

**News snaps**

**V-Day programme in Madaripur**

MADARIPUR, Dec 11: The district administration has drawn up an elaborate programme to observe the Victory Day on December 16 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The day will be heralded by booming 21 gun salutes at one minute past midnight. National flag will be hoisted atop all government and private buildings, police, ansar, VDR, BNCC, scouts, girl guides and other organisations will hold the march past in the stadium. Renowned freedom fighters will be accorded reception by the district administration. A meeting was held here at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on December 1. The meeting presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Farhad Rahman was attended among others, by Police Super, Amzad Hossain, ADC (general) Sahidul Haq Bhuiyan, Civil Surgeon, government and non-government officials, Awami League leaders, advocates and local elite.

**Number of drug addicts on rise**

NAOGAON, Dec 11: The number of drug addicted people is increasing across the district giving rise to anti-social activities, reports UNB.

People of all walks of life from school going juvenile to the aged are using drugs freely, but the youths outnumbered the other addicted people. A survey conducted by a local social welfare organisation revealed that over 60 per cent of the youths are addicted to drug. These youths, it said, use heroine, pathedrine, hemp, phenisidyl syrup rampantly. A number of illegal drug shops are there in different parts of the town to supply the drug. Packets of hemp and cigarette mixed with intoxicants are being sold freely at 25 to 30 general shops in the town. Phenisidyl is the easiest available drug for its users and anyone can buy one bottle of it at a cost of Tk 60 to Tk 100. Many shops are selling it before the eyes of police. A number of phenisidyl traders, who preferred not to be named, said they are carrying the illegal business uninterrupted with the collaboration of police.

**Acute crisis of drinking water**

NETRAKONA, Dec 11: Large number of people in the district has been facing acute crisis of safe drinking waters due to lack of adequate number of tubewells, reports APB.

The District Public Health Engineering Department sources said there are some 21,885 tubewells in 10 thanas of the district, of which 2,000 tubewells were damaged during the recent floods. Of them, only 1,000 have so far been repaired. Steps are underway to repair the remaining ones. Sources said there are some 2,70,957 families in the district. If one tubewell is provided for every 10 families, a total of 27,100 tubewells will be required for the district. The present number of tubewells can meet only 77 per cent of the requirements.

**Shortage of college teachers**

MADARIPUR, Dec 11: As many as 25 positions of teachers of the Government Nazimuddin University College here have fallen vacant, causing inconvenience and sufferings to the students, reports APB.

Sources said that positions of nine Assistant Professors, seven Associate Professors, six lecturers and three demonstrators have been lying vacant for quite some time. The positions have fallen vacant in the departments of Bangla, English, Political Science, History, Philosophy, Economics and Physics. Guardians of students urged the authorities to take immediate steps to fill the vacancies.

**Young man allegedly commits suicide**

MANIKGANJ, Dec 11: A young man was found dead in a room of a residential hotel here on Tuesday, reports APB.

Police said Tapan Kumar Saha, 25, of village Dakla in Shibhalaya thana checked-in at Nabin Residential Boarding of the town the previous night. An employee of the hotel knocked the door of his room the next morning and failing to get any response informed the police of the matter. The hotel owner in presence of police, broke open the door and found Tapan dead inside the room at about 11 am. Police suspect that he committed suicide by taking poison. The reason behind the suicide of Tapan, a garments factory supervisor in Dhaka, could not be known immediately.

**Agri-loan distributed**

NARSINGDI, Dec 11: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has so far disbursed Tk 930.38 lakh agriculture loan under the Post Flood Agriculture Rehabilitation programme in six thanas here, reports UNB.

The bank disbursed the loan for cultivation of transplanted Aman, potato, sweet potato, wheat, winter vegetables and for purchasing bullocks and agricultural inputs through its 13 branches. Of the amount, Tk 96,2500 was disbursed by Sadar branch, Tk 71,70,000 by Silamandi, Tk 1,04,20,000 by Raypara, Tk 46,10,000 by Marjal, Tk 92,83,000 by Belabo, Tk 58,19,000 by Poradia Bazar, Tk 75,56,000 by Monohardi, Tk 41,49,000 by Hatridia, Tk 57,91,000 by Shekher Bazar, Tk 79,19,000 by Shubpur, Tk 51,867,000 by Lakhpur Bazar, Tk 82,31,000 by Polash and Tk 72,78,000 by Pakisha thana branches of the district.

