 lakh for increasing crop production. On the other hand, the bank realised Tk 6.15 crore outstanding loan from the farmers in the same period.

Aman production likely to be hampered

COMILLA, July 20: The Aman production here is feared to be hampered due to shortage of seeds, reports UNB.

The cultivation target of Aman in 12 thanas of the district during the current season was fixed at 2.72 lakh acres of land with a production target of 2.22 lakh metric tons of paddy. But local farmers and agriculture officials said, the target might not be achieved due to acute shortage of seeds. They said the farmers could not store seeds in the last season as the price of Aman was very high. Officials said BADC has supplied only 318 tons of Aman seed for three districts of greater Comilla which is only the half of the total demand. The seeds are now being distributed among the farmers through 44 dealers and six distribution centers of BADC.

4,900 certificate cases awaiting disposal

MYMENSINGH, July 20: Some 4,900 certificate cases involving over Tk 9.86 crore agriculture loan of the Krishi Bank are awaiting disposal with the different courts of the district, reports UNB.

Thana-wise break-up of the outstanding loan amount and the number of cases is: Sadar-Tk 1.11 crore against 605 cases, Muktagachha-Tk 37.15 lakh against 193 cases, Trishal-Tk 30.39 lakh against 157 cases, Gargaon-Tk 41.85 lakh against 102 cases, Bhaluka-Tk 2 crore 7.85 lakh against 1255 cases, Phulpur-Tk 1.71 crore against 756 cases, Haluaghat-Tk 89.49 lakh against 364 cases, Nandail-Tk 1 crore 9.55 lakh against 210 cases and Dhubaura-Tk 73.95 lakh against 231 cases. Officials said the number of cases disposed in May last was nine only involving Tk 3.24 lakh and it was in Phulpur thana. But, they said, in April about Tk 30.50 lakh was realised by the bank following the settlement of 351 certificate cases.

Population Day observed

ISHURDI, July 20: The World National Population Day was observed here on July 12 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Elaborate programmes including rallies, discussion meeting and cultural programmes were held to mark the day. Ishurdi Thana Health Complex and Family Planning Association jointly organised programme to observe the day. A discussion meeting was held here under the auspices of Ishurdi Thana Parishad. Thana Nirbahi Officer Rabiul Alam presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed, among others by Assistant Commissioner (Land) Abdul Kalam Azad, ex-MP, Mohiuddin Ahmed, T FPO, Dr A. Baten, Dr A. Al. Ali.



COMILLA: A vast tract of land of Bhubangar area in the district was inundated following breach in the Gumti embankment. Photo shows two flood affected men shifting their cow to safer place. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Flood creates havoc in greater Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 20: Flood has created havoc throughout greater Pabna district.

Nearly 1,50,000 flood affected people have been marooned. They are yet to get any government relief. No non-governmental organisation also came to their rescue. Rescue efforts of the villagers have also become externally difficult for want of boats.

Over 50,000 people have been shifted to flood control embankments and over high lands. A total of 20,000 people have shifted to safer places. So far five children have drowned.

The total number of affected thanas in the greater Pabna district is 16. These are Bera, Siraganj, Pabna Sadar, Santhia, Ishurdi, Chalmohar, Bhangura, Faridpur, Kazipur, Shahzadpur,

Tarash, Ullapara and Belkuchi.

The total number of affected people in the district is about 10 lakhs. At least 5,000 houses have been damaged. Over 9,500 houses have been either partially or completely damaged by flood.

Breaches have occurred at least at five places in the Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment. The embankment covers an area from Siraganj to Bera. Water Development Board (WDB) staffers have been working day and night to keep the embankment safe from any serious damage.

A total of 80 primary schools, 30 junior high schools, 48 high schools, 30 mosques, 10 union parishad offices, five temples, 56 bazaars and 27 big

matchboxes, firewood and food especially dry food also has caused immense and untold sufferings to flood victims.

Those who have taken shelter in the flood control embankments have been passing their days under the open sky. With children and grown-up unmarried, marriageable girls, many families are staying in the abandoned schools and union parishad offices where there is no light at night as kerosene oil is not available in these areas.

