

Upazila roundup

PABNA

Boro, wheat farming target not achieved

From Our Correspondent
April 3: Boro and wheat cultivation target of Chatmohor upazila has not been achieved this year.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, the boro cultivation target of these upazilas was 32,000 acres. But upto March 16, only 16,342 acres were cultivated. Last year, the target was the same and only 18,034 acres were cultivated.

It is learnt that, 34 deep tubewells, 1,025 shallow tubewells and 12 power pumps are working to achieve target. Another six new deep tubewells and seven old deep tubewells are not working due to erratic power supply.

Seed crisis has also hampered the cultivation.

CHUADANGA

Child labour increasing

From Our Correspondent

April 3: The number of child-labourers is on the increase in the district of Chuadanga day by day with the influx of floating population. The minor children are compelled to take odd job for their livelihood. The tender aged boys are engaged mostly as helpers in masonry works, bakery, motor garage, restaurants, hotels, bicycle and rickshaw repairing shops, welding workshops, and brick fields.

According to the law of the land children below 15 years are not allowed to take up hardwork. It is observed that the children even below the age of 10 years are compelled to be engaged with such hard works only due to poverty.

CHANDPUR

Bank branch opens

From Our Correspondent

April 3: The 54th branch of City Bank was opened at Haziganj Bazar under Haziganj upazila of the district recently. The branch was opened by the Managing Director of the bank M.A. Yusuf Khan.

In this connection a meeting was held in the bank premises. It was addressed by Tofazzel Haider Chowdhury, Upazila Chairman, Prof. Abdur Rashid Mazumder, Md. Foziz, Abdul Wadud Bhuyan, Zahangir Kabir Patwari and Makbul Ahmed.

MAULVI BAZAR

One gets life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

April 3: Mr. M. A. Majid, District and Sessions Judge, Maulvi Bazar found one Sridhar Kouri of Sreemangal upazila guilty of murdering his wife and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

The prosecution story in brief is that, Chinta Mory Kouri was beaten by her husband Sridhar Kouri on May 23, 1990. Police after investigating the case submitted charge sheet against the accused. Examining the witnesses and evidence, the learned judge awarded him the aforesaid punishment.

Press Club meet

The first meeting of the new executive committee of Maulvi Bazar Press Club was held recently.

Mr. Saifuzzul Wahed, President of the club presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by Mr. M. A. Salam, Mr. Goleam Muhi Khan, Mr. Ratan Kanti Chakraborty, Prof. Rajat Kanti Goswami, Mr. Abdul Hamid Mahbub.

The meeting expressed its condolence at the death of daily Naya Bangla Editor Abdullah-Al-Sagor.

The meeting also discussed about various problems of Maulvi Bazar Press Club. In the conclusion of the meeting an after party was held.

MADARIPUR

Independence Day celebrated

From Our Correspondent

April 3: The Independence and National Day was celebrated here with enthusiasm. The day was heralded by 21 gunfire in the morning. National flag was hoisted atop all the government and private buildings of the town.

A children's rally and

marriage were held at local stadium at 8 a.m.

The Deputy Commissioner of Madaripur took the salute. Besides, improved diet was served among the inmates of the local Sadar Hospital, jail and orphanages. A discussion meeting was held in the evening.

BHOLA

Stomach ailments on rise

April 3: Stomach ailments have shown a rise in seven upazilas of the district causing concern among the villagers, reports UNB.

Doctors say patients with gastro-intestinal diseases are pouring into their chambers in large numbers almost daily.

Adulterated edibles like ghee, butter, mustard and soybean oil are attributed to the outbreak of the diseases.

About 5,000 children are suffering from stomach ailments and malnutrition in Daulatkhan, Borhanudin, Sadar, Tazumuddin, Lalmon, Charfession and Monpura upazilas, according to an unofficial source.

GAIBANDHA

Housewife killed for dowry

April 3: A young housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at Sardarpur village in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Relatives said the victim Khuli Begum (20), was being tortured by her husband Shahidul for dowry from the inception of her marriage.

Shahidul, on the fateful day last week, put pressure upon his wife to bring money from her parents' house but she expressed inability. At this he picked up a quarrel and at one stage hit her with a lethal weapon causing her instantaneous death. Shahidul later put poison into her mouth to hush up the murder.

Khoka Mia, father of the victim, contradicted Shahidul's claim and filed a case saying that it was a murder and not a suicide. The body also bore marks of injuries.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy and investigation is on.

