

News snaps

Pregnant woman killed by husband

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 18: A pregnant woman in Rajganj thana was killed by her husband over a family dispute on Tuesday night, police said, reports APB.

The victim was identified as Nurunnahar Khatun, 22, daughter of Nawsher Ali of Panchalia in the thana. She was married to Shahidul Islam of neighbouring Horgati village three years ago. Shahidul hit the abdomen of his seven-month pregnant wife Nurunnahar with a stick while she was locked in a brawl with him as sequel to hot exchanges with her in-laws during the day time. She died instantaneously. Autopsy of the body was held at sadar hospital. Killer husband along with his family members were absconding.

Father hands over son to police

JALAKATI, Dec 18: A father handed over his 'disobedient' son to police at a village in Rajapur thana of the district on last Saturday, reports APB.

Family members said Ajmal, 22, did not study, frequently wanted money from his father and ransacked household articles if his demands were not met. Repeatedly being annoyed, the father, Jahangir Hossain of village West Phulbari, lodged a complaint and brought Ajmal to the police station.

Eight shops gutted

NOAKHALI, Dec 18: A devastating fire at Sonapur Bazar in Sudharam thana early Wednesday gutted at least eight shops causing an estimated loss of one crore taka, reports UNB.

Firefighters said the fire generated from a garment shop at about 3.45 am and sharply engulfed other shops. Family members of district Jatiya Party president Fazley Elahi are the owners of all the shops - medicine, shoe, garment and stationary and a shoe factory. As the firefighters were late to reach the spot, angry people held them in protest. Sudharam police rushed in an saved them from the wrath of the mob. Deputy Commissioner KMD Abul Kalam, Muhammad Shahjahan MP and poura Chairman Rabiul Hossain visited the spot.

Gambling in name of housie going on

PANCHAGARH, Dec 18: Gambling in the shape of game of housie has been going on unabated at the local stadium without any check for quite some time now, reports APB.

Many have been rendered paupers as a result of taking part in this form of gambling. Strangely enough, this has been going on under the banner of Panchagarh District Sports Association. Locals complained that youths of the town got involved in this form of gambling. Members of the law enforcing agencies remained silent, it was alleged.

Tourist drowns in Kaptai Lake

RANGAMATI, Dec 18: A young tourist drowned in the Kaptai Lake on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Suman Dey, 20, who was in a group of 29 tourists from Pathargata, Chittagong, drowned in the lake while playing with the mates. He was rescued within half an hour and rushed to the general hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Dredging work yet to be finished

PATUAKHALI, Dec 18: The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), which started dredging of the river Kirtankhola on October 27, is yet to finish the work, reports APB.

But local people say the project will not benefit them unless the seven tributaries of the river are dredged. Sources in BIWTA office at Barisal said that they had identified four ghat points for immediate dredging, which would have involved dredging of one lakh cubic feet of silt by November 30. But this could not be achieved yet.

Discussion on Rokeya

MADARIPUR, Dec 18: A discussion on the life and works of Begum Rokeya to mark Rokeya Day was held here on December 9, reports BSS.

Organised by the district women affairs office, the discussion was presided over by Mohammad Abdus Sattar Mollah, district women affairs officer. A colourful rally participated by women of all walks of life was brought out in the town on the occasion. Besides, several women organisations including Mahila Sangstha and Mahila Parishad organised different programmes to pay tributes to the pioneer of women literacy.

Workshop on public admn reforms

TANGAIL, Dec 18: ATM Shamsul Haque, Chairman, Public Administration Reforms Commission held a meeting with local officials and political leaders at circuit house recently, reports BSS.

He attended workshop, sponsored by ADAB on 'public opinion on public administration reform' at Gopalpur Public Library. He said, the aim of the present government is to reform public administration for the welfare and development of the country. One hundred twenty-five participants including officials, elite and NGO representatives attended the workshop. Zakir Hossain, President, Tangail branch of ADAB presided over the function.

Sanction for renovation of edn instts

NAOGAON, Dec 18: The government has sanctioned over Tk 6.50 crore for renovation of 50 educational institutions in the district, reports UNB.

