

News snaps

Chairman removed

RANGAMATI, Dec 6: The chairman of No 1 Sublong Union Parishad in Barakol thana has been removed on charge of misappropriation, reports UNB.

Official sources said UP chairman Bihari Ranjan Chakma has been dismissed by LGRD Ministry for embezzlement of foodgrains of the parishad. Nitimoy Chakma took over the charge of the parishad on No 26.

Good production of Aman

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 6: There is a good production of Aman paddy here this year despite losses caused by floods, reports UNB.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department sources, Aman paddy was cultivated on 57,200 hectares. Of this, crops on 10,000 hectares were damaged by floodwater. However, average per hectare harvest is about five metric tons, one metric ton more than the target, they said. A total of 2.11 lakh metric tons of Aman paddy is expected to be harvested in the district this year. The harvesting is still continuing.

Spurious drugs flood markets

NAOGAON, Dec 6: Sub-standard as well as spurious drugs, smuggled into the district from neighbouring India, has flooded different local markets posing health hazard to the unwary patients, reports UNB.

A large number of people, unaware of the side effects of such medicines, have been suffering from various ailments after taking the smuggled Indian drugs, it was alleged. Unscrupulous drug traders at rural markets in bordering Porsha, Sapahar and Dhamorhat thanas have been selling these low-quality and spurious drugs to patients in their lust for windfall profit, local people alleged. These smuggled drugs are being sold even in the district headquarter in absence of any action by the authorities concerned. People are easily attracted to the spurious drugs due to their low prices.

Discussion meeting

TANGAIL, Dec 6: A discussion meeting to observe the International Mentally and Physically Retarded Day was held at local Nazrul Sena School campus. It was presided over by Saiful Islam, President of Crippled Welfare Association, reports BSS.

Speakers urged the wealthy people to help them who are retarded in our society. A total of 12 crippled persons were given white sticks, ear-aid machine, wheel chairs on the occasion. Earlier, a rally was brought out in the town. Crippled persons, organisations of retarded people and men of all walks of life took part in the rally.

Terrorist arrested with arms

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 6: Cox's Bazar thana police arrested on alleged terrorist along with a revolver from Bara Bazar area in Cox's Bazar town recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested Ranjit Das, 20, and recovered the arms. A case was filed in this connection.

Law and order reviewed

TANGAIL, Dec 6: The law and order situation in Madhupur has been deteriorating in the last few months, reports BSS.

According to police sources, a total of 119 cases including 13 murders, 35 rapes, 41 women oppression, two robberies, 28 thefts were filed with Madhupur thana in the last 10 months. Earlier, 213 cases on other different charges were also filed with Madhupur thana, officials sources added. Local residents of Madhupur thana informed that the crime could be substantially checked if police takes appropriate measures.

Religious festival of Garo people

TANGAIL, Dec 6: A discussion was held at Madhupur Peer Gacha High School play ground on the occasion of religious festival of Madhupur Garo residents recently, reports BSS.

Hundreds of local Garo residents attended it with enthusiasms and religious mood. The Ambassador of Vatican City to Dhaka Edward J. Adams attended the discussion as the chief guest.

Escaped convict arrested

BARISAL, Dec 6: An escaped convict was arrested from Sagardi area of the town on Friday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the area and arrested Noor Sharif, who went into hiding about seven years back. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment by a court here in 1992 in a case filed against him in 1990. Another fugitive has been arrested a few days back from Charbaria area in Sadar thana. Manju, 35, sentenced to 14 years in prison by a court here, was in hiding. Officer-in-Charge of Sadar thana Abdul Mannan sustained injury while making the arrest as Maju's henchmen, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked him.

River traffic comes to standstill

SHARIATPUR, Dec 6: River traffic on Shariatpur-Dhaka route has come to a standstill following the closure of 18 launch ghats because of shoals in the River Kirtinasha, reports UNB.

About 5 lakh people have been suffering immensely as the launch ghats were closed on Nov 28. Another three ghats are on the verge of closure due to recession of water level in rivers Kirtinasha and Padma. The 18 launch ghats already closed are Bhojeshwar, Naria, Kotapara, Munshirhat, Angaria, Domsar, Majhirhat, Dagri, Talitala, Sholpara, Mulna Laukhola Kazirhat, Khoratala, Ganganagar, Barokandi, Mulada and Bhedarganj. Local people urged the authorities concerned to immediately take step to dredge the rivers in order to facilitate river communication.

