

National

News snaps

Accused escapes
From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 23: Haji Shahed, ring leader of an inter-district gang of car lifters' escaped from police custody on May 19 while being taken to Rajshahi from Bagerhat for appearing in the court in connection with a case.

Police said that he had escaped from the reserved air-conditioned compartment of the inter-city express train 'Kaptakha' while five policemen meant for escorting him were sleeping. Haji Shahed alias Monir is an accused of 10 car lifting cases and a murder case. A dismissed police constable, Haji Shahed was helped by his second wife Bilkis Begum, 28, to escape from the train taking full advantage of negligence of duty of policemen. He escaped when the train reached Ishwardi, police of Bagerhat sadar thana said.

Arms, ammunition recovered

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 23: Personnel of Hafazilpur police outpost recovered five pipe guns and one round of ammunition from village Ratnat in Sajalupur thana on Sunday morning.

According to police, during police patrol a contingent of police led by SI Anwar Hossain ran after a gang of miscreants and the miscreants fled away from the scene leaving the arms.

Diarrhoea in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, May 23: Diarrhoea and viral fever have broken out in an epidemic form in different parts of the district.

About 8,000 people have been attacked with diarrhoea and viral fever in the rural areas during the last one month. According to physicians, the symptoms of viral fever are high temperature, pain all over the body and headache. Women and children are the common victims, they added.

UP chairman held

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 23: Kushtia police have arrested Saad Ahmed, former chairman of Ziarat union recently on charge of killing Abdul Kalam Azad of village Gopalpur under Ziarat union of Sadar thana.

He was arrested from Chowrangia area of Kumarkhali thana on a tip-off. Abdul Kalam Azad was murdered on March 31 and a murder case was filed in Kushtia police station on April 1, 1999. The accused remained absconding since then.

Nazrul's birth centenary

MUNSHIGANJ, May 23: The birth centenary of the National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed here recently in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Different socio-cultural organisations arranged various programmes on this occasion. A colourful function was held under the auspices of the district Shishu Academy in its premises. The highlights of the programmes included painting, recitation and essay-writing contests. The function was rounded off with Nazrul songs.

Snatcher arrested

NOHALI, May 23: A snatcher was caught this morning in the early hours in the police station, he was found with the money of a fish trader near Mitul Bazaar in Rajshahi thana, police said. The snatcher fled away.

According to police, while the trader Chinnu Gazi was going home the snatcher identified as Mizanur Rahman Shamim stabbed him indiscriminately and snatched Tk 10,000. But hearing the hue and cry of the victim the local people rushed to the spot and caught the snatcher.

Drain construction scheme

SHARIATPUR, May 23: Local Government Engineering Department has taken up a scheme to construct a drain to remove water logging in the town area here at a cost of Tk 16 lakh, reports UNB.

Municipality chairman ABM Gias Uddin inaugurated the project work stretching from Monoharpur to Shariatpur town, Executive Engineer of LGED Mojibur Rahman Sub-Assistant Engineer and local elite were present on the occasion.