Officials said of the total amount Tk 3.57 crore has been allocated for 21 non-government high schools, Tk 51 lakh for three government high schools, Tk 1.17 crore for three private colleges, Tk 1.8 crore for two government colleges and Tk 11 lakh for one madrasa.

Law and order reviewed

NARSINGDI, Dec 18: The monthly meeting of the district law and order committee was held on Monday at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room, reports BSS.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi Rafiqul Islam, the meeting was attended, among others, by Police Super Maklesur Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Dev) Abu Baker Mohammed Shahjahan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev) Bijan Kanti Sarker, Pourasava chairman Abdul Matin Sarker. The members of the committee discussed the prevailing law and order situation in six thanas of the district and called upon the law and enforcing agencies to take necessary effective measures against criminals and anti-social elements.

Children's Rights Week observed

MANIKGANJ, Dec 18: The local Shishu Academy chalked out various programmes to mark the Children's Rights Week in Manikganj town and other areas of the district, reports BSS.

The programmes included colourful rally, recitation, essay and debate competitions and a discussion meeting. On the concluding day a prize distribution ceremony was held at the local government high school premises. Presided over by Md Abdur Razzak, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj, the function was addressed, among others, by Sultanuddin Ahmed, Headmaster, Government High School and Md Ayub Hossain, district children affairs officer. The function was followed by a musical soiree participated by children.

10kg tumor removed from stomach

CHANDPUR, Dec 18: A 10 kilogram tumor was removed from the stomach of a housewife at Chandpur Maternity Hospital recently, reports APB.

Hospital sources told this correspondent that the patient, Mosammat Shefali Begum, 28, had been suffering from acute stomach pain for the last four years till the removal of the tumor. She is the wife of one Amjad Hossain of village Torkaj in Matlab thana. She had been on homeopathic medicine before receiving hospital treatment.

Human Rights Day observed

MADARIPUR, Dec 18: The World Human Rights Day was observed here recently with a vow to promote the noble ideals of human rights for creating a happy and healthy society, reports BSS.

Government and non-government organisations arranged various programmes and held functions to mark the day. Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Madaripur district unit held a discussion at the pourasava auditorium of this occasion in the afternoon. Vice-President of Madaripur unit of the organisation Muhammad Bashirullah presided over the meeting, secretary of the organisation A K M Nurunnabi read out the main paper on human rights.

'Aus' crops worth Tk 32cr produced

COMILLA, Dec 18: Some 41,000 metric tons of 'Aus' crops worth about Tk 32 crore were produced here during the last season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, about 1.03 lakh metric tons of various crops worth about Tk 150 crore were damaged during the recent devastating flood. Sources said, in last Kharif season, 'Aus' paddy was cultivated on some 68,704 hectares of land and different vegetables on some 4,465 hectares in 12 thanas of the district. Of them, 'Aus' paddy on some 57,618 hectares and vegetables on 4,041 hectares were affected by the deluge and other natural calamities. The farmers said 'Aus' paddy on some 48,482 hectares worth about Tk 49.91 crore and vegetables on 3,274 hectares worth about Tk 31.73 crore were completely damaged.

Victory Day celebrated in dists

The Victory Day was celebrated in all the districts of the country with much enthusiasm, report agencies.

In Narayanganj, the highlights of the day's programme included a 21-gun salute early in the morning, hoisting of national flag at all public and private buildings, garlanding on the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, painting competition, reception to the family members of martyred and disabled freedom fighters, supply of improved diet to the inmates of the hospital and orphanage centres, special prayers and discussions.

An impressive rally of ansars, VDP, police, boys scouts, girl guides, rovers, BNCC and blue birds was held at Osmany Stadium in the morning. Parliament member AKM Shamim Osman, Deputy Commissioner Abdur Rahman, Police Super Sanaul Haq and a large number of people were present on the occasion.

The best participants were awarded prizes.

In Rajshahi, the day's programme began with the booming of 21-gun salute early in the morning at local police line.