PCOs remain out of order

PATUAKHALI, Dec 6: Telecommunication to and from the district is being hampered as five PCOs here remained out of order for the last five days, reports UNB.

The authorities cannot say when the faulty PCOs at Kuakata, Mahipur, Tegachhia, Chhoto Baliatali and Taktabunia will resume operation. Official sources said the PCOs under Kalapara base station linked with Rangopaldi, Charkajal, Char Biswas, Kalapara and Baharchar under Galachipa base station became inoperative after the microprocessor at the telephone base station is Galachipa thana went out of order on November 28. Five PCOs under Kalapara base station remained inoperative although the other lines under Galachipa station have been restored transferring the LCD cards. A district T&T official said they were in touch with the authorities for procuring the LCD card to restore the lines.

Installation ceremony

MANIKGANJ, Dec 6: The installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the executive committee of Manikganj Shilpakala Academy was held at the local Captain Abdul Halim Chowdhury auditorium on November 26, reports BSS.

Sheikh Mozahar Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj presided over the function. Former minister and ex-Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Col (Retd) Abdul Malek, who is also a member of the Advisory Council of Bangladesh Awami League was present as the chief guest. Syed Hassan Imam, President, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, actor Khaled Khan and Md Ramjan Ali, Chairman, Manikganj Poursasabha were the special guests.

Help assured

BARISAL, Dec 6: The Chairman of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Barisal (BISE-B), Prof Abdus Salam met Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah at his office recently, reports BSS.

The chairman informed the Chief Whip about different programmes of the board. The chief whip gave a patient hearing and assured the chairman to help in all possible ways for running the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education in Barisal properly. Prof Salam took over the charge of Chairman of BISE, Barisal on November 27 last.

Boy crushed under wheels

JOYPURHAT, Dec 6: An 11-year-old boy was crushed under the wheels of a tractor on Joypurhat-Jamalganj road on November 30, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Nazmul Hossain died on the spot at about 11 am when the sugarcane-laden tractor knocked him down while he was crossing the road near 'Pakar Matha'. Nazmul, who lost his father recently, used to live with his mother at his maternal grandfather's house at nearby Narayanpara. Traffic movement on the road was disrupted for about two hours as angry people put a barricade protesting the killing. A case was filed with the local police in this regard.

Sugarcane crushing begins

RANGPUR, Dec 6: Shyampur Sugar Mills of Rangpur started sugarcane crushing for the current season on Friday at a simple ceremony, reports BSS.

The crushing was inaugurated jointly by a sugarcane grower and a worker of the Mill. A milad mahfil was held in the factory premises on this occasion. According to mill sources, 7,900 metric tons of sugar will be produced by crushing one lakh metric tons of sugarcane. The percentage of sugar recovery was fixed at 7.90 per cent.

Uncertainty over Rangpur Science and Tech Varsity

From Mozammed Haque

RANGPUR, Dec 6: The construction work of much talked about Science and Technology University here is yet to be started.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the foundation plaque of the university on July 24 this year.

According to the scheme, the proposed university is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2002. About 75 acres out of 300 acres of land of Carmichael College have been acquired for the proposed university. Documents of the land have already been handed over to Mesbah Uddin, member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) who had been appointed the university project officer.

There will be five faculties in the university at the initial stage. These are School of Physical Science, School of Life Science, School of Agriculture

and Mineral Science, School of Social Science and School of Applied Science and Technology.

Initially 300 students will be admitted and gradually the seats will be enhanced in phases. The aims and objects of the university are to promote science and technology - based education, human resource development, information technology and environmental science education.

But it is surprising that no fund has so far been sanctioned for the construction of the university. When this correspondent contacted with an engineer of the Facilities Department in Rangpur, he expressed his inability to tell the reason of non-sanctioning of fund.

