

News snaps

Munshiganj Liberation Day observed

MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 13: A colourful rally was organised here on Friday to mark the liberation of the district from the Pakistani occupation forces who fled the area on this day in 1971, reports BSS.

People of all walks of life including freedom fighters, teachers, students, cultural activists, social and political leaders, newsmen and government officials took part in the rally. The rally was led by district Awami League president and former MP Md Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Discussion on Human Rights Day

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 13: A discussion meeting on the occasion of observing the World Human Rights Day at Sadullapur on December 10.

District and Sessions Judge Sirajuddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest in the discussion meeting. Pronobesh Chandra Majumder, TNO, Advocate Sekender Azam Anam, Mohammad Jinnah, Abu Zafar, Sabu, Telzer Rahman Bacchu, Advocate Rezaul Karim, Advocate Zahurul Islam, Sazzat Hossain Poltan, Dr Chittaranjan Adhikeri, Mostafizur Rahman took part in the discussion.

Passing out parade of Marine Academy

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob on Thursday said a shipping policy is under formulation to take up a master plan for the development of the shipping sector, one of the life lines of the country's economy, reports BSS.

Addressing the passing out parade of the 33rd batch of the Marine Academy, Chittagong, the minister said the government will take all measures to equip the country's marine officers with skills to meet the local as well as international demands. The minister took salute at the parade and distributed certificates among the best cadets. Rob said Bangladesh will be enlisted to the white list of the International Marine Organisation (IMO) and the certificate awarded here will be acceptable internationally. A total of 59 cadets completed training successfully in nautical and engineering from the academy this year. The marine academy got recognition of the World Marine University of Sweden as its branch in 1990 for the success of the academy.

Separate incidents claim 2 lives

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 13: Two people were killed in separate incidents in Fatullah thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Ahmadullah, 25, a rickshawpuller, was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Narayanganj link road. In another incident, an unidentified youth was strangled to death by unknown assailants. His body was recovered from a printing press at Nagbari Dewbhog the following day. Meanwhile, police arrested manager of the printing press, Riton, 23, in connection with killing.

Narail-Jessore highway needs expansion

NARAIL, Dec 13: The portion of Narail-Jessore highway from Kalua in the district is in dire need of expansion, reports UNB.

At least 800 vehicles of various sizes ply everyday on the road that has at least 15 narrow bridges from Kalua to Jessore district. The bridges at Lohagara on Naboganga, Howakhali, Bashta, Sitarampur, Durbajuri, Chanchara, Karimpur, Hamkura roads are also too narrow for the movement of heavy vehicles. Passenger buses have to wait for minutes together due to heavy jam caused mainly for narrowness of the bridges. The transport owners have demanded of the authority concerned to take immediate schemes to expand the road as well as bridges for the interest of trade and commerce in the area.

83,500 VGF cards distributed

SHARIATPUR, Dec 13: The government has distributed 83,500 VGF cards for supply of food among the flood affected people in six thanas of the district, reports APB.

According to sources in the District Relief and Rehabilitation office, 12,300 cards have been distributed in the Sadar thana, 13,400 in Jajira, 16,400 in Naria, 15,300 in Bhedarganj, 7,800 in Damuddah and 8,100 in Goshairhat thana. Besides, 3,000 cards have been distributed in Shariatpur, 2,700 in Bhedarganj and 2,100 in Damuddah municipal areas. Each VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) card-holder is entitled to eight kilograms of rice and eight kilograms of wheat a month.

Rights of women to be ensured

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof Khaleda Khanam said the present government is firmly committed to ensure rights and empowerment of women at all national levels, reports BSS.

Addressing the biennial conference of Chittagong south district unit of Bangladesh Mohila Awami League as the chief guest at JM Sen Hall here Prof Khanam said the government has undertaken various programmes to integrate the womenfolk of the country in the mainstream of the national development. Presided over by unit convenor Begum Hasina Mannan, the inaugural function of the conference was inaugurated by Commerce and Industries Secretary of Awami League Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury (Babu). It was addressed, among others, by General Secretary of Awami League south district Muslemuddin Ahmed, former MP Mohammad Siddique, Mohila Awami League leaders Begum Sabiha Musa, Tapati Sengupta, Nilbedita Benarjee, Cherman Ara Taiyab, Swapan Datta, Kalyan Chawkrabarti and Kalpana Lala. Prof Khanam, who is also general secretary of Mohila Awami League urged the leaders and workers of the organisation to strengthen the party base at grass-roots level.

