

Bangladeshi, Indian citizens killed in C'Nawabganj: Tense situation prevailing

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI, July 16: A tense situation has been prevailing in the Shibganj border of Chapainawabganj district since last Saturday after the killing of 4 Bangladeshi nationals and one Indian citizen. The cause of killing could not be known.

Flood water traps 25,000 families in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, July 16: At least twenty-five thousand families in fourteen unions under Ganchhara, Kaunia and Pirgacha thanas of district were trapped by flood waters of river Teesta while two thousand families were any how rescued and sheltered on flood control embankment and other safer places.

According to information, flood situation in district is in a alarming stage as river Teesta was flowing one and half feet above danger mark till Monday although it receded slightly during last twenty-four hours.

Worst affected areas are Nohali, Katchua, Kolkond, Gajghanta, Mornia, Ganchhara, and Alakhtari unions in Ganchhara thana, Haragacha, Bala-para, Tepamandpur unions in Kaunia thana and Saola, Tambulpur and Annadanga in Pirgacha thana.

Most road links were snapped.

More villages in Sirajganj submerged

SIRAJGANJ, July 16: About a thousand mud-and-straw made houses in 16 villages in sadar thana were destroyed overnight by swirling water from the Jamuna, reports UNB.

People of these char areas started moving out to the town by boats after the flood water through a breach in embankment rushed into the area Sunday midnight.

The villages include Shim-lachar, Boyarpara, Khasboira, Moishakanga, Soyapara, Dougachhi, Chootokara, Rehahani, Bedakona and Kewakola.

With the swelling of Jamuna river by 20 cm in last 18 hours till Monday morning, flood situation elsewhere in the district also aggravated.

Situation in Kazipur, Chouhali, Sadar, Shahajpur and Rangaj thanas further deteriorated with the rise of the river water at Sirajganj point.

In Shahajpur, 15,000 people were marooned as 200 villages remained submerged while crops and seedbeds on 5,000 acres of land in Kazipur thana were affected in the flood.

School girl kidnapped

SATKHIRA, July 16: A schoolgirl was kidnapped and allegedly raped by miscreants at Aulia village in Shyamnagar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of miscreants kidnapped the girl, 14, while she was returning home from the school. They took her to a nearby jute field and allegedly violated her one after another.

She was rescued by local people in an unconscious condition and admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition. Police arrested one Ashraf in this connection.

Strike at RU: Administrative works totally crippled

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI, July 16: The strike of employees and officers crippled almost all official activities of Rajshahi University Sunday. The Karmacharee Oikya Parishad (3rd class and 4th class employees union) started a 5-day-long strike from Sunday morning.

