

## News snaps

### Bodies of abducted men recovered

CHIUDANGA, Dec 8: The police on Monday recovered the bodies of Dr Osman and Babu Shankar Chandra, a UP member, who were abducted in March by underground activists, reports UNB.

With this, 10 bodies were recovered from Alampanga thana during the last one month. All the victims had been reported missing. According to police, Nuruzzaman Laltu, chief of underground Banglar Communist Party, in the name of special meeting called out Dr Osman and Babu Member from their house, took to Baro Gangni maida and brutally killed them on March 19, 1999. Their bodies were kept under the ground. The victims hailed from Hrongachhi and Jalshuka villages respectively of sadar thana. Police recovered the bodies following a confessional statement of arrested persons. Recovery of the bodies has created sensation in the area, infested with underground terrorists.

### Computer training course

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 8: A four-month long computer training course under the auspices of District Youth Development Department was inaugurated here at its office premises recently, reports BSS.

It was inaugurated by Additional District Magistrate, Brahmanbaria M Afzal Hossain. The course was presided over by Amrendra Kumar Banik. It was addressed, among others, by M Azad, Nasiruddin Howlader, M Jasimuddin. The speakers stressed the need of computer training course for generating trained manpower in our society. They also urged the local youths to come forward with a challenging view to face the new millennium. A total of 30 youths both male and female participated in the training course.

### 35 people injured in attack

SYLHET, Dec 8: At least 35 people of a picnic party from Tangail were injured in an attack at a Ballaghat restaurant in Gainghat thana on Sunday night by the local people who threatened them as robbers, reports UNB.

Witnesses and police said when the picnic party was taking supper at Momtaj restaurant, a gang of robbers raided the restaurant at 9 pm and decamped with Tk 70,000 in cash. Soon after the dacoits, local people rushed to the restaurant and beat the picnic party men taking them as dacoits. They also damaged the vehicle of the picnic party who came on excursion. In the early hours of Monday, unknown miscreants set the restaurant on fire that gutted also six other adjacent shops. The extent of damage was estimated at Tk 35 lakh.

### Pest management works well

SHARIATPUR, Dec 8: Amid unabated environment pollution across the country, farmers of the district are happy with the environment friendly pest management, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) under its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme organised a rally of farmers to impart them practical knowledge how they can effectively control insects in the field without using chemical pesticides. Agriculture officials cautioned the farmers about the adverse effects of chemical insecticides on the ecological balance and taught them various techniques of pest control. Speaking at the rally at Domsar union in Sadar thana agriculture officials urged the farmers to use light traps and net to control pests in lieu of chemical insecticides.

### 47,000 children immunised

BANDARBAN, Dec 8: A total of 47 thousand 741 under-5 children have been immunised at 969 centres in seven thanas set up by the District Health Department to implement the second round of the programme on the Sixth National Immunisation Day (NID) on December 2, reports BSS.

Civil Surgeon of Bandarban district Dr Sarfaraz Khan Chowdhury told that the programme had started on November 28 in remote areas and continue through December 10 under the micro plan. He said a total of 3,480 health workers including volunteers had distributed Vitamin-A capsule among 47,741 children during the second round. The civil surgeon said 100 per cent target had been achieved in the NID programme.

### 419 uplift projects taken up

NARSINGDI, Dec 8: A total of 419 projects have been taken up under Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme in the six thanas and three pourasabhas during 1999-2000 fiscal year, reports BSS.

About 714 tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the projects. The projects have been taken up to create employment opportunities for the rural poor. Of the total, 129 tons of wheat have been sanctioned for 62 projects in Narsingdi, 79 tons wheat for 62 projects in Belabo, 105 tons wheat for 94 projects in Monohardi, 107 tons wheat for 55 projects in Shibpur, 70 tons wheat for 39 projects in Polash thana, 30 tons wheat for 25 projects in Narsingdi Pourasabha, 18 tons wheat for 8 projects in Polash Pourasabha and 14 tons wheat for 5 projects in Madhabdi Pourasabha. The work of the projects has already been started and expected to be completed by December 31 this year.

### Journalist beaten

NOAKHALI, Dec 8: Armed terrorists roughed up UNB Correspondent and his money, ID Card and wrist watch were taken away on Saturday, reports UNB.

