

NEWS SNAPS

**Royal Bengal Tiger found dead**  
**UNB, Bagerhat**  
A Royal Bengal Tiger was found dead at Chandpai Range of the Sundarbans in Mongla upazila of Bagerhat on Wednesday.  
Forest employees found the body of the 7 feet long tiger near Dalmari canal of the forest range. Another Royal Bengal Tiger was found dead at Kochikhali of Shoronkhola Range of the Sundarbans on November 21 last.

**Tk 8cr project to set up spars in Jamuna**  
**UNB, Bogra**  
The government has taken up a Tk 8 crore project to set up six spars in the Jamuna river at Dhunat, Sariakandi and Sonatola upazilas of Bogra to protect the areas from river erosion.  
Work on the project is likely to begin soon and be completed by the next fiscal. Bangladesh Water Development Board will supervise the work. WDB officials said the proposed spars would be constructed at Khabunia and Tekani Chukanagar in Sonatola, Chnadanbhasha and Ontarpara in Sariakandi and Baniajan and Bhandaribari in Dhunat upazilas.

**Move to protect houses, lands from flood**  
**UNB, Bogra**  
Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has taken a plan to build an embankment to protect houses and croplands from flood of the river Bangali.

The cost of the 18-kilometer dam was estimated at about Tk 15.55 crore. It will be constructed from Bothuabari Bridge to Modhyabhag bazaar in Dhunat and Sherpur upazila. BWDB has already sent the Project Concept Paper (PCP) to the higher authorities for approval. BWDB said the proposed embankment would protect thousands of acres of and as well as houses, schools, colleges, madrasahs and mosques.

**Nilphamari hospital to be upgraded**  
**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**  
The government has sanctioned Tk 6 crore to upgrade Nilphamari Sadar Hospital.  
Contractors have already been appointed for constructing administrative building, residences for doctors, nurses and other staff and for supplying equipment. The work will start in January next year. A government decision to upgrade the 50-bed hospital into a 100-bed one in 1996 decision could not be implemented due to lack of fund.

**Work on health complex completed**  
**UNB, Feni**  
The construction work on Fulgazi upazila health complex has been completed at a cost of Tk 4.30 crore. State Minister for Health Amanullah Aman visited the newly constructed health complex on Wednesday. Earlier, the state minister also visited health complexes at Chihagalniaya, Munshirhat and Parshuram, Feni Sadar Hospital and Feni Medical College.

**Valuables looted from AL leader's house**  
**UNB, Gazipur**  
Miscreants swooped on the house of an Awami League (AL) leader at Chowrata village in Kapashia upazila and looted valuables Wednesday night.

According to locals, the hooligans attacked the house of AL leader Ruhul Amin, also a lecturer of Kapashia College, at dead of night and damaged and looted valuables, including a TV set. They said the hoodlums also poured petrol on one of his rooms and set fire to it while leaving the house.

**147th birth anniversary of Hasan Raja**  
**UNB, Sunamganj**  
The 147th birth anniversary of mystic poet Hasan Raja will be celebrated in Sunamganj on Monday in a befitting manner.

Sponsored by Hasan Raja's three successors Dewan Iskandar Raja Chowdhury, Dewan Mohsin Raja Chowdhury and Dewan Emdad Raja -Sunamganj Prantik Sangskritik Parishad will organise a two-day programme at local Abul Hossain auditorium. The programmes include discussion, Hasan Raja's songs, dramas on his life and works. Former vice chancellor of Sylhet Shahjalal Science and Technology University Prof Habibur Rahman, dean of language and Cultural Faculty of Assam University Dr Tophodhir Bhattachariya, DU Professor Mridul Kanti Chakrawarty and local elite will attend the function.

**950 telephones inoperative in Satkhira**  
**UNB, Satkhira**  
About 950 telephones out of the total 2,500 under local exchange have been lying inoperative for the last two months causing sufferings to the subscribers.

