

## SNAPS

## 4 Indians held for trespass

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushitia*  
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested four Indian citizens for illegal intrusion into Bangladesh through Jhenidah border Saturday night.

They are Dilip Das, his wife Anjali Das, Bikram and Sanjoy.

BDR sources at Bagdanga border outpost (BOP) said the arrested persons told them that they hail from Bardhaman district in West Bengal.

BDR handed them over to Mahespur police, which filed a case.

## Function held to mark launching of Unicef report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushitia*  
A ceremony was held at the Shilpakola Academy here marking launching of the Unicef report on State of the World's Children-2003.

Naseem-ur-Rehman, Unicef's Chief Communication and Information Officer in Bangladesh was in the chair.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahasanul Haque was the chief guest while Police Superintendent Abdus Salam was the special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Naseem-ur-Rehman lauded the government's steps for primary education. Introduction of stipend for regular attendance at school and recruitment of 60 per cent of primary school teachers from among women are "welcome decisions".

But 10 per cent of girls are still out of school. This has to be addressed, he said.

## Youth freed after ransom payment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushitia*  
A college student abducted from Moheshpur on December 17 was freed in Kushitia town on Saturday after payment of Tk 5000 ransom.

An armed gang abducted Jonny, 20, son of Shyamol Nath of Mahespur upazila and a student at Mahespur Degree College while he was going to a teacher's house in the evening.

The gang demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom. He was left blindfolded near a canal in the town after payment of Tk 5,000 following negotiation, police said family sources said.

No case was filed as the captors threatened of dire consequences, the family said.

## Boy 'abducted' in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*  
Tahmid Siddiqui Alias Rakin, a student of class three of Khulna Zilla School was allegedly abducted at about 9 am on Saturday from near his father's residence at 60, Khan/A Sabur road in the city.

He is the son of prominent businessman and BNP leader Kamal Siddiqui.

A general diary has been filed with Khulna.

Police however said the boy was 'missing' and not 'abducted.'

## Foundation of 3 bridges laid in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*,

State Minister for Home Lutuzzaman Babor laid the foundation of two footbridges and one RCC bridge on Wednesday and Thursdays respectively.

A 60-metre footbridge will be built on Mogra river in Netrakona municipal area at a cost of Tk 42.75 lakh. Another 63.05-metre footbridge will be built at Jimty on Dattakhila river in Mohongonj upazila at a cost of Tk 76.32 lakh.

The 54.05-metre long RCC bridge will be built on Dholay river in Modan upazila at a cost of Tk 54 lakh.

Former lawmaker Ashrafuddin Khan, Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Hossain Jamil, Police Superintendent Sheikh Omar Faruk, LGED Executive Engineer Manjurul Kader Siddiki, BNP Vice-president of Netrakona Senior Abdul Mannan Talukder, General Secretary advocate Mahfujul Haque and party Organising Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan were present on the occasion.

## Doctor assaulted at B'baria after death of patient

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

A doctor was assaulted and property damaged at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital by a group of unruly people after the death of a patient on December 18 due to alleged negligence of duty.

According to hospital sources, pregnant Ribi Akter, 19, wife of jiban Mia of Sibpur village in Nabinagor upazila was admitted to the diarrhoea ward on December 15.

On Tuesday, she was shifted to the gynae ward where she died. After her death, some people attacked on-duty Dr Sofiqul Islam and damaged property at the emergency ward and the gynae ward.

The attackers fled away as police came.

## Mongla BNP leader murdered as per plan, PBCP outlaw confesses

SP says murder done by 'hired' men: Victim's brother terms it 'political killing', names 8 AL men in case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Arrested outlaw belonging PBCP (J) Nuruzzaman now being questioned by police at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) prison cell prison cell confessed his involvement in the murder of Mongla BNP leader Talukder Abdul Halim. Halim was gunned down Monday night while he was playing badminton at Mongla Sramik Kalyan road.

The PBCP (J) outlaw told police that Halim was killed as per a plan made at a school of Khulna city. But he did not disclose the names of persons who planned the murder.

Two others were involved in the murder, but he did not disclose

their names also.