Fries to be distributed free of cost

CHUADANGA, Dec 13: The District Fisheries Department has taken up a programme to distribute free of cost 2,42,000 fries to release in 203 flood affected ponds and other water-bodies in four thanas of Chuadanga district under the post flood rehabilitation programme, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 42,000 fries will be released in 30 beel and ponds in Chuadanga sadar thana, 100,000 fries in 125 beel and ponds in Alamdanga thana, 76,000 fries in 40 water-bodies in Damurhuda thana and 24,000 fries in eight ponds and beel in Jibannagar thana. The distribution of fries has begun last week.

Bumper output of 'Aman' expected

NALITABARI (Sherpur), Dec 13: Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury said the production of planted 'Aman' will surpass its target by over two lakh tonnes due to initiating proper agricultural rehabilitation programme and its implementation by the government, after century's worst flood, reports BSS.

Addressing a peasants' gathering here, organised by Bangladesh Krishak League, the minister said the government is firm to expand latest technology in the agricultural field to meet the increased food demand.

Seeds to be distributed free of cost

RANGPUR, Nov 13: Government has taken up a scheme to distribute seeds of various crops among the flood-hit farmers of five districts of greater Rangpur under its post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

The districts are Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha. Official sources said 740 mts of wheat seeds, 9,120 kg of maize seeds, 2,745 kg mustard seeds and 44,610 kg 'boro' seeds will be distributed among the cultivators free of cost. The programme is being implemented among the marginal growers to recover the losses of 'Aman' crops caused by the devastating flood this year.

Fishing boats looted

NOAKHALI, Dec 13: Armed pirates swooped on three fishing boats and looted cash, fish and fishing nets worth over Tk 3 lakh from fishermen in the river Meghna near Char Bangshi in Roypur thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said the robbers threw all the 27 fishermen into the river and made off with the booty. The fishermen were rescued by their fellowmen who rushed there on hearing hue and cry.

Old man killed in road accident

TANGAIL, Dec 13: An old man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck recently near post office at Victoria Road in Tangail town, reports BSS.

Police and witnesses said the victim Nihar Ghose, 65, died on the spot. Police seized the truck but the driver fled.

One dies after eating 'Potka' fish

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 13: One person died and three others of a family fell sick by eating 'Potka' fish recently at Bakerganj thana headquarter of Barisal.

Rustam Ali, 45, a day labourer of Bakerganj purchased 'Potka' fish. Later on all of his family members ate cooked 'Potka' fish during their night meal. As a result all of them fell sick. At about 11 pm Rustam was taken to Bakerganj Thana Health Complex where he died after some time.

Gopalganj was freed on this day

From Alimuzzaman Mia

GOPALGANJ, Dec 13: Gopalganj district (the then sub-division) was freed from the occupation of Pakistani forces on December 14, 1971.

The district town was liberated after a heavy fighting. Hemayetuddin Ahmed, Kamallesh Badgya, Shihabuddin and Ismat Kadir Gama led the freedom fighters in the battles.

On April 30, 1971 the enemy forces invaded Gopalganj town and burnt to ashes various parts of the town and looted the Gopalganj branch of the then State Bank of Pakistan. On that day they also set ablaze many houses at village Manihar in Gopalganj sadar thana and killed hundreds of men and women including Prof Santosh Kumar Das of Bangabandhu Government University college.

On May 19, 1971, the freedom fighters under the leadership of Jalauddin Ahmed launched a fierce attack on Pak collaborators' positions in Gopalganj. The Pak collaborators fled away from their original positions finding no other alternative. The freedom fighters took away arms and ammunition from Gopalganj treasury.

The so-called peace committee of Gopalganj, the occupation Pakistani army again invaded Gopalganj town and set ablaze almost all the villages and killed thousands of innocent people. Thus they carried out the most brutal atrocity and genocide in this district. Then the freedom fighters started to resist them in different face to face battles. As a result, the grip of the Pakistani forces weakened gradually since early November.

On October 14, 1971, the occupation Pakistani army and their collaborators attacked the positions of the freedom fighters at village of Rajapur in Kotalpara thana. The battle continued for the whole day. The valiant freedom fighters under the leadership of Hemayet Uddin Ahmed and Kamallesh Badgya fought until victory on the same day. Freedom fighter Mohammed Ibrahim was killed in the battle. Many Pak soldiers were kept as Prisoners of War.