2 Indian fishermen rescued

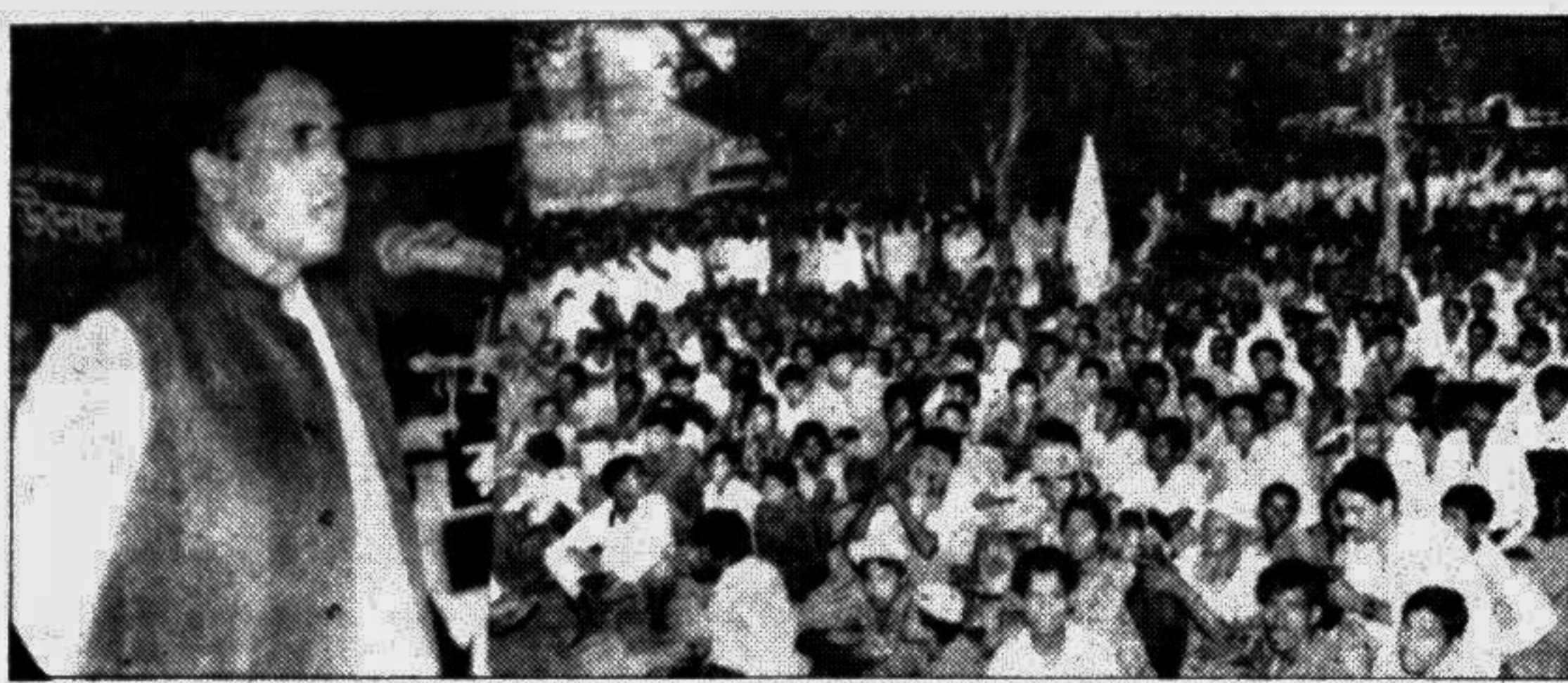
COX'S BAZAR, July 16: Two Indian fishermen, said to have been lost in deep sea more than a month ago, were rescued yesterday morning by local fishermen from Bangladesh maritime area, about 240 kilometres from here, reports UNB.

They were brought to Cox's Bazar and handed over to Sadar thana police at 8:30 pm yesterday.

Police sent to two fishermen, identified as N Kalavanan, 34, and N Kaliyaperumal, 46, of Madras, India, to the district court hajjat today for their safety.

Police said they would be contacting the Indian Embassy in Dhaka in this regard.

One of the rescued fishermen, N Kalavanan, told UNB correspondent in broken English today that they were lost in deep sea in the Indian ocean since June 8 as the engine of their fishing trawler went out of order during a storm.



Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak addressing a public meeting in sadar thana of Shariatpur district last Friday. — Star photo

600 villages in Jamalpur flooded in last 48 hrs

From Md Meherullah About 70 per cent areas of the district went under waters in the latest flood.

The district administration is yet to estimate the losses due to flood.

Meanwhile, according to local sources, the flood water submerged newly transplanted aman paddy, aman seed beds, jute, sugarcane and others seasonal crops on about two lakh acres already destroyed.

Many new points of flood protection embankment in various places of the district were body damaged. Many dwellings damaged due to flood.

A total of 200 educational institutions of the flood affected areas were also declared closed for due to flood.

Over one lakh people belonging to 42 flood affected unions were compelled to take shelter on flood control embankment near Bahadurabad ghat. They are mostly living under open sky and were helplessly braving torrential rains.

About two lakh people have been marooned in different thanas of the district. No rescue operation as yet been started to evacuate the flood affected people.

The newly constructed FAP embankment near Bahadurabad ghat at a cost as Taka 53 crore was threatened by erosion as Jamuna river. Some portion was already washed away, it was learnt from official source.

The devastating erosion hit as Bahadurabad ghat railway ferry jetty areas. As a result rail communication between Bahadurabad ghat to Teestamukh ghat disrupted.

On the other hand, erosion has taken a serious turn in some river adjoining areas of the district.

The government has sanctioned Taka 50,000 in cash and 50 metric tons as wheat as relief for the flood victims in the district, according to district flood control room.

The Daily Star correspondent, while visiting the affected areas in five thanas of the district gathered that road link between district town and other thanas headquarters were snapped due to inundation by flood water.

Artificial insemination in goats developed

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh) July 16: Dr Mohammed Shamsuddin, Assistant Professor of Bangladesh Agricultural University has developed a sustainable technique for Artificial Insemination (AI) in goats, says a press release.