BRAHMANBARIA

One arrested for selling adulterated pesticides

April 3: Police arrested a man from Gagat Bazar area of the town while selling adulterated pesticides, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Tara Mia was caught red-handed while he was selling potash fertilizer in a packet of Dajinon-D at Taka 125 on March 25.

A case was also filed in this connection.

Meanwhile, adulterated pesticides are being sold with impunity in many parts of the district, it is alleged.

Farmers alleged that after repeated complaints to the authorities no action has yet been taken against the persons responsible for adulteration of fertilizers.

PATUAKHALI

Training on poultry rearing

April 3: Technical Resource Team, sponsored by Canadian Resource Team (CRT) has started extensive training on "Poultry Rearing and Vaccination" in various upazilas of three southern districts, reports UNB.

According to sources, so far 500 people of Barisal, Pirojpur, and Jhalakathi have been imparted training during last four months.

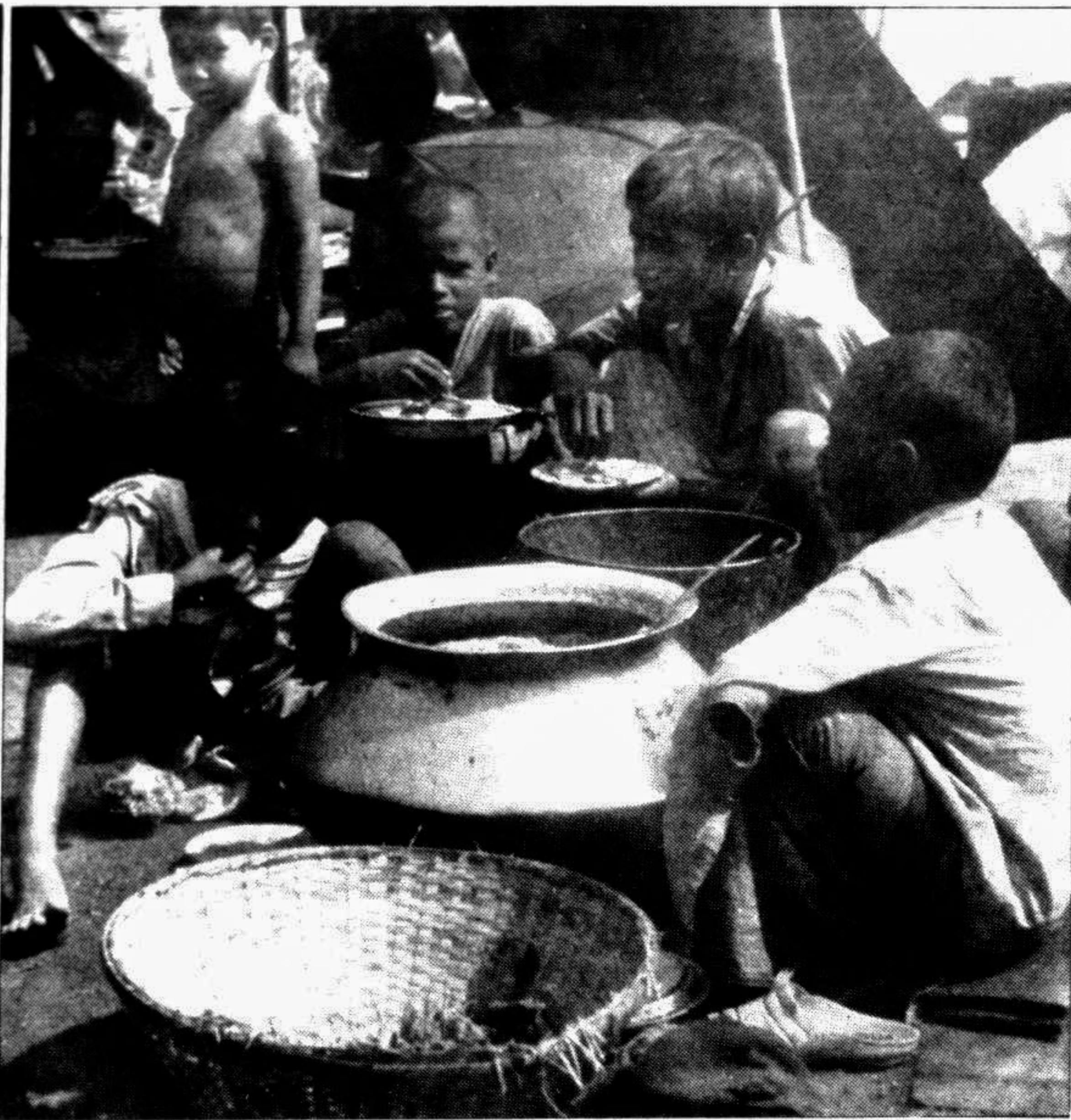
Meanwhile, ranikhet, a kind of deadly poultry disease, is reportedly spreading in several places of Jhalakathi, Bhola, Barisal and Patuakhali districts.