The subscribers complained many times to the T&T, but their problem was not yet resolved. The telephones had gone inoperative as a Chinese company while digging earth for installation of digital telephone line damaged the old cables. The remaining 1,500 telephone subscribers are facing many problems including cross connection, excessive bill and difficulty in getting dial tone.

**Highway robbery in Madaripur**  
**UNB, Madaripur**  
Highway robbers swooped on a number of vehicles on Rajoir-Kotalipara road in Rajoir upazila and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh from drivers and passengers Monday night.

Witnesses said the bandits, numbering 4-5, halted a microbus and five trucks by putting logs on the road at the dead of night and looted valuables of the passengers. They beat up the microbus passenger, a schoolteacher Nihil Chandra Baidia and took away Tk 30,000, a cheque of Tk 50,000 from him and a mobile phone set from the driver apart from cash, gold ornaments and wristwatches worth about Tk 20,000 from its female passengers. They also snatched cash and belongings from the drivers and businessmen of the trucks.

**Incidents of robbery up in N'ganj**  
**UNB, Narayanganj**  
In a string of robberies, armed bandits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 7 lakh from three houses in Fatulla of Narayanganj early Thursday.

Police said some 20 robbers stormed into the houses of Mafizuddin and one of his neighbours at about 4am and took away valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh, including Tk one lakh in cash, 39 tolas of gold ornaments and TV and VCP sets.  
Another band of armed robbers broke into the house of Shawkat Imjan Mintu in Raghathanpur area of the thana at the same time and looted Tk 10,000, 20 totals of gold ornaments and a TV set. Separate cases were filed.

**Three arrested with pipe gun, weapons**  
**UNB, Sunamganj**  
Three people were arrested along with a pipe gun and six other sharp weapons from Ghatbila water body in Dirai upazila of Sunamganj on Monday.

According to villagers, the arrested had dumped the weapons in the water body following a clash on Dec 11 over its possession. A case was filed. Earlier on Dec 21, police recovered a revolver from Bogla Pekpara frontier village in Doarbazaar upazila. It was left behind by arms smugglers when police went to the village to arrest them.

**Rice trader robbed of Tk 1.25 lakh**  
**UNB, Manikganj**  
A rice trader was robbed of Tk 1.25 lakh at Boali in Shiblalaya upazila on Dhaka-Aricha highway Wednesday. Witnesses said the muggers riding in two motorbikes waylaid rice trader Abdul Jabbar, 42, while he was going to Aricha from Uthali market in a lorry.

**Bid to grab land: Five arrested**  
**UNB, Gazipur**  
Five people were arrested for their bid to grab land of the Forest Department in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

The arrested were identified as Mofizuddin, Profulla Chandra Barman, Jamal, Nasiruddin and Abdul Majid. Forest Department employees caught them when some people led by Hatem Ali began to construct a wall on the land of Shalna beat. The arrested were produced before a magistrate court on Wednesday.



PHOTO: DELWAR KABIR

Sailkupa-Langalbandh road in Jhenidah was built at a cost of several lakhs of taka in the year of 2000. But the road began to give up at various points just after its opening due to use of inferior quality construction materials.

## Rabi crops cultivation on 1,55,050 hectares in Brahmanbaria

SK MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria

An extensive Rabi crops cultivation programme has been taken up in Brahmanbaria. Under the programme 1,55,050 hectares of land have been earmarked in this winter season with an output target of 5,53,520 metric tonnes in eight upazilas of Brahmanbaria.

