

News snaps

UNICEF publication launched

RANGAMATI, Dec 14: The launching ceremony of UNICEF's publication, 'The State of World's Children 2000', was held at the local Tribal Cultural Institute auditorium on Monday evening, reports BSS.

The Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, formally launched the publication in a ceremony as the chief guest. Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council Ching Kew Roaza spoke on the occasion as the special guest. Local elite, journalists, representatives of local and international non-government organisations and government officials attended the function. Deputy Commissioner of the district Abu Haider Sardar presided. UNICEF representative Manzurul Islam, UNICEF Rangamati and Khagrachhari district's coordinators Dr Indrani Chakma and Purabi Khisha presented the gist of the publication in the ceremony.

Crackdown on hemp growers

RANGAMATI, Dec 14: Responding to a government instruction, security forces have launched a crackdown on hemp cultivators and illegal drug traffickers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

The security forces unearthed a huge quantity of hemp filed in Kalapahar area and destroyed hemp plants on about 5 acres of land. Earlier, the security men destroyed hemp plants on about 1,000 acres of land in Lanhudu and Billichhari thana.

Pirates barricade road

NAOGAON, Dec 14: Highwaymen barricaded the Naogaon-Patnola road at Matazi village in Mahadevpur thana on the night of Dec 8 and committed dacoity in nine trucks, reports UNB.

Truckers said a gang of 25-30 road pirates barricaded the road by felling trees at midnight and looted goods and valuables from the trucks. The robbers also snatched the belongings of a motorcyclist.

Arms recovered

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 14: Sarail Thana Police recovered different snuggled materials including fire arms from the house of Abdul Kader of Kalikachha, an alleged gang leader of inter-district highway dacoity, and arrested Asia Khatun, 45, recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said, the recovered items included a pipe gun, one cartridge, on Kirtz, one Chinese axe, a saw, an iron rod and two tape-recorders. A case has been filed in this connection.

Foundation-laying ceremony

PABNA, Dec 14: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said here recently that government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been making all-out efforts to build a poverty-free prosperous Bangladesh to improve the lot of the people, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the foundation-laying ceremony of Sathia thana sub-registry office here, Prof Sayeed said that the Awami League government had always stood beside the people in their woes. He said that the government had successfully faced the last year's devastating flood through coordinated efforts. The Sathia thana sub-registry office will be constructed at a cost of Taka about 32 lakhs 15 thousand, officials said.

Prisoner injured

SHERPUR, Dec 14: An inmate of the district jail was seriously injured by jail police on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim Suruj Member who is a member of Nalitabari thana Awami League was hit hard on the head by a jail cop in the morning. He was rushed to sadar hospital in a critical condition on Monday morning. The reason for beating of Suruj was not disclosed by the jail authority but informed sources said he went unruly inside the prison. As his condition deteriorated, doctors shifted him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Police super and jailer admitted the incident. Deputy Commissioner and Police Super visited the spot.

Youth dies in clash

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 14: A fierce clash between two feuding groups left a youth dead and 30 others injured at Kashiknagar village in Shilgaon thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said the heritmen of Nayaladananga union chairman Ashraf and his rival Golam Mostafa Pancho locked in a clash on Sunday night in a sequel to their longstanding enmity. Ekramul, 19, killed in a bomb attack when the two groups renewed fighting with firearms on Monday morning. Some 30 people on both sides suffered bomb injuries during the protracted rioting. The injured were admitted to sadar hospital and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Additional Police Super M Anwar Hossain and ASP M Nurul Islam visited the spot. Police were deployed in the area to fend off further troubles.

Robbers kill man

SUNAMGANJ, Dec 14: Armed robbers opened fire on the villagers killing a man and injuring a woman at village Chhatrish Kalipur in Chhatrak thana here on Sunday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Kasab Ali, 32, and the injured as Kanchan Mala, 36. Police said the robbers looted valuables worth over Tk one lakh from the house of Kanchan Chandra Pal of the village. When the bandits were fleeing the scene, villagers laid siege to them hearing the hue and cry of the family members of Chandra Pal. The robbers opened gunshots to disperse the people leaving the man dead on the spot. A case was filed with Chhatrak thana.

Six injured in clash

TANGAIL, Dec 14: Six persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Shuvulla Fatepur in Mirzapur thana recently, reports BSS.

According to local sources, the injured persons were admitted into Kumudini Hospital in Mirzapur thana. The two rival groups attacked each other for a dispute of land causing six persons injured.

