### Upazila roundup

BARISAL

#### Indian fuel available in market

Dec 6: Indian diesel and kerosine oil have become the most attractive items of illegal trade here through the Sundarban areas, reports UNB. According to sources,

trawlers and country boats are widely used to smuggle these items along with saree, lungi, electronic items, charge lights, synthetic cloths, cosmetics and umbrellas.

Diesel and kerosine oil from India are available in southern region cheaper than those supplied from the local depots following devaluation of Indian rupee recently.

Another report adds: Abu Taher (27) of village Baishai of Banaripara Upazila of the district was killed by the outlawed Sharbahara Party activists on November 27.

Family sources said, a group of armed activists forced Abu Taher out of his house near Jamaluddin High School at Iluhar and killed him with a sharp weapon on the spot.

A case has been registered with the local police in this connection. None was arrested

#### COMILLA

### Potato farming

Dec 6 : Potato will be cultivated in 44,500 acres in Comilia District during the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the agriculture department will sell 110,000 kgs of seeds to the potato CHUADANGA

#### Boy killed in road accident

Dec 6: A teenage carrot seller was crushed to death Sunday under the wheels of a speeding truck at Joyrampur of Damurhuda Upazila of the district, police said, reports

The victim Ansar Alt (15) was returning home by a van after selling carrot at Dugdugi Bazar while the killer Kaligani bound truck (No Jessore TA-291) hit the van from behind. He died instantly.

A case was registered with upazila police in this connec-

#### BORGUNA 40,000 children

#### suffering from malnutrition Dec 6 : About 40,000 chil-

dren of different age groups are suffering from malnutrition in five upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to a survey report conducted by a non-government organisation, malnutrition in children has been spreading in these areas after the recent devastating flood.

Blindness and other neutrition-related diseases have been reported in a large-scale among the children.

#### RANGPUR

#### Rice traders observe hartal

Dec 6 : About one thousand rice traders of Mahigonj in Rangpur Paurashava area Wednesday observed dawn-todusk token strike in protest against foreible collection of tolls by a section of unruly transport workers, reports

Striking rice traders paraded throughfares of town demanding halt to such illegal toll collection by so-called transport, workers rice mill owners, whole sellers and labourers also participated in the parade.

Situated about three miles off Rangpur main town. Mahiganj is famous for rice trade around ten thousand bags of rice are sold in

#### MADARIPUR

#### Migratory birds

Dec 6: With the onset of winter, guest birds are seen plenty in the canals, beels and haors of four upaztlas of the district, reports UNB.

About 300 species of winter migratory birds usually throng different water bodies of Sadar, Kalkini, Shibchar and Rajoir upazilas of the district, according to a bird-watcher.

These birds locally known as Dighari, Pigger, Kalighar, Sarails, Balthush, Pankauri, Kuairia, Platinus, Rad Dang and Karia fly into Bangladesh every year from the cold regions of

the north especially Siberia. But local bird eatchers and amateur hunters, have been killing these birds indiscriminately violating the government ban.

#### **MEHERPUR**

#### Workshops on social forestry

Dec 6: Two five-day workshops on social afforestation were held at Meherpur and Chuadanga recently, reports

Organised by the Forest Department the workshops were participated by the upazila level officers. The workshops aimed at adopting massive afforestation schemes in the rural areas for socioeconomic development of the country.

Another report says Contraband goods worth more than Taka one lakh were seized by the law enforcing agency personnel from a night coach near Meherpur town re-

Nine was arrested in this connection. A case has been registered with Meherpur thana.

#### RANGAMATI

#### Tk 12 lakh timber seized

Dec 6: Forest officials have seized about four thousand cubic feet of timber valued a Taka 12 lakh, illegally ex tracted from the reserve forest of Kaptai, reports UNB.

They also seized two elephants which were being used in stealing timber from the restricted forests in the last two months, officials said.

A statement by the Gono Karmo Nirbahi Samity, however, alleged that forest offi cials were subjected to harassment for strengthening vigilance on illegal extraction.

