

News snaps

Bagerhat BCL's threat

BAGERHAT, Dec 13: Local unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has threatened to wage a tough movement if Police Super Sazzad Ali fails to withdraw his statement against them by Tuesday, reports UNB.

The warning came from a meeting of the ruling party's student front at its office here on Saturday. BCL leaders Kazi Ali Ashraf and MA Matin, among others, were present at the meeting. They said the Police Super at a discussion here on Thursday accused BCL president Nazmul Kabir Jhila of taking wine and misbehaving with people in Fakirhat thana.

Kishoreganj Press Club poll

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 13: Election of Kishoreganj Press Club (KPC) was held here at its premises on December 7, reports BSS. Shaheen Khan and Saiful Haque were elected president and general secretary respectively. The other elected members were: Ruhul Kuddus, Abu Khaled Pathan, Saiduzzaman, Subir Bashak, Humayun Kabir, A K M Nasim, Advocate Shahadat Ali and Mokarram.

AGM of Comilla BRCS

COMILLA, Dec 13: An Annual General Meeting (AGM) organised by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS), Comilla unit was held here in Comilla Modern School auditorium on December 2, reports BSS.

It was presided over by Vice President of BRCS, Comilla Unit Advocate Afzal Khan. Among others, Al-haj M. Elias, M. Humayun Kabir, Advocate Shahidul Haque, Abdul Hasnat Babul, Prof. Shafigur Rahman, M. Rafiqul Islam and Shahid Ullah spoke on the occasion.

Cash looted

BAGERHAT, Dec 13: Gunmen swooped on a mechanised boat in Debraj Canal in Morelganj thana and looted cash from some fishermen on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the fishermen were going to Zewdhara depot. Two fishermen — Rafiqul Islam, 27, and Jamal Hossain, 28 — were critically injured in the attack. They were admitted to sadar hospital.

Deer recovered

SATKHIRA, Dec 13: The forest officials of Koikhal Forest Station under Shyamnagar thana recovered one deer recently, reports BSS.

According to official sources, Koikhal Forest Officials led by Station Chief Mujibur Rahman raided the Boikari area in the Sundarbans and recovered one hunted deer. The hunters managed to escape.

Man killed in clash

SATKHIRA, Dec 13: One person was killed in a clash at Arar Kadakti under Assasuni thana on December 9, reports BSS.

According to police sources, one person named Mohiuddin Sana with his accomplices suddenly attacked Badiuzzaman, 35, of village Arar Kadakti. They beat him mercilessly. As a result he died on the spot. The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with Assasuni thana in this connection. Assasuni thana police arrested Mohiuddin Sana, 55, in this connection.

Body recovered

SATKHIRA, Dec 13: Police recovered two bodies from Sadar and Kaliganj thanas on Friday, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Nurul Islam of Assasuni and Idris Ali of Kaliganj. Police said robbers swooped on Nurul Islam in Chandpur area and killed him there while he was passing by the area in a bike. He had a considerable amount of money at that time, police said. They said unidentified assailants killed Idris Ali of Kalikarpur on the day and later hanged the body in his shop. Both the bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. Separate cases were filed.

Satkhira dist Red Crescent body

SATKHIRA, Dec 13: A seven-member district unit committee of Red Crescent was formed here Tuesday for a two-year term (2000-2001), reports UNB.

The committee was constituted at the Annual General Meeting of the unit with Abdul Motaleb and Monsur Ahmed as its president and general secretary. The other office bearers are: Adv. Abdur Rahim, Adv. Nasim Moine, Adv. SM Haider, Adv. Syed Iftekhar Ali and Ikramul Islam Maruf.

Loan disbursed

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 13: Livestock Department for its poverty alleviation programme disbursed interest free loan totaling Tk 14.35 lakh in last three years, reports UNB.

Officials said a total of 231 people in five thanas received the loan, repayable in monthly installments, for cattle rearing. The department realised loan amounting to Tk 3.42 lakh during the period. It has also planned to disburse Tk 3 lakh among 60 people soon, the officials said.