Exam for pry teachers

NARSINGDI, Dec 14: The written test examination for primary school teachers were held here on December 10, reports BSS.

According to official sources, a total of 6,183 persons have appeared in the written test examination for 74 posts of assistant teachers of primary schools. Of the total, 4,910 females and 1,273 males appeared in the examination.

12,002 candidates for 269 posts

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Three dedicated teachers of Raosan Gourmoni High School who have sought appointment in primary school said there was no academic atmosphere and respectability in the high school, reports UNB.

Requesting anonymity they said they had opted for teaching profession imbued by the lofty ideal. They hope of getting some satisfaction among the younger children in primary school. They are among 12,002 candidates selected for the written test for recruitment of 269 primary teachers.

Body recovered

JESSORE, Dec 14: Police recovered the beheaded body of a boy from the rooftop of a four-storied building at Belalta area in the town here on Thursday night, reports UNB.

On information, police came to the house, owned by Monwar Hossain, and found the beheaded body of Monayem Munna, 15, son of Abdu Sabur of Gopalganj district, on the top of the under-construction building. Police, who entered into the house by breaking open the door, found all the cages and steel almirahs broken but could find none in the room. Neighbours said Munna came to the house of his brother-in-law Monwar some 15 days back. Monwar along with his family members went to Dhaka a few days ago leaving the boy in the house alone. But the boy was missing from 10pm on Wednesday night keeping the house under lock and key. The neighbours informed the matter to the police.

Tussle over appointment

RANGAMATI, Dec 14: Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council and Rangamati District Council are engaged in a power tussle over appointment of school teachers, reports UNB.

Official sources said the CHT Regional Council recently cancelled the appointment of primary school teachers given by the district council and ordered fresh appointments. But the district council in a special meeting on December 5 called the order "illegal" and asked the district primary education officer to disburse salary and allowances of all the primary teachers appointed on August 26. Presided over by district council chairman Ching Kye Roaza, the meeting was attended by members of the council, officials, legal advisor and the primary education officer. The district council asked for disbursement of salary after expiry of the stay order of the High Court on the appointment of teachers on November 27 and rejection of a writ petition on November 30.

Sylhet people remember moments of victory

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Dec 14: The memory of those bright moments is still alive in the hearts of the people of Sylhet. On the 15th December 1971, Sylhet tasted the joy of liberty after nine months. The holy township of great saint Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) was overwhelmed with repeated sky touching slogans by thousands of joyous people and freedom fighters who entered into the town defeating the Pak occupation army and its collaborator forces.

However, Pakistan Army officially surrendered on December 17 in Sylhet.

The common people of this region tasted victory one day after the official Victory Day following the defeat of Nazi forces in then Race Course Maidan in Dhaka on December 16, 1971.

The allied force strengthened its attack on Pakistan Army on both land and air after the announcement of India's recognition towards Bangladesh on the 6th of December.

Since the beginning of November, the freedom fighters launched their guerrilla attacks throughout the country. The allied forces also extended their support in all the regions resulting in a number of major victories for Muktibahini. The freedom fighters and the allied forces started achieving great successes in different important areas causing heavy casualty of Pak Army.

They became extremely worried with the fall of some important bases at different sectors. In such a situation, the Pak Army resorted to serious air strikes. Ignoring all these attacks, a big contingent of the Muktibahini and the Allied forces reached at a place situated about 5 miles off the district town on December 13. By this time, two other contingents of Muktibahini captured Jalalpur and Lamakazi in the south-western side of the town.

The freedom fighters and the Allied forces trapped Pak Army totally as there was no scope to move. Only the northern side was open. But, it was quite unfortunate for them that this open area was full of hillock-like places and next to which there was Indian borders. Due to this, the occupation forces did not have any scope but to retreat.

The whole situation made the well-equipped Pak Army



Commander-in-Chief of Bangladesh forces during Liberation War General MAG Osmani with Dewan Farid Gazi, the then MNA and civilian advisor of the northeastern region (1) and Major CR Dutta, Sector Commander, Sector 4. General Osmani was received by the leaders in Sylhet town after the fall of Pakistan occupation army.

