

## News snaps

## Man gets life term for kidnapping

JHALAKATI, Dec 6: A man was sentenced to imprisonment for life and fined Tk 5,000, in default another two years Rs 10,000 for kidnapping and raping the daughter of his employer, reports APB.

The District and Sessions Judge, also the Judge of Repression on Women and Children Court here, Mominullah, pronounced the verdict on Monday. According to the prosecution, Abdul Quddus, 25, son of Abdul Mannan Howlader of village Utter-Banikia in Nazirpur thana was a farm labourer at the house of Anwar Hossain of village Betlach in sadar thana in Jhalakati. Quddus kidnapped Shahzad, daughter of Anwar Hossain, and took her to Chittagong on March 30, 1998, where she was subjected to rape. Anwar filed a case on April 1, accusing three persons — Quddus, Alami Howlader and Abdul Mannan Howlader — for kidnapping his daughter. The girl, however, was recovered but the accused remained absconding.

## Girl killed in road accident

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 6: A girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Shahebganj on Bogra-Nagarbari highway in Raiganj thana on Wednesday, reports APB.

Police said Ruma, 12, a student of class-VI of local high school was run over by a Bogra bound truck while she was crossing the highway. The driver of the truck along with the vehicle fled the scene.

## Programme to construct drainage-slue

PATUAKHALLI, Dec 6: Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a programme for construction of Kazirhat drainage-slue under Bakai-Gouradi-Agoiljhara Chaddamdar Beel sub-project during the current fiscal year (1998-99), reports APB.

The project, being financed by the government of Bangladesh, will be implemented under the supervision of the Barisal O&M Division of WDB. Official sources said an amount of Tk 42,96,635 will be spent for construction of the drainage-slue. The work under the project is likely to commence soon, they said. The Road Division of Patuakhali, meantime, has taken up a programme for repairing the Labukhali-Dashmina Road during the current financial year. The sources said Tk 20,37,495 was allocated for repairing the road.

## Free seeds for farmers

HABIGANJ, Dec 6: Over 7,000 small and marginal farmers have already received seeds and fertilisers free of cost and grants under the Post Flood Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme here, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said, 7,459 small and marginal farmers out of the total 13,38,000 have been brought under the programme in the district. The government has allocated Tk 50,56,310 for implementing the programme to cover the losses caused by the recent devastating flood. Besides, government has allocated Tk 65,71,910 to achieve the cultivation and production target of 'Rabi' crops. The cultivation target of 'Rabi' crops has been fixed about 2,24,788 acres of land and the production target at 2,87,409 metric tons.

## Meeting held marking NID

THAKURGAON, Dec 6: A meeting of a cross section of people marking the fifth National Immunization Day (NID) on the importance of vaccination was held last week in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here, reports BSS.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (gen) M Abul Hashem presided over the meeting. Civil Surgeon Dr Shahadat Hossain, Thakurgaon Pourashava Chairman S M Salaiman Ali, Deputy Director of Family Planning Shamsher Ali and UNICEF Dinajpur representative Dr Mahmuda Begum, among others, took part in the discussion.

## Abducted girl rescued

JHALAKATI, Dec 6: Police rescued an abducted girl after five months and arrested the alleged kidnapper from Binoykathi in sadar thana here on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Abul Kalam, 32, son of Ayeuddin Howlader of Bazipur village, abducted Mitu, 14, from her village home at Baharmpur on July 8 this year and took her to Dhaka. Subodh Kumar, father of the victim then filed a case with the police accusing Kalam, father of three children, of kidnapping her daughter. Acting on secret information that Kalam returned his village home with Mitu, police in a raid arrested him and rescued the girl. The girl was sent to the custody of her father.

## Body recovered

JHALAKATI, Dec 6: The nearly decomposed and headless body of a man packed inside a gunny bag was recovered from the Bashanda-Gabjh Bharanikhal Wednesday morning, reports APB.

Police said the victim was killed apparently some four to five days ago and the head and the right-hand of the 35 year old man was chopped off. The body was retrieved from under the water of the canal. Police sent the body to local hospital for autopsy and filed a general diary.

## Workshop on 'electoral law reform'

MANIKGANJ, Dec 6: A one-day workshop on 'electoral law reform' organised by Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) was held here at district sports association office on November 28, reports BSS.

A total of 30 journalists, educationists, lawyers, social and NGO workers took part in the day long workshop. Among others, Prof. AAA Asaduzzaman, ex-Principal, Government Devendra College, Manikganj, Bibhut Kumar Biswas, District Election Officer, Shahadat Hossain Khan, District Information Officer, SM Bokhari, Chief Co-ordinator, FEMA Central Committee, Advocate Shakhsawar Hossain, Secretary, Manikganj Pourashava unit Awami League, Kalyan Saha, general secretary, Bangladesh Sangbadik Samiti, Mujib Uddin Mantu, ex-Upazila Chairman, Shilalaya, Golam Sarwar Sanu, Secretary FEMA district unit, Abdul Mannan Khan, subject teacher, SK Government Girls' High School, Shamsunnahar, Headmistress, Ghor Pilot Girls' High School, advocate Lutfar Rahman, advocate Jamil Rashid Khan, advocate ATM Shahjahan, Aleya Begum and Laxmi Chatarjee took part in the discussion.