The battle for Fukra in Kasiani thana was another event worth remembering. In late October of 71 a fierce battle was fought between the freedom fighters and the occupation Pakistani army. Captain Shihabuddin led the freedom fighters in the battle for Fukra. In the 6-hour face-to-face fighting, freedom fighters Rabiul of Fukra, Imamuddin Ahmed of Bahirbagh in Kasiani thana and others sacrificed their lives for the cause of liberation of our motherland.

The most heroic battle of Gopalganj district took place on November 6, 71 at Bhatipara wireless camp in Kasiani thana. The freedom fighters under the joint leadership of Hemayetuddin Ahmed and Ismat Kadir Gama, attacked the stronghold of the occupation Pakistani army at Bhatipara wireless camp on the day and the battle continued for 15 hours.

On December 9, 1971, the Pak army fled away from their camp at Gopalganj town and their collaborators such as Rajakars took positions at their strongholds at Gopalpur in Kotalpara. Both the strongholds of Pak army and Rajakars at Gopalpur were captured on the December 14, 1971.

Thus Gopalganj district was freed totally from the grip of Pakistani army and their collaborators on December 14, 1971.



GOPALGANJ: Gopalganj Baddhaybhum Smritishoudha which was built near Joy Bangla pond where Pakistani army killed many civilians during our Liberation War in 1971.

— Star photo

People fear bloody clash over delimitation of shoal

LAXMIPUR, Dec 9: Dispute over the delimitation of shoal in the river Meghna has turned serious with the approach of paddy harvesting season, reports UNB.

Local people feared bloody clashes over the dispute and urged the authorities to take effective measures to prevent any such incident.

Officials and local sources said the dispute is centering a shoal with about 42,000 population and both the coastal districts of Bhola and Laxmipur claim its ownership.

They said erosion-hit people from Daulatkhan thana of Bhola and Ramgati thana of Laxmipur live in the shoals known as Char Gazaria and Char Zahiruddin.

The shoal emerged in 1975 and was inhabited by the people from Laxmipur since 1977. They named it as Char Gazaria. Later, the shoal expanded much and by the year 1980, erosion affected people from Daulatkhan thana of Bhola started living here. They named their part of the shoal as Char Zahiruddin.

The dispute over the ownership of land in different parts of the shoal started in 1982 and clash among the inhabitants has become a regular feature since then.

Some 24 people were murdered and 500 dwelling houses were burnt to ashes during the bloody clashes over the years. Besides, the incidents of looting, abduction, robbery and rape become frequent in the shoal over the delimitation dispute.

The authorities had attempted to resolve the problem by specifically marking the inter-district limit of the shoal in 1983, but the initiative failed to yield permanent solution. The situation became serious in 1991 and the then Land Minister visited the shoal and asked the authorities to erect border pillars to identify the districts. But the work could not be completed later due to various reasons.

There is an arable land of about 37,000 acres in the shoal. Of this, 27,000 acres are in Char Gazaria and the rest 10,000 acres in Char Zahiruddin. A total of 42,000 people of 10,000 families live in the shoal, said the officials.

But local people alleged that about half of the total land were allocated to the absentee landowners and they used to come to the shoal for only in harvesting season. They said 29 per cent of them did not get any allocation of land.

Four UP chairmen, another member killed in 4 months in Khulna div

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 13: Four Union Parishad (UP) Chairmen and another UP member were murdered in last four months in Khulna division.

On August 1, Gawhar Ali, 50, Chairman of Kalidashpur UP in Alamdanga thana of Chuadanga district was murdered by armed cadres of an outlawed party.

On August 8, Alhaj Abul Kashem, Chairman of Damodar UP in Phulata thana of Khulna district was shot dead at noon in the office of the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO).

On August 30, Golam Faruque, 28, Chairman of Naitati union in Rupsha thana of Khulna district was shot dead by the outlaws at about 10 am in front of his office.

On November 25, Rafiqul Islam Shabe, 50, Chairman of Maheshpur union in Jhenidah district was shot dead by unidentified terrorists.

On November 3, Akkas Ali, member of Mohammadpur union was shot dead by the outlaws, said a source of Range DIG office. None of the FIR-named accused persons of these murder cases has so far been arrested.

Deliverance Day celebrated in Mymensingh on December 10

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Dec 13: The people of Mymensingh district celebrated 'Deliverance Day' on December 10 as 'Mymensingh Free Day'.

On this day in 1971, Mymensingh was liberated from the clutch of the Occupation Pakistani Army. Every year the day is celebrated with great respect and enthusiasm.

In observance of December 10 as deliverance day, Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Sangsad, Mymensingh district unit organized and has chalked out a week long programme at 'Muktamancha' in the town.