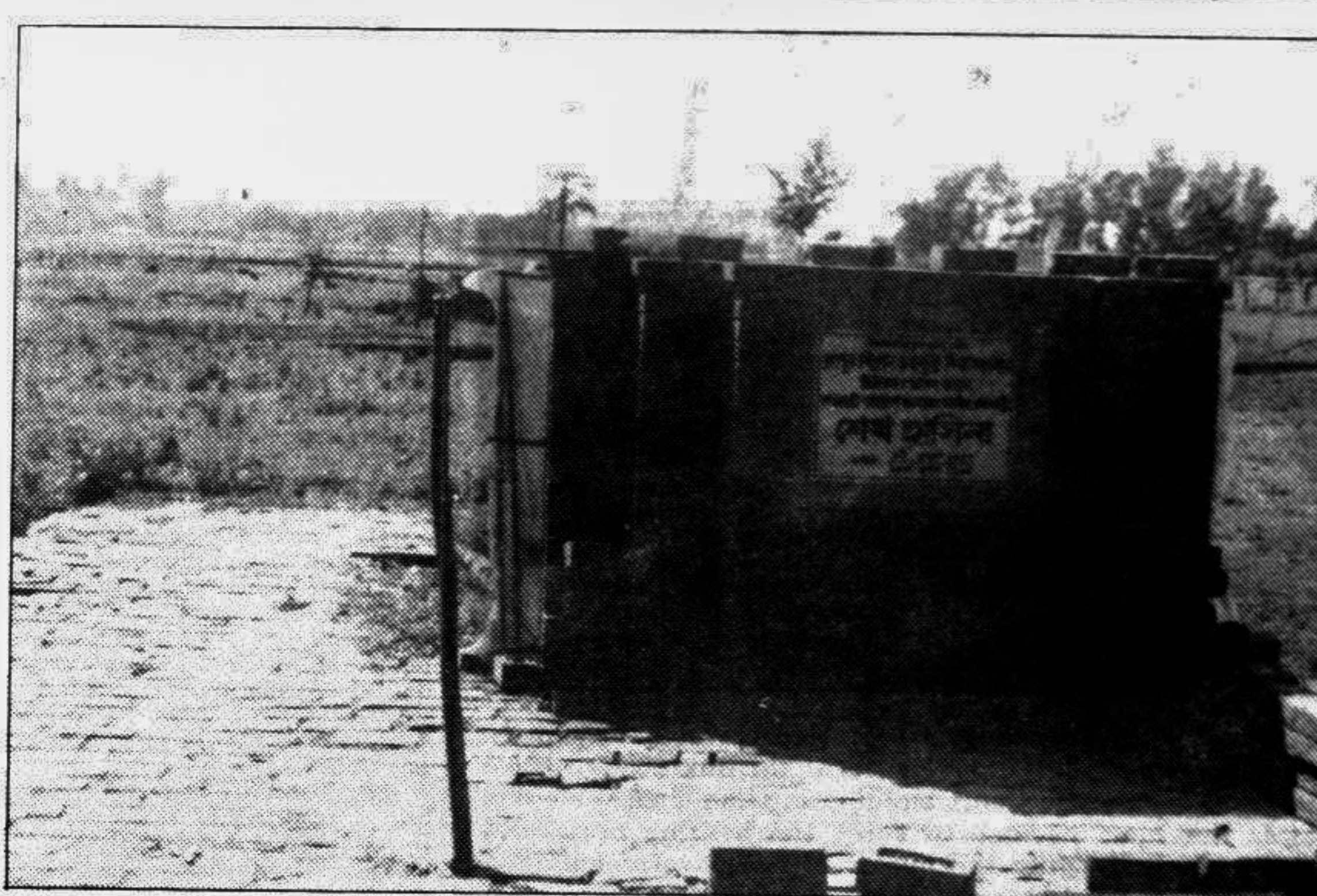
Meanwhile, three police personnel are guarding the foundation plaque of the proposed university. They are under the control of Rajshahi range of

the divisional police headquarters. They are allegedly not getting cooperations of Rangpur police officials. As a consequence they are suffering a lot.

It is worth mentioning, the general students of Carmichael College, other educational institutions and people of the region had long been demanding for the establishment of a general university at the campus of Carmichael College.

Students and members of the public still demand a general university on the college campus. They are holding public meetings and staging demonstrations on the streets of Rangpur town frequently to ventilate their demands.

However, people of the region are in great concern whether the proposed science and technology university will at all be constructed or not.



The foundation plaque of the university which was unveiled by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 24 this year. — Star photo

Work on Tk 17 cr flood control project will begin soon

PATUAKHALI, Dec 6: Works on the much-awaited Baro Baishdia Flood Control and Extraction Project, undertaken at a cost of Tk 17 crore, will begin soon, reports UNB.

Officials said ECNEC approved the project at a meeting on October 27 and granted an allocation of Tk 17.1 crore for its implementation.

