

Heroin worth Tk one crore recovered in Noakhali

From Our Correspondent
NOAKHALI, June 16: Narcotics and Liquor Control Department (NLCD) and police recovered one kg heroin and arrested one person in this connection from Sonapur bazar on Thursday.

Acting on secret information, the NLCD and police of Noakhali in a combined special raid recovered one kg heroin worth Taka one crore from a gold smith's shop named Shamol Shilpatya at Sonapur Pura bazar and arrested Sonkar Kumar Kuri, the younger brother of the shopowner Shubash Kumar Kuri.

The raid was led by Mafuzur Rahman Majumder, Assistant Controller (AC) of NLCD in Noakhali and Inspector Asadul Haque Gazi of NLCD S I Md Ali ASI Sujit Das of police while forces of NLCD were also included.

Local people alleged that the accessed earned a lot of money from illegal sources. They also said that the Kuri brothers started their business as a small molasses trader at Sonapur.

AC of NLCD informed The Daily Star that they have been monitoring the accessed for last few months and they have succeeded in the first recovery of heroin from Noakhali.

Husband murder

Mina awarded death sentence

NETRAKONA, June 16: Netrakona district and session judge Jahurul Islam in a judgement here on Thursday sentenced Sajeda Akter Khatun alias Mina to death by hanging for murdering her husband Iqbal Ali, reports BSS.

The judge also awarded life term and fined Taka one hundred in default another seven days of imprisonment to Mahiuddin alias Bacchu, the paramour of Mina, for his involvement in the murder.

The prosecution story is, in brief, that Sajeda Khatun alias Mina, the wife of Iqbal Ali of village Pratappur in Purbadhala thana under Netrakona district, had an illicit relationship with her neighbour, Mahiuddin alias Bacchu. The night of November 18, 1992, Mina supplied poisoned food to her husband, with the co-operation of Bacchu, for dinner.

As a result, he vomited blood and reported serious pain and was admitted to Purbadhala hospital.

Netrakona district Public Prosecutor Advocate Nurul Islam Bhuiyan appeared on behalf of the prosecution while Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed stood for the accused.

Expulsion threat

COX'S BAZAR, June 16: A man who was socially boycotted for marrying two sisters has been threatened expulsion from the village in sadar thana for getting them enrolled in the new voters' list as his wives, reports UNB.

A village arbitration earlier ostracized Nabi Hossain, 40 of Jelipara village in Jalalabad union for violating Islamic code by marrying the two sisters Sakina Khatun and Syeda Khatun — of the same village.

Sakina is the mother of five children and Syeda of two.

The trouble started afresh when Nabi Hossain ignored the villagers' suggestion that he register one of his wives as voter, according to Islamic law.

Residents of the village became furious after he got both of his wives registered as voters and threatened to expel him from the village.

15 arrested in special police drive in Barisal

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, June 16: Barisal district police arrested 15 persons on various charges from different thana areas of the district from Wednesday.

Mentionable, nearly four hundred people were arrested including 32 Sarbaharamen from different thana areas of the district and huge quantity of arms and ammunitions were recovered during last three weeks under ongoing special police operation that began on May 20.

Flash flood in Sylhet

Crops, dwellings damaged, road connection disrupted

From Iqbal Siddique

Several thousand dwelling houses in three thanas have been damaged, while road communication of Gowainghat and Jaintapur thana headquarters with the district headquarters have been snapped as flood waters submerged the Sylhet-Tamabil road. Sari, Gowain and Dholoi rivers of the region are also flowing above danger levels.

SYLHET, June 16: Standing crops on at least ten thousand acres of land in three thanas of Sylhet have been submerged due to a rush of waters from the hilly areas across the Indian borders and torrential rains for the last two days.

The affected areas are Gowainghat, Jaintapur and Companyganj thanas. Several thousand dwelling houses in these thanas have also been damaged while road communication of Gowainghat and Jaintapur thana headquarters with the district headquarters have been snapped as flood waters

submerged the Sylhet-Tamabil road, district officials said, this Thursday afternoon.

