# heroin in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 22: With the help of Jamshed Ali Bhuiyan, Superintendent of Police, Pabna, the officials and men of the Directorate of Drug Control Pabna Sadar Circle, conducted a surprise raid upon a secret information in the Bara Bazar of Pabna Town recently and recovered 30 grams of heroin from one Abul Kalam Rabi, 10 grams from one Abul Hossain and after searching their shops. recovered 10 grams more thus totalling 50 grams of heroin, one sharp knife and weighing nikti, pipe used for smoking and other related materials.

While conducting above raid, Abul Kalam Rabi, at one stage, attacked the drug control men but he was overpowered and caught redhanded both the above named accused persons but their another accomplice, named Abdur Razzaque, succeeded somehow in fleeing.

In yet another raid conducted recently under the leadership of Azizul Haque, Inspector, Pabna Sadar Circle, Drug Control Directorate, 68 bottles of Indian phensidyle were recovered from a bus named Khan Travels standing near old bus stand within Pabna town.



PABNA: Arrested Abdul Kalam Rabi and Abdul Hossain are seen with 50 grams of heroin and one knife allegedly recovered from them from Pabna Bara bazar re-- Star photo cently.

One jailed for

raping minor

girl in Pabna

Sessions Judge, Second

Court and Judge, Special Tri-

her judgment, found accused

Babloo, son of Md. Kobad

Sardar of village Pukurpar,

Ps. Bera, district Pabna, guilty

for committing rape upon a

under Section 4 (d) of Re-

pression upon Women's Act

of 1983 and Sentenced him

to suffer rigorous imprison-

ment for a term of five years

and to pay a fine of Tk 3,000.

and, in default of payment of

fine, to suffer R.I. for a fur-

Banoo, a nine-year old minor

daughter of day-labourer

Mangal Sheikh of village Ra-

jarampur of Bera thana went

to nearby char of Raghu-

nathpur for cutting grass for

the domestic cattle of her fa-

Babloo forcibly unclothed her

and committed rape upon

her. At this, bewildered Lal

Banoo cried out, raised a hue

and cry and the neighbourers

rushed to the spot, recovered

her but they failed to catch

The father of the girl then

lodged a case with Bera

thana, police there upon

took up the task of investiga-

tion and upon completion of

investigation, submitted a

charge-sheet against the ac-

Landless people's

ultimatum to

Lalmonirhat DC

committee of landless people

in Sadar thana gave a three-

day ultimatum to the admin-

istration to take positive de-

cision for distributing khas

land of the local airport area

while several thousand land-

less people of four unions

near the airport, used during

the World War II, observed a

sit-in in front of the Deputy

Commissioner's office on

Harivanga Bimanbandar An-

dolon Committee' submitted'

a memorandum to Deputy

Commissioner Kazi Farid

Ahmed demanding immedi-

ate decision about the 1200

acres of disputed land ac-

quired during the World War

The demonstrators with-

drew their sit-in when the

DC accepted the memoran-

dum and assured that im-

mediate steps would be taken

in this regard. He also told

them that local administra-

tion had already informed it

Earlier, the landless peo-

ple also brought out a proces-

to higher authorities.

sion in the town.

The committee known as

Saturday.

The ultimatum was given

among them, reports UNB.

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 22: A

hold of Babloo.

Meanwhile, accused

On October 10, 1988. Lal

ther period of six months.

#### Surprise police raid Diarrhoea claims 840 lives recovers 50 grms of in Sylhet Division in 45 days

health centres and thana health complexes are also

From Staff Correspondent

In Sylhet district, the

worst affected areas are in

Gowainghat thana, where at

least 120 died of the disease

during the last one and a half

months. Most of them died

getting no treatment. Besides

many other deaths were not

reported to the authorities.

The Thana Health Complex is

being manned by only four

Medical Officers against eight

posts for long. Hundreds of

diarrhoea patients who reach

the Thana Health Complex

have to return disappointed

due to the absence of Medical

Officers and other staff there,

it is alleged. Many patients

also died in the hospital

without getting any treat-

ment. The hospital authori-

ties can not send patients to

the Medical College Hospital

School girl

allegedly raped

From Our Correspondent

Sandha Bala, 15, of village Hi-

tal Khali under Assassuni

thana was allegedly raped by

one Daud Hosain of village

Tuardanga of the same thana

in a bush near Tuardanga vil-

sources, the victim, Sandha

who is a student of class IX of

Tuardanga High School, was

returning home after partici-

pating in a training pro-

gramme on "promotion of

oral rehydration therapy

project' from Assassuni thana

According to police

lage on November 7 last.

