

30-year historic water treaty

Highlights of Treaty

Following are the highlights of the 30-year treaty between India and Bangladesh on sharing of the Ganges waters at Farakka, reports UNB.

- The quantum of waters agreed to be released by India to Bangladesh will be at Farakka.
- The sharing between India and Bangladesh of the Ganges waters at Farakka will be by ten-day periods from January 1 to May 31 every year.
- The waters will be shared on 50:50 basis if the availability at Farakka is 70,000 cusecs or less.
- Bangladesh will get 35,000 cusecs and India the balance of flow if the availability at Farakka is between 70 and 75 thousand cusecs.
- In case of availability of 75,000 cusecs or more, India will receive 40,000 cusecs and Bangladesh the rest.
- If actual availability corresponds to average flow of 40 years till 1988, Bangladesh will get 35,000 cusecs water in first and last 10 days of April and 27,633 cusecs from April 11-20.
- If the flow at Farakka falls below 50,000 cusecs in any 10-day period, the two govern-

ments will enter into immediate consultations to make adjustments on an emergency basis.

- India shall release downstream of Farakka Barrage, water at a rate not less than 90 per cent of Bangladesh's share until such time as mutually agreed flows are decided upon.
- The waters released to Bangladesh at Farakka shall not be reduced below Farakka except for reasonable uses of waters, not exceeding 200 cusecs, by India between Farakka and the point on the Ganges where both its banks are in Bangladesh.
- A joint committee consisting of equal number of representatives of the two governments shall set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka the daily flows below Farakka Barrage, in the Feeder Canal, and at the Navigation Lock, as well as at the Hardinge Bridge.
- The joint committee shall submit to the two governments all data collected by it and shall also submit a yearly report to

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From M Anwarul Haq
NEW DELHI, Dec 12: Bangla-desh and India today signed a landmark 30-year agreement ending the acrimonious dispute over Ganges water sharing between the two countries.

The historic deal was clinched between the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India Sheikh Hasina and Deve Gowda at the stately Hyderabad House in the heart of the Indian capital. The signing ceremony was a brief five minute affair beginning at 11-25 am.

The treaty enters into force with its signing and is renewable on the basis of mutual agreement on the expiry of the 30-year period.

The agreement guarantees a minimum water flow of 35,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) to Bangladesh from the Farakka Barrage during January 1 to May 31, when the flow there is 70,000 cusecs or more.

When the flow falls below 70,000 cusecs, as it usually does between March and May every year, the two countries would share the water equally.

If the availability is 75,000 cusecs or more, India will get 40,000 cusecs and Bangladesh the rest.

The two prime ministers had a second round of talks before the signing ceremony at Hyderabad House.

Hasina offered Deve Gowda a special pen to initial the documents. "It's a historic moment. I am very happy," Hasina said on signing the treaty.

"It will be a new chapter... We laid a solid foundation of mutual trust and friendship today and it will continue in the future," said Deve Gowda.

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Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Irrigation Secretary Shamsul Huda, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India C M Shafi Sami and other members of the Prime Minister's entourage attended

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart H D Deve Gowda exchanging documents at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday after the two signed the landmark accord to share the Ganges water for 30 years. — AFP/UNB photo

Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha hail treaty

NEW DELHI, Dec 12: Members in both the houses of Indian Parliament today welcomed the signing of the 30-year Indo-Bangladesh water sharing treaty as Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda informed them the details of the pact, reports BSS.

The Lok Sabha members applauded the treaty by thumping desks when Prime Minister Deve Gowda declared that the treaty would be a landmark in the bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh.

He told the members that both Bangladesh and India would receive a guaranteed flow of 35,000 cusecs of water in an alternative sequence of ten-day periods each during the critical lean period from March 1 to May 10.

Deve Gowda said the treaty has a provision for mandatory reviews at the end of five years and even earlier after two years with provisions for adjustments as required.

Pending a fresh understanding. — See Page 12 Col 7

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2656.66
Market capital Tk 18974.15 cr
Transactions in volume 1.51 lakh
Transactions in value Tk 7.53 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 1309.90
Market capital Tk 15330.39 cr
Transactions in volume 38810
Transactions in value Tk 1.31 cr

Rising Stars

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NEWS BRIEFS

Shukrana munajat today

Shukrana munajat, a prayer of gratitude, will be offered at all mosques throughout the country after Jumma prayers today for successful signing of the Ganges water treaty. Special prayers will also be offered at mandirs, churches, pagodas and other worship places all over the country seeking blessing of the Almighty for the welfare of the nation, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

BCL gheraoes IU VC's office

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Dec 11: The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Islamic University unit gheraoed the VC office today demanding immediate removal of the VC Professor Inam-ul-Haque.