Navigation hampered

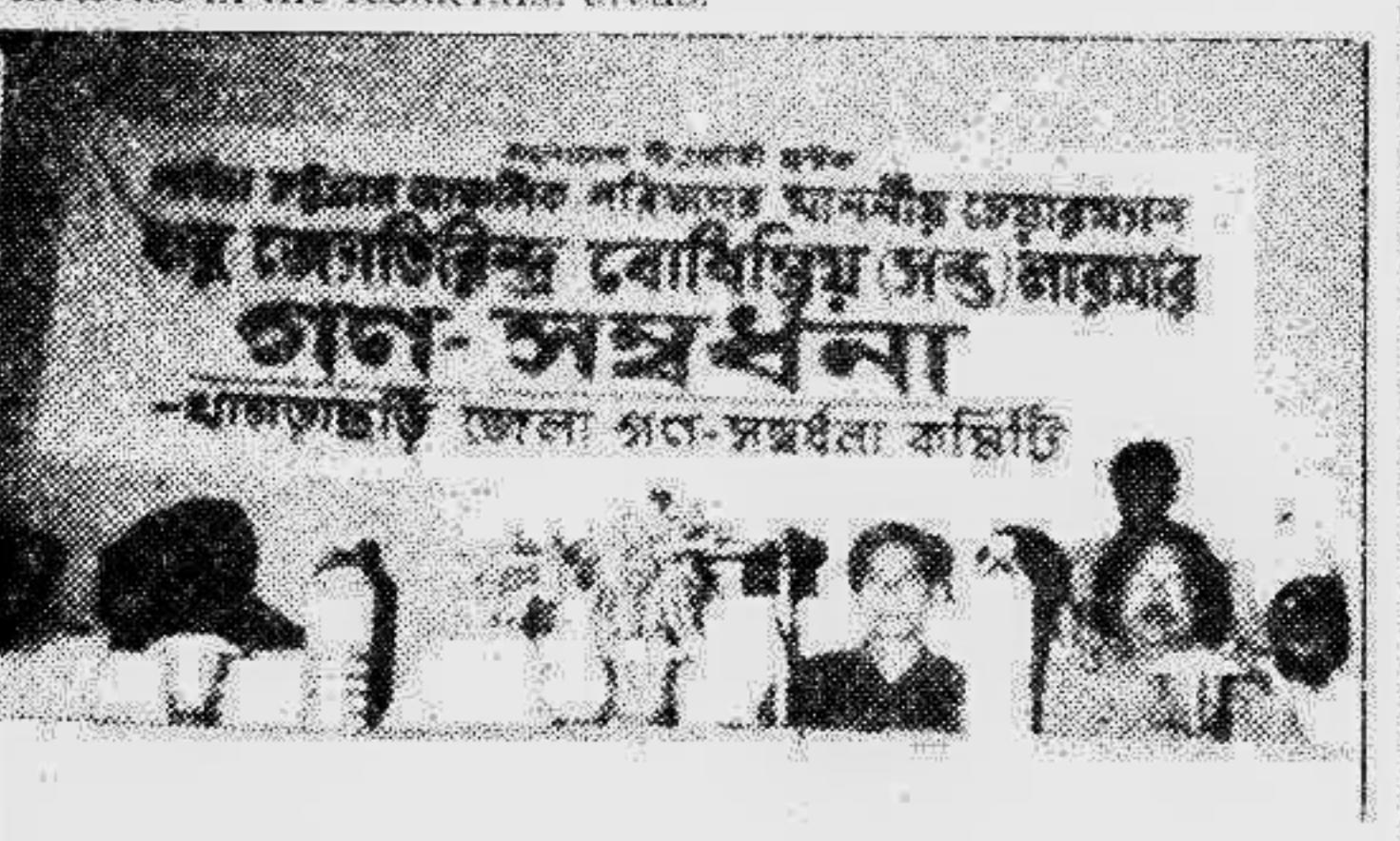
SHERPUR, May 23: Navigation to the river Brahmaputra as well as irrigation on its banks are being hampered due to emergence of shoals and lack of dredging, reports UNB.

The Brahmaputra, once a turbulent river, has been narrowed down because of recession of water in its basin. As a result, irrigation is being hampered enormously at Beparipara, Dakpara, Bhagaldi, Kularchar, Goyerchar, Harindhara, Char Jangaldi, Balairchar, Halgara, Rouha, Betmari, Kamarerchar, Munshirchar and Khanua.

Growth of welding factories

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Rapidly growing of welding factories in the district has been posing a threat to public health, reports UNB.

The factories have sprung up on the main roads of Sadar, Shinganj, Gomastapur and Nachol thanas without government permission. Physicians said that the ultra violet ray of the welding machine is not only harmful for human eyes but also for atmosphere. People alleged electronic appliances in the dwelling houses have started damaging due to setting up of these factories in the residential areas.



KHAGRACHHARI: A reception was accorded recently to Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma (2nd from right), Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council by Khagrachhari district public reception committee at Khagrachhari pourasabha conference hall.

New police investigation centre

LAXMIPUR, May 23: The newly built Bhaban of Hazirah Police Investigation Centre covering six unions of Ramgati thana was formally inaugurated, reports UNB.

Muhammad Nazrul Islam, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chittagong Range, opened the Bhaban on May 14. Fazle Amin, ADC and district AL president and former MP AR Shahjahan Kamal attended the function as special guests presided over by Police Super Muhammad Kairul Bahsor. Local political leaders and government officials also spoke on the occasion.

Another message said, a 37-member Laxmipur District Union Council Chairmen Association was formed in a meeting last week.

Health complex ailing

LAXMIPUR, May 23: The 31-bed Ramgati Thana Health Complex is beset with manifold problems depriving the patients of proper treatment, reports UNB.

At present, three physicians, out of nine, are working in the health complex. There are only three nurses, two of them have already got transfer order. The health complex lacks X-ray machine compelling the poor patients to go to the town for diagnosis. The only ambulance is lying abandoned under the open sky for a year due to lack of a driver creating numerous problems to the serious patients needed to be shifted to the Sadar thana hospital.

Extensive vegetables cultivation

MADRIPUR, May 23: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up an extensive scheme to cultivate summer vegetables in the district in the current season, reports BSS.

A total of 2800 hectares has been brought under vegetables cultivation programme. The production target has been fixed at 35,000 tonnes. According to AED, Madaripur district office sources, the worst flood-hit farmers are now optimistic in achieving the target of vegetables production. AED has taken up special measures to ensure adequate supply of seeds, pesticides and fertilisers at fair prices.