SATKHIRA, Nov 22: One

SYLHET, Nov 22: With further spreading of the disease diarrhoea in all the four districts of greater Sylhet. the number of deaths has risen to 840 in last one and a half months. More than eight thousand others were also suffering from the disease in different thanas, Most of them are children and

women. With such outbreak of diarrhoea, a serious situation has been prevailing in the region, severely hit by repeated floods, storms and other calamities. Acute scarcity of drinking water due to the shortage of necessary number of tubewells, and absence of minimum sanitation had also contributed much to the situation. The situation is worst in the remote areas especially in the outlying haor thanas of Sunamganj and Habiganj districts, where poor communication facility is the number one problem.

According to the reports. official and unofficial from different thanas, a total of 410 people died of the disease in different thanas of Sylhet during the last one and a half months. The sudden outbreak of the dreaded disease has made thousands of people panicky. The situation has worsened due to the absence of minimum activities of the health department in the remote villages. However, the villagers were following the indigenous treatment

There has been an acute scarcity of Oral Rehydration Saline (ORS) in the open markets. The government hospitals including the rural

or other government hospitals in the district headquarlacking both oral and intraters as there is no ambulance. veinous salines, it is alleged.

All the eight unions, Rustampur, Alirgaon, Toakul, Nandirgaon, Lengura, Purba Jafflong, Pashchim Jafflong and Fatehpur under Gowainghat are badly affected. Official sources claimed that three medical teams had been working in the thana.

Companyganj is another worst-hit thana, where diarrhoea has claimed more than one hundred people during the last one and half months. More than two thousand others were also suffering from the disease.

The official sources, however, denied to give any detailed information about the situation there and measures taken to combat the widespread attack of the disease in different villages.

In the district of Sunamganj, diarrhoea has claimed at least 220 people during the last one and half months. At least 3 thousand others were also suffering from the disease in different thanas.

In the district of Moulvibazar, the number of people died of diarrhoea would be at least 90 during the last one and half months.

The disease has claimed at least 120 lives in the district of Habigani.

An immediate and effective programme should be taken up by the health department to bring the situation under control in all the four districts of Sylhet Division, it is widely felt.



Romain Vuillaume, First Secretary of the Embassy of France seen handing relief materials including lungis, saris, oral salines, sanitary tubewells to some flood affected families of Bandor thana in Narayanganj on Monday last.

### Fate of Islamic Commercial Cooperative Bank undecided

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET. Nov 22: The fate of Islamic Commercial Cooperative Bank is still lying undecided even after three and a half years of closure of all its three branches in Sylhet. Several thousand depositors, who had deposited more than Taka two crore with these branches have been passing their days through serious despondence, neither the law enforcing agency nor the authorities took any effective measures yet.

the bank in Sylhet town was sealed by an order of the then Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet following a petition of Sad Uddin, Manager of the branch of July 6, 1992. The administrative officials did not even ask the Co-operative Department which gave registration to the bank earlier. it is alleged. Surprisingly, the managers of two other branches of the same bank at Biswanath thana headquarters and Charkhai bazar in Sylhet locked up their branches and fled away just after the sealing of the Sylhet branch. Moreover, they were not keeping any contact with

The Laldighirpar branch of

Following the sealing of

RAJSHAHI, Nov 22: The

process of preparing and dis-

tributing Identity Cards (ID)

for the voters of Rajshahi dis-

trict began here on Nove-

mber 9. The process was

formally inaugurated by AFM

Yahia Chowdhury, the

Divisional Commissioner of

Rajshahi at the Sunflower

Kindergarten School prem-

ises in the city through a

simple function. The function

was presided over by the

Deputy Commissioner of

that the process of preparing

and distributing ID cards for

voters of the country began

on October 8 all over the

delayed for the last devastat-

ing floods in the northern

districts. It was learnt that a

total of 10,70,020 voters -

5,28,599 male and 5,41.421

female have been registered

in Rajshahi district. Accor-

ding to the District Election

Officer's office, 2.00,600

voters - 97,374 male and

1.03.226 female in 52.