The statement issued by Wazuddin, Chairman and Mohiuddin Bhuiyan, General Secretary of the samity Monday categorically denied the allegation that forest officials were involved in the recent killing of an elephant and injuring its calf on November

Armed wood pilferers or tribal miscreants might have killed the animal, the statement added.

#### SATKHIRA

#### Tigers kill 4 fishermen

Dec 6 : Tigers killed four fishermen of Munshiganj vil lage in Shyamnagar Upazila of the district during last three days, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victims met the tragic end while they were fishing in the river near Sundarban area. The victims were identified as Pagal (50). Khokan (30) Santosh (35), and Gaffar (28).

Local people said the num ber of man-eaters has in creased alarmingly in the area causing panic among the fish ermen and wood-cutters.

#### PATUAKHALI

#### Road repairing plan taken up

Dec 6: Roads and Highways (R&H) Department has taken up a programme to repair cer tain portion of Amtali Khepupara-Kukati road in the current financial year, reports

Official sources said the work on the road is being undertaken under post-flood rehabilitation scheme with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank.

An estimated amount of Taka 1.60 crore would spent for implementing the project.

#### **PABNA**

#### Diarrhoea claims 17 people

Dec 6: Diarrhoea and gastro-intestinal diseases claimed 17 people and attacked 1000 more during the last week, of ficials said here on Wednesday reports UNB.

Of them, 3 people died in Sadar, 6 in Chatmohar, to in Faridpur and 6 in Santhia

District Civil Surgeon, Md Adiluzzaman informed, a total of 66 medical teams has been working in the affected areas.

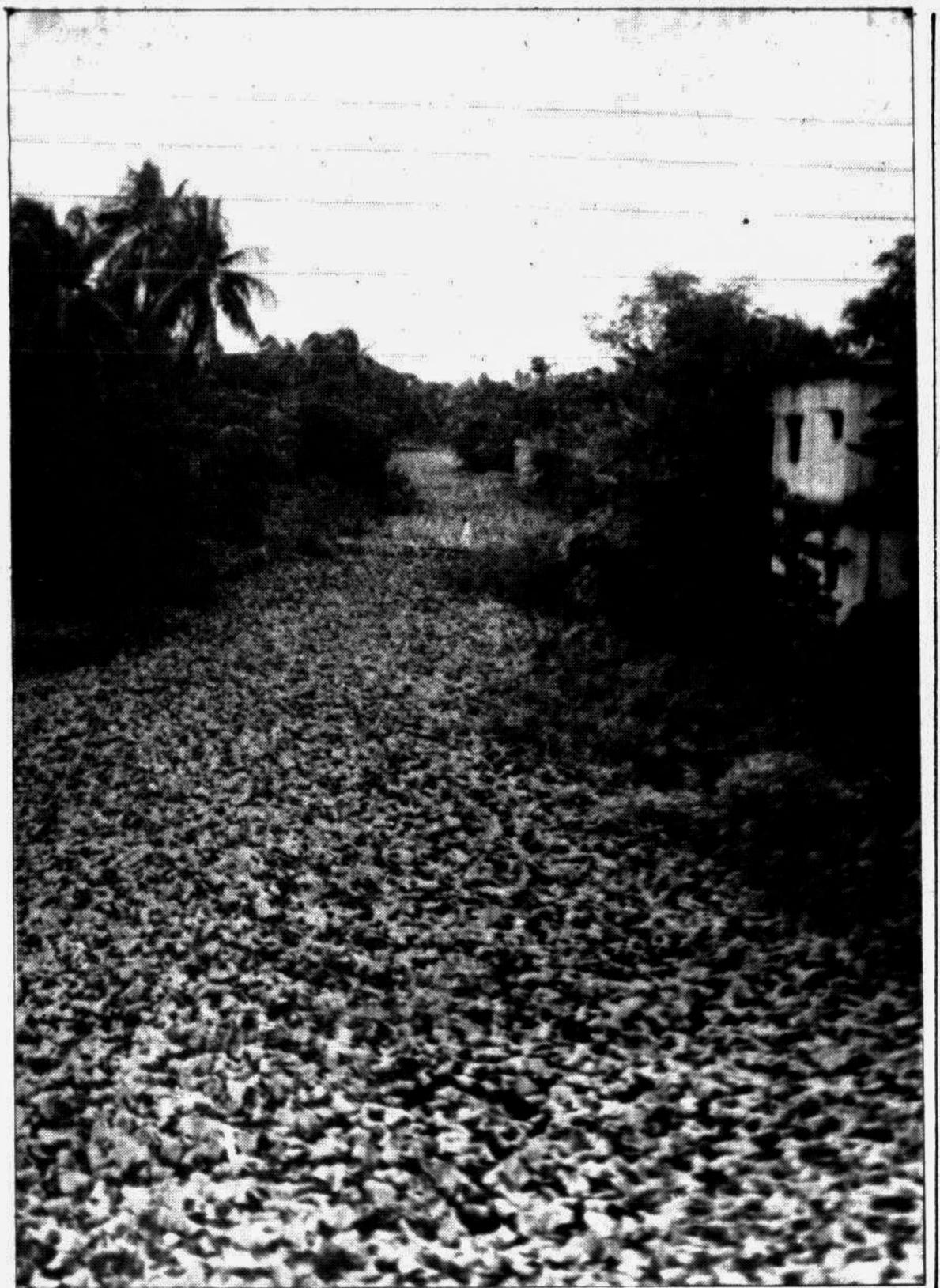
Scarcity of drinking water and taking of adulterated food were attributed to the outbreak of the diseases.