Different socio-cultural, educational and political organisations including Rajshahi University, Rajshahi City Corporation, local units of Bangladesh Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Muktiyoddha Sangsad and the Islamic Foundation celebrated the Victory Day in a befitting manner.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinnatun Nessa Talukder and Rajshahi City Awami League leaders garlanded the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Capt Monsur Ali and AHM Kamaruzzaman at the party office in the morning.

A victory day procession, led by Prof Zinnatun Nessa Talukder, was brought out from 'Allupattir Mor' and ended near Rajshahi Zilla Parishad.

A grand reception was accorded to the freedom fighters and the zilla parishad auditorium. Prof Zinnatun Nessa attended the function as the chief guest. Divisional Commissioner Khan Shahabuddin, DIG, Police and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner (RMP), among others, were present on the occasion.

A combined parade of police, ansars, VDP members, boys scouts, BNCC and juvenile organisations was held at the local stadium. Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Khan Shahabuddin took the salute at the parade.

Special prayers were offered at different mosques after Zohr prayers and other places of worship seeking continued peace, progress and solidarity of the nation.

Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque and leaders of Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar paying respect to those who laid down their lives in the War of Liberation.

Rajshahi City Corporation organised a six-day 'Bijoy Mela' at local Bhuvan Mohan Park in celebration of the Victory Day.

The day's programmes also included blood donation, cultural function, Quran Khwani, discussions, friendly cricket

and football matches, children's art competition and drama based on the Liberation War.

Important buildings, including Rajshahi University and Rajshahi City Corporation were illuminated in the evening in celebration of the day.

In Narsingdi, the district administration, different political parties, professional bodies, student organisations, socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions celebrated the Victory Day through elaborate programmes.

District Awami League hoisted national and party flags at the party office. City Awami League with its front organisations brought out a victory procession in the town which paraded the town streets and ended in front of its local office.

A discussion meeting was also held in the evening at the office with the president of the district. Awami League advocate Asaduzzaman in the chair.

The district BNP also celebrated the day with various programmes. A discussion meeting was held in the evening at its district office with the district BNP leader Shamsuddin Ahmed MP in the chair.

Narsingdi district administration arranged a discussion meeting on Victory Day, special cultural function was also held in the Shilpakala Academy in the evening to mark the day.

Islamic Foundation, Narsingdi district unit arranged *doa-mahfil*, seeking blessings from Almighty Allah for peace, progress and prosperity of the country and the nation.

In Madaripur, the district administration, political parties and socio-cultural organisations arranged elaborate pro-

grammes to mark the day.

The programmes included hoisting of national flag, placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, rallies, sports competition, discussion meeting, cultural function and reception to the family members of martyred freedom fighters.

Special prayers were offered in all mosques, temples, churches and other places of worship seeking divine blessing for peace and progress of the country.

The district administration organised a colourful march past of police, ansars, VDP, BNCC, boy scouts, girl guides and different juvenile organisations at the local stadium in the morning.

In Mymensingh, State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharrar has called upon the freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces to come forward unitedly for building a happy and prosperous country with the spirit of the Liberation War.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised as part of a seven-day programme to mark the Victory Day at the local 'Chootabazar' Bijoy Mancha.

The state minister said that the true history of the Liberation War should be focused for the benefit of the future generations.

Organised by the Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Mymensingh district unit, the discussion was presided over by Prof Abdur Razzak. Among others, advocate Moslemuddin, MP, Prof AKM Shamsul Islam and local leaders took part in the discussion.

Similar programmes were arranged in other districts of the country to mark the day.

Meghna erosion takes serious turn at Hatia

NOAKHALI, Dec 18: Erosion in the mighty river Meghna has taken a serious turn devouring a large area in Hatia thana of the district, reports UNB.

Local people said five villages of Shukhchar and Nalchira unions have already been eroded during the last six months.

About 200 dwelling houses of these villages and 100 acres of crop and other lands were devoured and a child was killed during the period.

Some 2,500 people were rendered homeless due to the erosion and four rural markets went into the river, said the people.