## Plaque unveiled

MATLAB (Chandpur), Dec 6: State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya unveiled the commemorative plaque of a ferry service on Dhanagoda river here, reports BSS.

After inauguration of the ferry service the state minister visited some areas under Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project. He was accompanied by Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Mohammad Nazmul Huq. Addressing a gathering there he said some three lakh residents inside the Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project would be directly benefited by this ferry service and 14 unions under Matlab thana would get direct access to the national road network through this service.

## Rajoir Health Complex in bad shape

MADRIPUR, Dec 6: Most of the patients coming to Rajoir Thana Health Centre have to return home only with prescriptions because of lack of medicines there, reports APB.

The health care centre is riddled with multifarious problems. Against the sanctioned post of nine doctors, there are only four to see 200 to 250 patients a day. The hospital also lacks medical equipment. There is no dental surgeon, although there is a sanctioned post. Many of the patients have to sleep on the floor owing to inadequacy of beds, which are also not clean. There is no facility for treatment of mothers and children due to lack of maternity department. The centre even does not even have a medical officer.

## List of FFs being prepared

NAOGAON, Dec 6: District unit Muktiyoddha Sangsads has prepared a list of 1,798 genuine freedom fighters in the district after scrutiny of 3,116 applications, reports UNB.

Of the bona fide freedom fighters, 33 are in Porsha thana, 107 in Sapahar, 141 in Patnitola, 92 in Dhamurhat, 135 in Mahadevpur, 285 in Badalgachhi, 157 in Atrai, 151 in Raninagar, 65 in Niamatpur, 139 in Manda and 493 in sadar thanas. Secretary General of the Central Command Council of the Sangsads Abdul Rashid disclosed this at a recently held press conference. Rashid said the number of genuine freedom fighters in the country was 2 lakh. He also asked the genuine freedom fighters to apply within 20 days if their names are dropped mistakenly from the list. Member of the Central Command Council Hatem Ali, District unit Commander Shahidul Islam and local leaders were present at the conference.

## RU MA final examinees' ultimatum

RAJSHAHI, Dec 6: The results of MA final examination of Arabic Department of Rajshahi University held eight months back are yet to be published, reports UNB.

University sources said the examination of the department started on February 22 and ended on March 15, this year. But due to lack of publication of the results the students are facing uncertainty. The aggrieved students at a press conference in the campus on Monday said they will stage a mass hunger strike unto death from Dec 7 if the results are not published within December 6. They alleged that having 18 teachers in the department, the results of 50 students are being delayed only for the internal conflict of the teachers.

## Satkhira liberated on Dec 7

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Dec 6: Satkhira was liberated on December 7 after 228 days of occupation by the Occupation Pakistani Army since April 19, 1971.

Satkhira was liberated after a fierce fighting on December 6 and 7.

The 6th and 7th December are the two red-letter days in the history of our Liberation War.

On December 6, the Pakistani Occupation Army was forced to retreat from Satkhira following a heavy resistance by the Freedom Fighters (FFs). On December 7, the freedom fighters marched towards Satkhira town triumphantly and hoisted the national flag of Swadhin Bangladesh at Satkhira Court premises.

The Mukti Bahini fought valiantly many battles and sacrificed their lives for the cause of independence. It was April 19, 1971 when the Pak Army entered into Satkhira town through Jessor road and they took shelter in the town's high school building. In the meantime, fighting spread throughout the countryside.

On the following day, the Occupation Pakistani Army attacked and killed about 1,500 innocent people who took shelter in the high school building. They were buried in a mass grave in the residential area of Dinesh Karmaker.

On March 5, Swadhin Bangla Chhatra Sangram Parishad was formed here in Satkhira following killing of Abdur Razzak. Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Mustafizur Rahman Jahangir and Kamru Islam Khan were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Sangram Parishad. The other members were: Nazmul Abedin, Enamul Haq, Ershad Khan Hablu, Azbar Rahman, Kismat Hasan, SK Abu Nasim and Mir Mustaq Ahmed Rab. Later Sangram Perished was formed in seven thanas of Satkhira.

On March 8, the portrait of Jinnah was taken off from the Sub-divisional Officer (SDO) office under the leadership of Abdur Razzak.

The activists of Sangram Parishad hoisted Swadhin Bangla's flag at Pucca Pole crossing of Satkhira town on March 23.

The students, general people, EPR, Ansar and Mujahed forces of Satkhira were united and decided to work in favour of freedom struggle of the country.

On March 29, Mustafizur Rahman Alamgir of Chhatra Sangram Parishad brought down the Pakistani flag from roof of SDO's Office.

Kamru Islam Khan hoisted Swadhin Bangla's flag.

The boys of Satkhira collected arms from the local treasury for taking part in the war on April 21. Satkhira town, including its adjoining areas went under the control of Pak Army and a new chapter of war began.

Arrangements of training the

young were made in different villages of Satkhira. Many youths went to India for taking war training and collecting arms.

After taking training and collecting arms, they returned to Bangladesh and took part in battle in different areas of Satkhira.

The first face to face combat took place at Bhomora border in Satkhira on May 29. This battle was jointly commanded by Captain Salah Uddin and SDPO Mahabubur Rahman. As a result, Abdur Razzak a rickshaw puller was killed on the spot and many others were injured. The first Shahid of the Liberation War, Abdur Razzak was buried in the Children's Park. Later the Children's Park was renamed after his name Shahid Abdur Razzak.

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