Rajshahi one election area

comprising Godagari and

Tanore thanas have been

registered. Out of 2,85,287

voters of 53-Rajshahi two

election seat comprising

Poba, Rajpara, Boalia, Shah

Mekkdum and Motihar

thanas, 1,44,072 are male

and 1,41,215 are female. In

54-Rajshahi three election

area comprising Mohanpur

and Bagmara thanas 2,14,166

male and 1,20,905 female

voters have been enlisted

making the total number of

voters in this area 2.35,071.

1,70,080 voters — 83,472

male and 86,208 female -

have been registered in 55-

Rajshahi-four election area

comprising Puthia and

Durgapur thanas. And in 56-

Rajshahi-five election seat

comprising the two thanas of

Charghat and Bagha, the total

number of registered voters

is 1,79,382, out of which

89.515 are male and 89.867

are female.

But the process was

It may be mentioned here

Rajshahi Abdul Malek.

country.

the Department of Co-opera-

the Sylhet branch, there were a number of allegations of misappropriations of huge amount of money from the depositors accounts in the, bank, against the manager, Sad Uddin. Immediately. afterwards police arrested him. However, he was soon granted bail. The case was referred to the Bureau of Anti-Corruption. Mysteriously, the Bureau later informed that, the department had nothing to do with the matter.

It was further alleged that, the bank was previously authorised as a Cooperative Society only, not as a bank. But, the manager began functioning it as a full fledged commercial bank and opened a good number of accounts collecting huge amount of money from 5000 depositors.

The Co-operative Department once ordered to wind up the bank in the middle of 1992. Sad Uddin, Manager, of the Laldighirpar branch of Sylhet town then hurriedly urged upon the Deputy Commissioner for sealing of the branch. The district officials of the Co-operative Department made an audit into the Laldighirpar branch after the branch manager came out on bail. The audit team de-

tected large-scale irregularities and misappropriation of huge amount of money from the accounts of depositors in the bank, it was alleged. It was reported that, the Cooperative Department took no further step as they were not involved with the sealing of the bank.

The audit report however, revealed that, Sad Uddin, Manager of Sylhet branch of the bank issued on OD (Over Draft) for Taka 22 lakh in the name of a firm whereas he had a limit of only Taka fifty thousand. The Manager sanctioned another Over Draft in favour of a different firm for Taka fifteen lakh against a mortgage of property worth about only Taka two lakh. He himself after committing all these irregularities urged the Deputy Commissioner for sealing the bank branch. He lobeyed for sealing the bank branch when all his misdeeds were just about to be de-

The ill-fated depositors had demanded for an immediate enquiry into the matter and for taking necessary measures to ensure return of their deposited money lying with the three branches in Sylhet for over three years.

tected it was alleged.

## Battle of Maktinagar Story on liberation war

From Our Correspondent PABNA, Nov 22: Begum JESSORE, Nov 22: Today Laila Salma Banoo, Assistant 22nd November is a red-let-

Liberation War. bunal, Pabna, while delivering Twenty four years ago, on this day in 1971 Jessore western front was liberated from Pakistani occupation army by allied forces comprising Indian Army and minor girl, convicted him Freedom Fighters at the battle of Muktinagar under Singhajhully union of Chowgachha thana in the district. According to documentary

ter day in our history of the

evidence and local sources. this battle was a major offensive that reversed the plans of Pakistani Army and silenced them for good. Battle of Muktinagar lasted

for two days. It started on November 21 and ended the next day. According to detailed account, the battle took four days to start from November 18. Sirajul Islam of Mashila.

Dola Mia of Ramkrishnapur ex-chairman, Sukpukuria union, Mohiuddin chairman, Nagorborni High School Managing Committee Abdur Rashid all under Chowgachha thana told the Daily Star that Pakistani Army closed their border out posts 2 and marched forward by November 18 towards Chowgachha. Witnesses said that the

army convoy made no stopover at Chowgachha nor lost any time on their journey.

EX-member Shinghathully union Dewan Wahed Ali, exchairman Chowgachha union Shahadat Hossain and Abdul Latif of Jamalta said that Pakistani Army broke journey at Shinghajhully in the morning of Thursday on November 19 and took position around local mango grove. This decision created new apprehension among all supporters of Liberation War and forced many of them to go on hid-

Sources, said that in the afternoon a small contingent of Pakistani Army were sent to Sabea hat the same day. Thursday was then hat-day There they raided the bazar during trick-hours of the hat and went on hunting to track down the Mukhtibahimis or FFs.