Night coach dacoity

RAJSHAHI, Dec 13: Road pirates looted cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk one lakh from the passengers of a Rajshahi-bound night coach on Natore bypass on Friday, reports UNB.

Passengers alleged that a gang of robbers in collusion with the driver and his helper boarded the coach in the guise of passengers and decamped with the booty. They further alleged that police had arrested the driver and helper of the bus and later released them after taking bribes. Another report from Barisal adds: At least 11 passengers of a BRTC bus were injured in an attack by dacoits near Dignagar bridge on Dhaka-Barisal highway early Thursday. Witnesses said the dacoits barricaded the highway in an attempt to commit dacoity in buses and attacked the passengers of the BRTC bus through its windows as they found its door locked up.

Two youths arrested

PATUAKHALI, Dec 13: Two youths were arrested as they appear in examination for recruitment to vacant posts of assistant teacher of government primary schools by proxy on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said M Anisur Rahman (roll-3664) and M Shahidul Islam (3665) were caught red-handed from PTI centre in the town for appearing in the examination on behalf of each other.

Rabi farming faces setback

GOPALGANJ, Dec 13: Cultivation of winter (Rabi) crops in five thanas appears to fall far short of target, reports UNB.

A total of 500 hectares of land have so far been brought under winter crop cultivation this season, according to agriculture officials. They said it's unlikely to bring the targeted lands in various thanas, except Mukshudpur and Kashiani, under cultivation of winter crops. They attributed the possible failure to slow harvesting of Aman crops and lack of interest of farmers.

10 uplift projects taken up

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 13: Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), Kishoreganj, has taken up a total of 10 development projects in 13 thanas here in the 1999-2000 financial year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the government has sanctioned Taka 1,65,00,000 for implementation of the projects. The projects included development of rural infrastructure. Sixty-five per cent work of the projects has already been completed. The rest work is in full swing.

Prize giving ceremony

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 13: A prize giving ceremony, organised by Anyatama Shaitay Sangshita, was held here in the Zilla Parishad Auditorium recently, reports BSS.

The function was held to distribute prizes among the meritorious students of Brahmanbaria district. Additional District Magistrate M Afzal Hossain presided over the function. Private Secretary to the Prime Minister RAM Obaidul Muktedir Chowdhury attended the function as the chief guest while General Secretary of Brahmanbaria Samity Mizanur Rahman, Poursabha Chairman Helal Uddin and Prof. Abdun Noor were present guests.

Qulkhwan held

KUSTHIA, Dec 13: The qulkhwan of three police personnel was held here at the district police line on Tuesday, reports BSS.

They were killed by road accident on Kusthia-Jhenidah Road near Islamic University on December 4. Names of the three police personnel are: M Avenuddin, Rabiul Islam and Baset. The qul was attended, among others, by Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam and Police Super Anwar Hossain. A *midat mahfil* was also held at the mosque of the district police line.

Unsung personalities in Jhenidah district

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Dec 13: As the anniversary of Victory Day of the War of Liberation approaches, people with heavy heart remember some local personalities, who embraced martyrdom in 1971 for the cause of national independence. People from all walks of life in the district forged strong unity during the war. When the Pakistani occupation forces tried to enter the district headquarters, they faced resistance on Jhenidah-Jessore road at Bishoykhali, about eight kilometres south from the town, in late March.

Mayamoy Banarjee, a teacher, joined local people to resist the Pakistani soldiers from entering Jhenidah, the then sub-divisional headquarters. Banarjee and his group put up barricades on the road. However, the soldiers equipped with modern weapons broke the re-

sistance. They detained Banarjee and others on April 1. Later Banarjee was gunned down.