"I fell into trouble when all the bullets of my sawnoff rifle were exhausted. I could easily escape like two others with the help of bomb. But unfortunately I did not have bomb", he told pooice.

Nuruzzaman, 30, was caught with a sawn-off rifle while fleeing after shooting the BNP leader.

The outlaw is now being guarded at KMCH prison cell by a Sub Inspector, an ASI and six constables of Bagerhat district police in addition to eight armed constables of KMP and three security guards of district jail.

He will be taken on remand after recovery from fatal wounds caused by mass beating.

Mozammel Talukder, elder brother of the slain BNP leader filed a case with Mongla thana on the night of December 15, naming eight persons as accused.

All the FIR named accused belong to Awami League and Jubo League.

They are chairmen of Mongla Pourasava Abdus Salam, Golam Mowla Kakon, Iddris Ali Ijaradar, Bulbul Ijaradar, Eskendar, Kabir, World Commissioner Moniruzzaman Moni and PBCP (Jana Juddho) cadre Nuruzzaman.

Mozammel Talukder termed it a political murder. He said Abdul Halim had an intention to contest for the posts of chairman of Mongla Pourasava and Mongla Bandar

Sramik Sangha in the ensuing elections.

Halim was defeated by AL candidate Abdus Salam in the bye-election held in April this year for the post of Mongla Pourasava Chairman.

Bagerhat Police Superintendent Mesbahuddin and OC of Mongla thana Shahabuddin Khalipha said Talukder Abdul Halim was given "death threat" several times by PBCP (J) outlaws. They said the murder was committed by hired outlaws.

Sirajul Huq, another senior leader of BNP and general secretary of Mongla Bangder Sramik Sangha has termed the murder "a sequel to intra-party rivalry".

## 300 guest birds killed with pesticide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

About 300 migratory birds were killed at a shrimp farm at Puijala village in Shyamnagar upazila recently.

Local people said Abdus Sattar, a staff of the farm, sprayed pesticide-mixed fodder around the enclosure. The birds fell sick as they took those. Sattar caught them, slaughtered and sold their meat in the local market, they claimed.

## Husband chargesheeted in Tia 'murder' case

A CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police in Lalmonirhat has chargesheeted the husband in housewife Aan Karobi Tias 'murder' case.

The charge sheet was filed against Tia's husband Shahed Rahman Pavel on December 17, three months and ten days after filing of a murder case by the victim's mother Suchitra Adhikari under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Lalmonirhat Sadar thana. Pavel's mother Alhaj Rawshan Ara Rahman was also accused in the case.

Pavel is absconding. He is the son of Prof Alhaj Golam Rahaman.

In the charge sheet, CID said Pavel was a drug addict.

Tiad died on August 29 from fatal burn injuries she suffered at her husband's house at Lalmonirhat town. Her husband's family said she was injured as the stove burst while she was boiling milk. But Tia's parents claimed that she was burnt to death for dowry.

The death evoked public anger in the town. People staged demonstrations demanding punishment of the killers.

Bomb attack on DIG's jeep

## Seven shown arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Seven out of 45 persons taken into custody have been shown arrested in two separate incidents of bomb attack on the Pajero Jeep of Additional DIG and Sub Inspector Shahid Shurawardy.

The remaining 38 were released from Sonadanga and Khalishpur police stations.

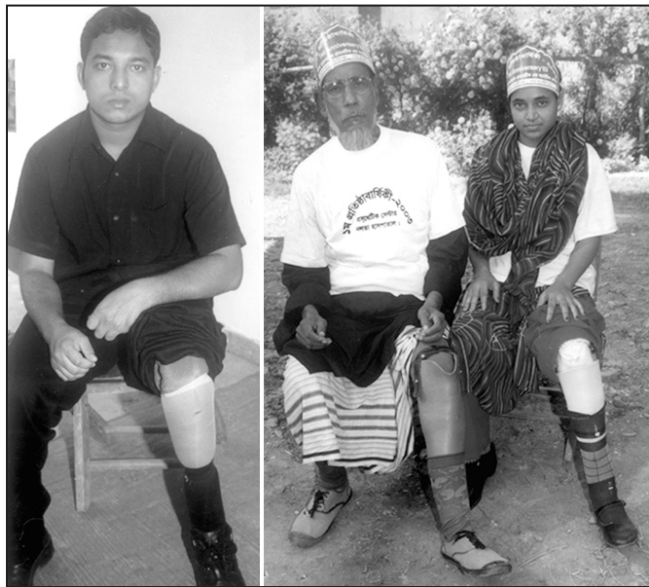
Those shown arrested area Munshi Tarak Hossain, 24, Murad, 24 and Noor Alam, 33, of Sonadanga thana area and Ershad, 22, Tanvir, 23, Ratan, 24 and Ranju, 20 of Khalishpur thana area. The incidents took place on Sunday.