A survey conducted locally revealed that the Meghna devoured 14 villages in the island during the last two years rendering over 8,000 people homeless.

The survey report said the erosion in the island started in

1972 and since then three unions out of the total nine have completely been vanished. Some 80,000 people of about 25,000 families became homeless.

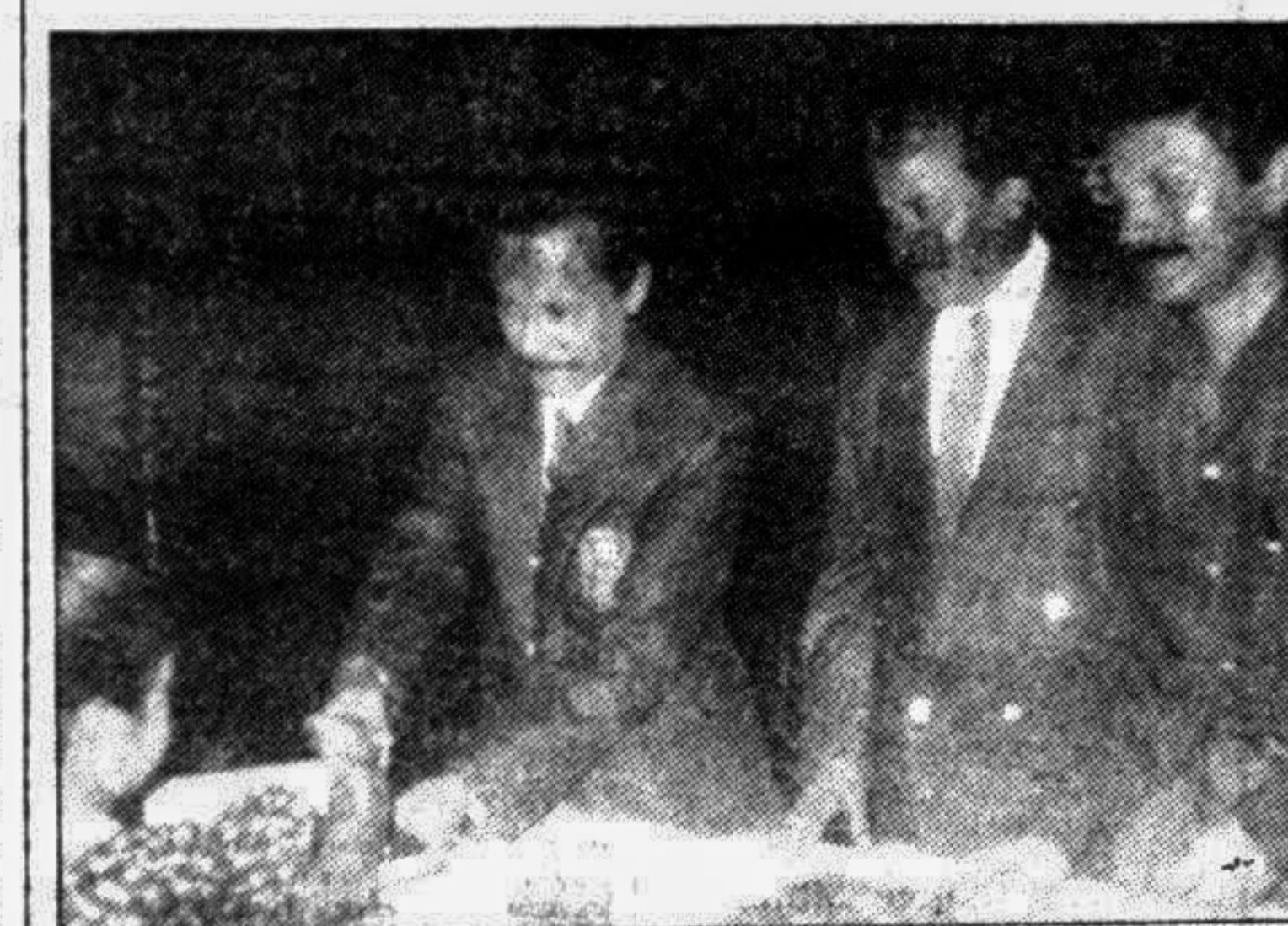
Most of the affected families migrated to other parts of the district. They also settled in other districts including Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Laxmipur, Khulna and Barisal.