Erosion of the rivers Jamuna and Padma has taken a serious turn. A total of 25 villages in greater Pabna district have already been devoured by the rivers. Vast areas of land have been eroded. Over 3,000 dwelling Kutcha huts have also gone under the river. No improvement of erosion was in sight till filing of this report.

Over 60 per cent tubewells have been damaged. An acute scarcity of pure drinking water is prevailing in all the affected areas. Besides, scarcity of

4 commit suicide in Bhabaria in a day

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, July 20: Four persons committed suicide in the different parts of Kasba and Nasirnagar thanas on the same day recently.

Of them 3 persons committed suicide from Kasba thana and one person committed suicide from Nasirnagar thana of the district.

According to police and hospital sources, Moyna Begum, 11, committed suicide at Shahpur village in Kasba thana.

Rohima Akter, 17, committed suicide at Mondobagh village in Kasba thana.

Another one Rafiqul Sukla, 20, committed suicide at Charal village in Kasba thana.

On the other hand Rozina Akter, 22, committed suicide at Nasirnagar thana headquarters. The real cause behind the suicides could not be known till writing of the report.

The autopsies of the four bodies were done at Brahmanbaria sadar hospital.

In this connection, four separate UD cases were filed with respective police stations, police sources said.

Foundation of Rayermohal College laid

KHULNA, July 20: President of Khulna city Awami League and Principal of Khulna Central Law College Advocate Montuul Imam said here the present government has given top priority to education and launched countrywide programmes to spread education to the furthest corner of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the proposed Rayermohal College. Kazi Sekandar Ali Dalim member of parliament formally laid the foundation stone of the college at Rayermohal.

Presided over by Khan Rafi Uddin the function was also addressed, among others, by Kazi Sekandar Ali Dalim MP, Secretary, Khulna Metropolitan Union of Journalists Shaikh Belal Uddin, city corporation ward commissioner, Shaikh Abdul Karim, former commissioner of the city corporation Shaikh Dabirul Islam, Nowsheer Ahmed, Shaikh Monirul Islam Moni, Shaikh Wahidur Rahman Jinnah, Shaikh Nasir Uddin, Shaikh Moazzem Ali, Shaikh Akhtaruzzaman Murad, Faruk Ahmed and Shaikh Zakirul Islam.

Kazi Sekandar Ali Dalim MP called upon the people to avail of the opportunity created by the present government through spread of education and said unless our people are educated properly, we cannot realise the desired goal of development.

Improved maize thrashing machine innovated

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 20: An improved maize thrashing machine has been innovated by Trishal Thana Agricultural Officer Kayem Uddin recently.

The new machine will help remove sufferings and time-killing process of maize thrashing.

It has been learnt by the innovator, country-made materials and easy technology have been used in this foot-driven thrashing machine. This new machine is more effective than the machine innovated by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). The thrashing capacity of the machine is three times more than the previous machine. A man can easily thrash at least 90 kgs maize by this machine and at least 170 kg by two machines. Besides, parts of this machine is available and cheaper. The maintenance cost of this machine is low and easily portable.