Mir Sarwar Hossain, commonly known as Salok Mia, was a well-known singer. Salok Mia, son of Mir Tofazzel Hossain of Shalakupur, Shah Masjid Para area, worked as an informer of freedom fighters. On September 27, Nurul Islam, local collaborator of Pakistani forces, requested him to see the Officer In Charge of Shahchupa thana. Salok did not come back from police station. Later his body was recovered from the River Kumar.

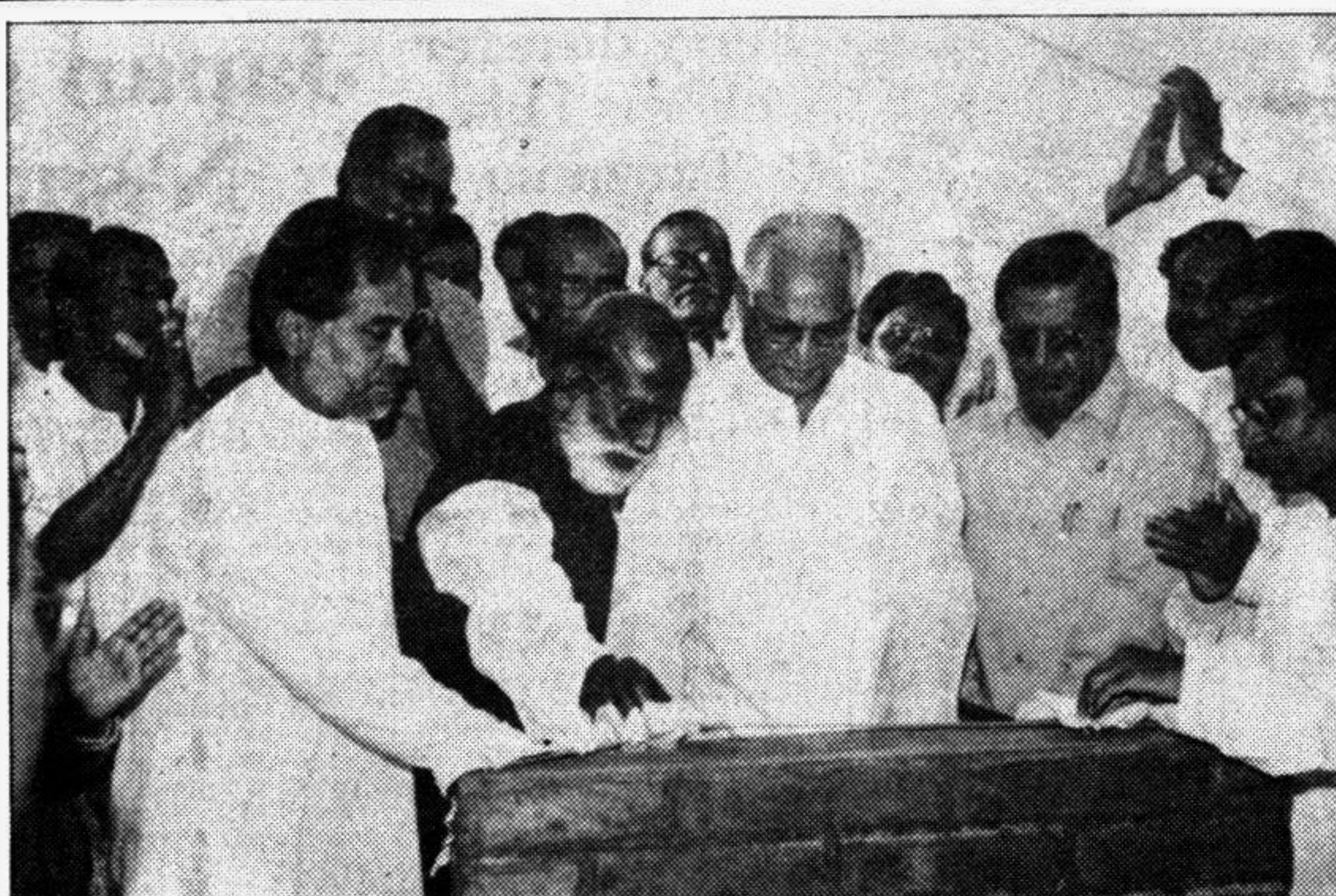
Dr Manoranjan Joarder, 75, was another renowned martyred personality. During the War of Liberation he attended wounded freedom fighters. On October 28 he was detained by the Pakistani soldiers and confined in Shalakupur police station. Pakistani soldiers and

their local collaborators put him into a sack with his hands and legs tied and threw in the River Kumar. He could not be traced later.

