

## Huge quantity of contraband drugs seized in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 1: BDR personnel from Daulatpur BOP (border outpost) of Sharsha thana in the district recovered 918 bottles of phensedyl syrup worth Taka 1,10,160 from the border and arrested one alleged smuggler during their anti-smuggling operation on August 25 last, said an official source.

According to source, all the seized bottles of phensedyl were deposited with Jessore office of narcotics and drug control.

The arrested person was handed over to local thana police. A case was also recorded with the thana in this connection.

When contacted, the Commanding Officer (CO) BDR, Jessore Lt. Col. Monjur Kabir told The Daily Star that the seizure was the biggest haul of phensedyl during the current month. He also informed that BDR, Jessore, also recovered huge quantity of phensedyl from a Dhaka bound bus coming from Benapole at Murali near Jessore town and arrested one woman named Farida carrying the contraband.

It may be mentioned here that local town has been flooded with phensedyl syrup following its smuggling being rampant at different border points of the district in recent time.

It is alleged that its marketing in the town is almost open like a common item. In various parts of the town including Chanchra, Raipara, Tolatala, Sankarpur, Barandipura, Khaldar Road, Arabpur, WASA Puratankashba and many shops have cropped up for wholesale and retail selling of this contraband.

Reports received from

sources say that children are crowding these shops day and night to drink the phensedyl without protest from any circle.

Sources also say that phensedyl packed in drums, are being smuggled into the country from different border points of

Benapole. It is further learnt that from there, it is being transported to Jessore either by coach or truck.

According to witnesses phensedyl is sent to capital on night coaches. These are unloaded at Mirpur side and carried away by boat under cover of night.

What is most surprising is that this contraband along with other drugs is being openly sold at Benapole bazar drawing no attention of the authority concerned.



JESSORE: BDR from Sharsha thana BOP in a sudden raid recently confiscated 918 bottles of banned cough syrup - Phensedyl - while being smuggled into the country. One person was arrested, accused in the smuggling business. The haul was biggest during the month. — Star photo.

## Dr MAZ Khan new director of IBA, RU

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 1: Dr M. Ameruz Zaman Khan has been appointed Director of the newly created Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Rajshahi University. IBA has been established to fulfill the managerial deficiency of the country and to give impetus to the potential managers of northern region. Admission to the first batch of MBA students will start from the current Academic year.

It is second institute in Bangladesh in Business Administration. Professor Khan was the first MBA from the Indian University of USA during '60s and served Alcorn State University and Winston-Salem State University of USA as Assistant Professor of Business Administration prior to his return to Rajshahi University. During the last 35 years of teaching at Rajshahi University, professor Khan held offices of Chairman, Dept. of Management, Provost of Sher-e-Bangla Hall, member of Finance Committee of Rajshahi University and Islamic University, Chief Editor of RU Studies Journal (Business & Social Science), member of Senate and Academic Council.

In the social service account, Rtn. Professor Khan founded the Rotary Club of Rajshahi and Bangladesh Family Planning Association, Rajshahi, as founder General Secretary.

## Forest guard wounded in armed attack

From CHT Correspondent

ALIKADAM (Bandarban), Sept 1: An employee of the Forest Department was wounded when a group of armed illegal timber extractors stepped up attack on a Forest Protection Party at Babupara on the Matamuhuri river within the riverine belt of Alikadam thana in the district Thursday night, officials said.

Mohammad Muzib, 32, a Forest Guard of Alikadam Forest Range in Bandarban Forest Division sustained critical injury when the Forest Protection Party led by the Range Officer of Alikadam Forest Range was attacked by a group of armed illegal timber smugglers at Babupara on Matamuhuri river in Alikadam thana of the district Thursday night. The smugglers allegedly smuggling timbers reportedly extracted from the government reserved forests, officials said.

Forest Guard Muzib was admitted to Alikadam thana health complex with grievous injury.

A case was lodged with Alikadam thana police in this connection.

## Two children drown in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 1: Two children drowned in a pond adjacent to their dwelling house at village Shalmara under Gobindganj thana recently.

