

News snaps

Anti-drug drive continuing

FENI, Dec 26: Anti-drug drive has been continuing in different parts of the district following the rectified spirit tragedy in Fulgazi thana that claimed nine lives so far, reports UNB.

Some 23 other people fell ill from December 14 to 17 after taking the poisonous liquid. Police recovered 111 bottles and another 58 liters of locally made liquor, 90 gram of hemp and arrested seven people in different raids from December 17 to 19. Police arrested a young man named Mohammad Selim with 20 bottles of liquor from a bazaar in Sonagazi thana on December 17. In another drive, they arrested two men, Madhusudan and Bahar Miah, along with 91 bottles of locally made liquor from Silonia bazaar in Daganbhuiyan thana. Police arrested Mohammad Harun and Abdul Moteleb with 40 grams of hemp and two litres of country-made liquor from Koreshmunshi bazaar on the same day. In a separate drive Chhagalnaiya police seized 40 litres of liquor on December 18.

Workshop on leprosy elimination drive

COMILLA, Dec 26: A day long divisional workshop on national leprosy elimination campaign was held at Comilla Civil Surgeon office auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Dr Abul Matin Bhuiya, Director, Health of Chittagong division inaugurated the workshop. Dr Muklesur Rahman, Civil Surgeon of Comilla presided over the workshop. Dr Lutfur Hossain, National Consultant, Leprosy, WHO, Dr Md Belayet Hossain, Deputy Director and Programme Manager and Dr Jalaluddin Ahmed, Assistant Director and Deputy Programme Manager, Leprosy also spoke as specialist of leprosy. Fifteen district civil surgeons and health officers of Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and 25 personnel attended the workshop.

Manikganj Public Library executives

MANIKGANJ, Dec 26: The biennial election of Manikganj Public Library was held recently at the public library room, reports BSS.

The elected office bearers are as follows: President Md Abdur Razzaque, Deputy Commissioner (ex officio), Vice Presidents Advocate Abdul Aziz and Advocate AKM Kaiser, General Secretary Md Ollor Rahman Khan, Joint Secretary-Alimul Hassan Ollid, treasurer—Md Nurul Islam Khan, executive committee members—Abdul Awal Nur, Asaduzzaman Asad, Rashedul Islam Khan, Tauhidur Rahman Babu, Matir Rahman Mati, Anisur Rahman, Abdul Karim Biswas, Taposh Karmokar and Advocate Ataur Rahman.

Road construction work progressing

MEHERPUR, Dec 26: Development work of communication infrastructure has been taken by the Local Government Engineering Department in two thanas of the district under post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports BSS.

Construction, reconstruction and repair work including maintenance of roads, bridges and culverts are included in the project. According to official sources, of these projects, work at a cost of Taka 80 lakh has been progressing satisfactorily. Besides, eight projects of construction at a cost of Taka 48 lakh and reconstruction of bridge and culverts at a cost of Taka five lakh have already begun. Roads and Highways Department sources said, development work of roads and bridges including approach roads at a cost of Taka 40 lakh are being implemented in three phases.

LGED project to construct roads

HABIGANJ, Dec 26: Local Government and Engineering Department LGED has taken up seven projects to reconstruct roads in different parts of the district during the current fiscal, reports UNB.

The roads are Chunarughat-Asampara, Chunarughat-Deundi, East Jalalpur-Barak river, R & Hs-Auskandi School and RHD Bahula road.

Liberation War organiser dead

MOULVI BAZAR, Dec 26: The 2nd death anniversary of Shaquatul Wahed, one of the organisers of Liberation War and a former president of Moulvi Bazar Press Club was observed here on December 18, reports BSS.

Moulvibazar Press Club organised discussion meeting on his memory at Moulvibazar Press Club auditorium. Radhika Mohan Goswami, President of Moulvibazar Press Club presided over the meeting while Abdur Rahman, Additional District Magistrate and Syed Mohsin Ali, Chairman of Moulvibazar Poursava attended the meeting as the chief-guest and special guest respectively. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdus Salam, Secretary of Moulvibazar Press Club, Abu Yahiya Mujahed, Commissioner of Moulvibazar Poursava, Begum Dilruba Khan President of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, Moulvibazar unit and Prof. Karunamoy Roy.