Rustam Ali, son of Omar Ali, was an officer of Agriculture Department. On April 20 the occupation soldiers picked him up from his house. Later he was gunned down in the premises of Kaliganj Girls' School.

Golam Mahiuddin Ahmed, a renowned social worker in Harinakdu thana, was detained by the Pakistani soldiers. His body was later recovered from Tetultala area under Sadar thana.

Khondakar Elahi Bakhs was a noted social worker and a writer. Some of his books were published after his death. In May, the Pakistani soldiers and their local collaborators picked him up from his house. He was shot dead in Humdore Beel area.



Samson H Chowdhury, chairman of Square Group of Industries laying the foundation stone of the new five-storey building of Pabna Ananda Gobinda Public Library in Pabna.

— Star photo

Minister urges entrepreneurs

Set up more private medical colleges

SYLHET, Dec 13: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf on Sunday said the government is encouraging private entrepreneurs to set up more medical colleges to reach health services at the doorsteps of the common people, reports BSS.

"The private initiative is being encouraged, as the government is not capable enough only to provide adequate service to the huge patients within the limited resources and to produce more doctors to fulfil the requirement of the country," he said.

The minister was addressing the foundation laying ceremony of the North-East Medical College at Dakkhin Surma, five kilometres away from Sylhet town as the chief guest.

Chaired by Chairman of the college Dr Azizur Rahman, the function was also addressed, among others, by renowned eye specialist Prof Syed Modasser Ali, Director General of Health Directorate Prof A B M Ahsan Ullah, Director of Health Education Shah Monir Hossain, District Awami League president Syed Abu Naser Advocate and Mobin Khan.

Earlier, the minister unveiled a foundation stone of the

North-East Medical College on its permanent campus. The medical college with 500 beds hospital would be built at a cost of Taka 30 crore on 15 acres to provide health services to about two lakh people of the region.

The medical college, which started its journey at Sylhet town with a 200-bed hospital in 1998 also, got recognition by the World Health Organisation as a private medical college.

The health minister said we are losing huge foreign currencies every year as a large number of patients go to neighbouring India for treatment for lack of proper medical facilities in our country.

"We have taken various measures including increasing the number of private medical colleges aimed at reducing the number of Bangladeshi patients going abroad for treatment," he added.

He said the private medical colleges in the country have created opportunities for a large number of talented students to enroll themselves in the education of medical science in the country.

Salahuddin called upon the doctors of the private medical colleges to produce talented doctors to face the challenges of

the coming millennium. "The next century would be a highly competitive one and we have to survive in the coming century through using our talents," he added.

Mentioning government activities in the health sector, he said we have brought back discipline in health sector by removing all odds and irregularities.

Eminent eye specialist Prof Syed Modasser Ali laid emphasis on expediting research activities in the medical college to help the students know about the latest invention on Medical science. "The alternative to research in medical education is research," he said adding that the private medical colleges shall have to be survived through its own quality.

He called upon the students of the private medical colleges to build their own fortune by working hard to survive in the modern world.

Laying emphasis on construction of a full-fledged hospital on the college campus, he said without hospital the students will not get proper education.

"Hospital is a must for running a medical college fulfilling the criteria of the government," he added.

Nobody knows where Shaheed Capt Bashar is sleeping

By Staff Correspondent



Shaheed Capt Bashar

There is no permanent source of lamentation and grief for the near and dear ones of Shaheed Captain Bashar who laid down his life for liberating his motherland.