**320 pry schools damaged**

KURIGRAM, Dec 11: As many as 320 government and private primary schools have been fully or partially damaged in the district by the recent floods and river erosion, reports APB.

Education of thousands of students is being hampered owing to delay in repair and reconstruction of the school buildings. Sources said that 15 government primary schools, six registered schools and 140 non-government primary schools were fully damaged by the floods and continued river erosion in the district.

**Bridegroom found dead**

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 11: A bridegroom was found dead hanging from a tree near his home at Niamatpur in sadar thana on Saturday when the first night of his wedding with a village dame was over, reports UNB.

Villagers said Abdul Wahed, 28, got married to Rahima Khatun, 18, of Moonsumi village and brought his teenage spouse home on Friday night. But, they said, later in the night Wahed committed suicide hanging from a nearby tree. The reasons behind the suicide remained shrouded.

**Eye patients thronging Shariatpur hospitals**

SHARIATPUR, Dec 11: Eye diseases, including ophthalmic conjunctivitis, have broken out here at an alarming rate over the last three weeks, reports APB.

A large number of ophthalmic patients from different parts of the district have begun to throng the local hospitals everyday. An ophthalmologist told that eye-patients have been crowding the clinics and hospital in the town for treatment.

**Gang leader of musclemen arrested**

PATUAKHALI, Dec 11: Police here on Sunday nabbed a notorious gang leader of musclemen from Kalaya Bandar area in Baufall thana, reports UNB.

The arrested identified as Sekander Ali Matbar, 50, known as a leader of musclemen, was wanted in connection with paddy looting, arson and rioting cases at the shoal areas of Baufall and Borhanuddin thanas. It was alleged that the gang leader grabbed several hundred acres of land for long in shoal areas by false documents under the garb of a so-called peasants association. His groups was engaged in looting crops in shoal areas during harvesting season with the connivance of dishonest officials rendering many marginal and poor farmers pauper. Police said three cases with Baufall thana and one in Borhanuddin thana are pending against him. Meanwhile, the jubilant people of shoal areas offered 'Nafat' prayers expressing gratitude to Almighty Allah at the arrest of the terror Sekander Matbar.

**Advocacy meeting**

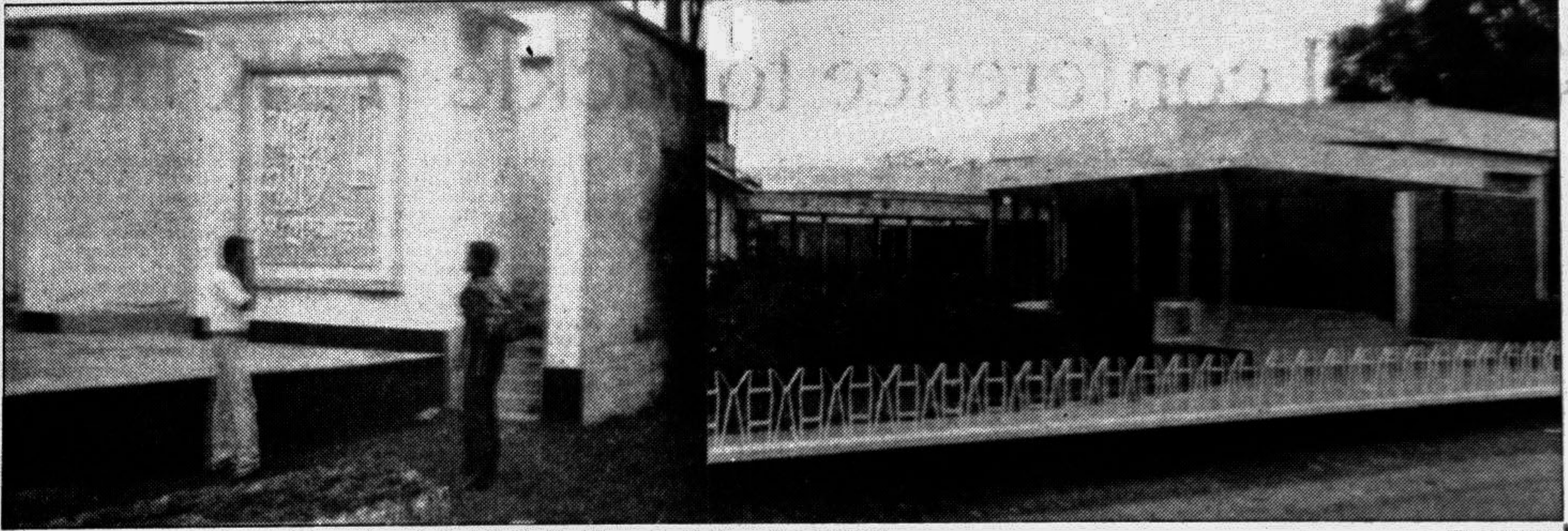
NARSINGDI, Dec 11: An advocacy and planning meeting on 5th national immunisation day was held on Nov 24 at the conference room of the Civil Surgeons office with Civil Surgeon of Narsingdi Dr Jotish Chandra Sutradar in the chair, reports BSS.