The programmes included discussions, cultural activities poetry reciting session and memorial meetings on different events during the Liberation War.

Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, President of Muktiyuddha Sangsad Central Command Council inaugurated the week long programme on at about 12 noon on December 10.

Abdur Razzak, Water Resources Minister was present as the chief guest. Presided over by Abul Hasem, member-secretary of Mymensingh Muktiyuddha unit, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Alhaj Principal Matur Rahman, Md Shamsul Hoq MP, Nazim Uddin Ahmed, Convenor of Mymensingh Muktiyuddha unit, Deputy Commissioner Md Rafiqul Islam and Al-haj Lutfur Rahman Mia, Police Super of Mymensingh district. The week-long programme

will continue till December 16, 1998.

In 1971 the Occupation Pakistani Army entered into Mymensingh town after repeated attempts. First, the occupation Pak army tried to enter into the district by train. But after failing they tried to enter into the town through river route via Kairadhi. Such attempts were not fruitful. At last they tried to enter by road through Madhupur of Tangail district which was also in vain.

On April 17, 1971 a fierce battle took place at Kalihati of Tangail district between the freedom fighters and Pakistan Army. The battle continued for five days without any break. It was the first fierce battle between the freedom fighters and Pak army.

After a planned attack with sophisticated weapons Pakistani army entered into the district town on April 22, 1971.

The freedom fighters created their stronghold at Haluaghat. Many fierce battles were fought here. In such a battle Nazmul Ahsan, a student of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) sacrificed his life. A residential hall of BAU has been named following his great sacrifice.

On June 25, Major Afsar Uddin led a battle at Bawalia Bajughat. The battle continued for 42 hours.

On July 17, a fierce battle was fought at Nali Para between the freedom fighters and the Occupation Forces where 17 Pak Army personnel were killed.

On August 6, a battle was fought at Bandar Ghata and another battle was fought at Tambar on September 21. But the battle of Taligati in Halaughat thana, a frontier part of the district is worth remarkable.

On November 3, at the last stage of our Liberation War, the freedom fighters attacked the Pakistani army. In this battle 103 Pakistani army personnel were killed. From this battle, field Pak Army personnel was caught. In this battle, 21 freedom fighters became martyrs.

On November 24, the agents of Al-Badar force killed renowned football player Shaheed Ali Chunnun and his two friends — Rashid and Feroj. On this day, Ashraf Hoq, a BAU Student was killed by the Occupation Army. A residential hall of BAU was named in memory of his glorious sacrifice for our motherland.

On December 7, 1971 the freedom fighters freed Halaughat from the Occupation Army. On December 8, Phulpur and Bhaluka thanas were freed. On the following day, Gouripur, Trishal, Iswarganj and Tarakanda were freed as the Pakistani Occupation Army was forced to retreat from the areas and people of the district heaved a sigh of relief. The Allied force gave support to the freedom fighters.

On December 10, the freedom fighters led by Principal Matur Rahman, the present President of District Awami League and

the Allied Force marched towards Mymensingh town in a heroic mood.

The then Awami League president of Mymensingh Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan welcomed the heroes and saviours and

hoisted the national flag. He also announced Mymensingh as a free area.

About 125 freedom fighters including students and cultural activists sacrificed their valuable lives for the freedom of

MYMENSINGH: Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Chairman of Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Sangsad Central Command Council speaking recently at the inaugural session of a week-long programme in the town, arranged by the Sangsad's Mymensingh unit.

— Star photo

Netrakona Liberation Day

From Habibur Rahman

NETRAKONA, Dec 13: Netrakona was liberated on December 9 after eight months of occupation by the Pakistani army since April 21, 1971.

On this day in 1971 Netrakona was freed from the occupation Pakistani army after a fierce fighting and at the cost of blood of three freedom fighters.

December 9 is a red letter day in the history of our Liberation War. The people of Netrakona celebrated the day as deliverance day befittingly.

On December 9, 1971 the Occupation Army was forced to retreat from Netrakona following a heavy fighting with the freedom fighters which was led by Comapny Commander Abu Siddique Ahmed. During the fighting, three freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for the cause of independence.

The martyred freedom fighters are: Abu Khan, Abdul Aziz and Abdur Rashid. The freedom fighters also fought many other battles in Netrakona district.

It was on April 21, 1971 the Pakistan Army entered into Netrakona through Mymensingh road and killed Sidwarta Sen, a student leader, Sanker Sen, Dr Mihir Sen and Karuna Shaha.