The two victims namely Housi Begum 5, and Azizur Rahman 6 of village Shalmara were taking bath in a nearby pond with some other mates. Suddenly they fell into the deep water and drowned instantly. Soon after the disappearance of victims other mates began hue and cry. Local people, however, rushed to the spot and launched a vigorous search. Later they recovered bodies of the victims.

## Addiction to phensedyl alarmingly increasing

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 1: Huge quantity of the drug, phensedyl, a cough syrup, are being smuggled into the country through some recognised border points of southern and western regions everyday and the demand for the banned drug is increasing alarmingly.

The drug is carried to some border areas in plastic containers or in drums. It is bottled in 114 ml. bottles for their consumers in Bangladesh.

Almost all the borders of Jessore, Satkhira, Jhenidah, Kushtia and Chuadanga are used as the 'transit' for phensedyl smuggling in Bangladesh. Kaliganj town of Jhenidah district is most important place for whole sale trading of the

hotcake item. At least 200 young and unemployed persons in the town are allegedly involved with the business. A good number of them are students, it was learnt.

At Kaliganj one bottle of phensedyl syrup is sold between Taka 65 and 100. From here phensedyl is carried elsewhere in cartons or in gunny bags. These are usually sent for Dhaka, Barisal or other parts in passengers buses.

A good number of women are also involved in carrying phensedyl syrup.

Jhenidah police recently raided a house at Sher-e-Bangla Road in Jhenidah town and recovered 115 bottles of phensedyl syrup. Five youngmen were arrested from the

spot.

Talking to a police officer it was learnt that most of the phensedyl addicts are college or university students.

Sher-e-Bangla Road, Hamdada, Beparipara, Modernpara, Arappur, Adarshapara, Chuadanga Standpara, Chaklapara and some other areas of Jhenidah town are well known spots for the trade of the drug. In these areas phensedyl syrup is sold through grocers.

A police official informed that the addicts youngmen are also taking the drugs which is alarmingly increasing in the town. He admitted that they often raid the area but fail to nab the illegal traders. Instead addicts get caught, he added.

## 60pc people of a thana have no access to medical facilities

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 1: More than 60 per cent people of Sripur thana in Magura district do not get access to medical facilities due to absence of adequate medical facilities, local and medical reports say.

According to the reports, in the health complex of Sripur thana, located at village Dariapur, about seven km from Sripur thana headquarters there is a virtually no proper medical facilities either from government or private except an age old charitable dispensary which was established during the British period in a tinshed building. The dispensary is conducted by a non-residential MBBS doctor without necessary medicine and equipment. As a result, people including officials, government and non-government employees of Sripur thana headquarters face serious problem when they are attacked by deadly diseases, local leaders told this correspondent.

A source said, Dariapur health complex can not provide

adequate medical treatment to one and half lakh people of Sripur thana due to lack of adequate medical facilities in the health complex.

According to the official sources, the 31-bed Dariapur health complex of Sripur thana was set up during the period of Pakistani rule. The road communication between Sripur thana headquarters and the said health complex is very poor.

Besides, 31-bed Dariapur health complex of the said thana is beset with manifold problems which include shortage of specialist physicians, ambulance, medicine and absence of isolation ward x-ray machine and blood bank.

The existing beds of the health complex can meet only 40 per cent requirement of the patients, said the official sources.

Official sources of Dariapur health complex (HC) told this correspondent that there is no ambulance available. As a result, severe problems arises to

bring patients having emergency cases. On the other hand, the authority of HC has to refer the dying patients of district sadar hospital by van rickshaw or baby taxi due to lack of ambulance. In many incidents dying patients expire on the way to hospital, sources added.

According to official sources, there is a provision to appoint at least six physicians in a HC.

It was revealed from a survey that there are only six to seven qualified doctors for one and half lakh people in Sripur thana. In many big huts and bazzars including Tikerbilla, Langabandha, Khamarpara, Amalsar of the said thana there are no qualified doctors at all. There are some union, health and family welfare centres in the said thana without having any qualified doctor attending the patients.

As a result, people belonging to poor families in the rural areas of the said thana have to depend on quack doctors for the remedy of their symptom.