The incident took place at Ramgati where the Correspondent, Chowdhury Mohiuddin Manzoor, went on an assignment. Chowdhury was caught by the terrorists who forcibly took him to a secluded place behind the office of Assistant Commissioner (Land) and beat indiscriminately and attempted to kill him at about 6:30 pm. He was, however, rescued by the local people who sent him to Lakhimpur sadar hospital where he was undergoing treatment. Chowdhury came under attack of terrorists for his reports against their activities in the area. suspected Ramgati police where a case was filed.

### Body recovered

MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 8: The police on Sunday recovered the body of an unidentified young man from under the hyacinth of a ditch in village Ragurampur in sadar thana, reports UNB.

Hands and legs of the victim were tied with rope. A case was filed with the police. Another report from Naogaon said: Mystery shrouds the death of a newly married young man who was found hanging with a mango tree on November 28. The police recovered the body from village Tilnabazar Para in Sapahar thana. The victim, Alamgir Hossain Alam (21), who hailed from adjacent village Sutarapar was missing since November 27. The body was sent to the sadar hospital for autopsy.

### Crop output decreasing

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 8: Crop production has been decreasing alarmingly due to sharp fall of minerals in soil, according to agriculture experts, reports BSS. About 70 per cent land of the region has deficiency of minerals like sulphur, zinc and other necessary minerals. This deficiency has caused adverse effect on soil fertility. The experts attributed the minerals deficiency to soil to overuse of chemical fertilisers in the land. According to many cultivators, production of paddy, jute and other crops has decreased to a great extent due to mineral deficiency in soil. Experts have suggested that cultivators should be encouraged to use natural fertilisers in the interest of maintaining fertility of the soil.

### Discussion on Dada Bhai

NARSINGDI, Dec 8: A discussion was held here at the death of distinguished journalist Rokonuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai at Narsingdi Press Club on Monday, reports BSS.

The discussion was presided over by the President of the club Nibaran Roy. It was attended, among others, by Vice President of the club and District Correspondent of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) M Abu Taher, General Secretary of the club and District Correspondent of Daily Janata M Abdur Rahman, District Correspondent of Bangladesh Observer Abdur Rahim, Correspondent of Bangladesh Television M Nurul Islam, District Correspondent of Banglar Bani Badal Kumar Saha and District Correspondent of Mukta Kantha Asadul Haque Polash. They expressed their profound shock at the death of Dada Bhai and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul. They also expressed their deep sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

### Harvesting of T-Aman begins

KUSHHTIA, Dec 8: Harvesting of transplanted Aman began in six thanas of the district amid much enthusiasm with the expectation of bumper production in GK project areas, reports UNB.

The thanas are Sadar, Kumarkhali, Khoksha, Bheramara, Mirpur and Daulatpur. According to officials about 55,000 hectares of land were brought under transplanted Aman cultivation with production target of 1.30,000 metric tons of paddy. The farmers say they expect more than the target because of a bumper crop. With bumper crop, rice price has come down in the market.

# Erosion renders hundreds homeless

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Dec 8: In the winter season the water level in rivers falls significantly.

Despite this fact river erosion is going on unabated in the southern districts. As a result hundreds of people have become homeless. The Kirtankhola flowing beside Barisal town already engulfed a vast tract of land along its bank a few days ago.

Mirjaganj in Babuganj thana of Barisal district is also being eroded unabated by the River Arial Khan. This river becomes very furious during the rainy season, local people said.

At least 20 villages of Sreepur union in Mehendiganj thana have been shrinking gradually due to non-stop erosion of the Tetulia.

The Kakechha bandar area in Patharghat thana of Barguna district is about to be abolished due to unabated erosion by the River Baleswar.

We don't know when river erosion will be stopped and we shall be able to sleep peacefully at nights, said local people.

UNB from Madaripur says:

Due to unabated erosion by the River Sandhya along Banaripara thana headquarter. Many dwelling houses and business establishments, hats and bazaars are getting devoured by different rivers like Mughna, Sugandha, Kirtankhola, Paira, Arial Khan, Kalabazar, Sandhya, Tetulia and Baleswar in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakati and Barguna under Barisal division.

Last month a huge area had been devoured by the River Sandhya along Banaripara thana headquarter. Many dwelling houses and business establishments have gone into the river rendering a large number of people pauper and homeless.