The immunisation day will be observed throughout the country including Narsingdi on December 14 this year and February 2, 1999. The objective of the day is to eradicate polio from Bangladesh by the year 2000. Deputy Commissioner Raquul Islam and Police Super of Narsingdi Mokhlesur Rahman attended the meeting as the chief and special guests respectively. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Shah Uddin, Deputy Director, Family Planning, Narsingdi, A S M Sirajul Islam, Deputy Director, Islamic Foundation, Narsingdi and journalist Nurul Islam.

**Body recovered**

JHALAKATI, Dec 11: Divers recovered the body of a trawler sareng from the Gabjan channel here on Wednesday night after a three-day search, reports APB.

Shahid, 25, the master of trawler 'Mollah Paribahan,' drowned as the vessel laden with construction materials sank at Gabjan ferry ghat early Monday. The overloaded trawler, anchored near the ferry ghat, sank due to high waves caused by a fast moving vessel passing through the channel. Shahid, falling from Charnomal of Barisal district faced a watery grave when piled up goods of the vessel collapsed on him as it went under water. The body was handed over to the family members of the victim with the approval of the local Deputy Commissioner.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: The neglected Shahid Smriti Sangrahashala on the campus.

**Fund shortage hits RU Shahid Smriti Sangrahashala**

From Kamran Reza Chowdhury

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 11: Manifold problems have gripped Rajshahi University Shahid Smriti Sangrahashala, the first ever memorial museum of the martyrs of our Liberation War.

Situated at the heart of the university campus near the Central Shaheed Minar and surrounded by a garden, a puca theatre, Paris Road and Sher-e-Bangla Hall, the centre has a spectacular view. Its lovely view easily attracts any visitor.

The collection centre is enriched with different types of valuable collections. The collections include memorials relating to long arduous movements from 1952 to 1971.

The centre was initiated in 1976 by some youths of the university such as Prof Hasan Azizul Haq, eminent cultural activist late Nasim Mahmud and the then Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Syed Ali Ahsan. Education Advisor to the President Prof Abul Fazal also played a laudable role in establishing the landmark museum.

The centre preserves different token materials involving our Liberation War, Lahague movement and other movements leading to independence. It

includes photographs of the freedom fighters, war fronts, national heroes, training of the freedom fighters, genocide by the Occupation Pakistan Army and their collaborators, tortures against women, Prisoners of War and other related issues. Besides, there are some invaluable diaries, garments, shoes and other materials used by the intellectuals and martyrs, arms and ammunition used by the Occupation Pakistan Army and other forces and freedom fighters, excavated materials from the mass graves, different documents relating to the Liberation War and press clippings.