Of the target, 90,700 hectares of land have been earmarked for high yielding variety (HYV) of paddy fixing the target at 3,10,200 metric tonnes, 3,700 hectares for local variety of paddy fixing the production target at 4,700 metric tonnes, 15,500 hectares for HYV of wheat fixing the target at 35,805 metric tonnes, 3,000 hectares for HYV and local variety of potato fixing the production target at 34,260 metric tonnes, 1,000 hectares for sweet potato

fixing the production target at 10,000 MTs, 23,000 hectares for mustard fixing the target at 23,000 MTs, 500 hectares for ground-nut fixing the production target at 1,000 MTs, 3200 hectares have been for lentil fixing the production target at 2,300 MTs, 300 hectares for pea cultivation fixing the production target at 216 MTs, 500 hectares for onion cultivation fixing the production target at 5,000 MTs, 300 hectares for garlic cultivation fixing the production target at 1,700 MTs, 2,000 hectares brought under pepper cultivation fixing the target at 4,000 MTs, 50 hectares has been brought under zinger cultivation fixing the production target at 250 MTs, 350 hectares brought under turmeric cultivation fixing the production target at 880 MTs, 2000 hectares under coriander cultivation fixing the production

target at 450 MTs, 6,000 hectares has been brought under maize cultivation fixing the production target at 2620 MTs while 5,700 hectares of land have been brought under vegetable cultivation fixing the production target at 1,14,00 MTs.

While contacted the Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension, Brahmanbaria, he informed that they have also prepared HYV paddy seed beds on 4,540 hectares of land and local variety of paddy seed beds on 250 hectares in order to ensure smooth cultivation of paddy in all parts of Brahmanbaria.

According to Brahmanbaria DAE, 267 demonstration plots for ASIRP, 150 demonstration plots for SFFP and seven demonstration plots have been prepared in different parts of the district.

## 4 killed in 3 road mishaps in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

Four people were killed and 10 injured in three road accidents in Mymensingh on Thursday.

Police said driver of a pickup van, Mustafa, 30 and his helper, Amir Hamja, 22, died on the spot when it crashed into a Dhaka-bound bus at Kathal in Bhaluka upazila on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at about 7pm.

Ten passengers of the bus were also injured in the accident. They were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Police said an unidentified woman, aged about 30, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Bagunda on Mymensingh-Haluaaghat road in Tarakanda upazila at about 8pm.

Another unidentified youth died on the spot as he fell from the roof of a bus at Alalpur on the same road in Sadar upazila in the evening.

The bodies were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Separate cases were filed.

Another report from Jhenidah: At least nine people were killed and 15 injured in road accidents in Jhenidah in last 30 days since November 15, according to police records.

Eight of the deceased were identified as Akhter, 35, Matiar, 22, Ashraf Ali, 30, Ahsan, 25, Tuku, 33, Abdul Latif, 27, Alam Hossain, 38, and Mafizur Rahman, 10.

Police said two motorbike riders were killed on the spot on

Nov 15 at Dakbungalow Bazar in the town when a bus hit the bike from behind. The bus tumbled into a roadside after hitting the bike, leading 10 people injured.

On Nov 26, three people were killed and four injured when a truck overturned at Patibila in Kaliganj upazila and on Nov 29 one bicycle rider was killed and his wife injured when a truck hit them from behind at Laudia in Sadar upazila.

In another accident, the driver and a passenger of a Kaliganj-bound private car were killed when it dashed a roadside tree at Rawda village in Kotchandpur upazila.

A little boy, Mafiz, was killed on Dec 15 when a microbus hit him in front of a school in the town.



PHOTO: STAR

Former US diplomat Dr Jony Brock addressing as the chief guest a views exchange meeting in Mymensingh recently on 'Necessity of World Peace under the Backdrop of Existing Global Situation'. Bangladesh Baha'i community arranged the meeting.

## Bogra will be made a model town

UNB, Bogra

The government has undertaken a number of development projects, aiming to upgrade Bogra to a model town.

Directed by higher authorities, Water Development Board has already prepared the project proposal involving an expenditure of over Tk 150 crore.

The project work includes construction of roads on both banks of the Koratoa river from northern end to southern end of the town as the river runs through the town.

The project work is expected to start soon and be completed by 2004-2005 fiscal.