Phensidyl recovered : 2 arrested

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 26: Police arrested two people along with 195 bottles of Indian phensidyl from Mohammadpur area on Panchhari thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police challenged three tribesmen in the area and caught red-handed two of them along with the drugs. The arrested were identified as Pandap Chakma, 40, and Parchand Chakma, 27.

Open sale of illegal drugs

NAOGAON, Dec 26: Illegal drugs are being sold almost openly in some shops of the town, giving an alarming rise to the number of drug addicts, reports UNB.

"At least 25 shops have sprung up in the town even though there is only one wine dealer in the district," said an official at the Narcotics Control Department preferring anonymity. People from all walks of life are seen to buy illegal drugs like Indian beer, phensidyl and rectified spirit from the shops. A huge quantity of low quality Indian beer, phensidyl and other drugs are smuggled into the country through the district. Drug dealers prefer the district as their route to smuggle drugs due to its geographical location. The open sale of illegal drugs in the town had marked a fall as a result of police drive after the Gaibandha tragedy, but it again started showing an upward trend in recent months.

Netrakona fishermen in miseries

NETRAKONA, Dec 26: Indiscriminate fishing and leasing out of water bodies to non-professionals have put hundreds of fishermen in 10 thanas of the district in a tough position, threatening their existence, reports UNB.

According to a competent source, most union parishad chairmen of the district started leasing out water bodies to local influential people violating the government rules. As per the government rule, *beel*, *haor* and other water bodies, including *jalmahal*, are supposed to be leased out to the fishermen, but UP chairmen in collaboration with a section of corrupt officials are leasing out them to local influentials, source alleged. A large number of *beels* and *haors* in the district, once famous for fishes, have been silted up for lack maintenance works as those fell in the hands of non-professionals. "If the situation does not improve, we will simply be thrown out of job," said a fisherman in a sad voice.

Massive 'Boro' farming in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Dec 26: A massive Boro cultivation programme has been taken up in Chuadanga district during the current cultivation season by the Agriculture Extension Department to cover the losses of the recent flood in the district, reports BSS.

According to official sources, Boro cultivation target in the current season in all the four thanas of the district has been fixed at 21,800 hectares. Of the total land, 4,500 hectares will be brought under cultivation in Chuadanga sadar thana, 6,500 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 6,800 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 4,000 hectares in Jibannagar thana. The preparation work of seed plots has already been completed and Boro cultivation throughout the district has begun.

Punishment to drug smugglers sought

NAOGAON, Dec 26: Most of the cases of drug smuggling cannot be disposed of due to lack of proper investigation by the Department of Narcotics Control, reports APB.

Local officials of the department say they can not carry out their responsibilities properly due to shortage of manpower and logistics. Sources said, 79 cases are now pending in courts, which can not be disposed of because of lack of investigation. As a result, backlog of cases is increasing. Cultivation of cannabis was stopped in Naogaon in the eighties, but smuggling has become rampant now. Apart from hemp hard drugs like heroin, phensidyl, and rectified spirit are smuggled through the borders. But most of the smugglers go unpunished due to insufficient proof.

Cattle disease breaks out in Netrokona

NETROKONA, Dec 26: Cattle disease has broken out in different rural areas of the district causing immense suffering for the farmers, reports UNB.

A total of 50 cattle died and more than 500 were attacked with the disease, locally known as 'Khura', during the last one month. The badly affected thanas are Atpara, Madan, Mo-hanganj and Kalmakanda. Local people said the cattle affected with the disease could not eat and move as the mouth and feet are infected with germs. It is alleged that local livestock department did not take adequate measures to prevent the 'Khura' disease. Moreover, acute scarcity of medicine and fodder is prevailing in the district.



JHENIDAH: Businessmen of old clothes doing a brisk business during the ongoing winter season in the district town. Photo shows some small traders waiting for customers with warm clothes on a foot-path of the town.

Acute shortage of wheat seeds in Magura dist

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Dec 26: The production target of wheat cultivation may not be achieved in four thanas due to acute shortage of seeds during the current season.