Thus innocent consumers were indiscriminately caught and beaten up.

The whole situation in the locality was in uncertainty and people were kept in suspense, till the next morning on Friday, November 20.

On the last day of holy Ramjan, very handful Muslims expressed their wishes to celebrate Eid the next day. Saturday but there was not much enthusiasm.

On this day at 10:30 am four Sabre-jets flew over from Jessore base and bombed the border areas including Kochubila, Mashila and the extreme border points heavily in a bid to de-

stroy the FFs camps. Suddenly two of the jets were shot down by the antiaircraft guns belonging to the FFs but both the jets safely

returned to base, said a restrewn on the battle field till

Pilot Officer of PAF (Pakistan Air Force) Khaled Pervez was caught when he landed at Digalshinga under Chowgachha union by bailing out from the damaged jet. He was sent to Allied Force camp in India under escort of FFs, including Atlar Rahman Sarder of this village.

Situation worsened miserably following the air-attack. Pakistani Army became furious. Their movement grew suspicious. When everything on the landscape plunged into complete darkness at night, they left Shinghaihully mango grove, and moved in the Muktinagar filed. They built a fortified stronghold at the new site. six miles from the border.

According to Ashraf Ali. ex-member Shinghajhully union, Rajab Ali, Abdul Hamid of Goribpur, Waliul Is-

they perished in decomposition. They also said that poor farmers stopped work at the field as the entire environment was polluted by better smell of the corpses.

Dead bodies of Allied Forces, were taken back to

Pakistan Army lost every thing in this battle including their weapons and one squadron of tanks, the witnesses said.

Sources said that six tanks which remained serviceable were immediately shifted to Meraini, three miles from Boyra inside India and kept these under open sky for public display under care of Allied Forces.

Other four damaged tanks were left at Muktinagar battle field uncared and unprotected since long.

People from different places used to visit Muktina-

Meanwhile, a few local

people came with a proposal

to construct a platform of

the battle field site to pre-

serve the tanks and keep the

cepted. It failed to attract at

tention either of political

leaders as of district admin

But the idea was not ac-

Things that disappointed

all was selling of the four

tanks in auction by Jessore

Cantonment authority in

1974. The bidders took away

the body of the tanks by cut-

ting into prices and no body

raised any question even the

gannathpur remained in utter

negligence of all concerned

including the political lead

ers. Freedom Fighters and

the administration not to

speak of government till the

ex-deputy commissioner.

Jessore Dr. Mohiuddin Khan

Alamgir took-up a project in

lected all relevant records

and papers made through in-

vestigation of files and finally

decided to elevate dignity of

Jogannathpur as Muktinagar

Alamgir at his own col-

Muktinagar, originally Jo-

then-government.

1978.

the place.

of Liberation War.

place open exhibition.



A road side stone reads - Muktinagar showing the location of the battle field. - Star photo

lam of Jahangirpur, a large contingent of Pakistani Army came on patrolling up to Dhapari Math near Jahangirpur in small hours on November 21. On their way they shot at over a dozen of local villagers including Shamsuddin, of Jahangirpur, Surat Ali of Huda Fatepur and Suniti Kumar Dey Goribpur. They were encounter by Allied Forces in this field and were overpow-

Within minutes the actual was began and there was exchange of fire all around.

It was a fierce battle, described on survivour. There was stiff resistance from Pakistani Army who fought with all their might by applying latest strategy of war. They fired barrage of mor-

tar bombs, used machineguns under coverage of artillery shells and tanks to slow down advance of the FFs.

They even fought hand to hand and sometimes by rifle ends killing each other. Not only the total manpower of Pakistani Army of this battle . was annihilated but also the casualties on Allied Forces side was said to be more than that of the enemy

People of Muktinagar including Aminur Rahman, vice-chairman, Muktinagar High School and Ahad Ali. Doud Hossain of Goribpur told that countless number of mutilated bodies remained School named Shahid Sharani Sikka Nekaton. He took a package place

built a full-fledged High

including a public library, a museum, link-road and a hostel. But time was too short for him to complete the task. He was transferred in

1979. After this all the develof mens activities here came to a halt. Fortunately, the construction of the high school building was completed and made ready to work long seven years after upazila came into being. Due to fund constraints, most items remained untouched.