There are three galleries, a library and an office in the collection centre. Three personnel including a curator are in-charge of the museum. A large number of visitors such as students, teachers, researchers and outsiders from different districts of the country including foreigners visited the museum. It remains open from 9am till 2pm in all working days.

But such an important establishment have been facing manifold problems as insecurity, financial constraints, inadequate manpower, and lack of modernization.

The museum lacks proper security measures to protect all the invaluable national interest. There is no grill surrounding the galleries where the invaluable are preserved. Again there is no guard here. So, tight security measures must be taken to protect the invaluable.

The limited financial grant hampers the normal expansion activities of the museum. "We cannot collect a lot of invaluable only because of lack of adequate financial grants", Curator of the centre Monsur Ali told this correspondent adding "A bus is essential with a view to collecting materials of the martyrs from remote areas of the country". Again, the education programme, a programme to make the students of different schools and colleges familiar with the great movements including liberation war, also require financial support, he also said.

No directory of the museum has been published because of financial limitations. There is a library inside the office room with only 6-8 seat capacity. There is no library staff. The curator himself takes care of this. The invaluable docu-

ments, papers, books and other materials are kept piled up on the chairs and tables. Hence, there is no required number of furniture. The library is yet to make prosperous though a good number of students, teachers, and researchers come to use it.

There is no adequate number of staffers to run the museum well. There are only three staffers including an officer to look after the museum. There is no guide to make the visitors familiar with the museum. There is no librarian in the concerned library. So, the number of staff should be increased to function the museum well.

It is mentionable that three years ago a project was taken to modernise the centre with suggestions from prominent artists Hasan Khan, Miton Kundu, Prof Hasan Azizul Haq and Prof Chowdhury Julfikar Matin. But the project was shelved because of fund constraints.

If the authorities concerned pay attention and provide necessary funds for such a prestigious museum it can attract a large number of visitors from home and abroad.

**705 Comilla Board HSC students passing days in uncertainty**

NOAKHALI, Dec 11: Some 705 HSC students of Computer Group under Comilla Board in Feni district have been passing their days in uncertainty as their final exam results are yet to be published due to computer-related problem, reports UNB.

The problem was related to their practical examination results. The victims include 32 students from Feni Government College, Feni Government Zia Women's College and Feni Public College.

The guardians and the students feared that they might not get the chance to appear in the

admission tests for higher education due to this problem as the HSC results were published long ago and the process of admission in different institutions is to start soon.

The authorities of the concerned colleges said they have sent the result sheets of the practical examinations to the board authorities properly.

The board authorities reportedly acknowledged it, but said they sent it to BUET for preparing the results according to the arrangement but have not received it from there.

A board official said the pub-

lication of result is a chain work and the board alone can not be blamed for not publishing the results. The board authorities can not publish it according to their lone decision, he said.

The students and guardians alleged that they went to the Board authorities, BUET and Computer Department but failed to obtain the results.

They urged the higher authorities to take measures so that they do not miss the chance for the upcoming admission tests of various universities and institutions.

**Arsenic detected in water of Charghat**

RAJSHAHI, Dec 11: Severe arsenic contamination has been detected in Charghat thana of the district creating panic among the people of the locality, reports UNB.

A local NGO — Rajshahi Mohila Sangstha — tested waters of 13 tube-wells of Miapur village in the thana in their laboratory and found six of them contaminated by excessive arsenic contents.

The tube-well of the house of State Minister for Water Resources Dr Alauddin was among the contaminated ones detected in the survey.

Local officials identified 72 people of the village affected with arsenic related diseases, but unofficial sources put the figure much higher saying that most of the family members of Miapur and Khalishpur areas have been affected.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), 0.05 mg arsenic per litre of water is the tolerable limit for Bangladesh. But samples collected from different parts of the thana indicated that the presence of the deadly element is as high as 0.51 mg in the waters of some of the tube-wells, which is extremely dangerous for public health.

The authorities and the agencies involved in conducting the survey have sealed the affected tube-wells and asked the people not to use its water.