The occupation Pakistan army did not hand over the dead body to his family members after his brutal killing during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. Till now they are unaware about his burial.

The brutal forces of Pakistan killed him because he first hoisted the flag of independent Bangladesh atop the pambulator of his baby daughter following Bangladesh's historic March 7 address.

Hoisting the flag he pushed his daughter's pambulator into the Chittagong Cantonment. His courageous act boosted the morale of Bangalee army officers and jawans. Simultaneously he angered the Pakistani military rulers. During the turbulent days he became the source of courage and inspiration for the freedom loving people of Chittagong. He led them to put up barricades on Chittagong streets. He built up strong resistances before the Pakistani troops. He did so to obstruct unloading of the newly arrived sophisticated arms and ammunition from a Pakistani ship 'Swat'.

After the crackdown of Pak-

istani army on the night of March 25 his name was announced among other young Bangalee army officers who led the rebellion. The announcement was made through 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' at Kalurghat in Chittagong.

Freedom loving people including the students and young people were asked to rally round the young army officers. At that time he also shot down a helicopter of the occupation forces at Halishahar in Chittagong. He tried to contact the then major political figures in port city. At one stage of his operation he

was surrounded and caught by the Pakistani forces. Immediately he was flown to Dhaka escorted by Pak army officers as an important Prisoner of War (POW). On arrival at Dhaka he was shifted to a concentration camp where he was brutally tortured for more than a month. The Pakistani army personnel pushed a metal rod mixed with powdered chilli into his rectum and kept it there till his death. Following his death the Pakistani authorities certified that he had died of heart failure. The family members of Shaheed Bashar learnt all about these through press after the independence of the country.

During interrogation the Pakistani authorities brought so many charges against him including treason. He was asked to become a witness against Bangabandhu, but he firmly refused. As a consequence he had to suffer inhuman torture for days together. Another charge of killing of Pakistani Colonel Junjua was also brought against him.

At present the family members of Shaheed Captain Bashar observe his martyrdom anniversary on May 29 every year. It is assumed that he was killed on this particular day. Because his comrades of the concentration camp did not see him after the aforementioned day.

UNB report contradicted

MAGURA, Dec 13: Maina, 4-year-old girl of Uthali village, who has taken polio vaccine died of high temperature and viral diarrhoea the following day, reports UNB.

Contradicting a UNB report published in a section of the press on December 8, the Civil Surgeon said the death of Maina had not caused by polio vaccine.

On investigation the Civil Surgeon said the mother of the victim said that before taking polio vaccine on December 2 Maina was running 103 degree temperature and in that condition she bought a bread from the market and ate it. Soon she suffered from loose motion and died early in the morning.

Apparently Maina died of fever and viral diarrhoea and not for taking polio vaccine, asserted the civil surgeon.

Earlier, the Civil Surgeon had admitted that overdose of polio vaccine may also cause serious illness and death.

Training on use of bio-fertiliser

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Dec 13: A day long training programme on "Use of Bio-fertiliser in Crop Production", jointly organised by the local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) and Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), was held here recently.

Presided over by Director (Research) of BINA Dr S M Rahman, the inaugural function of the training programme was attended by Field Wing Director of AED Delwar Hossain as Chief Guest.

It was addressed, among others, by Director (Administration) of BINA Dr Ataur Rahman, Additional Director (Field Wing) of AED Abdul Awal, Additional Director of AED in Mymensingh Fazlul Haque, Chief Scientific Officer of BINA Dr. Sultana Ahmed, Chief of Soil Science Department Dr M A Sattar.

Events of districts in picture



Noted freedom fighter Maj Gen (ret'd) M S A Bhuiyan recently spoke as the chief guest at a gathering of workers arranged by Daudkandi Thana Ex-Soldiers' Association at Daudkandi in Comilla district.