#### Union executives

Another report adds: The district motor workers' union election was held here in the annual general meeting Tuesday.

Md Rafiqul Islam Rafique and Md Waziuddin Khan were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the union.

Other office bearers are: Vice President - Md Shamshur Rahman Shapon and Abdus Samad, Joint Secretary - Haftzur Rahman Haftz and Ashraf Hossain Rabi, Organising Secretary - Md Razab Raisuddin and Md Alam Treasurer. Sree Kanailal Sarkar Kanu.



PABNA: Ichamati River - now a mosquito-breeding centre -bank to bank covered with -Star photo waterhyacinth.

#### Notes from Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 6 : Beggars are increasing in number in the upazila and district headquarters causing concern to the social leaders and citizens, reports UNB.

There has been a continuous influx of beggars both male and female from the rural areas over the last few months.

Acute food crisis and unemployment in the dry season have compelled destitutes to seek jobs in the urban areas and failing to get any work, they resort to begging or immoral activities.

Bus and railway stations. launch terminals, stadium areas and corridors of government offices are full of alms seekers.

#### 25 hurt in mishap

At least 25 people were in jured, 5 of them seriously, when a Kishoreganj bound bus skidded off the road near here and fell into a ditch Thursday afternoon, police said.

The seriously injured persons were admitted to Kishoreganj Hospital.

Witnesses said, the driver of the bus (No Dhaka CHA-63) coming from Bhairab Bazar had lost control and plunged it into the ditch by breaking the railing of the Maria bridge. The driver, however, man-

aged to escape but police setzed the bus. A case was registered with local police in this connection.

#### Cattle lifting rampant

Cattle lifting has become rampant in Tarail, Karimganj, Pakundia, Hosainpur and sadar upazilas and creating widespread anxiety among the farmers of the district.

A total of 25 cows was stolen and skin of 10 others were flayed recently.

An organised gang of lifters backed by some unscrupulous traders have been carrying on this heinous activities in the bordering villages, local leaders alleged.

# Rice, wheat worth Tk 16 lakh missing from govt godown

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 6: About 3500 maunds of foodgrains worth about Taka 16 lakh have been missing from the LSD godown at Hatgopalpur under Jhenidah sadar upazila

The missing of the foodgrains was found when the new OC of the the godown was taking his charge.

The said quantity of food grains has been missing during the four-year service of former in-charge, Mr. Sahabuddin, it is alleged

However, 950 maunds of foodgrains have been adjusted by the concerned department as movement and handling shortage. Out of the remaining amount, 2100 maunds are rice and 450 maunds are wheat.