The project works include construction of a 50-km cross dam, nine sluice gates, 17 inlet structures and 20 closures.

Upon implementation of the project, paddy on 3,817 hectares of land would be saved from tidal upsurge helping farmers to produce and additional amount of crops worth Tk 2.5 crore.

Another report adds: Water Development Board has undertaken several development schemes, involving Tk 15.78 crore, in the district.

The projects, including construction, repair and renovation of cross dams, re-excavation of canals, river controlling, construction of drainage sluice gate, foot bridge and flushing pipe inlet, will be implemented in the current fiscal.

Officials said works on Domki-Laukathi Project and ADB funded Post-flood Rehabilitation Project, 1998 are likely to be completed by the year end.

Because of a kiss

THAKURGAON, Dec 6: He kissed a girl in public and in lieu of which he was expelled from the college, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Raihan, a student of class XI of Peerganj Government College, along with his friend Mamun went to his lady love on the college campus on Wednesday and suddenly kissed her publicly.

The surrounding students became astonished seeing the incident.

They caught the two and took them to the principal. After examining the witnesses, the college authority expelled Raihan along with Mamun from the college.

Immunisation drive in dists

A total of 4,24,283 children up to five years old were given polio vaccine and vitamin 'A' capsule in Chittagong city and Chhagalnaiya on Thursday, reports agency.

About four lakh children up to five years old were given polio vaccine and vitamin 'A' capsule in forty-one wards of Chittagong City Corporation here on Thursday.

CCC is observance of Sixth National Vaccination Day arranged a discussion on the premises of Mustafa Hakim Maternity at Kattali. City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury who attended the discussion as the chief guest inaugurated the day's programme.

Speaking on the occasion Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury stressed the need for bringing up children with utmost care so that they could become good citizens with sound health and mind.

Alhaj Monzurul Alam, a local Ward Commissioner, presided over the discussion.

The second phase of the 6th

National Immunisation programme was held at Chhagalnaiya thana on Thursday.

A total of 24,283 children up to the age of five years were given two doses of polio vaccine and a vitamin-A capsule each on the day.

Thana Health Complex Administration had set up 150 immunisation centres where 700 volunteers and health workers were engaged.

Body recovered from hospital

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 6: Body of an old woman, aged about 75, was recovered from the corridor of emergency department of Pabna General Hospital on Monday.

The identity of the woman could not be known.

According to police, the body was found lying on the corridor. No one claimed the body.



People of Chanchra and Raipara in Jessore town organised recently a anti-drug procession in Raigate area. Local MP Ali Reza Raju led the procession which paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. — Star photo

Arsenic panic grips dists

Panic of arsenic grips greater Comilla district and Rajoir thana of Madaripur district, reports agency.

Arsenic beyond permissible limit has been detected in tube-wells in 20 thanas in greater Comilla district.

This was revealed in a survey conducted by NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation.

According to a survey report, arsenic was detected in water of about 80 per cent tube-wells of Daudkandi and Homna thanas while 60-70 per cent in Chandina, 40-45 per cent in Barura, 50 per cent in Muradnagar and 20 per cent each in Laksam, Sadar and Brahmanpara thanas. Survey was not conducted in four thanas.

In Brahmanbaria, water of about 60 per cent tube-well was found contaminated with arsenic in Sadar thana, 70 per cent in Kashba and 60 per cent

in Sarail thana.

In Chandpur district, arsenic beyond permissible limit has been detected in water of all the tube-wells in Hajiganj, Kachua and Haimchar thanas. Arsenic is also available in water of 80 per cent tube-wells in Matlab thana, 80-90 per cent in Faridganj and 80 per cent in Sadar thana.

Hardly any preventive measure against drinking of arsenic contaminated water was taken by the Health Department. There is no coordination between the government and non-government organisations to solve arsenic problem and create mass awareness about the poisonous water.

Although a few tube-wells in the district of Chandpur have been sealed off with red mark but there is no observatory measures whether arsenic contaminated water is being used or not for drinking and household works.

The NGO Forum has already innovated a filter to make water free from arsenic, which costs only Tk 60. Besides, they will market a chemical to make water free from arsenic contamination, which will cost only Tk 10.

Amid growing panic over arsenic, some 200 tube-wells were found with arsenic contaminated water in Rajoir thana of Madaripur district.