At that time, the students, general people and Ansars of Netrakona became united and decided to work for the liberation of our country. Arrangements of training were secretly made in different remote villages of Netrakona district.

Most of the local youths went for training.

After taking training they encountered face-to-face with the Pak army first in the Bire Mani area in Kalmakanda thana in July 1971 where seven freedom fighters sacrificed their lives.

Another face-to-face battle was fought at Bijoy in Durgapur

thana on August 14 in 1971. In this battle no freedom fighter died rather three Pak Army personnel were killed.

After this fighting, General Niazi of Pakistan rushed to Netrakona town and held a public

meeting at the local Mukter Para field on August 22, 1971.

According to witnesses, General Niazi, in this meeting, made a clarion call to renew spirit and courage against the freedom fighters and mobilise public

support in favour of Pakistan. But all went in vain. During the long lasting liberation war so many freedom fighters and people sacrificed their lives, out of which, the names of valiant freedom fighters Badiuzzaman Mukta and Dabir Uddin are worth mentioning. They sacrificed their lives creating a new history. While collecting secret informations about the enemy hide-outs, Badiuzzaman Mukta was arrested with grenade by the occupation Pakistani army. Mukta like a hero shouted 'We must be independent, 'Joi Bangla, Joi Bangla' till he was shot to death by the Pakistani army.

Mitati Sangha, a social organisation has constructed a memorial paying respect to the great hero Badiuzzaman Mukta. People of all walks of life including many state guests come to pay respect to this martyred freedom fighter.

In the same manner, valiant freedom fighter Dabir Uddin was also arrested by the occupation Pak army with grenade from Netrakona town. He was shot dead at Chailisha Bridge in Netrakona sadar thana.

During the Liberation War Pak army killed several social workers including the noted lawyer Akhil Chandra Sen of the town.

Liberation of Netrakona was very costly. Hundreds of lives had to be sacrificed for our freedom. Netrakona was liberated after a fierce fighting in the 'krishi farm' area at about 4 am on December 9. After this fighting the freedom fighters entered into Netrakona town in triumphant processions in groups from all around.

Then the freedom fighters hoisted the national flag atop the court building.



NETRAKONA: A monument was built in memory of valiant freedom fighter Badiuzzaman Mukta who sacrificed his life for the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. It was erected on the bank of the river Mogra in Mukterpara area of the district town.

— Star photo

Diarrhoea spreading fast in Gaibandha, Rangamati

GAIBANDHA, Dec 13: There has been an outbreak of diarrhoea in Gobindaganj thana of the district, which claimed three lives in the last three days, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Subhash, 19, Kartik, 60, and Sabiran Bewa, 45, of Panitola village in Rajahar union.

Local people alleged that the officials of the health department have not yet taken any step to check further spread of the disease.

Our Rangamati correspondent says: A total of 60 persons died and 15,959 were attacked

by malaria and diarrhoea within nine months of the current year.

According to district health department officials, from January to September of the current year, 50 persons died of malaria and 10 persons died of diarrhoea in Rangamati. Within this period 9155 persons were attacked by malaria and 6,804 other attacked by diarrhoea.

A total of 70 posts of doctors lying vacant for a long time in the district and therefore the health care service is poor in the district.

Highway robbery on rise

COMILLA, Dec 13: Highway robbery on Dhaka-Chittagong route is on rise due to the negligence of police and transport owners causing untold sufferings to the passengers, reports UNB.

The number of robbery on the highway reported to the police during the first nine months of this year is 126 though the transport sources said the number of such incidents is no less than 275.

They said about 150 incidents were not reported with police due to various reasons.

The sources said highway robbery is now a common feature on the route and the culprits even dare to attack the passengers in broad day light.

Police and transport sources said the number of robbery here was over 200 in 1994. The number reduced significantly in 1995 as the transport workers and owners strictly followed some instructions of police and it came down below one hundred.

But the robbery increased in the subsequent years as concerned people stopped following the instructions. The number of incidents in 1996 was 142 and in 1997 191.

The incidents at day time has increased in recent months, said the sources adding that a good number of robbery were reported within Chowdagram thana.

The authorities of different transport companies earlier used to take the photograph of all the passengers of night coaches. Besides, the police here had an arrangement of taking video pictures of the night coach passengers at the toll plaza of Meghna Daudkandi bridges.

Besides, there was regular check of suspicious passengers by police.

Regular passengers alleged that the number of incidents increased with sluggishness about these measures by both police and transport authorities.

Besides, the number of highway police has reduced in recent times turning the route unsafe for people.