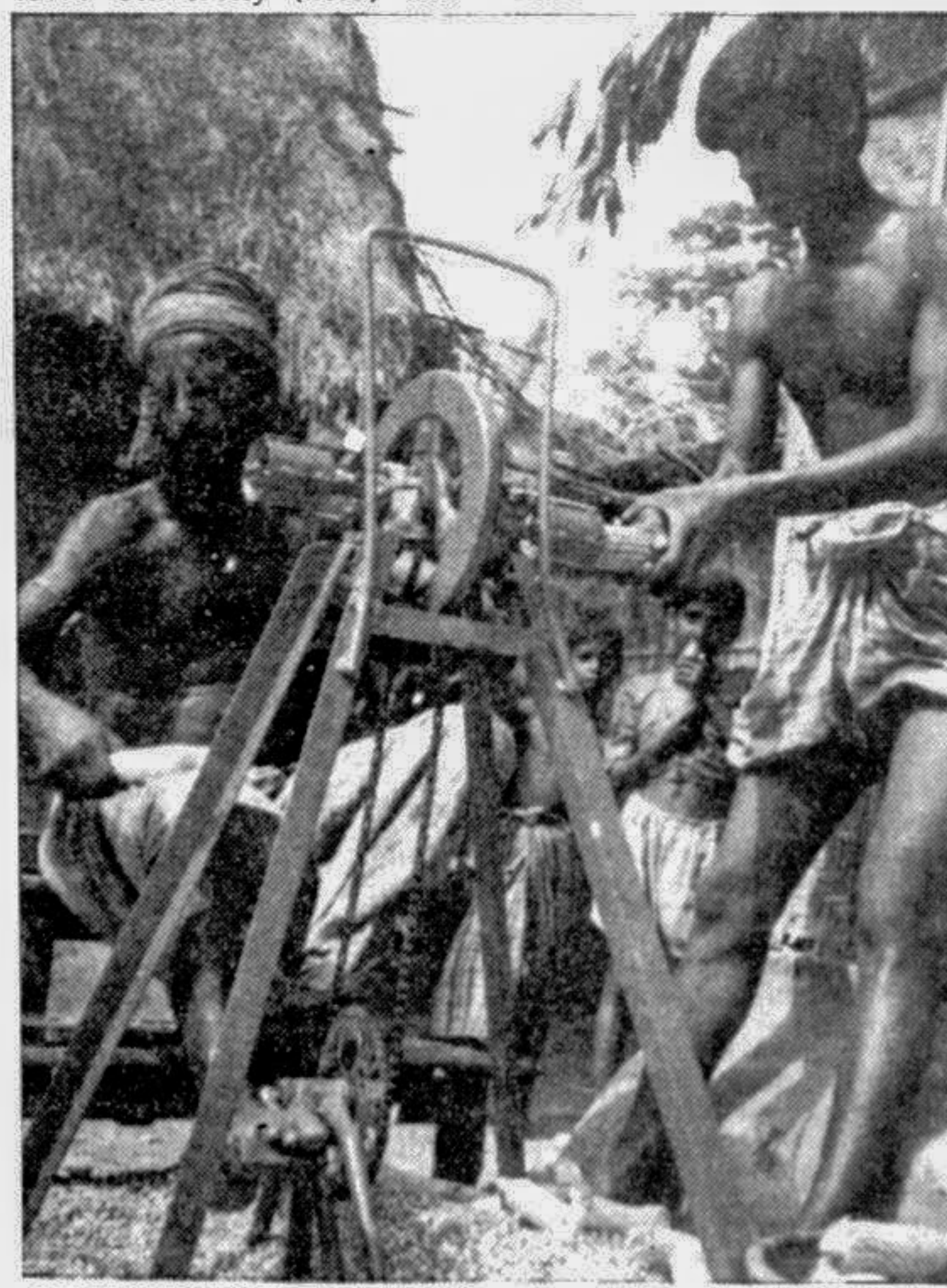
The innovator told this correspondent, the total manufacturing cost of the machine is Taka 3,000 only.

Meanwhile, maize cultivation has been gaining popularity among the farmers as the soil and weather of the country are favourable for cultivation of it.

In the current season a total of 205 hectares of land were brought under maize cultivation in the district with a production target of 1,250 metric tons of maize. Farmers of Trishal thana have been using this improved quality of thrashing machine without facing any trouble, the innovator disclosed.

Additional Director, Agri-

cultural Extension Department of Mymensingh Zone, Deputy Director, Mymensingh Khamarbari, some teachers, students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and other officials saw the new improved machine and its operation. They expressed their satisfaction after witnessing smooth operation of the machine.



MYMENSINGH: Trishal farmers using the new maize thrashing machine. — Star photo

Bumper production of Boro in S-districts

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 20: A bumper production of Boro paddy has been achieved in the southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone in this season.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Barisal division sources said, nearly 2 lakh hectares of land were brought under Boro cultivation in the region with a production target of over 6,500 metric tons.

Farmers cultivated nearly 2 lakh hectares of land with their own initiative where more than 8 lakh metric tons of paddy were produced.