Sari, Gowain and Dholoi, rivers of the region are also flowing above danger-levels. The thana headquarters of Gowainghat is now under knee-deep water. In Companyganj thana, Tukerbazar, an important bazar has gone under three feet water.

In Gowainghat thana, more than three thousand dwelling houses were damaged in Lenggha, Toakul, Nandirgaon, Alirgaon and Paschim Jafflong unions.

The Deputy Commissioner distributed 825 kgs of *chira* and 112 kgs of *gur* among the victims of Gowainghat and Jaintapur thanas. Sylhet Ghamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) has also handed over three tins of *gur* and two maunds of *chira* to the District Administration for the flood victims.

The district administration has asked the higher authorities for immediate sanction of 200 metric tonnes of wheat and Taka three lakh in cash for the flood victims.

Leather worth Tk 7 lakh seized

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, June 16: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) men of 13 battalion, Chuadanga seized a truck with leather worth Taka about seven lakh from Arappur bus stand recently.

According to reports, acting on a secret information BDR jawans challenged a Kushtia bound truck No. Dhaka-DA-2259 at about 9 pm and recovered leather which was suspected to be smuggled in from India.

The truck was sent to Chuadanga customs, it was learnt.

House servant beaten to death

SAVAR, June 16: A teenage house servant was allegedly killed by the house-owner at Balika of Dhamrai thana on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Police said, Ataur Rahman Ater, 15, was beaten to death by the master Rahman following an altercation with him.

Land dispute claims 175 lives in 16 southern dists

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 16: At least one hundred people were killed and five thousand receive injuries in clashes over land disputes every year, says a survey report.

According to reports, about 75 per cent of total land of the country is cultivable. The ridge of land which is locally known as 'aycel' or border is used to identify one's land. About 16 per cent of the total cultivable lands are used as border. The total land area used as ayels is about 19 lakh acres, the report said.

Clashes centering land disputes, specially over the boundary is a common feature in remote villages and about 33 thousand cases are lodged with respective courts in this regard.

Most of the clashes occur

in aman, boro, wheat and irrigation seasons. Spade or digging hoe which is locally known as 'kodal' are used in these clashes.

Sometimes the dispute arises between two groups and it spreads in the entire villages.

About 20 families become street beggars after loosing all of their cattle and their belongings even houses, every year, the report adds.

A class of village leaders who are known as 'matabars' are mainly responsible for the clashes as the victims over land disputes ask support from their and actually depend on them, it is learnt.

In 1993-94 in 16 southern district at least 10 thousand cases were reportedly recorded and 175 people were killed, it is learnt.

A modern hospital for the tribals at last

From CHT Correspondent

ALIKADAM (Bandarban), June 16: The construction of 31 bed modern hospital at Alikadam thana headquarters of the district at a cost of Taka four crore is nearly completed. About 85 per cent works of the hospital has already been done.

A source close to the under construction hospital said, three construction firms entrusted with the job will implement the entire project by August next. The project was undertaken with an aid from OPEC, the sources added.

The under-construction hospital, on completion will bring more than 40 thousand

people in the medicare services network of the country. Alikadam, a thana situated in the more inaccessible area than seven other thanas of the district is deprived from any sorts of modern facilities and technological development.

For nearly a century the tribal and non-tribal people of the thana are solely depended on herbal treatments for the recovery from the diseases in absence of hospital and doctors. The construction of the hospital made the people of the inaccessible area optimistic that they will get better medicare services.

Visiting World Bank mission

Expresses satisfaction on Forest Resources Management Project

From A K M Zahoorul Huq

CHITTAGONG, June 16: A model participatory concept is being introduced through the Forest Resources Management Project, FRMP, said Orhan Baykal, adding that the participation of the people for both forest development and conservation should be on the basis of sharing the crops and in no way the forestry lands can be allocated to the participants for doing permanent agriculture.