A non-government organisation, Gono Unnayan Sangstha, conducted a survey on 500 tube-wells of the thana with financial assistance from Care Bangladesh.

According to the survey report, arsenic beyond tolerable limit was found in the water of 200 tube-wells, 50-200 feet deep.

Due to ignorance about arsenic and paucity of drinking water, the illiterate people of the thana have been using water from the arsenic contaminated tube-wells although these are already sealed off.

Magura people heaved a sigh of relief on Dec 7

From Hossain Seraj

MAGURA, Dec 6: It was December 7, 1971. After months of fighting Magura district was at last totally freed from the Pakistani occupation. The occupation soldiers and their local collaborators - members of Razakar, Al Badar and Al Shams forces - fled the district in the face of fierce attack by the Allied Forces. They left for Kamarkhali of Faridpur district.

Local people started rejoic-

ing. Men, women and children in their thousands, took to the streets, dancing, singing and chanting slogans of victory.

Pakistani soldiers entered the district town, the then sub-divisional headquarters, on April 23, 1971. They killed hundreds of innocent people, including women and children, destroyed a good number of dwelling houses and business establishments.

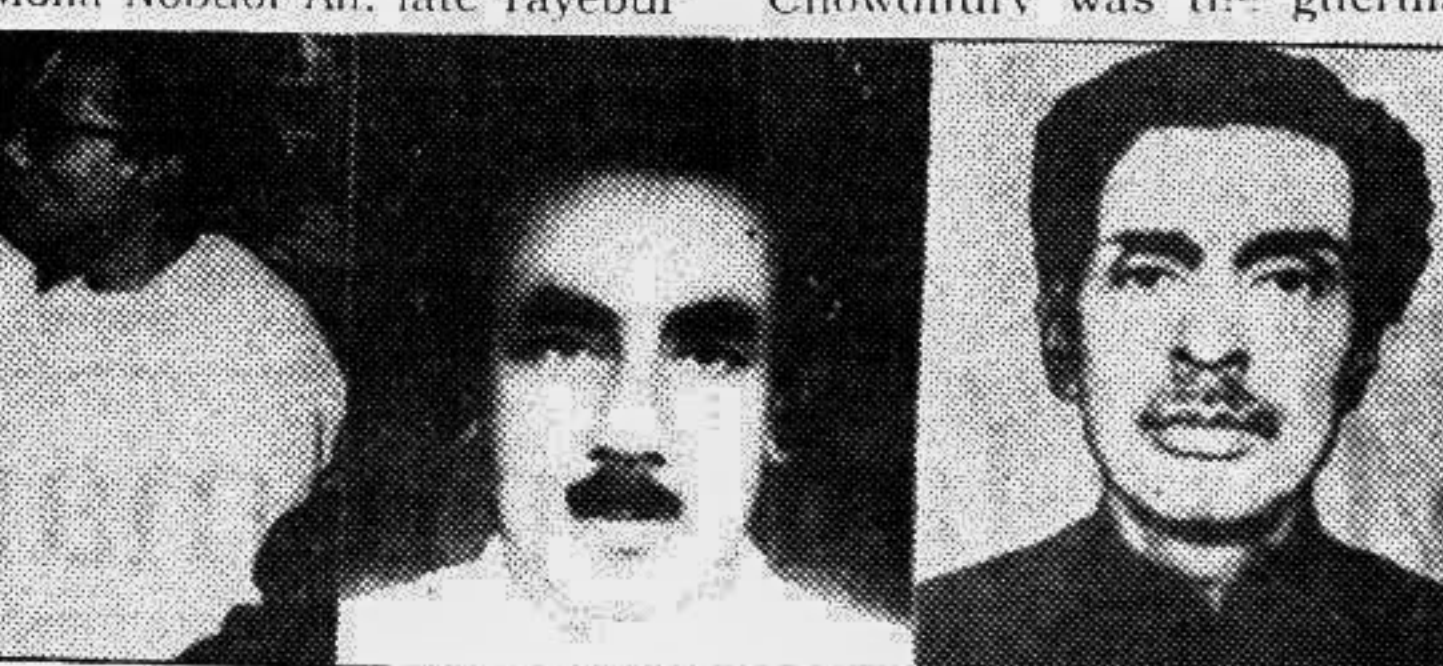
But local people started or-

ganising themselves following the crackdown on March 25, 1971. So the Pakistani soldiers soon faced strong resistance.