A total of 31,200 power pumps including shallow and deep tubewells were installed for ensuring better irrigation facilities during the time, official sources said.

The districts in Barisal Agriculture Zone include Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bhoala, Barguna and Patuakhali under Barisal division and Faridpur, Madaripur, Sariatpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari of greater Faridpur region.

According to official sources, nearly 82,300 hectares of land were brought under Boro cultivation in Barisal, while 21,250 hectares in Bhoala, 385 hectares in Barguna, 7,380 hectares in Patuakhali, 10,300 hectares in Pirojpur, 6,300 hectares in Jhalakathi, 26,500 hectares in Faridpur, 24,300 hectares in Madaripur, 33,650 hectares in Gopalganj, 14,500 hectares in Rajbari and 16,500 hectares in Sariatpur.

8 thatched houses gutted at Mymensingh

From Staff Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 20: A fire at a slum in Balashpur Palpara of the town gutted eight thatched houses leaving one person injured on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the fire that originated from a house owned by fruit trader Aminul Islam engulfed soon nearby eight houses gutting goods worth of Tk about three lakh.

The other houses were owned by Aminul, Mojibur and Akkas Ali.

One slum dweller, Shafig, 24, was also injured and admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Local people brought the flame under control before the firemen of the local fire brigade reached the spot.

Scarcity of fried rice in Faridpur dist

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 20: Acute scarcity of fried rice locally called *muri* has been prevailing in eight thanas of the district.

In the local markets *muri* is being sold at Taka 28 to 35 per kg. *Muri* which is available in the markets now is tasteless. All these varieties of *muri* are being imported from Pabna and some other neighbouring districts, shopkeepers said.

When asked a shopkeeper of Titumir market in the town said, local tasty *muri* made of IRRI paddy 8-or 11 is not available for two to three months. Nitya Gopal, a *muri* seller told that the price of paddy which is used for making *muri* and other related goods had gone up excessively compelling the *muri* vendors to give up their business as it is a losing concern, he said.

A non-official survey report said, at least 250 male and female *muri* hawkers in the district have abandoned their business due to excessive price-hike of paddy and other related things. They have taken up some other occupations.

This is the season of mango and jackfruits. *Muri* together with mangoes especially jackfruits is a good food item for the rural people. They are being deprived of this delicious dish because of non-availability of *muri*.

Experienced quarters opined that *muri* sellers should be provided with bank loan to continue their business.

Six including absconder held in Sherpur

SHERPUR, July 20: Police in a drive have arrested six people including an absconder accused of Chhatra League leader Rashid murder case from the town here, reports UNB.

Four of the arrested were said to be activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. They were identified as Enamul Huq Bipu, Masud Parvez Mukta, Shaful Islam Sazu and Babu.

Police said they were wanted in connection with murder, toll collection, women repression and ransacking cases.

Acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police led by Sub-Inspector Kamal caught them red handed on July 8 while engaged in immoral activities at an abandoned dormitory of Sherpur Government College.

The arrested were sent to the court on the following day. The court rejected their bail petitions and sent them to the jail hajat.

Kushtia Newsletter

Eid-e-Miladunnabi celebrated

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 20: Eid-e-Miladunnabi was celebrated here recently in a befitting manner.

Various social and cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes. Seminars and symposiums were organised by Islamic Foundation and Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Kushtia Branch where life and teachings of great Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) were discussed in the context of present day world.

Speakers opined that the teachings of the Holy Prophet can only bring about a change in our present day society and make the people free from exploitation.

Islamic Foundation held literary contest among the children. Kushtia Courtpara Baro Shaikh held milad mahfil where a large number of people attended and participated in Zikr and other religious festivals. Feeding of destitutes was another event of the day. National flags were hoisted atop all private and public buildings. The buildings were illuminated in the evening. Improved diet was supplied to the inmates of the hospitals, jails and orphanages.

Phensidyl seized
BDR jawans of Mirpur Sector seized 250 bottles of phensidyl from Kallitala area of Mirpur thana recently.

BDR source said, seven bicycle riders were going towards Kushtia with the phensidyl bottles and the jawans on suspicion challenged them. Immediately the bicycle riders fled away leaving the bicycle and phensidyl. None could, however, be arrested. The seized phensidyl bottles have been deposited to Kushtia Customs godown.