It has been proved true after one and a half years of research work led by Dr Shamsuddin, a teacher of the BAU veterinary science faculty, sponsored by International Foundation for Science, Stockholm, Sweden.

In this technique, semen is collected by artificial means from healthy breeding sound bucks diluted with artificial medium prepared in the laboratory and placed a spastically in the uterus of doe using a special catheter. The passage of the catheter is facilitated by using a vaginal speculum. One ml of buck ejaculate contains five to ten billion spermatozoa which is enough to inseminate at least 20 female goats.

Dr Shamsuddin hopes, upon refinement of few technical details for the preservation of semen, the technique will be ready to be used at the field level very soon. He further highlights, the technique of AI in goats is not at all difficult, provided with sufficient training, any veterinarian and AI technician will be able to perform the job in parallel to their daily veterinary activities.

Flood worsens in Sherpur

SHERPUR, July 16: Three more unions in sadar thana were flooded as Brahmaputra continued to swell Monday, reports UNB.

Officials in Jamalpur district said the river marked a sharp rise at different points of the region during the period and was flowing 1.16 metre below its danger mark.

Meanwhile, a 33000-KV tower of the Power Development Board near Sherpur ferry ghat has been threatened by the river erosion.

Body recovered

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, July 16: Kotwali police recovered a body from the river Kirtonkhola near the north Lamchhari village under Sadar thana this afternoon.

According to police, the victim was identified as Babul Howlader, aged about 35, of Charmonai. He went for fishing last night and somehow fell into the river.

The body was sent to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College hospital for autopsy.



PABNA: A team of doctors conducted a health camp here recently and rendered treatment to 820 patients attacked with various diseases. The camp was sponsored by Dhaka Community Hospital. — Star photo

Encroachment on open water bodies hinder progress of fisheries project

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, July 16: Operation of Oxbow Lakes Small Scale Fisheries Project (second phase) extended to a total of five districts covering Jessore, Jhenidah Chuadanga, Kushtia and Faridpur districts is facing setback, following encroachment on open water by local people, said sources.

According to office source of the project director, beel, baor fisheries development project, Jessore, encroachment on public water bodies such as Oxbow Lakes are on steady increase adversely affecting freshwater and fish production thus damaging the projects.

The source cited the Hamidpur baor, Bukhbora baor under Kotwali baor and Bahadur baor projects under Sharsha in the district as instance and said that a private individual has constructed cross dike in the Hamidpur baor claiming half of its water area as private land. Similarly, encroachment is allegedly being made in Bukhbora and Bahadur baors by small farmers by cultivating paddy occupying some portion of the lake areas during dry season. This is generating maximum water drainage from the lakes in December and January leaving low water level for the projects to culture fish in April and May.

There is no denying the fact that as a result, fish production is being drastically reduced. Besides, availability of water from shallow tubewells in the area around the lakes is also being threatened, the source informed.

A particular group of farmers, on the basis of DCR (Duplicate Carbon Receipt) issued by tahsilder, posted at union level, are encroaching in the lakes and behaving like owners challenging the projects authority.

When attention of the Project Director, Beel, Baor Fisheries Development Projects, M A Satter was drawn about the matter, he told The Daily Star that he brought it to the knowledge of the minister concerned during his recent meeting in Dhaka and he assured of immediate action to remove the problems in the interest of the projects. It may be noted here that DCR is such document that possession of any property on its basis for certain years without break makes one owner of it.

The Project Director said that in a bid to ensure development of fisheries demarcation of all public water bodies was urgently needed and change of character of land record was also needed to avoid conflict. He also said that in most cases precise location of lake was not specified in the handover document issued by Tahsil Office for reasons unknown. This, in fact, is the cause of all conflicts over possession of disputed water body areas.

He also added that definite policy on management of public water bodies such as the Oxbow Lakes and non-flowing rivers (khalis) was equally needed. If such government policy is formulated, encroachment can be limited while ensuring permanent income to the government from lease fees and a clear government order would help protect fishermen against encroachment on their traditional fishing grounds. Land Ministry has vital role to play in this connections. It can transfer stewardship of all water bodies to Fisheries Department in order to co-manage lakes by the government and fishermen jointly, the source said.