It is gathered that, due to short supply of vaccine by Livestock Department, the training programme is facing a serious setback.

Public library executives

SATKHIRA, Apr 3: Election of office-bearers of Central Public Library, Satkhira for the next three years was held Saturday in the library hall, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner is the ex-officio President. Janab Sik Shamsur Rahman Advocate was elected Secretary. Two vice-chairmen Mr Abdul Mutaleb, President Satkhira Press Club, and Mansur Ahmed Advocate were elected uncontested.



With the city population growing fast, roadside makeshift hotels run in unhygienic condition pose health hazard to many. Here 'Tokais' (street urchins) having lunch in a hotel at Narayaniganj. —Star photo.

Adulterated food items flood markets

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 3: Adulterated edible oil is being sold in town and other rural markets of the district freely for quite a long time.

It is learnt that palm oil is being mixed with the mustard oil and sold openly. A number of organised gangs are running these businesses without any hindrance. Sale of adulterated edible oil, ghee, coconut oil and soybean oil have exposed the consumers to serious health hazards.

Most of the businessmen are purchasing these adulterated materials to sell those in open market for higher rate.

A section of traders is engaged in manufacturing mustard oil and ghee illegally by mixing some indigenous ma-

terials and selling it at cheaper rates to the innocent customers.

The poor consumers are being attracted by cheap price. Besides, the adulterated edible oil has flooded the markets all over the district. As a result, the genuine traders are facing a tough competition in marketing their pure goods at higher rates.

According to the physicians, many people have been afflicted with various diseases due to consumption of the adulterated oil.

Standing sugarcane being dried up

Standing sugarcane on hundreds of acres of land awaits crushing during the current

season in Darshana Sugar Mills area threatened to be dried up for non-procurement by the mill authorities.

Sugarcane cultivators are being frustrated with their produce. It is alleged that some of the mill officers are selling sugarcane to a section of non-cultivators. As a result, the real cultivators have been suffering much.

On the other hand production of molasses is declining and as such cultivators are not manufacturing the item. Besides, production of molasses is restricted in the mill zone upto two months after the opening of the mills. The sugarcane cultivators are now disappointed to cultivate cane in

Diarrhoea claims 14 lives in Barguna

BARGUNA, Apr 3: Diarrhoeal diseases that broke out in the district in an alarming proportion have so far claimed 14 lives, reports UNB.

The officials confirmed the death toll. About 1,000 others are reportedly attacked by the diseases in five upazilas during the last week, according to sources.

Hospital sources said the diseases have spread to Sadar, Amtali, Patharghata, Betagi and Bamna upazilas.

Civil Surgeon of the district said 39 medical teams are now working in the affected areas to combat the menace.

However, the situation in Sadar and Patharghata are alarming, local people said. An unofficial report put the death toll at 20 during the last week.

2500 acres put under groundnut farming

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, April 3: Two thousand and five hundred acres of land have been brought under groundnut cultivation in ten upazilas of the district during the current season.

Of the total, 150 acres of land in Barisal Sadar, Babuganj and Agaljhara upazilas, 100 acres of land in Uzirpur upazila, more than 150 acres of land in Bakerganj upazila,

UNO office ransacked in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 3: Angry mob ransacked the office of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Kaliganj and demanded his impeachment when the UNO denied to receive the memorandum of the processionists urging to check the smuggling of Indian sugar in the markets of Kaliganj on Sunday last.

Eye witnesses said that about 4,000 workers of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills, students and people of the Kaliganj, brought out a procession in the town which marched through the main roads and chanted slogans for checking the smuggling of sugar into the country as the markets of Kaliganj and its adjoining areas are filled with Indian sugar. Local sugar worth about Taka 60 crores has been lying unsold and kept in the mill godown since long for which the mill authority could not clear up the prices of sugarcane to the peasants in the current season.

25 rescued from human traffickers

From A Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, April 3: Bangladesh Rifles personnel of 31 Battalion and police of Chapainawabganj rescued 25 Bangladeshi nationals including nine babies and nine women from the clutches of human traffickers within 15 days.

Some of the victims were rescued from bordering village Poladanga under Bholahat upazila.