The four thanas of the district are Sadar, Sripur, Shalikhia and Muhammadpur. Some parts of Sripur and Muhammadpur thanas were affected by recent flood.

As a result, several hundred acres of land in the flood-affected areas were without crops during the 'Aman' season. The farmers of the areas are preparing their land for cultivating wheat to cover the loss of the flood.

While talking to a group of farmers in the flood-affected areas, they told the correspondent that wheat cultivation would be hampered due to lack of High Yielding Variety (HYV) wheat seeds. Most of the flood-affected people did not preserve

their own produced seeds due to devastating flood and rain. As a result, they have to depend on seeds in the local markets. They alleged that locally produced wheat seeds usually did not bring good yield. About 25 to 30 per cent of totally produced seeds do not make seedling due to lack of proper maintenance of seeds.

Local market observers and growers said, improved quality of wheat seeds are not available in the local markets. They alleged that BADC's wheat seeds are not available in their offices. The locally produced wheat seeds are being sold Tk 16 to Tk 18 per kg. On the other hand, wheat seeds which are packed are being sold at Tk 20 to Tk 22. Some seed dealers are trying to sell low quality seeds.

As a result, the growers would be cheated buying this kind of seed from the local market, a group of growers al-

leged. Growers said, a large number of onion growers in the district are compelled to sow wheat during the current season in their land due to shortage of onion seeds. As a result, the demand of wheat seeds are high in the areas.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources also said, the farmers are eagerly preparing land for wheat cultivation to cover the loss of 'Aman' and 'Aus' crops during the last season.

Some marginal and landless farmers in the district said, wheat cultivation will be extended in four thanas if the concerned authorities are able to supply HYV wheat seeds in time.

They urged the concerned authorities including BADC and AED to take urgent steps to ensure supply of improved wheat seeds to growers in proper time.



MAGURA: Martyred Intellectuals Day was observed here befittingly on December 14. On this occasion 'Kantho Bithi', the first recitation club in Magura town arranged a recital soiree in the Shaheed Minar premises of the local government college.

Road repair work yet to start in Rajshahi in full swing

RAJSHAHI, Dec 26: The repair work of the roads and culverts in the district damaged by the devastating flood this year has not yet started in full swing, reports UNB.

The sufferings of the people due to the deplorable conditions of these damaged roads knows no bound and there are a number of accidents everyday due to big holes and bad condition of the roads.

Officials sources said a total of 966 km of road and 87 culverts had been damaged during the flood. They said the repair work was planned to start in November last to be completed before the next monsoon.

But the work could not be started in full swing due to fund shortage and the officials said they have sought fund allocation to the concerned authorities in Dhaka, but did not receive any substantial allocation.

The concerned departments have already started repairing work in a limited scale with locally available funds to make movement of traffic possible on some important roads.

Under Rajshahi Division of the Roads and Highways Department, five kilometres of road was completely washed away by the flood while another 35 km was damaged partially. Some 14 culverts of the district were also damaged.

They are deprived of salaries

JESSORE, Dec 26: Some 29 employees of local oral saline production unit are 'passing their days in great hardships as they have been deprived of their salaries for the last eight months, reports UNB.