It may be mentioned here under Oxbow Lake projects II in Jessore, a total of 23 Lakes including 10 in Jessore, 6 in Jhenidah, 4 in Chuadanga, one in Kushtia and two in Faridpur have been handed over to Fisheries Department by Land Ministry for a period of 50 years and District Fishery Officer (DFO) acts as owner of the lakes.

It is learnt that all lakes are managed by fishermen themselves as they organise Lake Management Group (LMG) under Fisheries Department under assistance from BRAC. Lake Management Group (LMG) pay annual lease fees to Thana Fisheries Officer (TFO) and individual fishermen receive annual licences after approval by Thana Jal Mohal Committee.

Chief Technical Advisor to this Project Dr Hans AJ Mid-dendorp when contacted told this correspondent that Oxbow Lake Small Scale Fisheries Project II operating around Jessore, introduced self management of the lakes by people living around them. He also said that the project was funded by IFAD to government with support of technical assistance grant by DANIDA. He was confident that if the project was implemented jointly by Fisheries Department and 23 lake owners it will be a model for the nation. The project covering around 1400 hectares have been handed over to FD. BRAC organises target group, provides training and credit. All beneficiaries are below poverty lines (less than US \$ 250 annual income at least initially). It is a social fisheries project intended to manage lakes in such way as to spread benefits to vast bulk of poor people by maximising aquatic production. The open water is managed as culture base fisheries, enabling to stock and finance fingerlings themselves. Only licensed fishermen are allowed to fish.

It is hoped that achievement of Oxbow Lake Project will eventually be incorporated in government policy guidelines on much larger scale in the country if the major problems including encroachment faced by the projects are removed under specific order from Land Ministry sooner.

A dedicated social worker

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, July 16: Anwar Yousuf an incumbent in the Parliament election for Kushtia in a press conference held on Tuesday last said that he will work for the people so long he is alive to alleviate poverty under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

He said, that an institution is going to be set up in Kushtia from where the people of the area will be benefitted. All kinds of help and cooperation in their way of life and activities will be extended.

The institution funded by him, will set up nurseries in every union of the district and all kinds of plants and saplings will be distributed free of cost among the poor to increase the forest area of the district.

Decomposed body recovered

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, July 16: The body of Abu Taher, 40 of village garua in Nandail thana was recovered by the police last week. The decomposed body was found lying near village Baulai besides the bank of the Nourai river.

On getting information, police rushed to the spot and set the body for postmortem. Deceased Abu Taher went out of the house for going to Nandail bazar on July 3 and since then he had been missing.

A case was registered. The Chalan Beel, Kalam village and the famous 'Kancha-Golla' all have lost their fame.

There was a declaration for turning the 'Utara Gono Bhaban, better known as 'Boro Rajbari' (Royal palace) into a popular tourism spot. Unfortunately the valuable assets of Gono Bhaban have not been maintained properly. This royal palace over the years has been used as the VIP guest house by chiefs of various governments.

Due to administrative apathy and negligence of the Archaeological Department, the Rani Vabani palace and the Chawgram palace in the district may lose their historic image.

A project was under taken in 1977 for agricultural development in Chalan Beel area. But the project plan failed to get economical approval from any donor agency. Yet for this reason, people of this region have been deprived of extra amount of crops worth about Taka 10 crore.

The five-year long 3rd fisheries project for releasing fish into open Hali beel of this area has been closed after two years of its approval. This project could facilitate thousands of people of the beel area with protein food, if implemented.

Alleged robber held in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, July 16: Kotchhandpur police arrested an alleged bus dacoit while committing dacoity on Kotchhandpur-Kaliganj highway in the night of July 10 last, it is reported.

According to police, a gang of dacoits numbering 6 to 7 were committing dacoity barricading the road with an electric pole near Naodagram from a truck (Dhaka No-05475). Earlier the dacoits tied the driver and the helper and started driving the vehicle towards Jhenidah. When the dacoits reached near Tetultala bazar, Kotchhandpur police challenged them and the dacoits tried to flee. Police then nabbed Sakdur Rahman while others managed to flee.

A case was lodged with Kotchhandpur thana in this connection.

Primary health care centre inaugurated

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, July 16: A primary health care centre was inaugurated at Khaserhat, Kazirchar of Muladi thana of Barisal last week. The centre was inaugurated by Dr Mahiuddin, assignment officer, NGO affairs bureau of Bangladesh.