— Courtesy: Nishitha Purkayastha

crippled totally. In the afternoon of the 13th December, two freedom fighters — Anwar Hossain Gora and Kuti Miah — on an open jeep started moving towards Sylhet town. They fixed a loudspeaker on the vehicle and started asking army men to surrender immediately. They were also repeatedly calling them to surrender without bloodshed. The vehicle was being followed by another jeep with Dewan Farid Gazi, the then MNA and the Civilian Advisor of the North Eastern Region (I) in the Liberation War and Colonel Bagchi the of the Allied force on board. But all went in vain. The freedom fighters on that day had to go back disappointed as Pak Army declined to surrender and even tried to resist them near the Sylhet Government College area on the Tamabil Road.

On the previous day, the war leaders sat at a meeting at Darbast area on Sylhet Tamabil Road with a view to settling ways and means of freeing Sylhet town. Colonel Bagchi of the Allied force, Colonel C R Dutta

of the Muktibahini and Dewan Farid Gazi reached at a decision that the town would be freed by putting pressure on the enemy and bloodshed should be avoided for saving human lives as well as property on the eve of victory.

None of the leading people wanted to cause any kind of damage to the Haripur Oil Project, the transmission building of the Radio at Tilagarh area and Sylhet Government College which are located on the entry points of the town on Sylhet-Tamabil Road.

In compliance with the plan prepared in the meeting, the freedom fighters and the Allied forces began proceeding towards the town under the leadership of Dewan Farid Gazi, Colonel C R Dutta and Colonel Bagchi. By this time, there were information that, the occupation forces had retreated from their previous position at Government College area. It was later found correct. They took shelter at their main base at Saluktikar area along with bag and baggage. The fighters

entered into the town without facing any resistance. In the meantime, another big contingent of freedom fighters of 'Z' force under the leadership of Ziaur Rahman reached the Cattle Farm area at Alurat at the suburb of the town. Pak Army became crippled fully this time, but they damaged a part of the Keanee Bridge while fleeing from the main town on Dec 13 December. The bridge over the river Surma was then connecting the two parts of Sylhet town. It was also the main entry point to the town. The blasts with big bangs shook the whole town.

The freedom fighters began entering into the town since the night of December 14 in groups from different directions. Jubilant people in thousands were seen on the streets at midnight. The whole town was humming with joyous slogans. Sylhet became a town of processions and slogans. It was declared enemy-free on December. However, the Pak Army and its main collaborators surrendered after two days on December 17.

Getting lost into oblivion

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 14: As the anniversary of Victory Day of the War of Liberation approaches, people on the campus with heavy heart remember Professor Mir Abdul Quayyum.

Rajshahi University lost many of its distinguished teachers during the turbulent days in 1971. Professor Quayyum is one of them. He was brutally murdered by the anti-liberation forces at the fog end of the war. An ardent supporter of freedom fighters, Quayyum was a teacher of the Department of Psychology.

Pakistani occupation soldiers and their local collaborators picked up him from his father-in-law's house at Malopara in the city on November 25, 1971 and since then he had been missing. Later on December 30 his body was found on the bank of the River Padma in the city. His hands and legs were tied with rope.

A stenographer of registrar's office of the university called the professor out at 8.30 in the night and waiting soldiers picked up him, said his relatives.

Mir Abdul Quayyum was born on July 6, 1935 at Ghgra village under Gafargaon thana



Mir Abdul Quayyum

of Mymensingh district. He completed his matriculation from Mymensingh school. He obtained MA in Psychology from the University of Rajshahi with distinction in 1962. Later he joined the university as a lecturer.

But unfortunately nothing has been done so far to commemorate the man, who made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of national independence. No commemorative plaque has been erected. No university building, no residential hall, no road have been renamed or built after him.

Five killed on IU campus in 7 yrs

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Dec 13: Five people, including a guardian, were killed in clashes on the Islamic University (IU) campus during the seven years since the university was established in December, 1992.

During the period the university was closed for 475 days because of clashes between rival students. In the clashes nearly 900 people were also injured.

In the latest event, on October 30, 1998 two students were killed in a gunfight on the campus between the activists of ruling party Awami League-backed BCL and Islamic Chhatra Shibir. The dead students were identified as Mohasin and Al Mamun, activists of Shibir.

In the first incident, after 24

days of inauguration, a clash between the activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir and activists of other students' organisations took place. In the clash a Chhatra Shibir activist Saiful Islam was killed and at least 50 others were injured.

On April 28, 1995 a guardian received bullet injuries during a clash between activists of Jaliyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir. Ali Azam Khan, commissioner of Kumarkhali Pourasabha, later died in hospital.

