

Heroin smugglers effectively dodging law enforcing agents in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 29: During last six years, heroin worth Taka fifty crore, was seized from different places of greater Jessore 97 per cent of the total quantity was found to be fake while rest of the three per cent was heroin.

A number of innocent people were arrested and victims of circumstances following the seizure of so-called heroin, by the concerning departments.

Reports received here say that smuggling of heroin continued unabated while huge amount of money has been spent by Narcotics Department as reward money in catching the fake heroin dealers under misguidance of professional touts.

According to a source, officials from Narcotics, BDR and Police departments seized a total of 48.2 kgs of heroin from greater Jessore from 1989 until October this year. Thirty people were arrested during

the period of operation. Only two of them were convicted and sentenced to life terms imprisonment while a few others were awarded two to five years jail terms.

The source said, that findings of chemical tests of the seized heroin show that lions share of the heroin was fake while a very small portion was found to be genuine heroin but of low quality. In most cases powder of chemical fertilizers, rice, permanent, insecticide etc. were found. In fact, all these items resemble heroin.

During 1989 to 1990, Narcotics Department, BDR and Police seized polythene bags containing white powder on suspicion of carrying heroin without verification and chemical tests. Pure heroin was found worth 1.2 kg out of 48.2 kgs.

According to market price low quality heroin sells be-

tween Taka five and six lakh a kilogram. But the price has been shown Taka one crore per kg officially.

It is learnt that this excess price has been shown to justify their huge expenditure done in the name of seizure by engaging rewards services.

According to information, heroin smugglers are split into two groups in the area. One is engaged in smuggling the 'real' heroin while the other deals with 'fake' heroin only to misguide the Narcotics Department, BDR and police by giving false information and help seize fake heroin. This was the 'real' smugglers of heroin get through other routes.

A sizeable amount of money has been spent for rewards with consultation of the department heads.

It is learnt, BDR seized 18 kg of heroin from Hotel Prince in Jessore on July 5, 1989. Narcotics Department seized

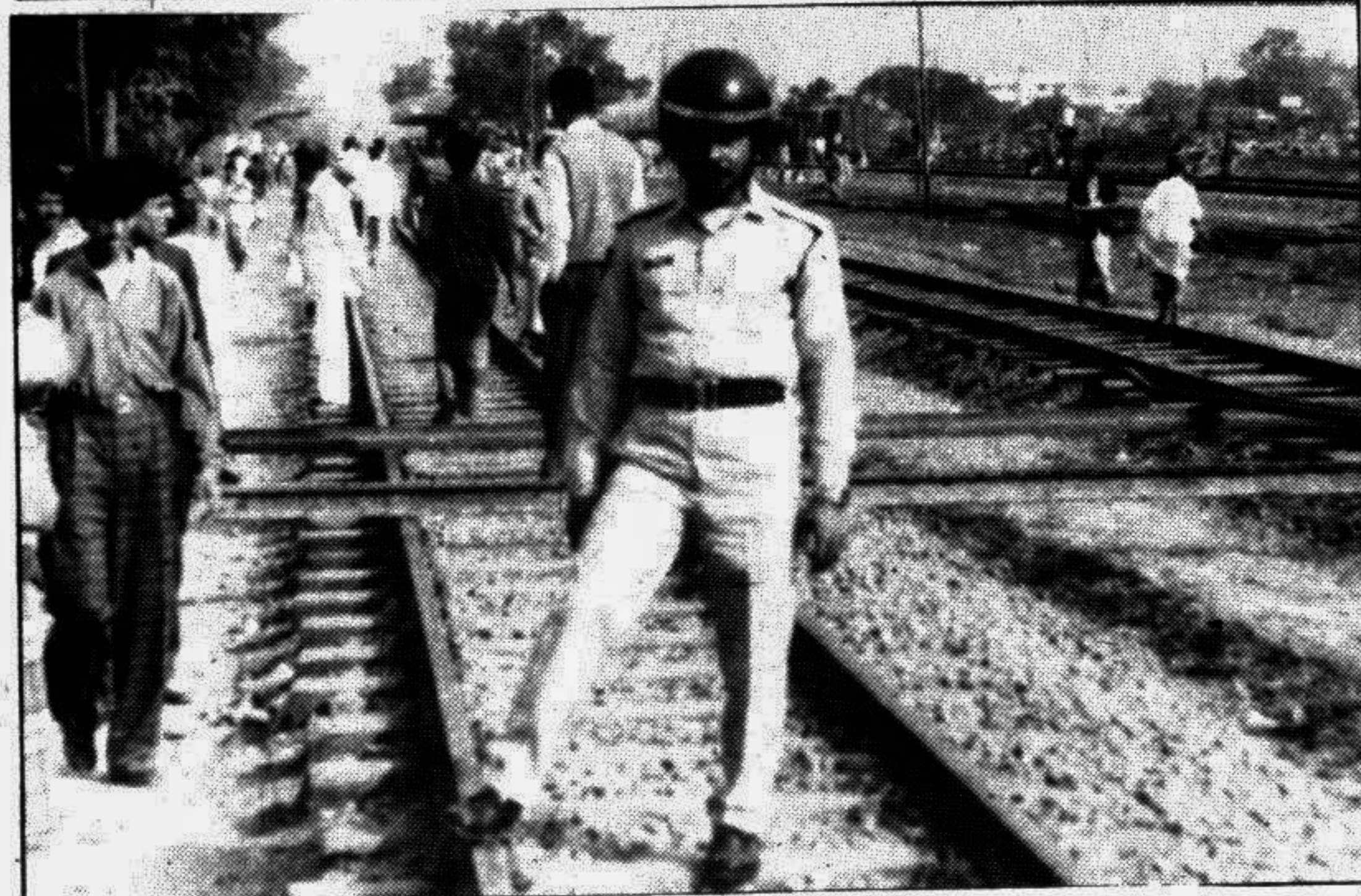
five kgs of heroin from a BRTC bus, three kgs of from Benapole, two kgs from Chowgacha on 27 Dec. 1993 and four kgs from Obhainagore.