After visiting the plantation and nurseries raised with the fund of the World Bank as well as other related fields of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Forest Division in Chittagong Forest Circle, the World Bank Mission consisting of Jan Weizen Berg, the Chief of agriculture sector in Bangladesh of the World Bank and Orhan Baykal, and executive based at World Bank head office in Washington expressed their satisfaction on the over all activities carried out with World Bank aid in

Forestry Resources Management Project in Chittagong Forest Circle, it was learnt.

Taking lands from the forestry uses and putting the same for some other permanent use would require decision from the government. Taking out lands from forestry and putting the same for other uses is a national level issue and should not be handled by the Forest Department itself only, Baykal told the local officials during discussion.

The World Bank Mission during the field trips held discussion with the concerned Divisional Forest Officers and local Forestry Officials.

Discussing on the income-generating methods for the participants, Baykal expressed that the 'Taungya system' (Inter Cropping Agriculture with forestry species for one or two years) may, however, be allowed.

During the visit, the World Bank Mission held a discus-

sion meeting with Ghulam Habib, the Conservator of Forest, Chittagong Forest Circle at his Conference room, the Washington based World Bank official stressed the need of a total re-organization of the forestry field in respect of manpower and development strategies. The existing man power in the forestry sector in Bangladesh in no way adequate in the present context, he observed, adding that in recently the importance of forest management throughout the globe has increased for better management of balanced environment.

Enhanced forestry activities for establishing a balanced environment is required, he observed. The World Bank mission during their visit, it was learnt, that they have felt the necessities of increasing staff and officers of the Forest Department to cope with the present increased forestry activities all over the country.

They also have felt the necessity of filling up the vacant posts of officers and staff through new recruitment.

At the time of their visiting Forest Academy at Chittagong, they expressed their opinion in favour of starting training courses for the officers and staff, it was gathered.

The mission visited in 1994 plantation at Feni block in Korerhat, Participatory Forestry Development Pilot site at Sadhampur of Kalipur range, 1993 plantation at Harbang and Chunati range, 1993 and 1994 plantation at Nalbila, participatory forestry development plantation in Joiranala and Meherghona and 1993, 1994 and 1995 plantation at Khunia Palong.

An area of 19,095 hectares of lands brought under plantation cover in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Forest Division from 1992-93 to 1994-95 with the fund from the World Bank, it was gathered.

Despite natural odds

Plantation of 65 pc seedlings, stumps completed in KPPD

From CHT Correspondent

KAPTAI (Rangamati), June 16: Despite a lot of natural odds, planting of 65 per cent seedlings and stumps on an area of 3,350 acres of denuded hills in Kaptai Pulpwood Plantation Division (KPPD) has already been completed, said Alauddin Biswas, the Divisional Forest Officer of KPPD.

In an interview with The Daily Star at Arachhari, a plantation zone of KPPD, some 35 kilometres from Karnafuli hydro station in the inaccessible jungle on June 13, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) said, "I am confident that the entire area planned for raising plantation will be covered with seedlings and stumps of short and long rotation trees by the end of June overcoming any natural regards." KPPD has taken a programme for raising plantation for greening the denuded hills areas covering an area of 3,350 acres in this fiscal to be ended on June 30.

Planting of seedlings of different species of pulpwood and long rotation trees like champaful, chapalish, garjan, jarul, shikora etc as well as stumps of teak is progressing fast engaging about 1600 plantation workers at Arachhari, Dhanuchhari, Kukkyachari, Jimram and Razvilla on unclassified state forest land. Moreover, more than 150 forest officials of different ranks and status have been working and supervising the plantation programme, said Alauddin Biswas.