On September 26, 1996 a fierce gun battle took place on the campus between the activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir and BCL, killing a Shibir activist.

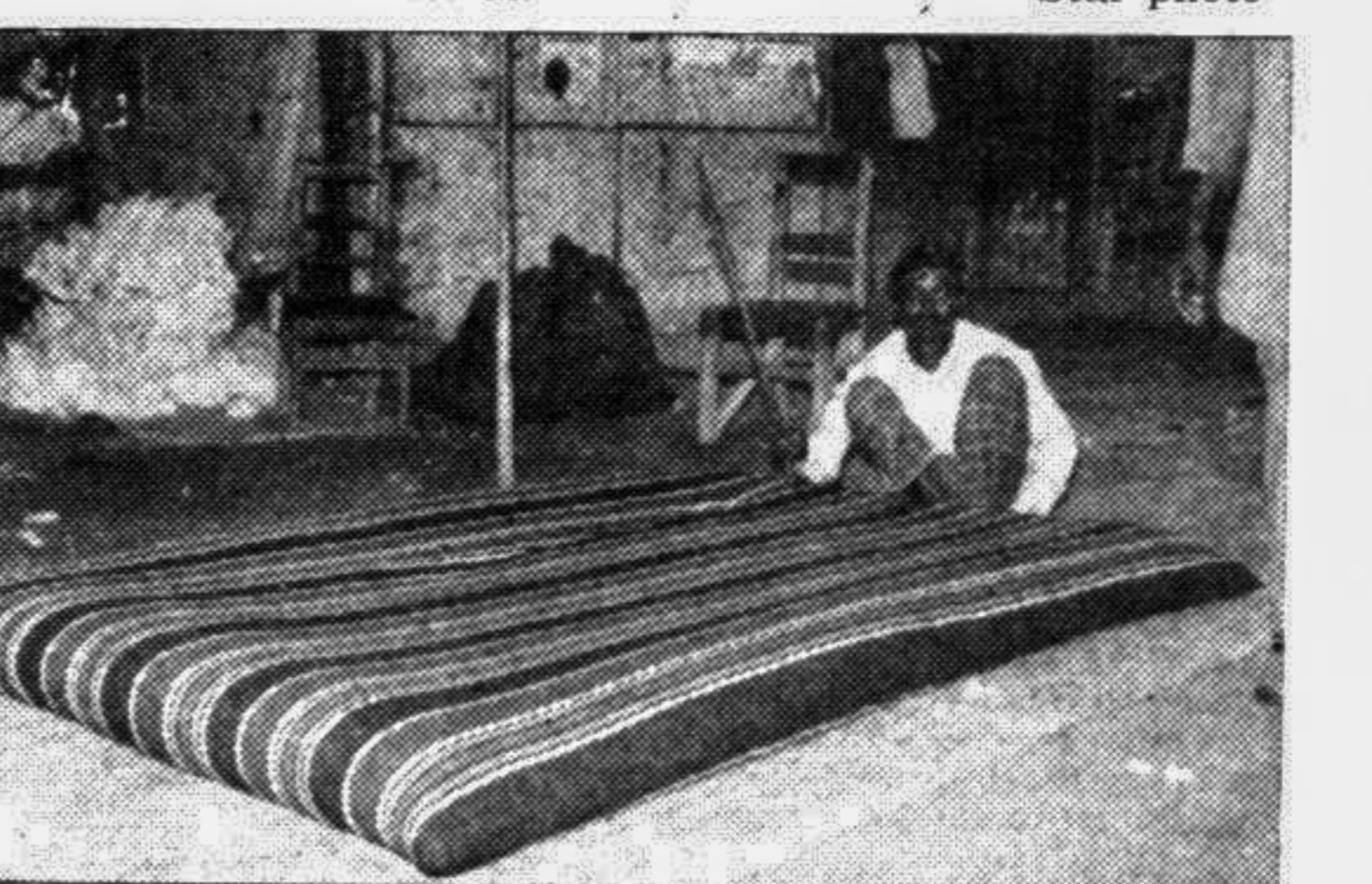
Events of districts in picture



State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam distributing prizes recently among the best students of Bhatara High School of Sarisabari thana in Jamalpur district. — Star photo



Chandpur Youth Development Directorate organised a youth rally in Chandpur town recently on the occasion of National Youth Festival. — Star photo



Quilt makers at work. The photo was taken recently from a quilt making shop in Jamalpur town. — Star photo

Quilt makers pass hard days

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 14: Quilt makers locally known as 'dhunkar' are facing hard times here.