The BCL brought various charges including corruption, malpractice, misuse of power and irregularities against the VC.

The BCL also held a rally in front of the VC's office.

PM returns to a tumultuous welcome 'It's time to build nation'

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned from Delhi yesterday to a tumultuous welcome by a huge jubilant crowd celebrating the 30-year accord on sharing of the Ganges water.

"I am very happy to resolve a problem and I think the people will also be happy. We have resolved the problem, now is the time to concentrate on building up the nation. We shall move on that way," the Premier told BBC correspondent Francis Harrison on her return to the Zia International Airport from Delhi last evening.

Harrison was the only reporter allowed to talk to the

Premier. Local journalists were barred from approaching the PM. Some were pushed away by security personnel while others ran behind the Premier's motorcade, as it cut through throngs of cheering people trying to catch a glimpse of the happy and smiling PM, waving back to them.

The PM told BBC that the treaty we have signed has removed the long obstacle. Bangladesh did not receive the Ganges water for a long time. It will get its due share with the agreement initialled.

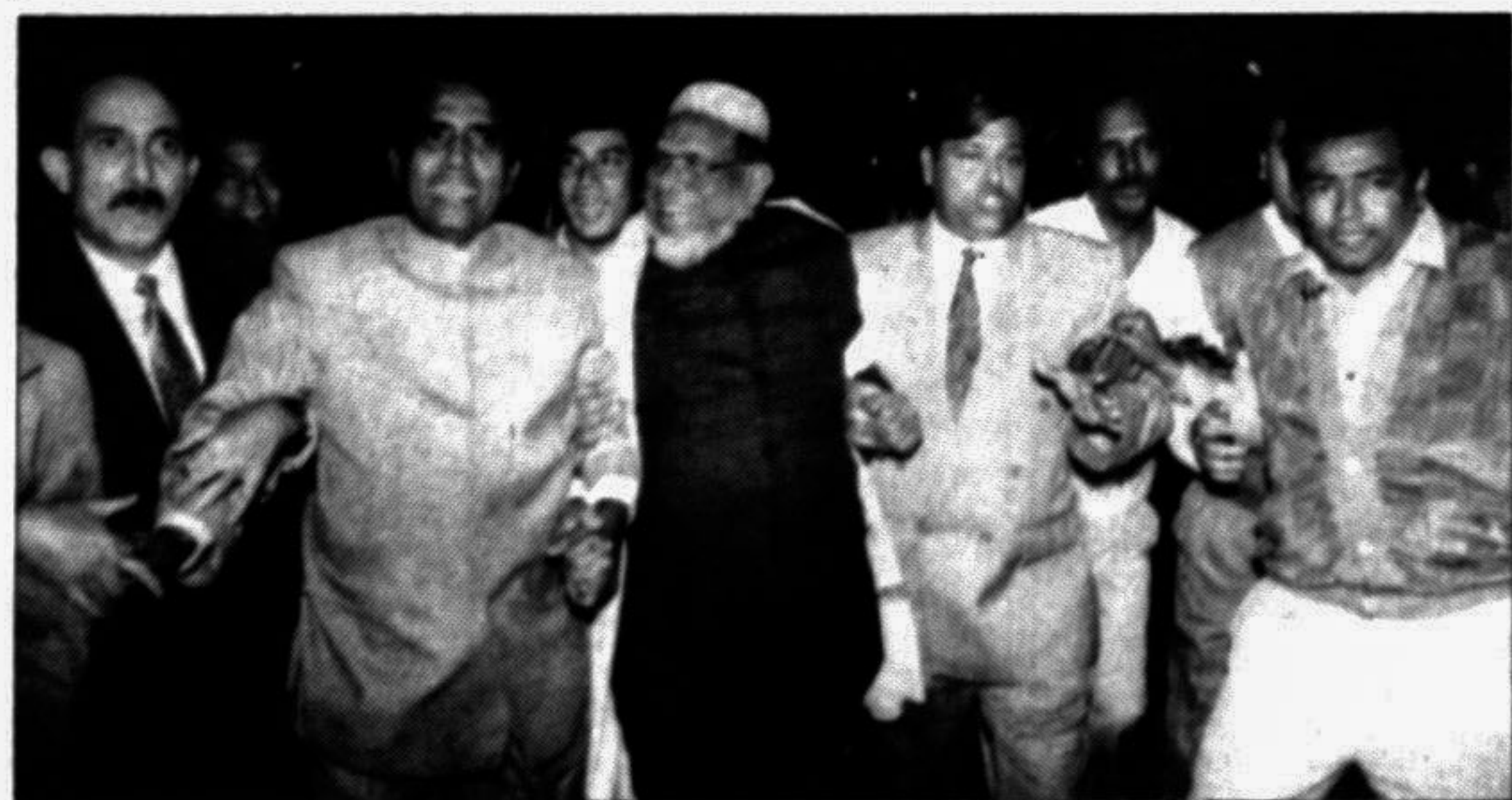
She further said that in to-

day's world it is an utmost necessity to have cooperation, understanding and friendship with all. "We can resolve the problems facing the country out of it," she said.