The students of various schools and colleges in Sirajganj town arranged a colourful procession recently hailing the UNESCO declaration on International Mother Tongue Day.

— Star photo



Rajshahi Renowned Citizens' Committee arranged a meeting in Rajshahi in memory of national hockey star Robiuddin Ahmed Mintu who died recently.

— Star photo

Kullapathar — a burial ground of freedom fighters

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 13: Kullapathar — the burial ground of martyred freedom fighters is in fact a permanent source of lamentation and grief for the near and dear ones of those who died on the top of a tiny hill. It looked like a graveyard of the members of a single family, as they fought in unison during their lifetime and shed their bloods for a common goal of liberating their motherland.

Kullapathar is located in bordering Kasba upazila under Brahmanbaria district. Remote mountain range of India is visible from Kullapathar surrounded by tiny hills. Around this location, there were no such homesteads. Fifty valiant freedom fighters are resting in this burial ground on a small hill. Stairs are there to go up to the graveyard on whose gate's top read 'Banglar Muktiyoddhar'.

'Kullapathar' (the graveyard) of the freedom fighters of Bangla (1378 BS). Two large white stones were placed adjacent to the burial ground. One of the stones contains 'the list of martyred freedom fighters of 1971 independence war'. That is the list of 49 freedom fighters, the last two names were mentioned as unidentified. The name of martyred Engineer Nazrul Islam, his date of birth and death, were carved on in the other stone. A six-line verse in memory of Nazrul Islam was written on the other stone plaque, installed by widow of the martyred engineer, Hazera Nazrul, on January 1, 1972. Though there stands the list of 49 freedom fighters, in fact 50 freedom fighters died here.

A strange feeling gripped this correspondent, when he stood on the graveyard. At the first sight, it may seem an ordinary burial ground but a sense of affection and feeling of kinship pervade in the whole graveyard. In each row, there are graves of six freedom fighters. In fact at the beginning of each row, there are five graves and after eight such rows, there remained graves of three unidentified freedom fighters. Wild grasses, bushes and different types of trees surround the hill, but more of care and cleanliness prevailed in and around the burial ground. There is no human habitation, but only greenery. The identity of the freedom fighters, which can be seen from the plaque, can make one astonished. It became the burial ground of the freedom fighters.

There lied people, hailing from different places of the country. To name some were — young fighter Zakir Hossain of Gopibad of Dhaka, Musharraf of Chandina, Taib Ali of Sylhet and Noab Ali of Khustia. Religions did not bar the burial of Muslims and Hindus as well in the same place. The similarity happened in various mass graves of 1971 Liberation War and Kullapathar unveils this great truth. Nobody asked weather those lied here are Hindus or Muslims. There was no difference of religions among the freedom fighters of 1971.

While going around the graves, this correspondent came across a gentleman. His name is Abdul Karim, a strong-bodied man. During the discourse with Karim, this correspondent came to know the story of this burial ground. Karim himself was a freedom fighter. He was 22 or 23 years in 1971. Karim just entered into his working life by beginning his career as a school teacher. As the independence war broke out, he joined the war. Karim crossed the border and joined the Konaban camp in India. Fierce fighting is continuing between the freedom fighters and the Pakistani forces along the whole frontiers — from Akhaura to Comilla. After March 25, 1971, the Fourth Bengal Regiment, which revolted and defected from the Pakistani army and the border security force — EPR — jointly built up main resistance at the call of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They were assisted by police, ansar and the local people. A faction of the Fourth Bengal set up its camp at Konaban and started fighting under the command of Captain Gaffar. Adjacent to this camp situated the Shalda river sector, which was under the command of Captain Abdus Salek Chowdhury.

Karim is the only son of Abdul Mannan, who built the graveyard of the freedom fighters.

In Shalda river sector, the Pakistani occupation forces suffered heavy losses during their frontal fight with freedom fighters.