All of them have been sent to the district jail.

Two on cases have been filed under the Arms Act.

SI Jalaluddin and SI Nasiruddin of Sonadanga and Khalishpur thanas respectively will investigate the cases, sources said.

## Nalta Hospital gave them new life



(Left) BBA student Jahurul Islam, Ansar Uddin and housewife Kulsum with their artificial legs at the founding anniversary celebration, and (right) Mrs. Dona Bargase, President of Ciatol Prosthetics Foundation of USA, Dr. J W Rugby and Dr. AFM Ruhul Haq at a meeting on the occasion at the Prosthetics and Orthotic Shelter at Nalta Hospital in Kaliganj..

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Jahurul Islam Shishir, a BBA student of Independent University, Ansar Uddin, a police man from Debhata and housewife Kulsum Begum of Satkhira town have now new visions in life.

They can move without any body's help, thanks to their artificial legs they got from the Prosthetics and Orthotic Shelter at Nalta Hospital in Kaliganj upazila.

They are among 50 people including 12 children who came to express their gratitude to the authorities on the occasion of the first founding anniversary of the Shelter. The children were given artificial legs free of cost.

It was a festive mood on the hospital premises with participation of doctors, teachers, government officials, local elite and 50

people coming from different areas of the country who are leading normal life with the help of artificial legs.

The day-long programme included a colourful rally brought out from Nalta Bazar.

Mrs Dona Bargase, president of Ciatol Prosthetics Outrich Foundation of USA, Dr J W Rugby, one of the founders of the hospital, renowned orthopaedics Dr AFM Ruhul Haq and hundreds of people from all walks of life participated in the procession that paraded the Bazar areas.

A discussion meeting was held on the hospital premises with Dr AFM Ruhul Haq in the chair. Mrs Bargase and Dr JW Rugby were present as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Former lawmaker Monsur Ahmed and some others spoke

while Mrs Dona Bargase unveiled the plaque of the Shelter.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ruhul Haq said in future children will be given artificial limbs free of cost and orthopaedic operation will also be done at the Shelter, he said.

Mrs Dona Bargase said, if necessary, in case of fitting artificial limbs, the Outrich Foundation will bear the operation cost.

Dr Ragby said the hospital has been provided with modern medical facilities and called upon the local people to develop it further for their benefit.

The hospital with financial assistance from the Out rich Foundation started producing artificial limbs last year.

Dr AFM Ruhul Haq and Dr JW Rugby are visiting the hospital very

often and treating patients since its establishment in 1999.

This is the second such hospital set up with assistance from the Foundation after Vitman.

Dr Remon Pie and Dr Jasim, two renowned prosthetics are also involved in the project.

The recipients of artificial legs include a truck driver, sources said.

Raw materials to produce artificial limbs are imported from Vietnam.

BBA student Jahurul Islam Shishir of Kishorganj lost his leg in a train accident at Kamapur railway station in Dhaka on January 10, 2002.

He came to the Shelter on February 25, 2003 and went back to normal life with an artificial leg at a cost of Tk 5000.

## Citizens' rally against corruption

A CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A citizens' rally and a procession against corruption, joined by political leaders, were held under the joint auspices of the Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) and the Committee of Concerned Citizen (CCC) at Modhubur recently.

TIB Trustee Board Chairman and noted intellectual Prof Khan Sorowar Murshed led the procession. Government officials including the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), the Upazila Education Officer (UEO), the Officer-in-Charge of Modhubur thana, NGO activists and the local elite attended the programmes.

The procession started from the Upazila Parisad campus and ended in a rally at the Rani Bhabani Pilot

High School ground.