Surprisingly the local office of Narcotics Department preserved no record of seizures between the period from 1989 and October 1994 except the seizure of nine grams of heroin arresting one person in 1990, 960 grams of heroin arresting six persons in 1991, 533 grams arresting 13 persons in 1992, 40 grams arresting four persons in 1993 and one kilogram of heroin arresting six persons this year.

It is claimed that BDR and Police, sent several lists of their seizures to Narcotics Department in 1989 and specimen of heroin was sent with request for chemical tests. It is hard to believe how records of seizures are not kept with the local Narcotics Department.



Pickets near Pubail railway station during the Opposition's rail and road programme yesterday. — Star photo



Pickets put up barricade at Tongi railway station during Opposition's rail and road programme yesterday. — Star photo

11 people held on various charges at Aricha ghat

MANIKGANJ, Nov 29: Shibhalaya police, in a day-long drive, arrested 11 people including a woman from Aricha ferry ghat area Friday on charges of pick-pocketing drug abuse and other anti-social activities, says UNB.

The arrested are — Mintu 25 of Bashantapur village of Faridpur district, Abdul Khaleque 40, Salam 37, Mojibur Rahman, Fajal alias Faja 30 and Shuklal Bepari 42 of Shibhalaya thana of the district, Papiya 18, Jakir Hossain 32 and Matiur Rahman 34 of Daulatdia thana of Rajbari district and Shavez Ali 23 and Yakub Ali 20 of Nagarbari of Pabna district.

Police said, the arrested people were sent to the district court.

Local people alleged Aricha ferry ghat has become a den of anti-social activities since long. Passengers and pedestrians are being robbed almost every day.

Discussion on water management

TANGAIL, Nov 29: A discussion meeting on Tangail town integrated water management and development study was held recently at Tangail paurashava office, says BSS.

The meeting was sponsored jointly by Tangail paurashava and Compartmental Pilot Project, Tangail. Experts on water resource management and local elite spoke in the meeting.

Shamsul Haque, Chairman of Tangail paurashava presided over the meeting. Among others Bazlur Rahman executive Engineer Tangail paurashava M S Shalma Ashraf team leader of Sheltech and Hans Visser, team leader of Compartmental Pilot Project, Tangail, Nurul Alam, Project Director, Water Development Board attended the meeting.

Chehlum

Halqa Qaderia, a socio-religious organisation of the city, has arranged a *milad mahfil* today on the occasion of the *chehlum* of the third daughter of renowned Pir Sahib of Midnapur Hazrat Syed Shah Irshad Ali Al-Qadri, reports BSS.

The *milad mahfil* will be held at Khanqa Qaderia, 132 Green Road, Jahanara Garden, after *Magreb* prayers.

Hazrat Syed Morashid Ali-al-Qadri, nephew of the deceased, will conduct the *muna-jah* at the *milad*. Similar *milad mahfil* has been arranged at Khanqah Sharif, Marwari Patti, Rajbari.

All *murids* and relatives have been requested to attend the *chehlum*.

Bhola Irrigation Project Directives to complete work on time

State Minister for Water Resources Mosharruf Hossain Shahjahan yesterday directed the officials and engineers concerned to properly complete the Bhola Irrigation Project Phase-II on schedule, reports BSS.