## Jute growers not getting fair price of their products

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 1: Absence of jute purchasing centre is forcing jute growers to sell their products to middlemen incurring loss of Taka 120 to Taka 150 per maund.

According to jute growers, the only cash crop in seven thanas of the district, due to absence of purchasing centre, reluctance of jute exporters and millers and non availability of bank loan to purchase jute on part of buyers are compelling growers to sell their products at a nominal price to the middlemen.

According to official sources of Agriculture Extension Department the production cost of jute including all expenses stands at Taka 380 to Taka 400 per maund. While jute is being sold at Tk 240 to Tk 350 per maund in Kendua, Nandina, Pyarpur, Batara, Boushi, Baidpur, Melandha, Durmut, Kalibari, Mahmudpur, Islampur, Dewanganj, Bakshiganj

and Gathail bazar of the district.

It was alleged that local jute is being smuggled to bordering countries in order to earn higher profit.

If step is not taken to ensure proper price of jute and stop smuggling of the same, jute market in Jamalpur may be crippled, officials observed.

Our Chandpur correspondent adds, the jute growers of the district are facing problems as there is little demand of their product in the local hats and bazzars.

The poor farmers have no choice but to dispose their produce just below the production cost in order to keep body and soul together. Taking the advantage of the situation middlemen are now buying jute at Tk 300 per maund whereas the cost of producing per maund of jute is about Tk 350. Being deprived of a fair price, the jute growers are losing interest in

jute cultivation and switching over the cultivation of aus and aman paddy.

According to Agriculture office sources, the target of jute in the district were fixed at 30 thousand acres. But only 20 thousand acres of land were brought under jute cultivation. Chandpur is the best jute growing area of the country. About 80 per cent jute growers of the district purchase their daily necessities and pay taxes.

There are very few private jute purchasing centres in the district. Jute traders of the district have been facing great hardship due to non payment of their dues by the private purchasing agencies.

The growers of the district called upon the government agencies particularly the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation and Bangladesh Jute Corporation to open some jute purchasing centres in the district.

## 22 projects to develop rural infrastructure

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 1: District Relief and Rehabilitation Department has undertaken 22 up-lift project under maintenance of rural infrastructure in seven unions under Fulchari thana during the current fiscal year.

The programme will provide job opportunity for landless and jobless peasants during the rainy season. The programme included renovation of rural roads, bridges, community centres and flood affected educational institutes. A total 50 of metric tons of wheat was allocated for the implementation of the programme.

## New bank to be launched in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Sept 1: A new Bank will be launched at Moulvibazar by the people who are residing abroad and returned back in the country after staying long time.

The announcement of launching of the bank was made at a press conference which was held at Moulvibazar Press Club recently.

The press conference organised by the Probasi Pratagata Bangladeshi Kalyan Sangha, was addressed by SA Hussain, General Secretary of the organisation. Other leaders of the Sangha were also present.

The Probasi Kalyan Sangha leader explained that — to invest the hard-earned foreign exchange of wage earners and to those, provide wide range of banking service to those people who are residing abroad and their beneficiaries, the Probasi Pratagata Bangladeshi Sangha decided to launch a special type of bank in different places of Sylhet region.

He added that, large number of Sylhet people are residing in different countries like UK, USA, Canada, Australia and countries of Middle East. But they are facing with a lot of problems. There are no scope of safe investment of their hard-earned foreign money. Not only this, they are also facing problems to remit their foreign money to Bangladesh as country's traditional banking service always harassed them.

The Kalyan Sangha General Secretary also mentioned that the proposed new bank will be completely operated by their skilled people and it would provide high quality banking service and ensure loan and credit facilities to the people who are residing abroad.

Primary work of establishment of the bank has already been started, the Sangha leaders said.

## Seminar on "Role of NGOs for dev of socio-economy" held in G'bandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 1: A seminar on the role of local NGOs for the development of socio-economy sponsored by Gaibandha unit of Community Development Library (CDL) concluded here at its hall on August 28.