Victory Day is observed here every year with due enthusiasm. Political leaders including parliament members and valiant FFs from across the country participate in the function. They carry back the past-memories of Liberation War with commitment to do justice for development of the place historically so important.

The Head Master of Muktinagar Shahid Sharani Sikka Niketan Hasinur Rahman in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star said that after abolition of upazila, there is virtually no contribution from the thana parishad. Local managing committee was however very active to maintain the dignity of the school despite all limitations. He was categorical about its founder, Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, who is still the guiding spirit. He acts as a source of inspiration and encouragements to all who are associated with the school in any capacity.

Some local people also said that if the role and importance of mini-cantonment and mini-airport at Shahajadpur under Dhuliam union of Chowgachha thana is not discussed properly in connection with Muktinagar bat tle, injustice will be done to the real history.

In fact, it was the place from where all vehicles tanks arms and ammunitions were supplied to the battle field at Muktinagar and the whole war strategy was conducted and controlled from here all aircrafts flew from here for air attacks at Jessore including the cantonment.

All these were operated from this cantonment till Jessore was liberated on December 7. Two days before the Muk-

tinagar battle. Allied Force, overnight built emergency bailey bridge over the river Kapadak at Boyra ghat in India to connect Bangladesh trough Kabilpur point. The 25 mm guns that had

longest range to hit targets was also used from this cantonment first. It is now a paddy field

He chalked out a comwith varieties of growing prehensive programme for trees planted by respective Jogannathpur to get national land-owners.

There is no mark, or sign recognition as historic place expect for passers-by known persons, to identity Accordingly he renamed the place.

cards begins in Rajshahi dist From Our Correspondent

Distribution of voters' ID

All registered voters will be provided with identity cards by December 16 this year, it was learnt. To take photographs of

the registered voters for preparing and distributing identity cards centres or camps are being opened to cover every voters locality each of which are being kept open for three consecutive days from 8 am to 8 pm. In these camps, photographs of the voters are being taken and the laminated ID cards will be provided to the respective voters after they deposit the folios of the voter registration form. To make process of preparation and distribution of the identity cards for the voters 100 per

cent successful. People are being informed about the opening of the camps through media and other means so that they come to he camps in time. In addition to the concerned officials, three field workers have been appointed for each unit locality to turn the voters to the camp and thus make sure that each and every registered voter of the locality gets his identity card.

The inaugural function of the process of preparing and distributing identity cards for the voters of Rajshahi district was also attended by the Deputy Election Commissioner AR Siddigi and the District Election Officer Mohammad Musa.

#### Speakers stresses on establishment of AIDS hospitals in all dists

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 22: While addressing a workshop as its chief guest, A K M Fazlul Haque, Civil Surgeon, Pabna, called upon the people to be extremely cautious about the killer disease AIDS which already has been detected in different districts Bangladesh and no treatment of the same was available as yet. Prevention is the only security against this disease and that can alone be done through safe sexual perfor-

mances Organised by the Voluntary Organisation for the Needy (VON), the inaugural session of the workshop. held recently in the Pabna Community Clinic premises, was presided over by a social worker Mirzaul Islam Tara and was addressed, among others, by Anwarul Haque, a local journalist, Shyamal Prakash Adhikary, Director, Planning and Abdul Kader.

Central Co-ordinator, VON, and NGO. The civil surgect in his

speech further stressed the need of restoring values, religious ideals, resist moral degradation of the youth and encouraging use of condoms during sexual activities for preventing the disease.

The business session was presided over by Advocate Ramesh Mithra, a local journalist and was addressed Nilufar Quaderri, Rabeya Khatoon, K M Obaidur Rahman, Ragibul Taher Ujjal, Abdul Matin Khan and Juwei.

Addressing this session, Shyamal Kuman Adhikary, Director (Planning), VON, disclosed that so far 46 cases of AIDS patients have been detected in Bangladesh and suggested blood test of the couple before marriage, one time syringe for use in injections, sterilisation of blades before shaving.

In his presidential speech Ramesh Mithra stressed the need of establishing one AIDS hospital, introducing sex education and necessary blood test in every district.