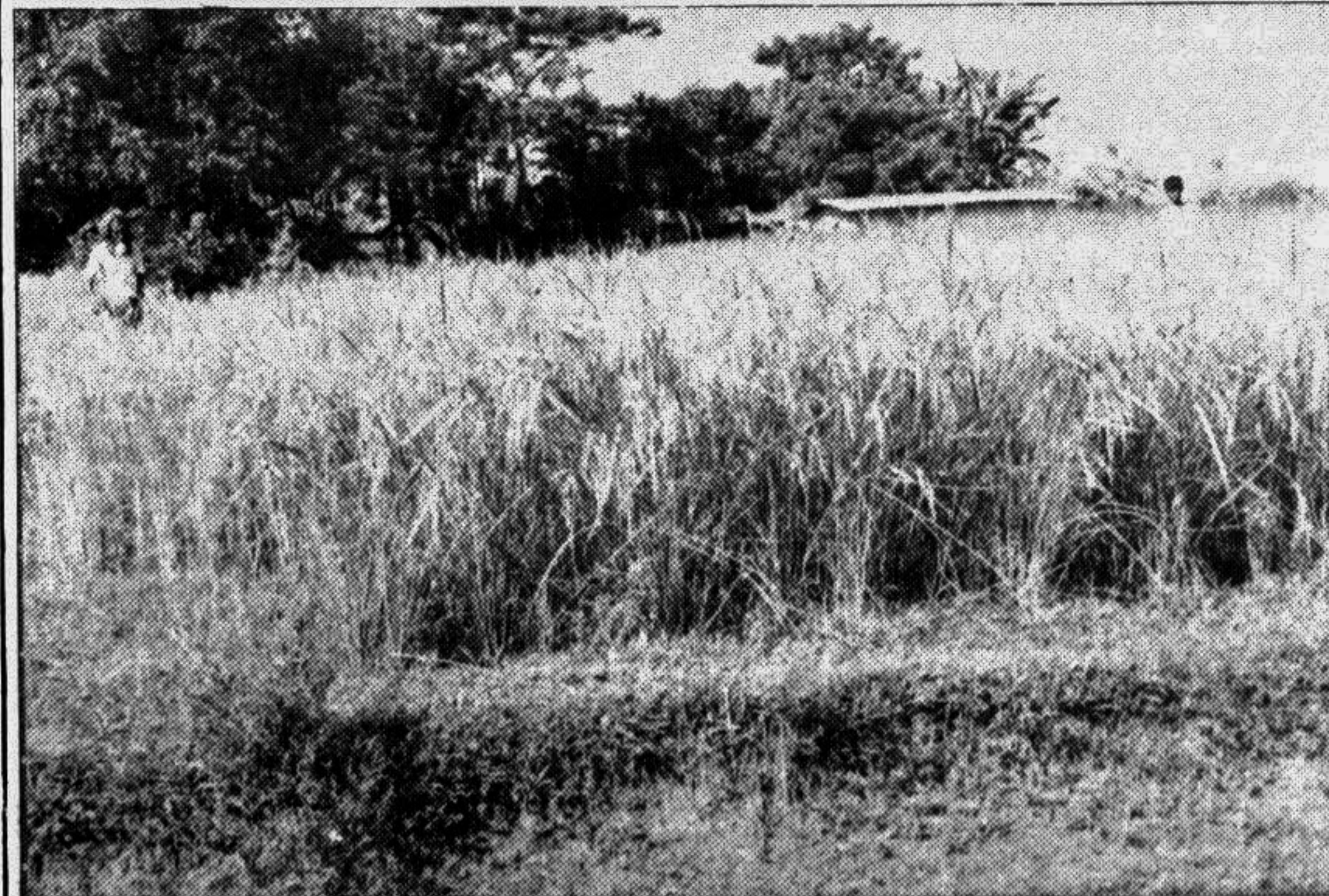
Officials said a total of about Tk eight crore would be needed for the repair work of these damaged infrastructures.

RHD has already started repair of some of the roads and almost all the culverts were repaired locally. But the complete repair work could not be done due to fund crisis.

Official and local sources said all the six thanas of the district were affected due to the flood, but the worst affected are Godagari, Charchat, Bagha and Baghmara.

In Godagari, almost all the pucca and kutcha roads remained under water for long 45 days during the flood and all of these roads were damaged seriously.

Other affected roads include Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj bypass road, Baneswar-Charchat, Rajshahi-Bagha and the main road in front of Sardah Police Academy.



MYMENSINGH: A good harvest of 'Aman' paddy has been recorded during this season in Phulpur thana.

Mother, daughter killed by unknown assailants

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 26: One woman was hacked and her daughter was strangled to death by some unidentified assailants at Sowatha village in Kathalia thana of Jhalakati district on December 14 night.

According to police and witnesses, Kohinor, 35, first wife of Delwar Hossain of the village was brutally hacked to death by lethal weapons and later her ten-year old daughter Lovely was strangled to death on the spot by some unidentified miscreants. At the time the victims were asleep at dead of night in their house near Anua Bandar Police Camp.