During investigation, only two tons of rice were found instead of 88 tons while 16

tons of wheat are missing. When contacted, Upazila Food Officer, the Acting DC of Food. Jhenidah who did not want to be identified declined to give any detailed informa

tion but they admitted that departmental investigation was going on in this regard.

The concerned officer, Sahabuddin Ahmed is now under suspension, they informed

#### Rabi crop farming

A scheme has been taken up to bring 78,418 acres of land under the cultivation of different varieties of pulses in six upazilas of the district during the current rabi crop farming.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, out of the total, lentil will be cultivated in 44134 acres of land with a production target of 11659 metric ton, kheshari in 7050 acres of land with a production target of 1875 tons. gram in 19871 acres of land with a production target of 4669 tons, mug in 1336 acres of land with a production target of 462 tons, mashkalat in 5533 acres of land with a production target of 1427 tons and arhar in 494 acres with a

production target of 118 tons. It may be mentioned here that a total of 40280 acres of

different kinds of pulses cultivation during the last rabi crop cultivation. District Agricultural Extension Department has decided

to taka up 431 demonstration

plots in six upazilas of the

land was brought under the

#### 12 killed in mishaps

A UNB report says : At least 12 people died in separate in cidents in Sadar and Shailakupa upazilas during the last week of November.

According to police records, of the total, two were gunned down, three died in road accidents, one in snake bite and the rest six allegedly committed suicide.

The sources said, Amirul Islam (25) of village Ghorshal and Abdul Hakim Khan (40) of village Kaluhati in Sadar upazila were gunned down by unknown assailants on November 23 and 27.

Abdur Rahman (35), of village Bhutyapara, Shafiqul (25). of village Kacherkole and Sakina (6), of Faridpur village were killed in three separate road mishaps in the same upazila on November 27 and

Another China Khatun (14),

Khatun (18), wife of Shahidul Islam of vilalge Mirjapur and Jarina Khatun, wife of Obed Ali of village Dhuliapara and Md Hasan (30), of village Noapara. all in Shailakupa upazila al legedly committed suicide by taking poison.

Separate cases were recor ded with respective police

of Jhenidah town died by snake bite. Besides, five housewives Nespatu Begum (18), wife of Sabdar Rahman of village Shehabaria, Gulnahar (20). wife of Mansur Ahmed of village Sitalidanga, Hamida Khatun (18), wife of Idris Ali of village Kashimpur, Rabeya

#### **UP** Chairman faces no-confidence

RANGAMATI, Dec 6: Members of the Mainimukh Union Parishad of Langadu Upazila of the district have expressed noconfidence on the Chairman and demanded his immediate dismissal, reports UNB.

They alleged misappropria tion of fund and misuse of government property by the Chairman, Kamal Uddin.

Out of nine, 8 members of the Parishad have brought 19 points allegations against him and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on November 25 in this re-

The allegations included

misappropriation of Government grant, Union Parishad properties, project money and Deputy Commissioner of the hill district said, he instructed

investigate the allegations after visiting the Parishad office. He also ordered Ramal uddin to refund the money which has not yet been

the concerned authorities to

Meanwhile, people of Langadu Upazila in a meeting chaired by ex-UP Chairman Shah Alam appealed to the Government to held union parishad election here like all other union parishad across the country which is scheduled to be held in January

complied.

may be mentioned that no election in 7 union parishads of the said upazila will be held like all other upazilas of the country as announced by the Election Commissioner.

# Condition of Borguna markets pitiable

BORGUNA. Dec 6: Most of the hats and bazars in Betagi Upazila are now in a pitiable condition causing untold sufferings to both the buyers and

sellers, reports UNB. Lack of proper care and maintenance by the authorities are said to be the cause of gradual deterioration of their

condition. Betagi Bazar, Hosnabad Hat, Mokamta Hat, Chandkhali Hat, Kazirhat and Golisha Hat are the main markets where the people in the area carry out big transactions everyday.

It is learnt that these markets were set up at the local initiatives when the population of the respective area was thin. But with manifold increase of the population no proportionate extension has been made. Besides, insufficient accommodation in these hats and bazars is a great problem which creates obstacle for movement of the buyers and the sellers.

