

Surprise police raid recovers 50 grms of 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 nikt, pipe used for smoking and other related materials.



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 recently. — Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 840 lives in Sylhet Division in 45 days

From Staff Correspondent

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

health centres and thana health complexes are also lacking both oral and intravenous salines, it is alleged. 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 treatment. The hospital authorities can not send patients to the Medical College Hospital

or other government hospitals in the district headquarters as there is no ambulance.

All the eight unions, Rustampur, Alirgaon, Toakul, Nandirgaon, Lengura, Purba Jafllong, Pashchim Jafllong 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 Habiganj.

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 Bandar thana in Narayanganj on Monday last.

School girl allegedly raped

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 22: One Sandha Bala, 15, of village Hital Khali under Assassuni thana was allegedly raped by one Daud Hossain of village Tuardanga of the same thana in a bush near Tuardanga village on November 7 last.

According to police sources, the victim, Sandha who is a student of class IX of Tuardanga High School, was returning home after participating in a training programme on "promotion of oral rehydration therapy project" from Assassuni thana sadar.

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 were passing their days through serious despondence, neither the law enforcing agency nor the authorities took any effective measures yet.

The Laldighirpur branch of 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 Charkhal bazar in Sylhet locked up by Sylhet branches and fled away just after the sealing of the Sylhet branch. Moreover, they were not keeping any contact with the Department of Co-operatives.

Following the sealing of

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 Laldighirpur 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 Laldighirpur 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 Co-operative 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 an 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 lobbied for sealing the bank branch when all his misdeeds were just about to be detected, it was alleged.

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.

One jailed for raping minor girl in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 22: Begum Laila Salma Banoo, Assistant Sessions Judge, Second Court and Judge, Special Tribunal, Pabna, while delivering her judgment, found accused Babloo, son of Md. Kobad Sardar of village Pukurpar, Ps. Bera, district Pabna, guilty for committing rape upon a minor girl, convicted him under Section 4 (d) of Repression upon Women's Act of 1983 and Sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment 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 further period of six months.

On October 10, 1988, Lal Banoo, a nine-year old minor daughter of day-labourer Mangal Sheikh of village Rajampur of Bera thana went to nearby char of Raghunathpur for cutting grass for the domestic cattle of her father.

Meanwhile, accused Babloo forcibly unclothed her and committed rape upon her. At this, bewildered Lal Banoo cried out, raised a hue and cry and the neighbours rushed to the spot, recovered her but they failed to catch hold of Babloo.

The father of the girl then lodged a case with Bera thana, police there upon took up the task of investigation and upon completion of investigation, submitted a charge-sheet against the accused.

Landless people's ultimatum to Lalmonirhat DC

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 22: A committee of landless people in Sadar thana gave a three-day ultimatum to the administration to take positive decision for distributing khas land of the local airport area among them, reports UNB.

The ultimatum was given while several thousand landless 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 Saturday.

The committee known as 'Hariyanga Bimanbandar Andolon Committee' submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmed demanding immediate decision about the 1200 acres of disputed land acquired during the World War II.

The demonstrators withdrew their sit-in when the DC accepted the memorandum and assured that immediate steps would be taken in this regard. He also told them that local administration had already informed it to higher authorities.

Earlier, the landless people also brought out a procession in the town.

Battle of Maktinagar Story on liberation war

From Atiur Rahman

returned to base, said a report.

Pilot Officer of PAF (Pakistan Air Force) Khaled Pervaz was caught when he landed at Digalshingha under Chowgachha union by bailing out from the damaged jet. He was sent to Allied Force camp in India under escort of FFs, including Atiur 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 Shinghajhully mango grove, and moved in the Muktinagar field. 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-

strewn on the battle field till 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 India.

"Pakistan Army lost everything 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 Muktinagar.



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 Patapur and Suniti Kumar Dey of Goribpur. They were encountered by Allied Forces in this field and were overpowered.

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

It was a fierce battle, described on survivor. There was stiff resistance from Pakistani Army who fought with all their might by applying latest strategy of war.

They fired barrage of mortar 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, Daud Hossain of Goribpur told that countless number of mutilated bodies remained

gar. Meanwhile, a few local people came with a proposal to construct a platform of the battle field site to preserve the tanks and keep the place open exhibition.

But the idea was not accepted. It failed to attract attention either of political leaders as of district administration.

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 cutting into prices and no body raised any question even the then-government.

Muktinagar, originally Joganathpur remained in utter negligence of all concerned including the political leaders, 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 1978.

Alamgir at his own collected all relevant records and papers made through investigation of files and finally decided to elevate dignity of the place.

He chalked out a comprehensive programme for Joganathpur to get national recognition as historic place of Liberation War. Accordingly he renamed Joganathpur as Muktinagar.

Distribution of voters' ID cards begins in Rajshahi dist

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 22: The process of preparing and distributing Identity Cards (ID) for the voters of Rajshahi district began here on November 9.

The process was formally inaugurated by AFM Yahia Chowdhury, the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi at the Sunflower Kindergarten School premises in the city through a simple function. The function was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Abdul Malek.

It may be mentioned here that the process of preparing and distributing ID cards for voters of the country began on October 8 all over the country.

But the process was delayed for the last devastating 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. According 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 Mokkdu 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.

The civil surgeon in his

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 be 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 Siddiqi and the District Election Officer Mohammad Musa.

From Our Correspondent

Speakers stresses on establishment of AIDS hospitals in all dists

PABNA, Nov 22: While addressing a workshop as its chief guest, A K M Fazul 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 of 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 performances.

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 surgeon 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, Raqibul Taher Ujjal, Abdul Matin Khan and Juwel.

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.