NATORE: (Left) Despite prolonged drought and absence of rain for a longer period the farmers of Sherkol village in Singra thana have achieved a bumper production of high yielding variety of Boro paddy during this season. They harvested 30 to 40 maunds of paddy per bigha. (Right) Happy cultivators returning home with their produce in one afternoon. — Star photo by Anwar Ali



Doctors helpless, patients suffer as terrorists dominate RMCH

From Abdul Wadod

RAJSHAH, May 23: The patients and working doctors of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) have become hostages in the hands of terrorists.

The terrorists had established a reign of terror both inside and outside the hospital. They also disturb the hospital employees, especially the doctors in different ways.

According to RMCH sources, the miscreants reside around the hospital. The surrounding areas are Laxmiapur, Sepoypara, Hatem Khan, Kolabagan and Binalpur.

They have also connections with the hospital and a number of patients are treated in the hospital.

The terrorists are seen to wander about and gossip in the hospital premises. They charge tolls from the doctors on any

occasions, throw abuses to them and even manhandle and injure them when denied. The senior doctors are also not spared.

who actually runs the hospital", said Dr Arif who has just completed the internship training.

But there is none to look after them, he said.

The situation has become so grave that we have to remain always alert to face attacks by the terrorists", said intern doctor Mahmud Mustafa in a penative mood.

They alleged that there remained no senior doctor in the wards from noon to dawn when they had to manage everything.

Attendants of the patients do not consider shortage of manpower and inputs and get agitated when an odd situation is

seen. By the doctors have to work hard to supply of medicines and other requirements, but people usually held them responsible for that", said Dr Arif.

At last the intern doctors went on movement for removal of the Director of the hospital for his alleged failure in main-

Recently, the situation turned worse. "Neither the RMCH authorities, nor the police have shown any interest in maintaining security in the hospital. We cannot work in such an insecure environment where anybody comes under attack of terrorists any time", said Dr Mahmud Mustafa.

On April 29, Dr Sabuj, an on-duty intern doctor had been seriously stabbed. The intern doctors had gone on continued strike demanding arrest of the attackers. But police did not take any effective action.

Just two weeks after, another female intern doctor was seriously beaten by the terrorists. The intern doctor went on strike again, but no positive action was taken.

At last the intern doctors went on movement for removal of the Director of the hospital for his alleged failure in main-

taining the security in the hospital. They also threatened mass resignation.

The senior doctors, however, did not want removal of the Director. As a result, the intern and junior doctors got despaired", said Dr Mahmud adding further that they had virtually lost all interests in doing work in the hospital.

An Associate Professor, on condition of anonymity said that no senior doctor wanted to go or stay in Rajshahi for the prevailing situation.

There is only two professors in the hospital. Many posts of Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and Registrar have remained vacant for many days, he said.

As a result, the standard of management and treatment of patients in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital is going down day by day, they observed.