Elaborating the numerous problems faced in carrying out plantation works in the inaccessible jungles, the DFO said, the fatal and unavoidable disease of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, like malaria has reportedly been attacking his staff and plantation workers. None escaped from the shaking touch of the attacking mosquitoes. Cent per cent of his staff and workers were attacked with malaria — 50 of

them 10 to 15 times from March 95, till now and no body suffered not less than 5 times. Syed Abul Bashar, a Rang Officer of KPPD died of malaria last year. With the repeated attack of malaria, the people working in the malaria-prone zone have been loosing their resistance and simultaneously the available and conventional malaria drugs are proving to be inactive both in recovery and prevention of malaria, Biswas added.

Beside, malaria, the reckless and frequent movement of marauding wild elephant in herds has been creating another problem in carrying out ceaseless plantation works. The panicked work-forces engaged in plantation are protecting themselves somehow.

The continuous severe drought has damaged five per cent of the planted seedlings, delayed the start of plantation for more than one month.

Young hotel staff commits suicide

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, June 16: An employee of a local residential hotel allegedly committed suicide Tuesday at 10:30 am by hanging with a rope, police and hotel sources said.

Nizamuddin, 18, an employee of Khan Boarding, Court Road of Khagrachhari town was found hanging with a rope in room number 20 of the hotel. Khagrachhari police, on information, recovered the body. The room was closed from inside, the police said.

The body of Nizam was sent to his parents at Fatehpur in Sonagaji thana of Noakhali district after autopsy.

Nizamuddin, son of Khayez Ahmed was working in the hotel for the last few years. His younger brother has been working in the house of the owner of Khan Boarding, the sources said.

Woman found dead in Sailkupa

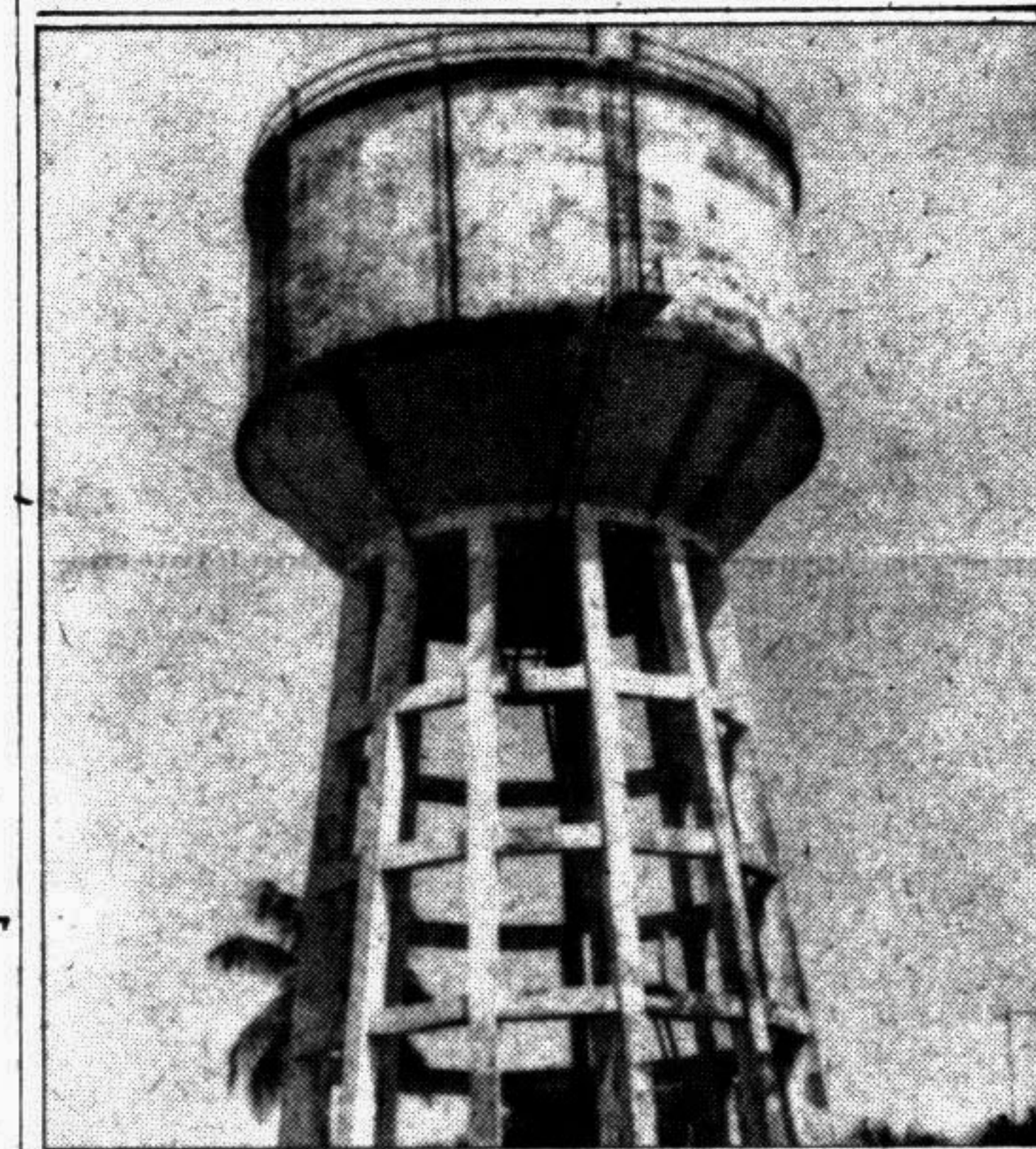
From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 16: Bena Pani Kundu, 40, of village Sailkupa Maddhya Para was reportedly killed by some unknown persons Tuesday night.