Presided over by Abdus Salam, the main essay on the subject read out by Advocate Shahadat Hossain Laku on which Mr Abdul Qayyum, Lecturer of Sadulapur college and K M Rezaul Hoque, journalist took part in the discussion.

Conducted by Mostafa Abu Bakker Siddique Alam, Co-ordinator, Community Development Library (CDL) the seminar highlighted the role of local NGOs who rendered sincere services for the development of socio-economy of remote village community just to improve their earning source and creation of work on the basis of self-development.

## One sentenced to 7 years in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 1: One Mizanur Rahman of village Tulatali in Raypara thana was sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment on charge of possessing murder weapon, court sources said.

In his judgement, special tribunal Judge of Kishoreganj A K M Mostafa Dewan also fined the accused Taka 1000.

According to the prosecution story, on the night of October 10, 1995, railway police, arrested Mizanur Rahman while he was trying to board a Dhaka-bound passenger train at Bhairab railway station and recovered a 12-inches long dagger from his possession.

A case was lodged with Bhairab railway police station.

## One shot dead in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 1: Shafiqur Rahman, 20, an activist of Krishak Sangram Samity was shot dead at village Gourinathpur in Kaliganj thana of the district Wednesday night, it was reported.

According to police sources, some eight to ten armed men allegedly took Shafiqur outside his house at about 9 pm and shot him to death in a nearby field.

A case was filed with Kaliganj thana in this connection and the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

## Alarming rise in illegal ganja plantation in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 1: Ganja plantation in different villages of Dewanganj, Madarganj, Islampur, Melandah, and Jamalpur sadar thanas has increased to a great extent in the last five years.

A reliable source said that several illegal ganja plantation projects in village Durgdhara, Hatibandha, Bahadurabad, Parnamrempur, Bagarchar and char Amkhuya unions in Dewanganj thana, Kulkandi Charputyari, Pathashi, Palabandha, Golerchar, Char Goubli, Chinadul, Nowarpura unions in Islampur thana, Durmut, Kulia, Nayanagar, Mahmudpur, Fulkucha, Nangla and Jhaugora unions in Melandah thana, Luximpur, Tulshirchar, Goradap, Bazcherd, Nurundi unions in Jamalpur sadar thana, Mahadan, Pigna in Sarishabari thana, Adarvita, Pakerdah, Balljuri unions in Madarganj thana have been implemented unopposed during the current year.

The source said that four kg of ganja is produced from a plant and per kg of ganja is selling at Taka 2500 to Taka 3000 in the thanas.

Ganja is being transported to Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Bogra, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Pabna, Khulna, Chittagong and other parts of the country. Women and unemployed youths are used as carriers.

The narcotics and liquor department, Jamalpur, recently seized about 40 mounds of ganja plants along with a cart from Dewanganj and Madarganj thanas.

Local people informed that ganja cultivators have been their plantation project secretly.

Illegal sale of liquor is going on the different areas at the district town and other places at the thana of the district.

A number of stationary and grocery shops in the town and different market areas in the district are selling ganja and liquor illegally, it is learnt.

Some consumers alleged that the sellers of ganja and liquor are charging exorbitant prices. A good number of gen-

lemen customers are found waiting in corners to procure the same and there are so called waiters to supply the goods.

The number of such unauthorised wine and ganja shops is increasing in the towns areas giving rise to anti-social activities.

Recently, a powerful task force headed by Deputy Commissioner was formed to control and eliminate the ganja plantation in the district.

The elite of the district have urged the concerned authorities to enforce the anti-drug law to halt the consumption of ganja and liquor without any delay.

Meanwhile, the number of drug addicts is on the rise in the district resulting in further increase in anti-social activities.

The number of addicted youth both male and female has reached to 3000.

It is gathered that male addicts between the age group of 15 to 30 are considered to be vulnerable while the percentage of female addicts is rising and many of them are married too.

## Death-trap on highway

By Ekram Kabir

KASHINATHPUR, Pabna, Sept 1: Inter-district coaches July last have left 14 people dead and more than a 100 injured within a three-kilometre highway-span starting from Kashinathpur village to Shaheed Nagar village, local health sub-centre sources said.