Miscreants broke open the house and at first tied up Abul, 13, son of Delwar's brother and later killed Kohinor and Lovely brutally.

They may be the victims of family feud, it is apprehended. Police recovered dead bodies next morning.

Delwar was absent in the house as he is residing at Khulna with his second wife now, it is learnt.

Habibur Rahman, brother of Kohinor filed a case with Kathalia thana. None has been arrested as yet. Additional Police Super of Jhalakati and the officer-in-charge of Kathalia visited the spot.

Alleged terrorist arrested

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 26: An alleged notorious terrorist named Ruhul Quddus, 30, was arrested on December 9 from Berkhil area of the Sundarbans and from his possession six firearms and 14 rounds of ammunition were recovered.

Acting on a secret information, Mongla thana police and Forest guards launched a joint operation and arrested the alleged terrorist from a boat at Berkhil in the deep forest.

Police recovered from him a gun, a revolver, a Two-Two bore rifle, 3 Indian shutter guns, 13 live gun cartridges and a rifle bullet.

Police said the firearms were stolen during armed dacoities in different houses of different places of Bagerhat district.

Son gets life-term for killing mother

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Dec 26: A person was awarded life-term imprisonment for killing his mother recently.

Hasim, son of Hamed Ali of village Nalcapra in Phulpur thana killed his mother Halima as she refused to give him one kg of paddy on March 5, 1992. Following altercation Hasim struck his mother with a sharp weapon and later on she died.

A case was lodged with Phulpur thana by victim's son Abdur Rahman. After investigation police submitted the chargesheet.

After examining the witnesses and evidences, A R Masud, District and Sessions Judge sentenced the accused person for life-term imprisonment.

Training programme on IPM in Barisal

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Dec 26: A 100-day training programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is on at the horticulture centre at Rahamatpur in the district. The programme started from October 5 last.

The training programme has been organised by Agriculture Extension Department (AED) here in which 38 block supervisors are being provided training.

AED sources said, at the very outset the trainees set up eight Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) in the different areas of Babuganj thana where 25 farmers both male and female are being trained on IPM for 15 weeks.

Recently views were exchanged and a field visit was held at the horticulture centre of Rahamatpur IPM training field.

On the occasion almost all the farmers, both male and female of eight FFS participated.

A discussion meeting was also held on the day which was chaired by Siddiqur Rahman, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Barisal while Dilip Kumar Chakravorty, Additional Director attended the meeting as the chief guest.

Besides, Dr Nazira Quraishi Kamal, Ecology Expert, IPM of DAE-UNDP and FAO was also present there as chief guest.

Among the trainee farmers Abdul Majid Munshi, Mir Ali Sarder, Rampati and Barun Baidya also spoke on the occasion.

7,000 bottles of phensidyl recovered

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 26: Personnel of Khulna Narcotics Department recovered 7,000 bottles of phensidyl and other kinds of drug during the last 10 months. A total of 273 cases were filed against 185 persons during this period.

According to a source of Narcotics Control Department, in special drives at different places 7,123 bottles of phensidyl, 825 litres of Indian liquor, 105 bottles of Mritashanjibani shura, 10.5 grams of heroin, 64 litres of R.S. 2850 of methyl alcohol, 26.36 kgs of hemp, 214 hemp plants, 79 litres of indigenous liquor, 70 bottles of whisky, 16 cans of beer and 49 litres of D.S. were recovered during the same period.

Diarrhoea spreading fast in Rangamati

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Dec 26: Diarrhoea has been spreading in an epidemic form at Choto Harina and Bara Harina area in Barkal thana of Jhalakati district of sadar thana.

Seven persons died and 200 others have been attacked with the disease.

In remote areas of both Choto Harina and Bara Harina five persons have died within December 9 and 13 of diarrhoea. More than 200 have been attacked by the disease, it is known from various local government sources.

According to chairman of Jhalakati Union Mayadhar Chakma, two persons died by diarrhoea, while two children have been admitted to Rangamati General Hospital from Kaunda Dosari para in his union.

