

News snaps

Installation ceremony held

NARSINGDI, Dec 5: The installation ceremony of the office bearers of the newly elected Madhabdi College Students' Union was held recently at Madhabdi College premises, reports BSS.

Hafizur Rahman Hafiz and Anwar Hossain of Bangladesh Chhatra League have been elected vice-president and general secretary respectively of the students' union. The function was presided over by Prof Abdul Ali Chowdhury, Principal of the college. Labour and Manpower Minister M A Mannan and minister without portfolio Lt. General (Retd) Mohammad Noordin Khan attended the function as the chief guest and special guest respectively. The function was addressed among others by Meher Afroz Chumki, MP, Advocate Asaduzzaman, President of Narsingdi district Awami League, Abdul Matin Bhuiyan, President of Narsingdi town Awami League, Abdul Basir, president and Lokman Hossain, secretary, Narsingdi district Chhatra League.

Discussion on October revolution

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 5: A discussion to mark the 81st anniversary of the October revolution was held on Sunday at the old court building premises here, reports BSS.

Kazi Abu Mansur, an elderly left politician, presided over the discussion. Anu Mohammad, Prof of Economics at Jangnagar University was the chief guest. Among others, Shahriar Mohammad Feroz, Azizul Islam, Khondkar Yunus Ahmed and Addun Noor participated in the discussion on the significance of the great October revolution under the leadership of V I Lenin.

Polythene bags vitiating environment

NARAIL, Dec 5: Indiscriminate dumping of polythene bags has been vitiating the environment in the town since long, reports UNB.

According to the dwellers, most of the people usually throw away these bags on the roads, drains, canals, ponds and other places in a careless manner which eventually block the drains in the area polluting the environment. Polythene users ought to be made cautious about its dangerous effects, said local experts adding that it has manifold and long term environmental effects including the pollution of soil. They also said it is high time to make the commonman conscious about the use and proper disposal of polythene bags. The dwellers have urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps to restrict the use of such bags.

110 cataract patients operated upon

TANGAIL, Dec 5: One hundred and 10 eye cataract patients were operated upon and two thousand out-door eye patients attended in a camp held at Elasin Moulana Bhasani College recently, reports BSS.

Bangladesh National Society for the Blind organised the free camp. Patients were provided with necessary facilities including spectacles.

Tk 20 lakh uplift projects taken up

PROJPUR, Dec 5: The Zilla Parishad has taken up six development projects at a cost of Tk 20.60 lakh under its annual development programme during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The projects include construction of three iron bridges, one on Hotakali River in Nazirpur thana, one on Bari canal in Nasarabadi thana and the other in Sadar thana. Under the programme a herringbone road at Kaukhali Bazar and two culverts in Bhandaria thana will be constructed while brick soiling of a road in Sadar thana will be completed. The projects are likely to be completed within February next.

National

Nobody remembers martyrs of Langalbandh massacre

From Monojit Kumar Das

MAGURA Dec 5: Martyrs of our Liberation War are not given due honour in the district due to indifference.

Many brave freedom fighters and general people have sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War in 1971. Their graveyards are now lying uncared and their families are passing their days in great hardship. The young generation of many areas in the district do not even know the names of martyrs who were brutally killed by the Occupation Pakistani forces due to negligence of the concerned authorities.

Hundreds of freedom fighters were organised by Sripur Bahini led by Akbar Hossain Mia and Yakub Babini led by Golam Yakub Bhati Pratik fought against the brutal Pakistani forces in different battles of the district and adjoining areas.

The brutal Pakistani forces and their collaborators brutally killed many innocent people in towns and villages of the district.

During the months of September and October in 1971 the Occupation Pakistani forces

failed to set up camps permanently in the important places of the district due to fear of the freedom fighters' ambush.

As a result, being bewildered the brutal Pak Army massacred in different localities of the district.