With the beginning of winter season mobile quilt makers start their business in and around the district town. They move from door to door with their indigenous instruments.

These quilt makers do not work in quilt making shops in the town. But this season they are not receiving enough orders

from clients, causing hardship. Quilt making is the only means of their living.

Some mobile quilt makers told this correspondent business is dull this year.

Suruzzaman, a middle aged quilt maker, said usually we make four to six quilts a day, but this year we are receiving only orders of two quilts a day.

Quilt makers in shops are also experiencing dull business.



Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf laid the foundation stone of the academic building of North-East Medical College and Hospital in Sylhet on Sunday. — PID photo

Sirajganj Liberation Day observed

From Akhtaruzzaman

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 14: Local people here on Tuesday observed Sirajganj Liberation Day. On December 14, 1971 Sirajganj was totally freed from the Pakistani occupation. Local unit of Muktijodha Sangsad brought out a procession in the town to observe the day. Deputy Commissioner AFM Saiful Islam, who is also the chief patron of the organi-

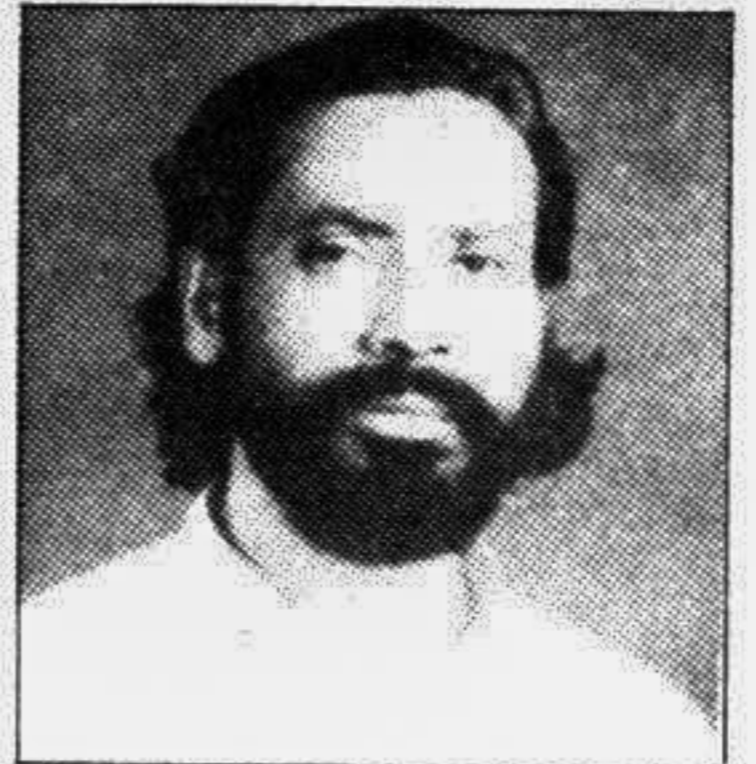
dence of the country. Sirajganj district was totally freed from the Pakistan occupation on this day in 1971.

The Pakistani occupation forces launched crackdown on innocent people in the district on April 25. However, the occupation soldiers faced resistance on the first day at Sirajganj town, the then sub-divisional headquarters. Members of Sechhaseb Bhanu, a voluntary organisation, tried to resist the marauding army. They halted a train carrying Pakistani soldiers in Gatina railway bridge area. However, the soldiers succeeded to enter the town.

They killed hundreds of innocent people, including women and children, and destroyed a good number of dwelling houses and business establishments. Members of Behari community and Muslim League joined Pakistani forces. They also killed many prominent figures in the town. The army captured all the nine thana headquarters by April 26, 1971. The Pakistani forces setup their camps at government buildings in the town.

Following the crackdown

people fled the town. Most of them took shelter in villages and neighbouring India. Thousands of young men left the country for India to have military training. Many stayed in the country and organised peo-



Gazi Lutfar Rahman Arun

ple to fight Pakistani forces. Lutfar Rahman Arun was assigned to impart training to local youths. On June 14, the training camp at Bhadrachar under Kamarkhanda thana came under Pakistani attack. But Pakistani soldiers equipped with modern weapons faced strong resistance. Casualties were shared by the both. After that freedom fighters had to leave the area.