No doctors in health complex

Medicare facilities have seriously been affected in Daulatpur thana health complex for want of doctors.

There are nine posts of doctors in the health complex, but only two doctors are performing duties there.

As a result a large number of patients go back without any treatment. Doctors posted there do not turn up, rather they try to get transferred in other urban areas.

When contacted the Civil Surgeon told, a large number of posts of doctors are lying vacant in the health complex.

Repression on women rises

Repression on women and children has increased in the district.

A large number of such cases are being reported, but the culprits are not being convicted due to the interference of local influential, touts and dishonest headmen.

The culprits go scotfree in different ways. Matter has been discussed in the district law and order committee. The committee members opined, the violence, in most cases, are committed on poor women and girls. The culprits take advantage of their poverty and utilise the influence of village headmen in coming to a term with victims. The village headmen pay a nominal compensation to victim's guardians. In the last year, about 60 violence on women and children were committed. Out of these, 40 cases were compromised by interference of village headmen. Rest cases were recorded with police. But police officials were also influenced and the culprits escaped in exchange of bribe.

Rathjatra observed

Rathjatra, a religious festival of the Hindu Community was observed in the district with religious fervour and festivity.

The festival were held twice a week. One is Rathjatra and the other is Ullathra. A big fair is held on the occasion where a large number of devotees visited the fair. This year reports of toll collection by the mastans have been received. The toll collectors collected subscription from temporary shop owners.

Paksey Bridge work to start from Dec

The work of Paksey Bridge is expected to be started from December next, according to the local district officials.

Four consultants connected with construction of the bridge visited the bridge site on July 2. Of them two are Americans one from New Zealand, another from Bangladesh. After visiting the spot they met the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Parikkhit Dutta Choudhury. They told that the actual work could be started from December next. The district land officer and sub-divisional engineer, roads and highways were also present.

Ferry service becomes hazardous

Ferry service between Bheramara and Paksey over the river Ganges at Hardinge Bridge point has become hazardous. It has caused immense suffering to the travelling passengers.

Roads and Highways department have failed to maintain smooth service for want of adequate number of ferries and frequent shifting of ferry ghat. This is because water level of the river Ganges at Hardinge Bridge point rose.

One car driver said it is very easy to come from Dhaka up to Paksey within three hours along Bangabandhu Bridge, but it takes a long time to cross the Ganges at Paksey Ferry Ghat. There is a long queue of vehicles on both sides of the river.

As such communication between the northern and southern part of the country has become hazardous and time consuming.

Joint meeting

A joint meeting of Kushtia Transport Syndicate, Kushtia Transport Malik Samity, Kushtia Zila Minibus Malik Samity, Kushtia Zila Truck Tanklorry Samity and Kushtia Zila Motor Sramic Union was held on July 5 at the office of Kushtia Transport Syndicate.

Shihab Uddin, President of Kushtia Transport Syndicate was in the chair. They decided not to ply any vehicle on Kushtia-Bheramara-Mohishkundi and Kushtia-Meherpur route if the roads are not repaired within 10 days. The decision was taken in pursuance of the decision taken in a similar meeting held on June 11. The Executive Engineer, Roads and Highways was requested to repair the roads on priority basis.

As no step has yet been taken in this direction all connected with transport business are compelled to take such decision.

It may be mentioned, the two roads have been damaged badly. At one accident seven persons were killed recently. The roads have developed innumerable potholes and have become unfit for plying any vehicle.

Old age allowance distributed

Old age allowance distribution programme was inaugurated on June 28 by TNO, Bheramara, Paresch Chandra Roy. A total of 90 persons were given allowance for the months of April and May. Each function received Taka 200. The function presided over by TNO was also addressed among others, by Shamim Fatema, Assistant Director, Social Welfare, Abu Bakkar Siddique, Chairman, Bahirchar Union, Ruhul Islam, Assistant Commissioner Land, Atiquzzaman, Member, Chandgram Union Parishad, Shahnaz Parveen, Member Bahirchar Union.