The thana headquarters was shifted to Oochakhali in 1985 to avoid erosion. But local people said the new thana headquarters was also under threat due to the approaching river.

Many erosion-affected poor families took shelter on the flood-protection embankments across the thana. They complained that no measure was taken so far by the concerned authorities for their rehabilitation.



NATORE: Agriculture Secretary Dr A M M Shawkat Ali distributing vegetable seeds and seedlings among the flood affected people of Shyamal village in the sadar thana under Special Flood Rehabilitation programme. Director general of Agriculture Extension Department Enamul Haque is also seen. — Star photo



HABIGANJ: Prizes being distributed among the winners of the children's painting competition held at the local Shishu Academy on the occasion of Child Rights Week here. Photo shows the Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj Ahmed Fazlur Rashid handing over a prize to a child. — Star photo



MYMENSINGH: Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) Dr Md Idris Ali distributing Bina tomato seedlings to trained female farmers at a function held at Iswardi Sub-centre recently. — Star photo

Liquor poisoning kills 2 more in Feni

FENI, Dec 18: Two more people, who took rectified spirit in Fulgazi Monday, died on Wednesday, raising the death toll to eight, reports APB.

Police said Krishna Vanik, 30, died at Feni Hospital in the afternoon while Alauddin, 35, expired on his way to Dhaka for treatment. Both hailed from village Boroia.

A four-member investigation team, led by Director General of Narcotics Control Department, visited the spot on Thursday.

Six people died and 21 fell sick after taking toxic spirit at three homeopathic shops at Fulgazi bazar on Monday. Owners of the shops fled the scene immediately after the incident.

Of the sick, 19 were undergoing treatment at different clinics and hospitals, sources said.

Voters ID card: Nine teams working in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Dec 18: The work of preparing identity cards for the voters at the filed level is going on in the district, reports UNB.

Under the first phase of the programme, the preparation of ID cards has started in six unions of Pangsha thana. The unions are Bahadurpur, Patta, Shaorail, Ratandia, Kalikapur and Machpara.

Nine teams are working round the clock at 52 camps taking snaps of photograph of the voters.

People engaged in the work said that people's representatives, political, social and NGO workers and professionals are helping them in taking photographs of the voters.

Besides, the district administration has been publicising for the successful implementation of the voters' ID card project in the district.

'Aman' procurement drive may fall short of target

NATORE, Dec 18: The ongoing 'Aman' procurement drive in the northern districts is unlikely to achieve the target as the farmers were found reluctant to sell grains to the Food Department due to the higher market price than the government rate, reports UNB.

Official sources said the food office launched the drive on November 15 in 16 northern

districts, including Natore, with an aim to procure 1,51,500 mt of rice and 60,000 mt of paddy.

In last one month, the food office could not achieve even 20 per cent of its procurement target as growers were not supplying foodgrains to its procurement centres.

When medium quality of rice is being sold between Tk 15.50 and Tk 16 while paddy Tk 8-9 per Kg, the food office is trying to procure rice at Tk 15 and paddy at Tk 8.50 per Kg.

There have been reports that bureaucratic tangles and corruption by a section of the food department officials have slowed down the procurement drive.

The district-wise breakup of rice and paddy procurement targets: 2,500 mt of rice and 500 mt of paddy in Natore district, 2,000 mt of rice and 1,000 mt of paddy each in Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi, 20,000 mt of rice and 7,000 mt of paddy in Naogaon districts.

In Bogra, the food office decided to procure 21,000 mt of rice and 6,000 mt of paddy and in Joypurhat 6,000 mts of rice and 2,000 mts of paddy, 2,000 mt of rice and 1,000 mt of paddy each in Pabna and Sirajganj, 10,000 mt of rice and 3,000 mt of paddy in Gaibandha, 5,000 mt of rice and 5,000 mt of paddy in Kurigram districts.