**Pneumonia kills 2 in Shariatpur**

SHARIATPUR, Dec 11: The deadly disease pneumonia that broke out in an alarming proportion in the district claimed two lives and affected over 500 others in the last one week, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Joyeun Uddin, 50, of Naodoba, Zajira thana and Jalal Ahmed of Gosairhat thana.

Hospital sources said the disease has been spreading alarmingly due to hot weather at day and abnormal cold at night during the current season.

**Bijoy Mela begins**

COMILLA, Dec 11: The colourful Bijoy Mela to commemorate the surrender of the then Pakistani occupation forces here on December 8, 1971, has got a start in the town, reports APB.

A 25-member Advisory Committee, a 20-member Patronisation Committee, a 87-member Organising Committee and 11 sub-committees have been formed to supervise various programmes. A souvenir is being published on the occasion.

The Mela (victory fair) has been organised at the Town Hall ground here. A colourful victory procession marked its opening.

The procession began from the town hall premises at 8 in the morning. Pro-independent forces and members of educational, socio-cultural and political organisations took part in it. The processionists paraded various thoroughfares.

The Deputy Commissioner of Comilla formally inaugurated the Bijoy Mela. The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by noted freedom

fighter Principal Abdur Rauf, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Comilla Ibadat Ali and Bashirul Anwar.

The 'Shikha Anirban' (eternal flame) was lighted on December 7 evening, which was followed by a discussion session and a cultural function.

This year's Bijoy Mela consists of 82 stalls, including commercial and display stalls relating to mementos of the War of Liberation.

Functions for the Bijoy Mela include discussions meetings, cultural shows, recitation competition, dance numbers and painting competitions.

BSS reports from Netrakona: An eight-day long 'Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela' began at Muktarpara ground here on Wednesday.

Netrakona district administration and district Muktijuddha sangsad organised the Bijoy Mela in celebration of Victory Day '98.

The State Minister for LGRD and Cooperative, Mufazzal Husain Chowdhury Maya Bir Bikram, inaugurated the Bijoy Mela.

**Stands First Class First**



**Soma Ghosh**  
From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 11: Soma Ghosh stood First Class First in her BA Honours (Bengali) examination (1995, held in 1997) from the Government B, L University College, Khulna, under the National University.

Soma is the first student who has obtained a First Class in the Honours (Bengali) examinations held so far under the National University.

Daughter of Sadhan Ghosh, a noted Tagore songs singer and Chairman of the Bengali Department of the Government B L University College, and Ava Ghosh, a senior teacher of Daulatpur Mubain Girls' High School, Soma also stood 8th in the merit list of Humanities Group and 3rd among girls in her HSC examination from the same college in 1992.

She is a regular artiste of Bangladesh Betar, Khulna centre. She renders Tagore songs and plays guitar.

**Diarrhoea claims 72 lives in Chapainawabganj**

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 11: As the authorities failed to take any effective measures to combat diarrhoea, the waterborne disease has taken an alarming turn in the district claiming 72 lives in last three months, reports UNB.

According to officials, 16,739 people were also attacked by the disease during the period.

But unofficial sources said that the death toll would be much higher than the official one.

Of the deaths, 46 were reported from Sadar thana, 23 from Shibganj and one each from Bhojhat, Nachol and Gomastapur thanas.

The officials, who preferred not to be named, said 13 people died in September, 42 in October and 17 in November.

They said 5,537 people were affected by the disease in September, 7,000 in October and 4,202 in November.

Local people allege that although 74 medical teams were working to fight the outbreak of diarrhoea, but there was no physician in the teams.

**Sunamganj AL leader killed**

SUNAMGANJ, Dec 11: A local Awami League leader who was attacked by the miscreants on Saturday night succumbed at the Jamalganj thana health complex on Sunday, reports UNB.

The victims identified as Abdus Salam Afandi, Secretary of Sachna Bazar unit of Awami League, came under attack while arbitrating among two feuding groups of local people.

A case was filed with the police accusing 13 people.