According to police, she was found dead on her verandah at 9:30 pm Tuesday night. Enmity between the victim and her neighbours might be the cause of the death, police suspects.

A case was filed with Sailkupa thana in this connection. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Another report says, all the two cardphones at Sailkupa town of the district went out of order for last few days causing suffering to the people, specially, the journalist it is reported. The authorities told that they were trying to remove the difficulties.



SIRAJGANJ: The only water tank currently in operation for supplying water in Dhanbandi. — Star photo

The mighty Brahmaputra now a mere canal

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, June 16: The once mighty Brahmaputra is now turning into a canal due to rapid siltation. It has lost its normal flow from the source in the eastern Himalayas down to its mouth. The river is nearly 3000 km long and flows through Dibrugarh, Gauhati and Meghalaya of India and pours before pouring into Bangladesh from the eastern side at the Garo Hills.

From Dewanganj, Nalitabari, Jhenaidah, Sherpur, Jamalpur down to Bhairab Bazar where the river meets Meghna. Thousands of shoals and sand banks have appeared on its streams. On the eastern outfall numerous depression have sprung up. Very small quantity of water is trickling down the Brahmaputra. Once quarter mile wide river is now shrinking into a five to seven metre wide water drain.

On the soggy shoals, farmers grow paddy, wheat, groundnut and pulses. Some where there is bean and pumpkin, machans. Breaking knee-deep water people cross Brahmaputra.

There is brisk business of digging sand and dumping that on the bank for sale. Cultivators plant transplanted boro over the sand bank.

Sumsul Mia, a sand supplier earlier he was a day labour of Kulurchar area under sadar Sherpur thana said he along with other colleagues come to Brahmaputra adjacent ferry ghats to dig sand which provides him means of living. He earns Taka 45 to 50 a day. He said all alone Dewanganj, Nalitabari, Jhenaidah, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Nan

dina, Begunbari, Noorundi, Riazpur, Biddaganj and Mymensingh Brahmanputra is drying up and leaving chars.

Nurul Islam, 55, of Jhenai Bridge under Melanda thana, a local farmer said, "we do not blame anyone for over misfortune of not having water in Brahmanputra."