Besides, it decided to purchase 5,000 mt of rice and 3,000 mt of paddy each from Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts, 18,000 mt of rice and 5,000 mt of paddy from Rang-

pur, 20,500 mt of rice and 12,000 mt of paddy from Dinajpur, 18,000 mt of rice and 6,000 mt of paddy from Thakurgaon and 6,000 mt of rice and 3,000 mt of paddy from Panchagar districts.

Monument for Martyrs of Independence

BANDARBAN, Dec 18: A monument for the martyrs of the War of Independence was inaugurated at the Local Government Council Complex here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Chairman of Bandarban Hill District Local Government Council Khwaing-Chaw Prue Master formally inaugurated the monument.

Local MP Bir Bahadur, DC Atikul Islam Chowdhury, member of the local government council and General Secretary of the district Awami League Abdur Rahim Chowdhury and Pourashava Chairman Ayub Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

The foundation stone of the monument was laid on December 17, 1992 by the former Chairman of Local Government Council and District BNP leader Chhanching Prue Chowdhury.

Earlier, local leaders at a meeting at the council office had decided to take measures for immediate expansion of the Shaheed Minar in the district town.



FENI: Yoshikazu Kaneko Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh delivering speech on the inaugural ceremony of Raghunathpur High School building financed by Kawafuji Ryu, a Japanese Dance School under the initiatives of Kaneko. The high school is situated in Sindurpur union of Dagonbhuiyan thana.

Martyred Intellectuals Day observed

Martyred Intellectuals Day was observed in many districts of the country in a befitting manner on December 14, report agencies.

In Narayanganj, speakers at a remembrance meeting here recalled the days of hardship in different sectors of battlefront against the occupation forces during the country's War of Liberation in 1971.

Narayanganj district administration organised the meeting to accord reception to the family members of the martyred and disabled freedom fighters on the occasion of the 28th Victory Day at Narayanganj Club in the afternoon.

Presided over by Abdur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Narayanganj, the remembrance meeting was addressed by Nazimuddin Mahmud, former chairman, Narayanganj Pourashava Giasuddin, Bir Protick, Ujjal Bikash Dutta, additional district magistrate, Alhaj Khwaja Mohiuddin, Samiullah Milon, Deputy Commander, Narayanganj Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

The speakers recounted the series of movement started from 1952 which culminated in the War of Liberation in December 1971 under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

They recollected the events how they organised the Liberation War and repulsed the attack of the Pakistani occupation forces and liberated the country.

Earlier, one minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed souls of the martyred freedom fighters.

In Lalmonirhat, different political parties and socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the Martyred Intellectuals Day in a befitting manner. A discussion meeting organised by local Awami League to commemorate, shaheed intellectuals was held at Bijoy Mela stage in the Collectorate compound here. Abul Hossain, former member of parliament and president, district Awami League presided over the meeting.

Another discussion meeting marking the day organised by Bangladesh Nationalist Party was held at local BNP office with Ashadul Habib Dulu in the chair.

Different socio-cultural organisations held discussions in

the thana headquarters and other places of the district to mark the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

In Tangail, Tangail district Awami League held a discussion meeting at local public library ground on December 14 to observe the Shaheed Buddhijee Dibas.

Alhaj Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League attended the meeting as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion he said, we are advancing towards a bright future under the present democratic government. The dark chapter was created by assassinating Bangabandhu to foil the main principles of independence. The trial of the killers was held and the administration of justice has been established.

Among others, Fazlur Rahman Khan, Secretary and Md Faruque, Organising Secretary of district Awami League also spoke on the occasion.

The speakers paid glowing tributes and prayed for peace of the departed souls of the martyrs. Advocate Mirza Tofazzal Hossain Mukul, President, district Awami League presided over the meeting.

In Mymensingh, Bangladesh



FARIDPUR: A team of girl Rover scouts of local Government Saroda Sundari Mohila College recently visited the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj. They were on education tour. Principal of the college Dr Giasuddin Ahmed is also seen with them (sitting 3rd from left). — Star photo