**BRAC will rehabilitate 7,838 distressed**

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 11: A non-government organisation BRAC has taken up a programme to rehabilitate its 7,838 distressed members in 10 thanas of the district at a cost of Tk 40.17 lakh, reports UNB.

Of the total amount, Tk 37.67 lakh will be utilised for poultry, fish culture, vegetable and other crops cultivation and the rest amount for repairing the rural roads.

**Manikganj Judicial Employees Welfare Assoc executives**



**From A Correspondent**  
MANIKGANJ, Dec 11: A 19-member executive committee of Judicial Employees' Welfare Association of Manikganj was elected on November 27 with Akbar Hossain, Abul Hasan Khan and Waizkurni as its President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the year 1999.

The election was held at the ninth general meeting and conference of the association which was presided over by Md Akbar Hossain at Manikganj District Judge court building, Md Baharul Islam, District and Sessions Judge of Manikganj was present there as the chief guest, while Diprodhan Sarker, Additional District and Sessions Judge of Manikganj was present as the special guest. Employees of all classes were present there.

Akbar Hossain, Abul Hasan Khan, Milton Chandra Sarker and Iman Ali Mia addressed there.

**A red letter day for Chuadanga people**

From Quamrul Arefin

CHUADANGA, Dec 11: December 7 is a red letter day in the history of the War of Liberation of the country as well as in the history of Chuadanga. On this day 27 years ago Chuadanga was liberated from the clutch of the Occupation Pakistan Army.

The situation was very tense on December 6 in 1971. Since early morning fighting erupted on the north-western and north-eastern sides of Chuadanga between the freedom fighters and the Occupation Pakistan Army.

It was between 10 am and 11 am on December 6, 1971 the freedom fighters who took shelter in Uzirpur, Pirpur and Fakirpara villages in Damurhuda thana of the then Chuadanga sub-division received information that the Pak Army troops had been heading towards Chuadanga from then Occupation Pakistan Army bases at Damurhuda, Karpashdanga and Jibannagar.

The freedom fighters decided to halt the entrance of the Occupation Pakistan Army in Chuadanga town.

As decided by the freedom fighters mines were laid beneath the culvert on Chuadanga-Karpashdanga main road to stop advance of the enemy forces from crossing Karpashdanga. But due to some mistakes the entire plan wasted as a villager unaware of the mines crossed the culvert with his cart. One of the mines blew up the culvert killing the man on the spot. Then the freedom fighters had to abandon this plan.

The Mathabhangha river is situated near Chuadanga-Damurhuda main road. Village Uzirpur is two miles from Chuadanga, Pirpur village is on the other side of the river Mathabhangha. Pirpur village is also very close to Uzirpur village. After failing with the first plan the freedom fighters decided to take shelter at village Fakirpara. Accordingly the freedom fighters crossed the river Mathabhangha and shifted their shelter at Chuadanga town in two groups. They took position on both sides, as planned, to attack the enemy whenever they arrive.

In the meantime, the Occupation Pakistan Army reached near village Uzirpur and took position by the side of river Mathabhangha close to Chuadanga-Damurhuda main road.

Here the freedom fighters locked in a fierce face to face battle with the enemy.

During the fighting the freedom fighters first opened fire on the Occupation Pakistan Army. The enemy returned fire. The exchange of fire continued for hours together. The freedom fighters, however, did not advance. But they did not allow the enemy to advance. Using this tactics the freedom fighters intercepted the enemy forces' advance for about four to five hours.

The aim of this plan of the freedom fighters was just to keep the foes engaged in fighting and delaying their advance.

In the meantime, a messenger sent to Chuadanga town to see the real situation there. Another group of freedom fighters were fighting then with the brutal force from village Pir-

pur.

After some time the messenger returned from Chuadanga and informed that Chuadanga was calm and the enemy troops had been retreating from Chuadanga towards Alamdanga. Under such circumstances the freedom fighters stopped firing. Later on they moved from village Pirpur to village Alokdia, three miles west of Chuadanga town on Chuadanga-Meherpur main road.