On her arrival at ZIA, the Prime Minister was received at the VIP lounge by members of cabinet, high civil and military officials, diplomats and senior leaders of the Awami League.

After the brief ceremony, she drove past the cheering crowd who gathered at the entrance of the VIP enclosure of the airport but kept at bay by a large number of police who provided

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A jubilant Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak on return from Delhi yesterday, joined the cheering crowd in front of the VIP terminal at the ZIA. — Star photo

River treaty with India Strike in Kathmandu: 150 protestors arrested

KATHMANDU, Dec 12: Police arrested 150 people taking part in anti-government demonstrations in the Nepal capital today as the communist opposition enforced a general strike, reports AFP.

Almost all businesses and schools were closed and traffic stayed off roads in Kathmandu and other main towns because of the strike, called to protest a treaty made with India on the Mahakali river.

Around 500 people staged a demonstration in the middle of Kathmandu which riot police moved in to disperse with batons. The arrests were made at the demonstration.

Police said other arrests had been made for stoning vehicles at various places in the capital. Police were posted at post-offices, telephone exchange and

banks in the capital. Security forces were also posted at all bridges on roads out of Kathmandu.

Communist groups and left-wing allies called the strike to protest against the Mahakali River Treaty signed by India and Nepal in February.

The project was intended to harness the waters of the Mahakali river, which marks part of the border between India and Nepal, and use it for power generation and irrigation.

But opposition groups in Nepal say it is against the national interest. They also demanded the release of dozens of detained Maoists.

Police detained more than 60 people on the eve of the strike in what they said was an effort to prevent troubles.

NGO to collect garbage from door to door

By Morshed Ali Khan

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has, for the first time, allowed an NGO to collect garbage from door to door in Ward No 39, DCC sources said.

"We have approved the project and will soon sign a year-long contract with the Society for Economic and Environmental Development (SEED)," said an official of the DCC.

The NGO will collect garbage from door to door in Kawran

Bazar and other areas in the Ward and will ensure a clean environment making better use of the de-mountable containers and other related places, he said.

"DCC will provide the NGO with resources — 150 personnel, wheelbarrows and about 10 rickshaw vans — to do the job in the area," the official added.

The NGO will not charge anything from people of the

Two murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were murdered in Motijheel and Demra areas of the city yesterday.

A guard of a commercial building at Motijheel was stabbed to death alleged by another guard in the early hours of Thursday. Mofiz, son of the late Alsar Uddin of Homna in Comilla district, was stabbed and later thrown from the sixth floor of the Padma Printers building on Rajshahi Avenue, police said. He died on the spot. Mofiz had reportedly an altercation with his colleague Salahuddin alias Selu Wednesday night.

Later, at about 3 am Selu and three of his accomplices attacked Mofiz in front of the Srama Bhaban and took him to the sixth floor of the Padma Printers building.

A special squad of Motijheel police during a raid in Demra arrested the main accused

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Sharma hosts luncheon

NEW DELHI, Dec 12: Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma today hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Rastrapati Bhavan, reports BSS.

Indian Vice-President K R Narayanan, Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, former prime ministers P V Narasimha Rao, and Chandrasekhar, Foreign Minister I K Gujral, West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, Ms Sonia Gandhi, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Farooq Sobhan, Water Resources Secretary Dr Shamsul Huda, and Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, among others, attended the luncheon.

PM pays homage to M K Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Dec 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today paid homage to the founder of India Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat by placing a wreath at his samadhi, reports BSS.

After placing the wreath, the Prime Minister stood in solemn silence for a few minutes.

She also placed a sapling of magnolia tree.

Sheikh Hasina signed the visitor's book and wrote, "there is no other greater thing than to love the people and the country." Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, and members of her entourage were present on the occasion.

Govt has sold out nat'l interest, says BNP

Main Opposition BNP snubbed the government for signing the Ganges water-sharing pact with India that, it said, harmed national interests, reports UNB.

"We have not yet received details of the agreement... But as far as we could know from different sources, it seems the government has sold out national interest through this agreement," BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said.

He was giving to newsmen yesterday evening his party's instant reaction to the just-signed water accord with India. "It's a national issue... and the government should have sought opinion from all before

signing the agreement. But it didn't," he said, adding "we were always ready to cooperate with the government on this issue."