Five kilometres down the road from Nagarbari ghat, there is a three-way point where coach drivers slow down their vehicles to take their individual routes. Form this point, "power" on accelerators keeps on increasing and almost all the inter-district coaches practically sprint with 160 kilometre speed, informed Khabir Matbor, who is a local businessman with his roadside units, an all-the-time observer.

Most of these deaths are run-overs and took place during the night time. Others are the casualties of the drivers' rash driving, according to confirmed sources, to which the police give absolutely a blind eye.

The local people mostly lamented on two recent wrecks within this stretch which left six people lifeless and 80 people wounded. While trying to make room for another over-taking bus on 27, a Dinajpur-bound coach, Nabil Parbahar, Dhaka Metro, Ba-11-0096 — lost control and the vehicle squashed into the road side ditch killing two people on the spot. Immediately after the mishap, the man at the wheels fled as usual and is still to be found. A police case in this regard was lodged at the Bera thana police station.

The injured were taken firstly to the Bera Thana Hospital, and then to Rajshahi and Rangpur medical colleges. Identity of the two spot-dead passengers couldn't be confirmed by the police, but among the wounded — Rokaya Khatun, 35, from Dhaka, and Shaker Anwar, 30, from Nilfomary were in critical condition. What made the Kashinathpur vil-



Nagarbari-northern region highway. Apparently safe, but danger lies much beyond that.

lagers melancholy to an extreme is the death of Dr. Ashok Kumar Karmakar, who was an associate professor of Dinajpur Medical College.

One day later, Shakal-Shandha Paribahan (Dhaka Metro, Ba-02-0581) whose destination was Ishwardi, experienced the same fate — flattened into a ditch — at four O'clock in the morning when the vehicle went beyond the driver's command. This left three persons departed and 30 hurt. Abdur Rab, 25, of Shibrampur, Pabna, Kander Jamaluddin Ahmed, 48, of Nabonkola, Ishwardi,

and an anonymous expected to be 30-year-old died posthaste. The harmed people numbering 30 were taken to Pabna General Hospital a long time after the ill-event took place.

The people of Kashinathpur Union are passing their days in panic because of the last month's record-making pileups. At least 2,000 students — from primary to higher secondary levels of surrounding villages of three unions, namely Kashinathpur, Shujanagar and Jaatshai, cross this particular highway everyday in order to attend schools and colleges.



The same stretch of the highway when it really becomes a trap. Star photos by Ekram Kabir

## In developing nations

## Diarrhoea considered most important health problem

MYMENSINGH, Sept 1: Diarrhoeal diseases are considered the most important health problem in developing countries, leading to five million deaths every year of children under five years of age, reports UNB.

This was stated at a seminar on "Reassortment of Rotavirus genome" at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on Saturday last.

Faculty of Veterinary Science of BAU organised the seminar. Vice-Chancellor Shah Muhammad Farouq attended the seminar as chief guest while Faculty Dean Prof. Abdus Sobhan, teachers and students were present at the seminar. The seminar was presided over by Prof Dr Manik Lal Dewan.

In his key-note paper, Prof

of Sapporo Medical University of Japan and an internationally reputed scientists Dr N Kobayashi said, the economic impact caused by rotavirus infection in USA alone has been estimated to be millions of dollars for out patient care, cost of parents absenteeism from work and impact of disease in parents.

"Although a number of microorganisms can cause diarrhoea in humans, rotaviruses have been recognised as the most frequently isolated viral pathogen in diarrhoea disease requiring treatment in infants and young children from all parts of the world," he said.

This recognition led to efforts developing vaccines against rotavirus infection and field trials have been carried out in some countries, he added.

In case of simultaneous infection of two rotaviruses, the segmented genes of one rotavirus can be substituted by those from another virus which is called reassortment.

The seminar was informed that reassortment is considered to be an important mechanism causing variation of rotaviruses and allows survival of this virus in nature.

Moreover, reassortment is suggested to occur frequently in nature among human and animal rotaviruses, leading to emergence of novel viruses.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouq and Dean of Veterinary Science Faculty Prof Abdus Sobhan also spoke at the seminar.