Such a brutal massacre occurred at Langalbandh and its adjoining areas of Sripur and Salkupa thanas of Jhenidah district on October 13, 1971 by the Occupation Forces and their collaborators. The freedom fighters of Sripur Bahini ambushed a group of Pakistani forces and their collaborators in the afternoon of the fateful day on the western bank of Sk-11 Canal of the Ganges Kobdak Project near Masalia mosque of Sripur thana. As a result, the Occupation Pakistani forces became furious to take revenge on the innocent villagers of the adjoining areas. They burnt scores of houses at Masalia, Sheikh Para, Molithia and brutally killed 13 persons on the bank of the canal. Even 75 to 80 years' old men could not escape the killing.

The names of the martyrs

are: Habibur Rahman, son of Jahiruddin Mollah, Khorshed Mollah, son of Badan Mollah, Sayed Ali, son of Darajtullah, Moslem Sheikh, son of Monsif Musalli, Abdul Jalil, son of Monsif Musalli, Mokbul Sheikh, son of Jamal Sheikh, Ujal Sheikh, son of Ashraf Sheikh, Surat Ali, son of Haran Bayati, Dudu Mallik, son of Tasiruddin, Moksed Ali, son of Hirajtulla Sheikh, Yusuf Ali Sheikh, son of Jamu Sheikh and Tafel Mondol, son of Bagu Mondal of Saoril village in Panga thana of Rajbari district.

Most of the above mentioned martyrs' houses were situated at Sheikhpura, Malithia in Salkupa thana of Jhenidah district, adjacent to Sripur thana. This correspondent visited the areas and found, only two graves of Habibur Rahman and Khorshed Mollah are being protected by boundary wall. There is no sign of the graves of other martyrs.

While talking to Md Naimuddin Mollah, brother of

martyr Habibur Rahman he told the correspondent that the martyrs of October '71 massacre were not remembered by the local people due to lack of authorities' negligence. No monument was erected for the memory of their supreme sacrifice. It is a matter of great regret that nobody remembers them on the eve of the Victory Day. The widows and helpless sons and daughters of the martyrs are passing their days in great distress without any government help, he added.

The young generation of the areas like students do not even know the names of the martyrs. Even many of them did not hear the acts of brutality of the Occupation Pakistani Forces in the area, some students of local Adiluddin College of Malithia village told the correspondent.

The fate of other martyrs of the Liberation War are same.

Family members of the martyrs have urged the government to take proper initiatives to erect monuments in memory of the great sons of the soil and financial help for their families.



SYLHET: Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Nicholas Etheridge speaking as the chief guest at a meeting arranged by Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries at the Parjatan hotel here on November 18. Sylhet Chamber President presided over the meeting.

— Star photo

Poor civic amenities for Shariatpur town dwellers

SHARIATPUR, Dec 5: Life for the people here has become unbearable due to inadequate and poor civic amenities in the town, reports APB.

The town dwellers have long been complaining in vain about the dilapidated conditions of roads, drainage system and inadequate supply of safe drinking water.

Most of the roads of the pourashava areas have developed cracks and potholes at many points owing to lack of proper maintenance and care, the townspople complained.

With the onset of the monsoon, major roads in the town become muddy and slippery, rendering them almost unusable by the people, they said.

Moreover, almost all the kutchha drains become clogged up with garbage and turn into

breeding places for mosquitoes during the monsoon.

They also pointed out that the municipal authorities had not been able to provide adequate number of dustbins either. Besides, insufficient street lights keep the people indoors after sundown, they added.

Meanwhile, bus journey along the Shariatpur-Madaripur route has become quite hazardous due to overloading and reckless driving by the staff of buses.

Accidents, therefore, occur more often than not, much to the concern of the travelling passengers.

Apart from that, the conductors charge exorbitantly for accommodating them on board the buses. The passengers are made to pay Tk 17 in place of the official rate of Tk 10.



MAGURA: A seminar on Child Labour and Human Rights was held recently at Magura Press Club. — Star photo

Fake NGO officer arrested

NAOGAON, Dec 5: Police arrested a fake NGO officer from Badalgachi thana here for cheating the poor people, reports UNB.

The arrested man identified as Shahidul Islam opened a branch office of an NGO named Grameen Manob Kalyan Sangstha in the thana several months back claiming himself as its Branch Manager and appointed 20 youths as Development Assistants after taking Tk 2.53 lakh from them as security money.