Reinvestigation of Kanchan murder case after 12 yrs

From Our Correspondent

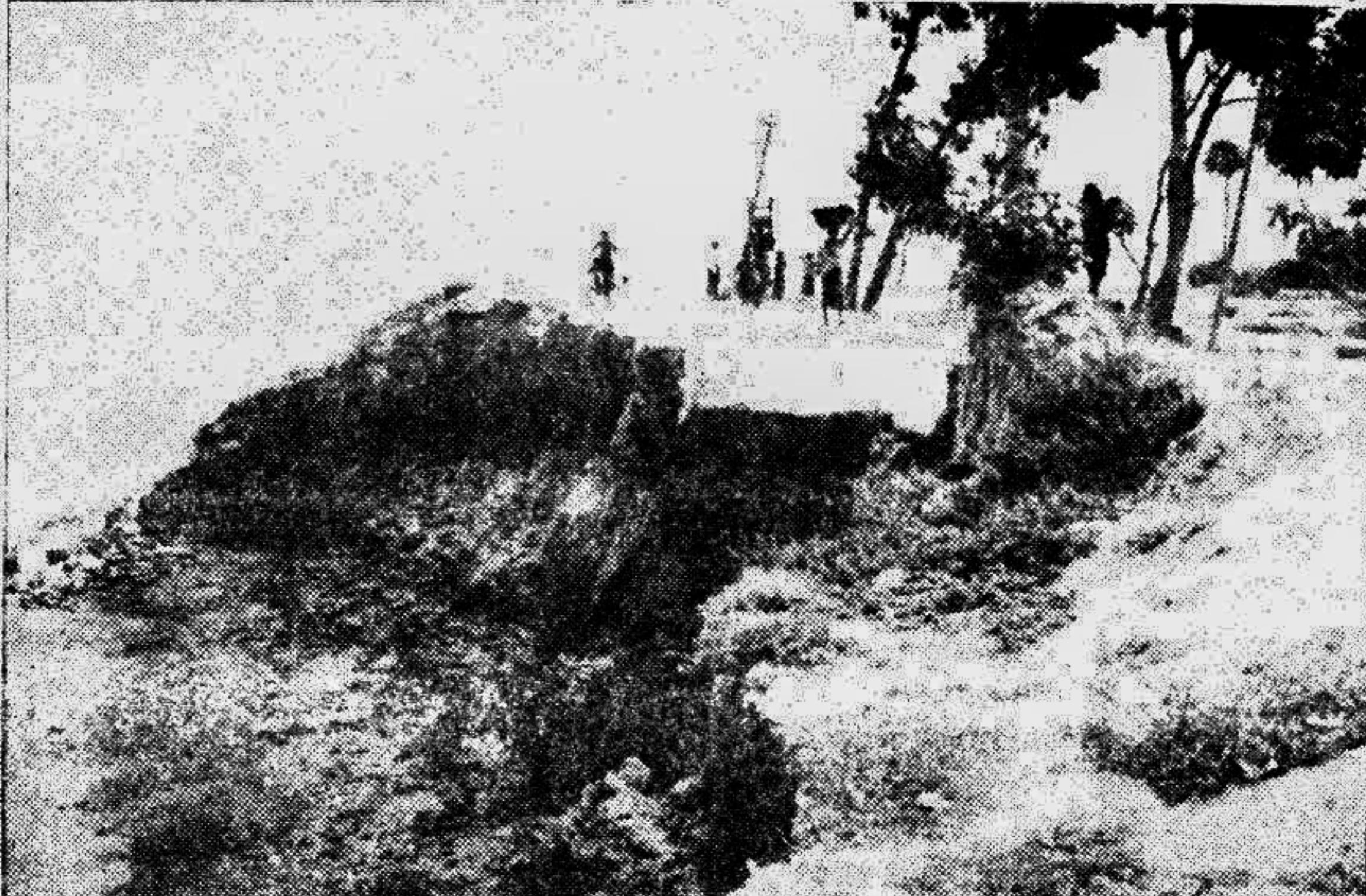
NETRAKONA, May 23: CID police has started reinvestigation of the sensational Kanchan murder case after 12 years.

According to police, on May 14, 1987 at dead of night Md. Jibur Rahman Kanchan of village Basargati under Kandura union of Kendua thana was brutally killed.

The dead body was recovered a day after the incident from behind the house of Khurshed Ali of the same village.

A case was filed with Kendua Police Station in this connection by the victim's cousin named Hadis Ali.

Accordingly Kendua police submitted a chargesheet after the investigation. However, it has been alleged that some evidences were concealed. The Sessions Judge Court gave a judgement, but the complainants were not satisfied. They filed a criminal revision.



CHANDPUR: Unabated erosion of the river Meghna in Haimchar thana area. — Star photo

Hijacked microbus seized: Two armed dacoits arrested

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, May 23: Two armed dacoits were arrested by Chatmohar police from Natunbazar and seized five firearms after an encounter with them in the city's Doublemooring thana early Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a DB team raided Debarpur, a den of armed terrorists, at about 3 am and asked a gang of dacoits to surrender, but the miscreants opened fire on police.

After a brief encounter, the team caught four men, along with two sawed-off guns, one rifle, one buster gun, one LG and 32 bullets, police said.

They were arrested with a hijacked microbus. Two other dacoits, however, managed to escape.

According to police, a group of four dacoits, identifying themselves as passengers, hired the microbus from a Rent-a-Car shop of Joydebpur in Dhaka for going to Shalizadpur in Sirajganj district on Friday night.

Shalizadpur was not known to the driver. Taking this advantage, the group of dacoits directed the driver to drive the vehicle through a road leading to Faridpur in Pabna district.

On receiving the message,

from Baghabari.

When the vehicle reached near the sluice gate at Demra suddenly the dacoits tied the hands and feet of the driver and threw him away after a good beating. Then the dacoits drove the vehicle towards Bhangora and Chatmohar.

Meanwhile, a night coach reached near the sluice gate where the driver and other passengers found the injured driver there. They took him in the coach and handed him over to the police in Faridpur thana. Then police heard the story of the hijacking of the microbus from the driver. They recorded a case and sent urgent wireless messages to all the thanas of Pabna district.

Police conducted search operation and arrested two dacoits, while two others fled away through windows of the microbus. They seized the microbus.

Police also seized one country-made revolver, one airgun and a big sharp dagger.

Names of the two arrested dacoits are Shaheen, son of Lutfar Molla of village Kajira and Abdul Karim, son of Arzan Sarwar of village Kamargram, both under Pabna sadar thana.

Chatmohar police took position near Natunbazar and created barricade on the road. As soon as the microbus arrived there, police challenged the hijackers and surrounded the microbus.

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