During the period between June and July freedom fighters started gaining advances. Freedom fighters led by Amir Hossain Bhulu, Abdul Latif Mirza, Shorab Ali Sarker, Lutfar Rahman Makhani, Ishak Ali, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Aziz Sarker, Bimal Kumar Das, Abdul Aziz Mirza, Aminul Hossain Chowdhury, Motahar Hossain Talukder, Anwar Hossain Ratu and Ismail Hossain launched fierce guerrilla attacks on the occupation soldiers and their local collaborators— members



Ishak Ali

Kalparanjan opens HBFC office in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Dec 14: Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Kalparanjan Chakma said here on December 8 that the longest demand of the people of this region was met today with the opening of a regional office of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) at this hilly town, reports BSS.

He urged the authorities to simplify loan sanctioning procedure to help solve housing problems in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

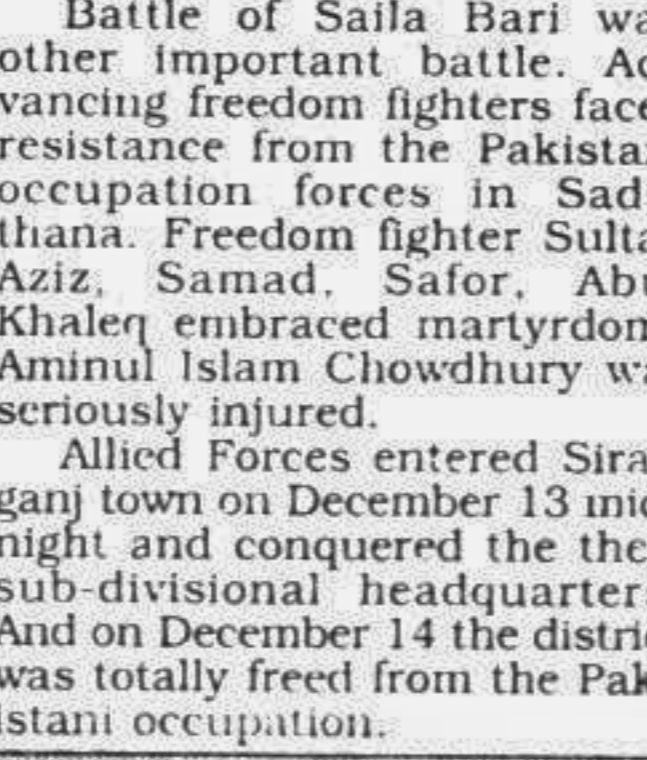
Kalparanjan Chakma was addressing as the chief guest a meeting held at Rangamati Town Hall prior to the inauguration of HBFC regional office. Chairman of the board of directors of HBFC, Shah Mohammad Altur Rahman presided over the meeting.

The 13th regional office of HBFC started its operation from a hired space at Rangamati Press Club building soon after inauguration.

Freedom fighters Gazi Lutfar Rahman Arun, Abdul Latif Mirza, Lutfar Rahman Makhani, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Aziz Sarker, Bimal Kumar Das and Abdul Aziz Mirza played important role in the battle.

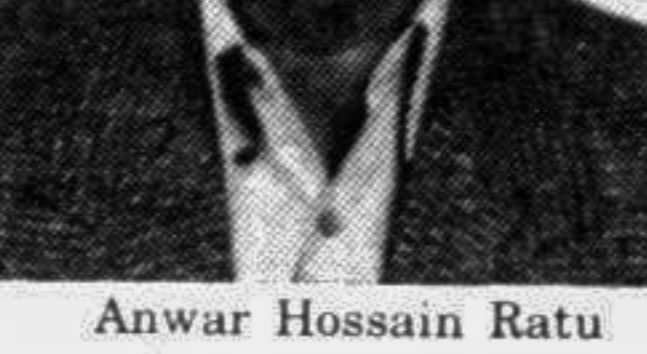
Battle of Salla Bari was other important battle. Advancing freedom fighters faced resistance from the Pakistani occupation forces in Sada thana. Freedom fighter Sultan Aziz, Saiful Islam, Abul Khaleq embraced martyrdom. Aminul Islam Chowdhury was seriously injured.

Allied Forces entered Sirajganj town on December 13 midnight and conquered the then sub-divisional headquarters. And on December 14 the district was totally freed from the Pakistani occupation.



Anwar Hossain Ratu

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Anwar Hossain Ratu