When the man closed his office from the area and ceased functioning the youths demanded to get back their deposited money. On his refusal, they filed a case.

The arrested man failed to produce any valid documents to the police in support of his claim as a branch manager. Police sent him to jail hajat.

Father of Feni BCL leader shot dead

FENI, Dec 5: One person was killed in armed attack here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Didarul Alam, 50, father of Feni Poura unit Chhatra League president Ashraful Alam, came under attack in front of Model High School while he was returning home at town's Ukkilpara at about 10:45 pm.

Didarul received bullet injuries as armed assailants fired on him. He was rushed to Sadar hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

The town was rocked by gun shots and cracker blasts after the killing. Firing and explosions continued overnight.

Police are yet to detect the motive behind the killing. But they suspected that the attack might be a sequel to a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student front of opposition BNP, and Chhatra League earlier in the day.

The BCL blamed JCD for the killing. JCD denied the charges saying Didarul Alam was involved in smuggling and killed following conflicts among the smugglers. "No leader or worker of Chhatra Dal was involved in the killing," it said.

Victory Day programme in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Dec 5: A joint meeting of Netrakona district administration and leaders of different socio-cultural organisations and political parties and professional groups was held here on Tuesday to chalk out an elaborate programme to celebrate the Victory Day '98 with pomp and gaiety on December 16, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Ali Akber Hussain Akhund presided over the meeting. Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Shyamol Kanti Ghosh, Chairman of Netrakona Pourasava Matir Rahman Khan, deputy commander of district unit of Mukti Joddha Sangsads Jahirul Haque Hira, president of district JSD (Rob) Golam Ershadur Rahman, general secretary of Netrakona Pourasava Awami League Habibur Rahman Ratan, and Editor of Daily Jana Netra Patrika Mukhlesur Rahman Khan participated in the discussion.

The meeting unanimously approved a district level Victory Day celebration programme here. The programme included holding of a Bijoy Mel at Muktarpara ground, a combined colourful parade of police, BNCC, boy scouts, girl guides and children of different educational institutions and juvenile organisations at local stadium, a rally of freedom fighters, discussion meeting on Independence Day, cultural function, football match and photo-exhibition on Liberation War.

Woman jailed for filing false rape case in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 5: A 35-year-old woman was sentenced to two years' jail for filing a false rape case, reports UNB.

Maleka Khatun failed to prove her allegation that she was violated by three young men on October 20, 1995.

District Magistrate Aminul Islam after examining the witnesses acquitted Abu Hossain, Mushtaq and Ziarul of the rape charge.

When the case came to the court, the magistrate referred to Tarash thana for investigation.

Smuggling on rise in Jessor

SHALKONA, Kabilpur, Pulkhali, Rudrapur, Agrahabulat, Jagapuri, Bagadanga, Kushumpur, Darshana, Mujibnagar, Dariapur and Sonabari.

The goods include saree, sugar, salt, motor parts, bicycle and bi-cycle parts, fertiliser, pesticide and phensedyl.

Even firearms, explosives and powerful hand bombs are also being smuggled into Bangladesh through the illegal routes, popularly known as 'Ghat'.

Sources here said that there are more than 100 ghat, which have become safe entry-points for smuggled goods.

The ghat include Sadipur, Keragachi, Badiali, Rajapur, Hizadali, Sultanpur, Chanduria, Kaiba, Goalpara, Taluigachhi, Baropota, Barancha, Sikarpur, Kashipur.

Unabated smuggling through 600 km border belt, is on the increase as smugglers are getting patronisation of some influential people and a number of dishonest government employees, they added.

Sources said, on conditions of anonymity, that monthly earnings out of these ghat's would be about several crore taka.

Up to 14/12/98.

Up to 12:30 PM on 15/12/98.

Up to 12:45 PM on 15/12/98.

At 11:00 AM on 21/12/98.

At 11:00 AM on 24/12/98.

NB. 1) Gr No. 8(eight) & 9(nine) will be sold & received in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi.

2) Gr No. 6(six) will not be received in the office of the Addl Chief Engg (RHD), Rangpur Zone, Rangpur/SE (RHD), Monitoring & Evaluation (Road & Bridge) Circle, Dhaka.

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