He gave the directives while he was presiding over a review meeting on the progress of the project in his Secretariat office. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, chairman, Water Development Board, Majidul Islam and other officials concerned attended the meeting.

The project is being implemented at a cost of Tk 142 crore and 56 lakh with the as-

sistance of Asian Development Bank. Under the project — irrigation, drainage and flood control facilities will be provided in Daulatkhana, Tajmuddin and Charfession thanas under Bhola district. About one lakh acres of land of those area will be provided with modern irrigation facilities, one lakh 12 thousand acres with drainage and about one and a half lakh acres with flood control facilities.

The implementation works of the project was started in 1992-93 financial year and is expected to be completed in 1996-97 financial year.

About 20 per cent of total work has so far been completed.

Poor supply of fertiliser hits production in Barguna

BARGUNA, Nov 29: Crop production is being hampered in the current rabi season due to acute shortage of fertilizer in the district, reports UNB.

According to farmers, at present supply of fertilizers including TSP and Potash are quite inadequate in the local markets.

Local Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation office has also failed to supply sufficient quantity of fertilizers to the farmers.

Moreover, prices of fertilizer have also gone up beyond the purchasing capacity of the farmers. TSP is now available at Tk 300 per maund and Urea

at Tk 280 per maund. Meanwhile, production of about 40 per cent of the standing crops has been affected due to want of fertilizers.

Another report adds: Work on the construction and reconstruction of two embankments in two coastal areas of Patuakhali is progressing fast.

According to Water Development Board, Taka 10 lakh has been sanctioned for the implementation of project in the current fiscal. The work is expected to be completed by December.

Scholarship distribution ceremony of Nirjhar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 29: The Scholarship distribution ceremony of the 'Nirjhar' a local educational and cultural organisation was held at the Moulvibazar Government College auditorium recently.

Professor Karunamoy Roy, Chairman of 'the Nirjhar' presided over the ceremonial function. Professor A B Siddiqur Rahman Bhuyan, Principal of the Moulvibazar Government College attended it as chief guest. The function was addressed among others by Prof Syed Abdur Rahim, Syed Mohasin Ali and Prof Abdul Khaliq, General Secretary of the 'Nirjhar'. Professor Fayzur Rahman conducted the function.

It is mentionable here that, the 'Nirjhar' has been awarding talented students at school level every year. The selection of the students for the scholarship were made through written test conducted by the 'Nirjhar', where best students from classes six to ten from different schools of the district participated.

'Congenial atmosphere needed for economic growth'

CHITTAGONG, Nov 29: State Minister for Textiles, Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan Saturday stressed the need for poverty alleviation creation of employment opportunities and rapid industrialisation in the country to achieve desired economic prosperity, reports BSS.

Speaking at the concluding function of the week-long industrial fair-94 at Chittagong stadium he said, stability peace and order were also needed to execute massive development programmes undertaken by the government.

Economic development can never be achieved when there is no congenial and peaceful atmosphere, he added.

The industrial fair was held under the auspices of Chittagong chamber.

The function was also attended by Chittagong City Corporation Mayor A B M Moinuddin Chowdhury. Major Mannan later distributed certificates among the participants of the fair.



SYLHET: Professor Syed Moinuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology distributing prizes in the stipend awarding function held in Fenchuganj recently. — Star photo

What crime they had committed?

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 29: Negligence of duty and irresponsible acts of a police sub-inspector cost two innocent brothers jail terms for two months and 26 days.

The district and sessions judge, Sylhet, granted their interim bail on Sunday.

Tabdul Hossain and Tajul Islam son of late Ali Hossain of village Begaiya under Gowainghat thana were arrested by the BDR personnel from Salutikor ghat alongwith some smuggled goods on July 14, 1988. They were sent to jail through Sylhet sadar thana.

During their arrest they hide their identity and had introduced themselves as Abdul Quader and Jahangir Alam son of Kala Miah during interrogation by the BDR.

The police while investigating the case also failed to get the facts the real names of the smugglers.

In the meantime, the victims Abdul Quader and Jahangir Alam (actual name Tabdul Hossain and Tajul Islam) took bail from the court with the help of their brother-in-law Badshah Miah Sarker Alias Bachehu. All of them concealed themselves and bluffed the police. Badshah Miah was the guarantor.