A man trafficker named Daud Ahmed (40) of village Milandi under Homna upazila of Comilla district allured six persons including five women for providing lucrative job in India and Pakistan and tried to smuggle them out to India. BDR personnel on patrol duty on a tip rescued them from launch ghat of Poladanga village.

The rescued are Arsheda Begum (26) of village Chhatibari under Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur district, Milon Begum (27) of village Itna Colmabazar under sadar upazila of Comilla district, Nasima Begum (15) of Savar upazila of Dhaka, district,

Rhana Begum (18) of Kumalapur under Dhaka district, Josna Begum (19) and Abdur Pab (23) of Khatgaon under Dhaka district.

On March 24, Nawabganj police rescued 19 persons including nine babies and four women and one trafficker from Chamagram village under sadar upazila of Nawabganj district.

The human traffickers named Unan Ali of village Jointipur under Nawabganj district and Md Jamal of Bancharampur under Brahmanbaria district allured the aforesaid 25 persons from Bancharampur.

The traffickers kept these persons in a private place near Chamagram village under sadar upazila of Nawabganj district.

The chowkider of this area getting secret information rescued them with the help of local people and handed over them to the police.

All traffickers escaped in both the incident. Two different cases have been lodged by police in this connection.



Agri-Varsity (Mymensingh): The Vice-Chancellor of BAU and President of BAUCSU Prof. M. Asadur Rahman along with BAUCSU-officials placing floral wreath at the Liberation War Memorial tomb under construction as a mark of respect and gratitude to the martyrs of Liberation War. —Star photo.

Rickshaws dominate Kushtia roads

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, April 3: Kushtia town has now turned into a town of rickshaws. The rickshaws in the town are almost double than the required number.

According to the reports, there are more than 1000 rickshaw-pullers most of whom are licenceless. Both Pourashava and Union Parishad are issuing licence to the rickshaw-pullers resulting in the rapid increase of rickshaws in the town.

As most of the rickshaw-pullers come from rural areas they have no idea about traffic rules and are not able to follow them.

Besides, most of them do not use light at nights. As a result accidents occur frequently. On the other hand their fare chart is not accurate. The fare charges introduced about 15 years ago is in effect even now which results in altercation between passengers and rickshaw-pullers.

It is noticed that the women passengers often become victims some rickshaw-pullers because they behave harshly with them. To minimise the accidents the rickshaw-pullers should be given appropriate training to follow the traffic rules, it is felt.

School beset with problems in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, April 3: The Chandpur Government Hasan Ali High School is beset with various problems since long. The only government boy's high school in the district headquarters has been facing acute shortage of classrooms and hostel accommodation, teachers, scientific equipment. Water supply is very irregular.

In absence of transport facilities and play ground students suffer much.

There is no headmaster in the school for a long time. The school has a capacity to accommodate only thirty students in each class but students are admitted in each section every year. As a result, the students are compelled to sit on the ground. There is no hostel in the school campus

which has become very essential. Repair work of the school is not done. Besides the school playground is encroached by different organisation so the students cannot play freely in the field. On the other hand the play ground is very low and during rainy season water remains stagnant due to which classes cannot be conducted regularly. The students are compelled to depend upon the private tutors to complete the syllabus.

Moreover, due to absence of transport facilities the students who come from distant areas are unable to attend the classes in time. Annual prize giving ceremony and other extra curricular activities are also not held properly.

One murdered: Indian national arrested

From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, Apr 3: One Mahananda Majumdar of village Digraj under Mongla Upazila in the district of Bagerhat was murdered by some of his enemies recently.

According to police, there was an enmity between the deceased and one Moslem Shikdar of an adjacent village over some landed properties for long. Moslem Shikdar made a secret contract with Bayaddanath Majumdar, uncle of the deceased to commit the murder.

At the night of occurrence uncle Bayaddanath Majumdar called his nephew Mahananda Majumdar out of his house and handed him over to his enemies.

The following morning the dead body of Mahananda Ma-

jumdar was found floating in Digraj canal.

In this connection a case was registered with Mongla PS police sent the dead body to the morgue for autopsy and arrested three persons in connection with the murder.

Chitalmari police recently arrested one Indian national Shankar Majumdar of Ashoknagar under 24 Pargona of West Bengal and three Bangladeshi accomplices Shyamal, Ratan and Paritosh of Chitalmari Upazila from Khaserhat (in the district of Bagerhat) and recovered one Indian pistol, three rounds of ammunition and a dagger from their possession.

It is learnt that the Indian national entered Bangladesh without any valid document.



CHANDPUR: Catching of hilsha fry is banned. Police arrested some fishermen and seized a huge quantity of fish fry while selling those in the market. —Star photo.