CCC Convener Prof Golam Samdani presided over the rally. Prof Khan Sorowar Murshed spoke as the chief guest while principal Sikander Hayat, NDI Country Representative Dr Owen Lippart were special guests. The speakers also included TIB Study Circle Programme Coordinator Abul Momen, TIB Programme Officer Ekram Hossain, Principal Monsurur Rahman, UEO Malobika Bhoumik, Awami League leader Bappu Siddiki, BNP leader Nurul Islam, Abdul Latif and Bazlul Rashid Khan Chunnur.

TIB Programeer Samapika Halder presented a report on corruption in primary education and health services in the upazila.

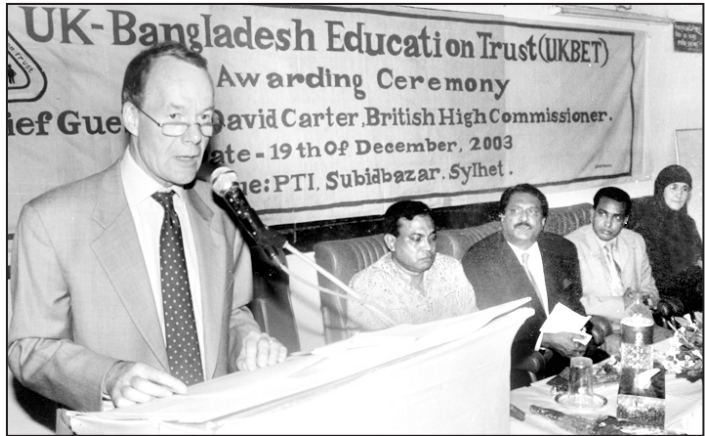
The report was prepared as per recommendations of five TIB study circles in Madhubur.

Khan Sorowar Murshed in his speech said misuse of power breeds corruption because parliament, Baurau of Anti-corruption and Public Accounts Office are not effective and election is influenced by money and muscle power.

He said corruption has become rampant and taken many forms because corrupt people escape punishment.

Politics in our country has become an investment now. All these can be checked only if people become conscious and build a social resistance, he said.

Other speakers called upon the people to unite and build a social resistance against corruption.



British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Dr David Carter addressing the certificate awarding ceremony as chief guest.

## UK gives Tk 850 cr a year for education, HC says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*.

British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Dr David Carter has said his government gives Bangladesh at least Tk 850 crore direct assistance every year in education sector.

The figure is rising, part of which goes to the government and part to NGOs like BRAC, he said while addressing a certificate awarding ceremony of the UK-Bangladesh Education Trust (UKBET) in Sylhet on Friday.

Dr. Carter distributed certificates among 120 English teachers who took part in English language training course conducted by the UKBET.

Chaired by Md. Shamsuddin, Project Director of UKBET, a UK-based charity which runs free training of English teachers in Sylhet region, the function was also addressed by UKBET Trustee Dr. Kabir Chowdhury, Sylhet Press Club President Iqbal Siddiquee, and Founder Project Director of UKBET Sumaiya Brown Raihan.

Dr. Carter said education is the largest sector after health which receives British assistance to

improve primary education.

Dr. Carter said the British Council last year began free training of English teachers. Some 25 teachers from seven schools in Sylhet division took part in the course. The programme is being expanded, he said.

The British Council and Tower Hamlets Council in UK are contributing to building useful links with Bangladesh, he said.

The function was also addressed among others by Bng Gen (Retd) Jubayer Siddiquee, Principal of Scholarshome School and College, Idris Ali Birpratik, teacher of Doarabazar Multilateral School and College, Zahura Begum of Kazi Jalaluddin High School, Mokbul Hossain of Jubilee High School in Sunamganj, Abdul Mugni of Chhatak High School, Abdur Rab, Beanibazar High School and Zahid Bin Matin of English Language Teachers Training Programme (ELTP).

Hossain Ahmed, Project Co-ordinator of UKBET, gave the welcome address while Asaduzzaman Sayem conducted the function.



TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Khan Sorowar Morshed (second from right) speaking at the rally. On his right is NDI Country Representative Dr. Owen Lippart.