The two roads -- on eastern and western sides of the river -- will be 27-km long. The width of the eastern road will be 18 feet while that of western one 12 feet. There will be nine bridges and one bridge-cum-regulator over the river and 55 drainage outlets and 20 ghats alongside the roads.

Under one of the projects, some 13.5 kilometers of the river will be dredged to increase its navigability.

The government will provide the money from its own resources, official sources said.

## BNP terrorists attack house of Natore AL supporters: 4 hurt

ANWAR ALI, Natore

Four persons including three women of a family were seriously injured when armed activists allegedly belonging to ruling BNP attacked a house at Dilalpur village in Lalpur upazila on Tuesday.

The victims -- Nazmunnahar, 20, Shamsunnahar, 22, their mother Shahera Begum, 52, and their neighbour Deru Pramanik, 50, -- were admitted to Lalpur Health Complex.

Sources at the village said the miscreants led by Bhasan attacked the house as the head of the family, Khandaker Nizamuddin, refused to pay Tk 20,000 as toll for working in favour of Awami League in the last parliamentary election.

They also tried to kidnap Nazmunnahar but failed.

On Monday midnight, the miscreants entered Nizamuddin's house breaking the door and threat-

ened him that his daughters would be kidnapped if he failed to pay the toll.

Nizamuddin informed police, who visited his house on the following day.

The armed miscreants again attacked the house on Tuesday evening when there was no male member in the house and beat the two girls and their mother indiscriminately.

The attackers also smashed fingers of both hands of Shahera, left hand fingers of Nazmunnahar and an elbow of Shamsunnahar with hammers. Neighbour Deru was severely beaten when he went there hearing screams.

Nizamuddin's son Golam Morshed filed a case with Lalpur thana accusing five persons. The accused are Bhasan, Saiful Islam, Zaker Ali, Idris Ali and Del Bahar. None was arrested.

**Body recovered**

UNB, Satkhira

The body of an old man was recovered from a mango orchard near his house at Katakhal village in Tala upazila of Satkhira Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Panchanan Mallik, 50, of the village. He was missing since Monday.

Police suspected that members of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party slaughtered him as he refused to give them toll.

In another incident, a housewife suffered serious burn injuries in an acid attack allegedly by her husband at Pania village in Kaliganj upazila Monday.

Villagers said Shahidul Islam hurled acid at his second wife, Shakhina Khatun, 30, a mother of two, as she filed a case against him under Women Repression (Prevention) Act.

She was admitted to Kaliganj upazila health complex in a critical condition. Shahidul was absconding.

Meanwhile, BDR jawans recovered 20.5 kgs of silver worth over Tk 3 lakh from Demrail frontier in the upazila Thursday.

## Kidnapping for ransom on rise in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Kidnapping for ransoms in Kushtia is on the rise, making difficult the job of the law enforcers to improve the deteriorating law and order situation.

According to competent sources, 18 people were abducted from different parts of Kushtia since the Oct 1 national election while eight well-off families received anonymous letters from the kidnappers.

They said the victims were either being tortured or killed by the abductors in case of failure to meet their demand of ransom.

Locals said a number of organised gangs were involved in the kidnapping. They pick up rich people and even farmers at gun-

point and demand ransom from their families.

In a number of cases, the victims did not file cases for fear of reprisal by the criminals.

The terrorists abducted Matin from Bheramara upazila on Oct 17 while Enamul from Gopalpur on Oct 22, and three others -- Shariful, Kafil and Alam -- from Sadar on Nov 21.

Besides, 14 people in Bheramara upazila received anonymous letters with demands of ransom: Tk one lakh each.

After receiving the letters, some of them informed police while some others went into hiding.

Despite receiving allegations, police could not yet identify the kidnappers, villagers alleged.



Artistes rendering patriotic songs at a cultural function at Tangail Poura Uddyan on December 16. Tangail District Information Office arranged the function as part of Victory Day celebration programme.