In reply to a question why Brahmaputra and other rivers in this region is running dry even in rainy seasons an engineer of Water Development Board said.

Numerous haors, baros, oxbow lakes depressions have been formed due to the seventeenth century earthquake. Besides due to several barrages in its up streams, the natural flow of its water has been interrupted. Massive siltation of the river bed has also aggravated the problem.

BAU students observe strike

MYMENSINGH, June 16: Students of Agriculture Faculty of Bangladesh Agricultural University enforced a week-long two-hour token strike from Tuesday to realise their four point demand, reports UNB.

They will observe a day-long strike on Monday to press their demands, including appointment of the Agriculture Faculty students in the BCS cadre.

Their demands also include solution to their unemployment problem by arranging a special BCS examination, steps for ensuring job for them in different sectors, including agriculture.

Dacoits loot house, kill one in Bhola

BHOLA, June 16: A young man was stabbed to death by dacoits when he tried to resist the gang from committing dacoity in his brother-in-law's house in Char Umed union of Lalmonir thana recently, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 stormed the house of Johiruddin and looted property worth Tk 70,000 at dead of night.

Shahjahan, 28, brother-in-law of Jahir was stabbed mercilessly when he caught one of the miscreants while they were trying to decamp with the booty. Shahjahan died on the spot.

Meanwhile, hearing the hue and cry, the villagers rushed to the spot and caught red-handed two dacoits — Elias and Shahabuddin — while others managed to escape.

Tempo overturns: 1 killed, 5 hurt

CHITTAGONG, June 16: One person was killed and five others were injured when a passenger tempo overturned near Chittagong Export Processing Zone at Patenga on Thursday, reports BSS.

According to port police, the accident occurred when a tempo carrying eight passengers was heading towards Saltghola crossing, suddenly the wheels of the tempo was disconnected and the tempo overturned.

One person died on the spot and five others received injuries. The injured were locally treated.

The dead was identified as Parimal, 32, an employee of Chittagong Port Authority.

Contractors assault staff of R&H in Khagrachhari

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, June 16: An accountant of Roads and Highways Division-II was smitten by the unscrupulous contractors allegedly for informing the higher authorities for the irregular and undue payment made to them on June 6 last.

Maqbul Ahmed, an accountant of the Khagrachhari Roads and Highways Division-II had informed the higher authorities of few irregularities on contractors' payment, like over payment several times higher than the scheduled rate made to a construction firm and to suspend payment to another firm for specific corruption made in connivance with the supervising engineers.

The frantic contractors with their hoodlums manhandled the officer on June 6 last afternoon and assaulted the accountant for his so-called 'good manship and non-cooperation,' the sources from the office said.

No case was filed however in this connection allegedly for threat from the contractors and lenient view of the engineers, it was alleged.

UP chairman, member sued for defalcating allotted rice

From CHT Correspondent

MATRANGA (Khagrachhari), June 16: The Khagrachhari district unit of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption has indicted an union parishad chairman and member allegedly for misappropriating rice allotted for distribution among the inmates of the cluster villages.

Chairman, Abul Kashem Bhuiyan and Ali Newaz, a member of Tabalchhari union parishad in Matiranga thana of the district misappropriated rice worth over Taka 2.5 lakh allotted for distribution among the card-holders of the cluster villages, the case records say.

After the investigation Shafiqur Rahman, an assistant inspector of the District Anti-corruption Bureau lodged the FIR with the Matiranga thana police on June 8.

Housewife commits suicide

KUSHTIA, June 16: A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Shehala of Daulatpur thana, reports UNB.

The reason behind the alleged suicide of Sakura Khatun, 50, wife of late Mintoo Halsana of Shehala village, could not be known immediately.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: A man who was seriously injured by his opponents on June 4 succumbed at the district sadar hospital on Sunday.



Smuggled Indian goods seized by BDR from Jessore border recently. — Star photo