Rangamati District Health Department said, to control further spread of the disease five medical teams have been working in Harina area. Besides BDR, Army doctors are also working there. They have medicines sent to the area to control the situation.

A special team of the district Public Health Engineering Department has been heading towards the area soon. Meanwhile, all the tubewells of the area went out of order and people are forced to drink lake water. At this, people of the area are being attacked with diarrhoea.

According to Barkal Thana Health Complex officials, the

affected patients are being brought in the thana hospital and are given treatment. But this process is very much time-consuming as the affected places are in remote areas and far away from the hospital.

Health officials assured this correspondent of sending more medical teams to the affected areas.

School teacher gunned down in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Dec 26: Armed miscreants gunned down Dhanak alias Dinu, 31, a teacher of Dudkumru New Model High School at Lahini Battala in Sadar thana, four miles away from Kushtia town at 1-30 pm on December in day light.

The victim who hails from village Sanpukuria in Kumarkhali thana was coming to his house by riding a bi-cycle after marketing for marriage of his sister, local people said. The miscreants shoot him from back side on his head and the victim died on the spot, eye witnesses said. They escaped safely after committing the murder.

Police, on getting information, rushed there and recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Police said, the victim was killed as a result of past enmity.



JHENIDAH: A meeting of Freedom Fighters' Scrutiny Committee of Jhenidah sadar thana was held recently. Advocate Ayub Hossain, President District Awa League speaking on the occasion.

Irregularities in VGF cards distribution

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 26: Massive irregularities and corruption in distribution of VGF cards have been alleged in seven unions under Chouhali thana of the district, reports APB.

Local people alleged that cards were distributed in fake names and the foodgrains against those misappropriated. The affected people staged demonstrations but to no effect.

There are allegations that the chairmen and most of the members of Sadia-Chandpur, Ghorjan, Sthal, Omarpur, Bagutia, Khaspukuria and Khaskaula union parishads misappropriated foodgrains through fake muster roll.

They also embezzled at least Tk 1.5 crore since June this year in the name of construction of roads, bridges, culverts, schools

and madrasahs, local people and leaders of different social and political organisations alleged.

Major irregularities and corruption have been reported in Sadia-Chandpur union.

Chairman of the Union Parishad, Omar Faruque, embezzled lakhs of taka over the last six years by showing fake papers on different heads, they alleged.

Faruque, with the help of local musclemen, misappropriated a huge amount of money by submitting fake muster rolls of VGF cards.

People of the union recently staged a demonstration in protest against corruption by the chairman and demanded his removal. They also demanded immediate investigation.



FARIDPUR: The third founding anniversary of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) was celebrated here recently.

Four UP members arrested on charge of repression on women

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 26: Four union parishad members of Sadullapur thana were arrested by police on charge of repression on women in different areas.

On December 16, police arrested Golam Hossain, member, Naldanga Union Parishad against a case under Women Repression Act. The accused member of Bhagragram union with Razeka on a pre-commitment of marriage. But later Golam Hossain refused to marry the victim. As the consequence the victim filed a case with Sadullapur thana.

On December 14, Aminul Islam member of Rasulpur Union Parishad was arrested by police on charge of raping a girl. A few days back accused Aminul Islam together with four other persons kidnapped school going child Parveen Akhter Nishi, 16, and all of them raped her almost forcibly during whole night. Later the victim filed the case with the respective thana.

On November 24, father of Ashmany Jahan, 11, of village Taraf Jahan filed a case against Suja Mia, member of Khorda Kamarpur union for kidnapping his daughter. Police later arrested Suja Mia under Child and Women Repression case.

On September 7 when victim Morsheida Begum, a housewife was going to her father's home. On way accused Hiru Mia, member of Bhagragram union Parishad together with other companion kidnapped her in day light. Father-in-law of the victim, however, filed a case against Hiru Mia and nine others. Police arrested Hiru Mia and placed her under jail hazat.

All of the accused union parishad members are now in jail hazat and none of them was allowed bail as yet.

Meanwhile, with long absence of the public representatives normal work of concerning units including VGF and VGD disbursement has been hampering seriously, local people said.