Meanwhile, the Saheberhat embankment has been damaged further severely. This dam needs to be repaired immediately.

Besides, to protect Bhola, Water Development Board (BWDB) had undertaken Bhola Town Protection Project during 1992-93 fiscal year. The project work has been delayed due to fund constraints. An amount of Tk 2 crore had been allocated for the project, an official

of Anderchur Government Primary School is under threat of erosion.

Some one hundred families affected by the erosion have been living in utter distress in a newly emerged shoal.



Unabated erosion by the River Sandhya in Banaripara area of Barisal rendering scores of people homeless in this ongoing winter season.

—Star photo

## Re-union of freedom fighters

### Filaria patients increasing

PANCHAGARH, Dec 8: The number of filaria patients in greater Dinajpur district, including Panchagarh, has doubled in last 10 years and many of the affected people turned into beggars, reports UNB.

Earlier, the Army Chief inaugurated the newly constructed road that has linked the Rakta Rin with the Jessore-Jhenidah highway. The four-kilometre road named as Rakta Rin Sarak has been constructed jointly by the local Government Engineering Department and Bangladesh Army. Later on he placed a floral wreath at the war memorial Rakta Rin to pay his respect to the martyrs of the great War of Liberation in 1971.

Others who spoke on the occasion included

Army Secretary Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, Commandant of the Bangladesh Ordnance Factory Major General Abdul Wahab, Retired SP Mahbub Uddin, Bir Bikram, Local members of the parliament Tipu Sultan and Sarder Tabibur Rahman, President of the Mukti Jodha Command Council Principal Ahad Chowdhury and Major Abdul Hafiz Bir Bikram.

Earlier local Area Commander of Bangladesh Army Major General Jamil D Ahsan read out the address of welcome.

The re-union was attended, among others, by wife of Shaheed Noor Muhamad, Bir Shresta, Wife of late Lieutenant Colonel Nazmul Huda, Bir Bikram, former GOCs and high civil and military officers.

To combat its outbreak, a filaria research institute was set up in Thakurgaon in 1967 but the institute was closed down in 1984 for reason unknown.

A team of experts has recently visited Thakurgaon and after testing blood it found many people affected with filaria.

### Meherpur BNP leaders join JP(Ershad)

MEHERPUR, Dec 8: Some

top BNP leaders of the district on Monday joined Jatiya Party (Ershad), reports UNB.

They are senior vice-president

Islam Ali, general secretary

Shafiqur Rahaman Badsha,

Sadar thana Unit president

Mozammel Haque, general secretary

Mohammad Alauddin and

Mujibul Haque Khan Helal.

JP district leaders said the

newcomers would formally join

Jatiya Party in presence of

Chairman HM Ershad at a function on December 10.

The centre started growing

saplings and distributing them

to the interested growers pro-

viding modern technologies

to promote its cultivation and

production in the district.

The fruit is now available

in the district at the rate of Tk 6

to Tk 8 per kg.

A good number of farmers of

the remote areas of the district

started cultivation of panifal in

lands, which remain fallow

almost round the year.

Rakta Rin

RANGPUR, Dec 8: A civic re-

ception was accorded to interna-

tional renouned fashion

model Bibi Rassel at the local

Town Hall on Friday on her ap-

pointment by UNESCO as spe-

cial envoy for design develop-

ment, reports UNB.

Bibi Rassel who hails from

Rangpur came here on a three-

day visit on Thursday. She visi-

ted Nishbaganj palli in Sadar

thana, which is famous for

Shatranji project run by the lo-

cal weavers.

Convenor of Civic Recep-

tion Committee, Advocate Abu Mo-

hammad Moazzam Haque,

presided over the function.

It was addressed, among

others, by elderly politician Ad-

vocate Kari Mohammad Yahiya,

district League president

Abdur Razzak, former Rangpur

Pourasabha chairman Mo-

hammad Afzal, Rangpur Press

Club president Sadru Alam Dul

and general secretary Abdur

Rashid.

The rally paid rich tributes

to late Rokonuzzaman Khan

(Dadabhai), Begum Sofia Ka-

mal, National Professor Abdur

Razzaque and Pabna Press Club

President Mirza Shamsul

Rahman.

The rally paid rich tributes