**CITY** 



PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM







# Healing with herbs

Teacher in Lalmonirhat serves neighbours with medicine for common ailments

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The use of herbal medicines is providing comfort and relief to the people of Goral, a remote village in Lalmonirhat, and other adjacent villages, thanks to the passion of a schoolteacher for herbalism and his commitment to treat people for free.

Chandra Shekhor Roy, 44, an assistant teacher at Teparhat High School, has been cultivating medicinal plants on 35 decimals of land at the premises of Sree Sree Radha Govinda temple in the district's Kaliganj upazila for the last 20 years.

The villagers rush to him for the treatment of several ailments, including nausea, diarrhoea, insomnia, colds, flu, fever, toothache and digestive issues.

Not only it ensures free treatment of the villagers but also spares them from the hassles of going to the nearest upazila health complex, which is about 18 kilometres Narendranath Roy, 42, a resident of the village, said, "We

don't need to buy medicine for minor ailments any more. Our bodies have become used to this sort of treatment over "There are no side effects and even the elderly people

are well suited to his treatment," said Jamini Kanta Roy, 38, of Bamonerbasa village in Aditmari upazila, who has visited the orchard with her sick family members on From a young age, Shekhor was intrigued by the use of

leaves, roots or barks of certain plants and trees to treat diseases. He used to watch his father and grandfather prepare concoctions to help others.

"I learnt how to plant and grow different herbs, and



PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



### Zia's 84th birth anniversary today

Unb, Dhaka

BNP is celebrating the 84th birth anniversary of its founder Ziaur Rahman today.

Born on January 19, 1936 at Bagbari in Bogura, Ziaur Rahman founded BNP in 1978 and became country's president.

BNP Senior Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced various programmes to mark the day at a press briefing at BNP's Nayapaltan central office yesterday.

part programmes, BNP senior leaders with party leaders and activists will place wreaths at Zia's grave around 10am today.

Besides, party flag will be hosted atop all BNP offices across the country.

Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

### Oldest image of Venice discovered



A Renaissance historian has unearthed the oldest known image of Venice dating from the 14th century, showing how even then the city of canals gripped the imagination of visitors.

Sandra Toffolo, a researcher at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland, found the sketch in a manuscript describing Italian pilgrim Niccolo da Poggibonsi's 1346-1350 voyage to Jerusalem which took him through the bustling port city.

The discovery of this view of the city is of great importance for our understanding of images of Venice, because it shows that even from very early on, the city held great fascination for contemporaries,' Toffolo said in a statement published by Saint Andrews earlier this month.

The drawing in pen, while quite SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Facebook video reunites family after 48 years

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Habibur Rahman was 30 years old when he left home for a business trip and never returned.

Forty-eight years later, he was reunited with his family in the most unimaginable way possible -- through Facebook.

After the end of the Liberation War, Habibur used to trade in rods and cement in Sylhet's Bajgram. In his family of six were four sons, the youngest of whom was 40 days at the time of his disappearance. SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A Facebook video reunited Habibur Rahman with his family after 48 years. The 78-year-old is now under the care of his descendants at a private hospital in Sylhet.

### Car crash kills 3 of a family

roads either.

Our Correspondent, Benapole

Three members of a family were killed and two others injured as a car carrying them hit a roadside electric pole in Jashore town early yesterday

The dead were identified as Tanzila Yeasmin Yeasha, 28, her sister Tanima Yesmin Piasha, 25, and their sister-in-law Tithi, 32.

The victims' uncle Shahinur Rahman said medical students, got married to Shafiqul Islam Jyoti, a businessman in the town, a year and a half ago. Piasha was scheduled to be formally handed over to Jyoti's family on January 25.

Police said the car. carrying seven passengers, hit an electric pole in Biman office area intersection around 1:45am, leaving all the passengers injured.

Locals rescued the victims and sent them to Jashore General Hospital where doctors declared Tanima, Tanzila and Tithi dead, while Tithi's son Monirul, 4, and their relative Ridoy, 30, were

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#### CHINA'S CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

## Scientists sound alarm

US airports start screening as two die and 45 infected in Wuhan

AFP, Hong Kong

The true scale of the outbreak of a mysterious SARS-like virus in China is likely far bigger than officially reported, scientists have warned, as countries ramp up measures to prevent the disease from spreading.

Fears that the virus will spread are growing ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, when hundreds of millions of Chinese move around the country and many others host or visit extended family members living overseas.

Authorities in China say two people have died and at least 45 have been infected, with the outbreak centred around a seafood market in the central city of Wuhan, a city

of 11 million inhabitants that serves as a major transport hub. But a paper published Friday by scientists

with the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis at Imperial College in London said the number of cases in the city was likely closer to 1,700.

The researchers said their estimate was largely based on the fact that cases had been reported overseas -- two in Thailand and one in Japan.

The virus -- a new strain of coronavirus that humans can contract -- has caused alarm because of its connection to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in

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Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-40 7-00 JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-44 7-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

For Stroke, Chest Pain, any Trauma or Accident **United Hospital Emergency** 

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