Billal led the freedom fighters in this fighting. The names of other freedom fighters such as Abdir, Menal, Montu, Alam, Abdur Rahman, Lantu, Bablu, Zafar, aron, mentioning who took active part in this battle.

At that time the enemy forces were also retreating from different parts of Alamdanga thana under the then Chuadanga Sub-division.

The enemy intended to control Kushtia and accordingly they were retreating to wards Kushtia from Chuadanga and Alamdanga.

The enemy troops stationed at Meherpur also retreated to come to Chuadanga.

Meherpur is 18 miles from Chuadanga toward the west. Explosives were set up all along 18 miles long road from Chuadanga to Meherpur. As a result the Occupation Pakistan Army troops reached at 6 in the evening on December 6 on foot and later they left Chuadanga for Alamdanga the same night to reach Kushtia.

Before leaving Chuadanga the Occupation Army left about 200 guns at the local town football ground. Besides, before leaving Chuadanga in the evening on December 6 the Pak Army blew up the eastern side of the bridge on the river Mathabhangha by charging high powered explosives.

The entire Pak Army troops who were stationed at Chuadanga stopped firing on some important places of Chuadanga town at that night.

Having this information the freedom fighters arrived Chuadanga from different sides and thus on December 7, 1971 Chuadanga was freed totally from the occupation of Pak army.

It may be noted here that as soon as the War of Liberation began on March 26, 1971, a four-member advisory committee was formed at Chuadanga to conduct the warfare there. Chuadanga was the southwestern front. It was made the provisional (temporary) capital of independent Bangladesh during the War of Liberation.

The advisory committee was formed with Dr Ashabul Hoque, the then Awami League MP as its Chief Advisor, while the other members of the committee were Barrister Badal Rashid, former MP and Advocate Eunus Ali, former MP and now local Awami League chief, Barrister Badal Rashid expired in 1993.

The then wing commander of EPR now BDR stationed at Chuadanga Major Abu Osman Choudhary (now retired Lt col) who also a member of the advisory committee led the War of Liberation in this region. Chuadanga was occupied by the Occupation Pak Army on April 15, 1971 and was liberated on December 7, the same year.

**Rokeya Day observed in districts**

KHULNA, Dec 11: State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque said here on Thursday that Begum Rokeya was the torch-bearer for the emancipation of Muslim women in the then social system. She led the movement for spreading education to the Muslim Women in society despite various odds, he said, reports BSS.

The state minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of Rokeya Day held at the local Shaheed Haid Park, Nari Forum and Rokeya Day Observance Committee jointly organised the function.

Presided over by the convener of the joint committee Begum Rehana Akhtar the function was addressed, among others, by women Commissioner of Khulna City Corporation Rosy Rahman and Secretary of Khulna Mohila Parishad Runu Akhtar.

The state minister said Begum Rokeya was the first woman who gave the call to the

neglected and oppressed women of the then society to come out of their bondage and play their active role in society side by side with their male counterparts in the development of society and the country.

APB reports from Netrakona: The Rokeya Day was observed here in a befitting manner as elsewhere in the country through various programmes on Wednesday.

The Women Affairs Department here organised an essay writing competition for the children, a colourful women's rally and a discussion on the life and achievements of Begum Rokeya Shakawat Hossain.

Among others, local MP Advocate Fazlur Rahman Khan, and Deputy Commissioner Ali Akbar Hossain Akand took part in the symposium.

Begum Rokeya championed the cause of the Muslim women in the then Bengal.

Similar programmes were also arranged in all other districts of the country to observe Rokeya Day befittingly.

**UP chairman arrested for murder**

MYMENSINGH, Dec 11: Police on Wednesday arrested a UP Chairman of Nandail thana on charges of murder and misappropriation of VGF foodgrains, reports APB.

He was identified as Abul Kashem, chairman of Nandail Union Parishad.

Police picked up Kashem from the UP office at about 10 am and produced him before the court. The court rejected his bail prayer.

He was nabbed on allegations of involvement in the killing of Habibur Rahman Habib during a local Awami League council on November 19 last and misappropriating 380 tonnes of foodgrains under the VGF programmes, police said.