In many cases, the bodies of the martyred freedom fighters could not be recovered while in some cases bodies were buried inside the Indian territory. Under such circumstances, idea of burying the Shaheed freedom fighters in the soil of the country cropped up in many. This idea was backed up by the psychology that the burial of

those, who had sacrificed their lives for the independence of the country, inside Bangladesh territory would provide some sort of mental peace.

This thought led to the start of burial of the freedom fighters at Kullapathar and the first freedom fighter who was buried in Kullapathar was Habilder Taib Ali. This was an ideal place for burial as the Pakistani forces could never enter into this bordering area. Hence, this area remained a free zone all along. Though Karim could not remember the exact date of death of Habilder Taib Ali, he recalled it was the rainy season. Saheed Taib Ali fought unto death under group of Subedar Golam Ambia. Karim clearly recalled that Taib Ali wore a sky colour half shirt. He died after sustaining serious injuries at his neck and leg from Pakistani artillery attack. Several thousand people attended the *janaza* of Taib Ali as the place was a free zone. This is how martyred Taib Ali was buried at the beginning of our Liberation War. This was the beginning of this extraordinary burial ground. The tin board containing his name, address and date of death was placed at the front of the grave. Immediately after independence, the then SDO of Brahmanbaria and some other people took initiative and baria and some other people took initiative and installed each of the graves. White stones were also installed to write names and addresses of the martyred freedom fighters. But inadvertently the dates of the death were not written. More regrettably, the book which contained the details of the martyred freedom fighters could not be found.

According to the description of Subedar Golam Ambia, the date of death of Shaheed Taib Ali was July 16, 1971. The following day died Nayek Sattar and Nayek Akram by mortar attacks. And the corpses started arriving one after another. A few days later, eight freedom fighters died in a single day. Four of the corpses were Subedar Salam, Darsan Ali, Mozammel and Nur Mia. All the eight were buried in Kullapathar.

Muktibahini had launched an offensive against the Pakistani occupation forces in the month of July in the area. This war is still a much talked about story in the locally. The platoon, commanded by Subedar Wahab had made a sudden attack on the advancing Pakistani caravan of speed boats on the Shalda river, carrying

high-level officers of Pakistani army. As per the accounts, the lungi-clad Muktijoddhas made an ambush on the bank of the river Shalda and the attack led to death of Pakistani Captain Bokhari. His death came as a happy news for the people of the locality. Noted for his notoriety, Captain Bokhari had killed people mercilessly in Comilla town. Narrating the attack, Major Khaled Musharraf later said, the platoon of Subedar Wahab had made sudden attack on the enemies, leading to deaths and injuries of about 70 Pakistani officers and soldiers. Many were drowned to death as they jumped into the river. The offensive of the Fourth Bengal caused casualties to Commanding Officer of the 31st Beluch Regiment, Colonel Qaiyum, Captain Bokhari of 53rd artillery and another 13 to 14 officers of different ranks. Abdul Wahab had been awarded Bir Pratik for his heroic command in the war. Wahab has been promoted to Honorary Captain after the independence and a house has been constructed for him at Dighinala after his retirement.

Taking it as a mission, Abdul Mannan had always buried with care the martyred freedom fighters whenever their corpses arrived at the burial ground. The last corpse of the freedom fighter that was buried at Kullapathar was on November 16, 1971. The day when the Muktibahini had freed the whole Shalda river zone by driving out the occupation Pakistani forces from the area. Muktibahini had created a history in the War of Liberation through this war here that freed the occupied areas. Subedar Belayet, who fought heroically, destroying enemy trenches, smashing their ambushes and killing occupation forces, had turned the whole area into a free zone. This valiant freedom fighter was the last man to be buried at Kullapathar. He died in a sudden attack of the enemy forces after freeing the Shalda river area.

After the independence, Abdul Mannan handed over '65 decimal' land including the Kullapathar graveyard to the government. He donated the land for setting only one precondition — that is the government will have to maintain the graveyard and construct a mausoleum on the burial ground. The condition is yet to be fulfilled. — BSS Feature