The health care centre was established by Community Service Centre (CSC), a NGO of Barisal. Dr Mahiuddin in his address said, qualified and highly educated doctors are not willing to go to the village areas to provide necessary treatment to the poor village people though they are involved with a noble service. It is very regrettable, he added, this mentality should be changed for the betterment of the poor people living in the remote areas of the country.



JHENIDAH: Rehana Akhter Hira, MP addressing a seminar on the occasion of World Population Day held at local pourashava auditorium early this week. The district Civil Surgeon, Dr Sardar Badaruddin is also seen. — Star photo

Review meeting on law, order held in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 16: The monthly review meeting on law and order situation of the district was held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The meeting chaired by DC A F M Abdul Haq, expressed satisfaction over the prevailing law and order situation in the district during the month of June.

The Deputy Commissioner, in his speech, thanked all for extending cooperation for holding the Jatya Sangsad election in the district in a free, fair and peaceful manner.

People of Natore fooled many times by political leaders

From M A Ali Himu

NATORE, July 16: None of the political leaders have fulfilled their promises given to the people of Natore during the last 24 years of liberty.

All the presidents, prime ministers and lcal leaders had given many assurances and promises in the period, for developing various sectors in Natore. But a few of them have kept their promises. So, history of Natore has not seen much of development as per the assurances. Rather the simple and modest people of Natore have lost many of their historical treasures.

The Chalan Beel, Kalam village and the famous 'Kancha-Golla' all have lost their fame. There was a declaration for turning the 'Utara Gono Bhaban, better known as 'Boro Rajbari' (Royal palace) into a popular tourism spot. Unfortunately the valuable assets of Gono Bhaban have not been maintained properly. This royal palace over the years has been used as the VIP guest house by chiefs of various governments.

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The work of the Gas-extraction project in Shingra thana was closed by the authority in a sudden decision in 1980-81 after spending huge amount of money.

In 1974, a television sub-station was set up at Natore. Later in the same year a decision was taken to turn the Natore TV substation into a full-fledged TV studio. But the decision of the then government has not been implemented yet.

It is learnt that different programmes including local news were broadcast from the then TV sub-centre in Natore during 1974-75. However, the news broadcasting from the station was later closed.

People of the district could not draw the kind attention of the then government about the full-fledged TV studio at Natore even after launching several agitation programmes.

Natore pourashava, which was established in 1869 has been used as an issue by different political leaders during election campaigns. But, the pourashava has not been upgraded into first class town.

Besides, a dream for turning the pourashava as a model town that was promised by the ministers and local leaders at the beginning of BNP rule has not come true.

One of the electoral promises of the immediate past government was to introduce honours course in Natore NS Government College. Sadly, this too was not fulfilled.

Assets worth lakhs of taka are gutted every year in six thanas of the district. But there is no second fire station in five other thanas except in sadar thana. The only two vehicles of the only fire station in the district are not also in good condition.

The BISC industrial estate here witnessed no development of industries after passing 14-year of its approval. Works of Natore modernised stadium has been remaining suspended for the last three years. Chalan Beel Museum in Gurudaspur thana has not marked any development since long.

'Narod' river in the town become a curse for many town-dwellers as it carries poisonous contaminated water. The sub-jail in sadar thana is now in poor condition while an old jail in Banpara has been remaining vacant for long. The sub-jail in sadar in now housing four times its prisoners capacity. An expert informed this correspondent that there is a possibility of setting up a paper mill at Natore with its huge growth of Sugar-cane. The authorities of National University and Open University may set up their regional information offices in Natore for the welfare of common students of this area. An agri-college may also be set up here. But, no effective steps have been taken yet by the leaders on behalf of local people.

400 grams of heroin seized in Tangail

From Our Correspondent TANGAIL, July 16: Acting on a secret information, Tangail thana police caught red-handed four persons from village Elenga under Kalihati thana and recovered 400 grams of heroin from their possession.

Those arrested are: Radha Chandra Rajbanshi Chhota, Kartick Chandra Rajbanshi, Bhabon Chandra Rajbanshi and Bhabon Chandra Rajbanshi Chhota. They all hail from village Pathandi of Kalihati thana. They were arrested under section 54 CrPC and were at once forwarded to the court. Seized heroin has been sent to Dhaka for chemical examination.



TANGAIL: The arrested persons from whom 400 grams of heroin was recovered recently. — Star photo