Those who played important roles in organising people in the district were former minister late Sohrab Hossain, late Sayed Ator Ali, late Asaduzzaman and the then SDO of Magura Waliul Islam. Besides Altaf Hossain, Akbar Hossain Mian, Khondoker Abdul Majed, Molla Nobuot Ali, late Tayebur

were Ashish Kumar Shaha, Mujibur Rahman, Atiar Rahman, Golam Nabi, Paritash Kumar Shaha, Abir Hossain, Raiquul Islam Laitu, Abu Asad Tokan and Jamaluddin.

In Hazipur area under Sadar thana, late Kazi Yousuf and Khondoker Abdul Majed were the chief and the advisor respectively of freedom fighters. This force started fighting with only two 303 rifles. Abdul Hai Chowdhury was the guerilla



Organisers of the Liberation War in Magura. (L-R) Former minister late advocate Sohrab Hossain, late Sayed Ator Ali and late Md Asaduzzaman. — Star photo

Rahman, late Abdul Jalil Sarder, Advocate Abul Khayer and Abu Naser Bablu also contributed a lot to organising freedom fighters. Fozle Ali, an engineer of the GK Irrigation Project, also played a praiseworthy role.

Elderly freedom fighters said Magura front was divided mainly into three parts. In the Sreepur area freedom fighters led by Akbar Hossain Mian were waging war against the Pakistani soldiers. The freedom fighters were stationed at Khampura Bazaar. Noted freedom fighters in the area were Molla Nobuot Ali, Abdur Rahim Joarder, Nurul Islam, Anwar Hossain, Abdul Aziz, Nannu Mian, Monwar Hossain, Abdul Wahab, Serajul Islam, Sultan Ahmed, Abdul Latif, Hossain Ali, Shomsher Ali, Havildar Shahjahan, Mukul Anaruddin and Shabuddin.

In Mohammadpur area Golam Yakub, Bir Pratik, was the commander of the freedom fighters. Other noted fighters

commander of the freedom fighters.

Distinguished freedom fighter captain Abdul Wahab, now serving as Major General in Bangladesh Army, also formed a force named 'Eagle Bahini' and played an important role.

Important fights during the nine months in the area took place in Mohammadpur TTDC camp, Aralia-Srimontopur road, Sreepur police station camp, Mingram-Mandartola road, Binodpur Bazaar camp, Magura Ansar camp, Khamarpara, Kadirpara and Nohata-Joyrampur road, Shailakupa police station and Kamanna under Jhenidah district.

At the fag end of the War of Liberation, the Allied Forces launched fierce air attack on the Pakistani soldiers, forcing them to flee the district on December 7, 1971, much to the happiness and relief of Magura people.



Rat killing drive: Rehana Akter Hira MP, speaking recently at a function on rat killing campaign held at Jhenidah Thana Parishad auditorium. Abdur Razzaque Bhuiyan, Deputy Director of Agriculture Department is also seen in the picture. — Star photo

70,000 tons of fish need preservation

SYLHET, Dec 6: Fish worth about Tk 25 crore are rotting every year in northeastern region, including Sylhet, in absence of proper preservation and marketing facilities, reports UNB.

A total of 70,000 tons of fish are available every year from 20,701 water bodies and rivers and ponds in greater Sylhet and Kishoreganj districts. Besides there are 60,000 acres of low land suitable for fish cultivation in the region.

In absence of preservation facilities most of those are perished.

Fishermen said taste of the fish is lost as these are dumped or at least two days in the engine boats or cargo launches before taking to the markets in the town.

Inadequate ice is used for preserving the fish and lengthy transportation period reduced the standard of fish. Fishermen are compelled to sell the sub-standard fish at throw-away prices.

Official sources said there

are only four fish processing plants in the district of which one having EC standard for export which is inadequate compared to the amount of fish available in the region.

The fish processing plants of greater Sylhet are located one in Sunamganj, two in Sylhet and one in Habiganj.

Traders said during the fishing season, demand for big fish go up. But they have to sell the small fish at nominal price because of poor demand.

If the small fishes are preserved for the lean season, both fishermen and the consumers will be benefited.

Reception

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 6: Divers of Bangladesh Navy were accorded reception on recently by Khulna Metropolitan Police for their outstanding services in recovering human bones, skulls and clothes from the bed of the river Bhairab.