In the rainy season almost all hats and bazars gone under water and become muddy and slippery after slight rainfall. In absence of proper drainage system the rain water remains

stagnant for days together. Besides, paucity of drinking water is very acute in these hats and bazars. Most of the hats and bazars have no tubewell putting the market goers and traders into immense trouble.

Filth and garbages are not cleared regularly polluting the environment and people defecate on roadsides in absence of latrines and urinal.

## Fishermen need patronisation

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 6: The fishermen of the seven upazilas of the district have been facing various problems.

About 50,000 fishermen of the district are even thinking of leaving their ancestral profession as they can hardly earn their livelihood.

The fishermen are hard-hit due to shortage of fund, nonavailability and price hike of the fishing appliances.

A fishing boat and a net cost minimum Taka one lakh which some fishermen informed that it was beyond their purchasing capacity. The sufferings of the fish-

if fish supply to the markets greatly. The abnormal prices of fishing nets, boats and other related appliances have crippled the economic condition of

ermen has helped the decline

people of this profession, some fishermen informed The fishermen of the district told that they had been deprived of the government fi-

nancial help. About 20,000 fishermen in Faridganj upazila alone were deprived of natural fishing on the river Dakatia due to the construction of Chandpur irrigation embankment. Fishing in the river has also become almost difficult due to massive siltation and unplanned irriga-

Meanwhile, a large number of fishermen in the district have left their profession, it is

#### Hats need development

Different hats and bazars of Chandpur district are in pitiable condition due to lack of proper maintenance.

The hats and bazars do not have enough space to accommodate the buyers and sellers as these were not expanded according to the growing pop-Most of the internal roads

of these hats and bazars are not pucca. Rampant construction of unauthorised shops has further narrowed the space.

Chandra, Bhagra, Haimchar Ampur. Baburhat, Matlab. Kachua, Rahimanagar, Shahrasti, Rupsa, Mohamaya, Balakhal are the important bazars of the district, which needs immediate development.

work on Chandpur Town Protection Scheme is on rapid progress. It is learnt that the gov-

ernment has sanctioned about Taka two crore 15 lakh for the repair works of the crosion-hit Chandpur town. About 75 per cent repair

work have already been completed. About 2,70,000 cubic feet boulders have been dumped on the Meghna river side at Nutan Bazar and Puran Bazar and 15000 G.O. textile bags were used for the pur-

Protection work along the bank of the river Meghna at Chandpur Railway Station and Chandpur Launch Terminal sides are also in progress.

Seven bank

officials sued for defalcation SIRAJGANJ, Dec 6: District Anti-corruption Bureau has filed three separate cases

two project Chairmen of charges of defalcation of money and misappropriation of foodgrains, reports UNB. Official source said, seven employees of the Ullapara Krishi Bank were allegedly in-

against seven bank officials and

45 lakh from Ullapara Polly Biddut Samity's deposit in the last four years. The bureau, after investiga-

volved in defalcating over Tk

tion filed the cases or November 29.

The bureau filed a case in Raigani against the Chairman of Bharmagacha Union Parishad for alleged misappropriation of 18.357 metric tons of wheat worth about Tk 28,000 was sanctioned for road development work.

Another case was filed against Chairman of Kazipur upazila for alleged misappropriation of 27.76 quintal of rice valued at over Tk 27,000 which was also sanctioned for the implementation of a road project.

Teestamuk-Bahadurabad ferry service

## Dredging needed on emergency-basis

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 6: The railway ferry service between Teestamuk Ghat and Bahaduraghat is about to be closed as the Brahmaputra river has become silted up.

The water level of the river Brahmaputra becomes very much low during the dry season for the last few years. The ferry boats ply very slowly to avoid any mishap. Moreover. innumerable shoals have de veloped at different points on the ferry route. During this lean period, the ferry boats have to cross about 40 miles distance for the shoals and it takes over three hours time to cross. As a result, the trains on

this route become late. Very often especially at night time the boats run aground and are detained for hours together leaving the passengers to untold sufferings. The Railway Department every year has to change the ghats for the new shoals and it costs a huge amount of money.