Bhuiyan said during the 5-month period between January 1 and May 31, Bangladesh would get less quantum of Ganges water than that available in the 1977 water-sharing accord.

"Bangladesh got the minimum 34,500 cusec water during that five months as per the 1977 agreement. But now the country will get 27,633 cusec according to the new accord," he claimed.

The BNP leader said Bangladesh got more water than India every ten days as per the 1977 accord. "The propor-

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Agreement welcomed

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties and professional bodies have welcomed the Ganges water-sharing agreement with India signed yesterday.

They expressed the hope that the spirit of friendship that made the signing of a water treaty possible would continue and help resolve other problems between the two neighbouring countries.

The parties and organisations also stressed the need for appropriate plans to ensure proper utilisation of the water to be obtained from the river Ganges.

Awami League
General Secretary of the ruling Awami League Zillur Rahman said that this treaty fulfilled an expectation of the people after long.

In a statement Zillur Rahman congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the government of India for the signing of the treaty.

He expressed his gratitude to Allah for this.

The AL leader also requested the people to offer special prayers after Juma prayers today and at other places of worship.

Jatiya Party
Jatiya Party acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday congratulated the government and the people of India for what he said ensuring the highest quantum of water to Bangladesh since 1975 through the treaty signed yesterday.

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Ex-Moroccan PM Laraki new OIC Secy-Gen

JAKARTA, Dec 12: A former Moroccan prime minister was picked Thursday to lead a group representing the world's Muslim nations, and said he would promote Islam as a peaceful faith opposed to terrorism, reports AP.

Azzedine Laraki, 67, was elected secretary-general of the 54-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference by acclamation at a conference of its foreign ministers. He was the only candidate.

Laraki, prime minister of Morocco from 1986 to 1992, is chancellor of the country's Akhawayn University.

He succeeds Hamid Algabid of Niger as OIC secretary-general in January, taking over a 100-member staff in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

CSE price index falls

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: Trading in the country's second bourse in the port city is picking up after a long spell of declining trend, market operators said.

Turnover in today's floor trading rose to over Tk 13.12 million from Tk 5.54 million recorded yesterday.

During today's trading, 27 issues were traded of which 16 posted gains and 11 incurred loss. Yesterday, 10 issues out of 29 traded in the floor posted gain and 19 issues incurred loss.

However, the price index continued to decline. Today, the price index came down to 1309.90 points from 1315.91 points recorded yesterday.

On Tuesday, the index was 1320.48 points and turnover was recorded at Tk 1.31 million.

The Chittagong stock exchange began to witness slight improvement in the past three days and its kerb market also gained momentum.

Krishak Fed men, villagers clash: 100 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 12: At least one hundred people were reportedly injured in a clash between the members of the Krishak Federation and villagers at Charlata of Patuakhali this afternoon.

Two villagers who received bullet injuries were admitted to Galachipa hospital. They are Alai Peada and Nurul Islam.

Police fired shots to disperse the rival groups. Many houses were also set on fire during the clash. Police arrested 10 persons from the spot soon after the incident.

The members of the Krishak Federation alleged that Abul Kalam, Chairman, Chalitabunia union had started atrocities on the innocent villagers of Charlata.

25 jute godowns gutted in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Dec 12: Some 25 jute godowns were gutted in a fire at Chapatala ghat in the town this evening, reports UNB.

Witnesses said more than 20,000 maunds of raw jute in the godowns were burnt to ashes. The blaze originated from a nearby shop quickly en-

Let youths know true history

25th V-Day

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday said the 'war criminals' would never be forgiven.

They urged the pro-liberation forces to enable the new generations to know the true history of the Liberation War so that they could stand against the anti-liberation forces.

The discussion meeting was organised by Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote at the Ramna Batamul as part of its fortnight long programme 'Mujib Ujjal Roudre' in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day.

President over by Prof Mamtauddin Ahmed, the discussion meeting was also addressed by Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, Prof Panna Kaiser, Lutfur Rahman Riton, Salahuddin Badal, Sheikh Abdul Kader and Osman Gani.

Speakers at another discussion meeting said the martyred intellectuals not only wanted an independent territory they also wanted a society free from communalism.

Organised by Shaheed Buddhajibi Smriti Pathagar in observance of the Martyred Intellectuals Day, the discussion meeting was also addressed by Mostafa Kamal, Nurul Islam and Hasan Chisti.

They urged the government to take initiatives for the trial of the killers of 71.

A reminiscence meeting was held in the conference room of



A new plaque being installed at the Martyred Intellectuals memorial at Mirpur in the city. — Star photo