In the meantime, the additional district and sessions judge and special tribunal for anti-smuggling (3rd court) started the trial while the accused persons were abscond-

ing. The court on the basis of chargesheets, sentenced Abdul Quader and Jahangir Alam to suffer imprisonment for one year and fined Taka 300 each on September to of 1990. The main accused persons, remained untouched. Following the verdict, sub-inspector Ruhul Amin of Gowainghat thana arrested Abul Khayer and his brother Abul Quasem son of Kala Miah of village Bagaiya and sent them to jail showing them as Abdul Quader and Jahangir Alam, sons of Kala Miah. The police officer reportedly had asked for bribes

to save them, but they refused. Since then the two brothers have been confined in the jail as the convicted accused persons of the alleged smuggling case.

The brothers had sent messages of the actual story to the deputy commissioner last month but nothing appeared to favour them. They appealed to the district and sessions judge and sought bail on November 17 this year (case no 615/94). The court after hearing the lawyers granted interim bails to them on November 26.

It may be stated here that, the main accused person of the case Tabdul Hossain and Tajul Islam were arrested by the police under section 54 of BPC last month. They stated the whole story and confessed their guilts before the thana magistrate on October 19 this year.

Surprisingly they have not been charged with any specific cases yet. The two brothers, Abul Khayer and Abul Quasem, who were granted bail Sunday said, the police had intentionally pushed them to the jail, when they refused to pay the bribe. They demanded exemplary punishment against the concerned officials.

The bail petition was moved by Advocate Alhaj Shaikat Ali and Advocate A H Ershadul Haque and Advocate Luthful Kibria Shamim.

A village so proud

From Rajat Kanti Goswami MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 29: 'Swanirvar Bangladesh' a Non-government Organisation (NGO), working at Kamalgonj thana of the district set up a laudable example declaring 'Baligaon' village of the thana of having no illiterate person in the village.

Such praiseworthy initiative was formally announced at a meeting, which was held in the village recently with Saiful Islam Bhuyan, Chairman of the project implementation committee of the 'Swanirvar Bangladesh' in the chair. The Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Kamalgonj thana attended the meeting as chief guest and read out the said declaration.

Earlier, a committee, led by the TNO was formed to examine the standard of literacy situation. After observation the committee decided to declare 'Baligaon' village as illiteracy free village.

It is gathered that, in the last phase of their literacy programme in this village, the 'Swanirvar Bangladesh' had given elementary knowledge to 171 illiterate persons including 56 men and 115 women through ten centres. Fourteen youths conducted the voluntary programme.

The 'Swanirvar Bangladesh' has selected another villages 'Alipur' under the same thana to make it as 'illiteracy free' like that of 'Baligaon' within the year 1995.

College students donate 82 bags of blood

TANGAIL, Nov 29: Students of Maolana Mohammad Ali Government College donated 82 bags of blood voluntarily on Sunday, reports BSS.

The blood bags were collected by Sandhani of Dhaka Medical College. Leo Club of Dhaka Turag organised the programme. Professor Ganendra Nath Basak, acting principal of the college inaugurated the camp in the botany laboratory of the college.

Besides a few days back, the students and teachers of government Kumudini Women's College donated 100 bags of blood voluntarily. Sandhani, the well known voluntary students organisation in cooperation with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society collected the blood.

Dr Salma Banu, Principal of the college inaugurated the blood donation camp and called upon the students and teachers to participate in the programme.

Training course on credit management ends in Tangail

TANGAIL, Nov 29: A two-day long training course on credit management under fixed and working capital was held at Tangail public library auditorium. Md Azizur Rahman, Resident Representative of BSCIC was the chief guest at the inaugural session, says BSS.

A total of 35 persons including three women took part in the course.

Md Azizur Rahman in his speech called upon the participants to use the knowledge to develop small and cottage industries for greater national interest as well as for their economic development.

Among others Abdur Razzaque, President Chamber of Commerce, Tangail, Zafar Ahmed, Vice President NASCIB, Rabela Zakir spoke on the occasion. Abdul Ghani Shovan, President of NASCIB, Tangail, presided over the inaugural function.

Newsprint crisis in Narail

NARAIL, Nov 29: Newsprint crisis has affected the newspapers and publication industry of the district halting publication of a daily and three weeklies of the town, says UNB.

Local people said, due to the prevailing crisis prices of daily and weekly newspapers have gone up causing concern among the subscribers. They also feared that the newspaper readership is likely to be affected if the newsprint price goes up further.

The price of white paper has also gone up. The students who are dependent on newsprint are the worst sufferers.

Another report adds: The crisis of anti-rabies vaccine has been prevailing for a long time hindering treatment.

At present there is no stock of vaccines in the district council. It is also not available in the local markets.



NO TRAFFIC POLICE: Traffic movement is often disrupted in absence of a traffic police. The photo shows the traffic police absent from duty at the Shapla Chattar in Rangpur town. — Star photo