The huge sediment comes from the erosion of the river usually fall on the river bed and shoals are being developed. As a result smooth plying of ferry boats are greatly hampered.

In the winter season, the channel becomes so narrow that the ferry boats can not move freely. The rail services between the capital city and northern districts can not maintain any time-schedule.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take necessary steps for dredging the channel of Brahmaputra riverand mitigate the sufferings of thousand of passengers on the

It can be mentioned here that a number complaints had been lodged earlier but those are of no effect.

#### Rural uplift plans

The Local Government Engineering Department has taken up 26 uplift in the district under a Rural Development project 7 during the current fiscal year.

Under this programme the department will construct 26 box culverts on different roads in the district. A total of one crore 11 lakh 36 thousand 317 Taka was sanctioned for the implementation of the plans. Meanwhile, preliminary works of the plans have been completed and full-fledged work of the plans will be started soon.

On completion of the project, road communication, will improve in the district.

Exhibition of cross-breed

animals and birds was held at Dhaperhat Animal and Bird Welfare Centre under Sadullapur Upazila recently Dr. Abdul Aziz Sarker.

Deputy Director, Livestock Department, Rajshahi was present on the occasion as chief guest.

# Pests damage sugarcane on 50,000 acres

DINAJPUR, Dec 6: The sugarcane plants on 50,000 acres of land under different upazilas of greater Dinajpur district have been attacked by

cane fields had almost become yellow by the massive attack. A total of fifty thousand acres of land was brought under sugarcane cultivation in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Setabgani sugar mill zone areas

for the coming crushing sea-

son. Out of the total, the sugar

It is learne that the sugar-

mill authorities cultivated sugarcane in ten thousand acres. It may be mentioned here that a total of 45,000 acres of land was brought under the sugarcane farming last year. When contacted the mill au-

thorities informed this corre-

spondent that the authorities

have taken necessary steps.

They further disclosed that

stagnant of water in the fields

had affected the sugarcane Some sugarcane growers of Panchagarh mills zone area told this correspondent that no one has so far visited the af-

fected area.

said that he could not purchase the requisite quantity of pesticides. The high price of the spray machines also affected the anti-pest measure. Some growers complained that the pesticides supplied by

the mill authorities were not

One farmer of Mangalpur

From Our Correspondent

The sugarcane growers have urged the concerned authors ties to take immediate steps to save the large quantity of sug-**Foodgrains** 

misappropriated

A shortage of sixteen metric

tons of foodgrains from Hartpur Supply Godown under Thakurgaon district was detected by the Anti-corruption Department recently Acting on a secret informa-

tion, police caught redhanded

a truck driver and three others

at the time of loading 109 bags

of wheat inside the godown

recently. The truck bearing No-Rangpur, DAA-09 has also been seized in this connection it is reported that in collaboration with the Upazila Food Officer, the Officer In-Charge of the local food supply godown was trying to sell the amount to outsiders. It was informed that they managed two delivery orders (DO) for the supply of the foodgrains. The

Hartpur thana in this connec-More than 50 people are selling wine without license in the town.

signboard of herbal medicine

The open sale of wine in-

to avoid police action.

The sellers are using a

Assistant Controller of Food,

has been registered with the

A case of misappropriation

Thakurgaon visited the spot,

creasing anti-social activities in the town. The local people have urged

the concern authorities to take necessary action against the tilegal sale of wine. The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) is facing a set-back in the dis-

trict as the schools are beset

with manifold problems unat tended for long. It is gathered that dilapi dated condition of most of the primary school buildings. inadequacy of furniture, shortage of teachers are the main hurdles retarding the education programme in the

Besides, abnormal high

price of paper and other edu-

district.

cational applicancies, financial stringency of guardians and other social factors are also deviating the children from the opportunity to have primary education. The primary school houses which had been damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and

other natural calamities during

the last few years have not ye

been repaired in the rural ar-

in most of the school, students have no benches to sit. roofs are missing and there is no supply of pure drinking wa-

There are 358 government and 350 non-government primary schools in the district.