

## News snaps

### Intellectuals' Day in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Dec 19: Different political and social organisations have observed the Martyred Intellectuals' Day here in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

District unit of Awami League, BNP, Sramik League, Krishak Samity and local administration observed the day through elaborate programmes. BNP, Krishak League and Krishak Samity organised separate discussion meetings on the occasion. Speakers at the discussions condemned the killing of intellectuals at the lag end of the liberation war. They accused local collaborators of the occupation forces to render the nation bankrupt intellectually. They cautioned the people that the collaborators are still active and conspiring against the national independence.

### Brickfield owners fined

FARIDPUR, Dec 19: An amount Taka 70 thousand was realised as fine from seven brickfield owners and three thousand maunds of firewood was confiscated on Wednesday for violating government restrictions in using firewood in brick manufacturing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a mobile court led by First Class Magistrate of Faridpur Collectorate Hamidur Rahman raided the brickfields and found seven brickfield owners violating restrictions by using firewood for brick manufacturing. Each brickfield owners were fined Taka 10,000 while all the firewood heaped in those brickfield amounting to about three thousand maunds were also confiscated. The Environment Ministry in a very recent order has imposed restrictions not to issue any further licence to new brickfields. But the brickfields already operating will not come under the purview of the order. The government is seriously dealing the deforestation matter for the sake of environment.

### Library opens

HABIGANJ, Dec 19: A reference library-cum information centre has been set up in Sadar thana here, reports UNB.

Mahmood A. Rouf, president of Habiganj Association in UK, has recently inaugurated the centre. General secretary of the association Hilzur Rahman and its executive member and councillor of Tower Hamlet Council Syed Mizan were present on the occasion. The association announced to donate Tk 50,000 to start functioning of the centre.

### Housewife commits suicide

COMILLA, Dec 19: A young housewife of Abidpur village in Burichang thana has allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, reports UNB.

Local sources said Selina, 21, wife of Azad Bhuiyan, took poison after a quarrel with her in-laws on Dec 6. She was rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital, but died there the same day.

### Acid thrown on 2 women

MYMENSINGH, Dec 19: A teenage girl and her grandmother have been struggling for life in the district Medical College Hospital after they suffered acid injuries on Monday night, reports UNB.

Residents said miscreants threw acid on Achhia Khatun, wife of Aminul Huq, and her grand daughter Panna when they were asleep in the house in village Mugdia in Katiadi thana of Kishoreganj district. The victims were taken to Bajitpur thana Health Complex and later on shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The brutal action was suspected to be a sequel to enmity over land dispute.

### Body recovered

COMILLA, Dec 19: The body of a shopkeeper was recovered from village Ratanpur in Sadar thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said unidentified terrorists killed Nazrul Islam Monin on way home at about 11 pm on the day. Police suspect that Nazrul had been targeted to death by the assailants over possession of land. The body was sent to the hospital for autopsy. A family member of the deceased said that his uncle, who was a shopkeeper, was killed by the terrorists. He said that his uncle was killed by the terrorists on Wednesday. Police said that the case was filed with the police.

### Young boy gunned down

NARSINGHDI, Dec 19: Armed dacoits gunned down a young boy and looted cash and valuables from a house in remote village Talata in Polash thana early hours Monday, reports UNB.

Police said a group of armed dacoits stormed into the house of Rahman Master at about 1 am, tied with rope all the inmates of the house and looted the wealth estimated at Tk one lakh. Sensing presence of the dacoits the villager came forward and chased them. While retreating the dacoits opened gunfire and exploded homemade bombs to scare away the villagers. One of the bullets killed Sabir Mia, 18, on the spot. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for post mortem.

### Loan disbursed

PIROJPUR, Dec 19: Regional office of Bangladesh Krishi Bank has disbursed more than Tk 3.53 crore among the farmers during the last four months to boost agriculture production, reports UNB.

The bank through its 21 branches disbursed the loan among 2,979 farmers for augmenting production of various crops like paddy, potato, sweet potato, banana and winter vegetables. Besides, the bank has advanced soft loan to marginal farmers to purchase bullock, set up dairy farm, poultry farm and for self-employment activities by unemployed rural youths.

### Aman harvesting progressing

RANGPUR, Dec 19: Harvesting of a bumper Aman paddy is going on in full swing in all the 8 districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur, reports UNB.

Officials hope that more than 17,63,000 tons of paddy will be available to the growers this season. Farmers cultivated Aman this year on 10,37,500 hectares in two greater districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur as against the official target of 10.09 lakh hectares.

### Orientation workshop

HABIGANJ, Dec 19: A daylong orientation workshop on oral re-hydration therapy (URT) concluded at local Circuit House here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Aziz inaugurated the workshop organised by district administration in collaboration with UNICEF. Thirty-six women members and ward commissioner from two thanas and two municipalities took part in the workshop. Additional district commissioner MAN Siddique presided over the workshop. The discussants included Dr. Wali Mahmud Khan, director Anisa Khatun, district primary education officer Sumal Kumar Barua, assistant director of LGD Rashedul Islam and project director of UNICEF AA Quamrul Islam.

### Uplift projects progressing

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 19: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Kishoreganj has taken up 33 development projects in 13 thanas in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the government has sanctioned Taka 20,059,600 for different development projects in 13 thanas. The projects also included the development of rural infrastructure.

### Road mishap kills police officer

MYMENSINGH, Dec 19: One police officer was killed in a road accident near Maizbagh under Iswarganj thana on December 13, reports BSS.

According to police sources, the victim was identified as Abdus Satter, Sub-Inspector of Naudail thana. It was reported that Abdus Satter was going to Netrakona by motorcycle for his official duty and was killed under the wheels of a running bus coming from opposite direction on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj highway near Maizbagh under Iswarganj thana. The driver of the bus, however, managed to escape. The body was sent to his village home in Tangail for burial.

### Separate incidents kill 2

PIROJPUR, Dec 19: Two people, including a girl student of Govt BM College, were killed in separate incidents on Sunday-Monday, reports UNB.

Nanin Akhter Lipti, a student of Economics Department of the college, was suffocated to death allegedly by her husband on Sunday. Police, however, picked the maid-servant of the house, Khadija Begum, for interrogation. Meanwhile, various professional held rallies and processions in the town on Monday protesting the killing of Lipti. In another incident, Mohammad Raj, son of Abdus Salam in Dhaka, was killed when a bus knocked him down near Togra ferry ghat on Monday noon. Police seized the bus and arrested its driver and his helper.

# 1,770 killed in launch accidents in 16 years

BARISAL, Dec 19: Some 1,770 people have been killed in 228 river-way accidents in the country during last 16 years, reports UNB.

During the period, 1,649 people were killed in 21 accidents in Barisal region only, which is about 90 per cent of the total casualties.

Of them, 50 drowned in a collision between an oil tanker and a passenger launch at Lamchari in the River Kirtankhola in 1983.

Eleven passengers were killed when a launch capsized at Charmonai in 1984. In the same year, 100 more people drowned in the River Kirtankhola.

Some 500 passengers feared drowned when a launch sank at Moulavirhat in Hizla in the River Meghna in 1986.

A total of 150 people were killed in the River Lohalia in Patuakhali district in 1989 in a launch disaster while 22 at Beltala in Kirtankhola in 1990, 100 at Char Bheduria in 1993.

Some 50 people drowned in the River Tetulia in 1994. In the same year, 50 people met tragic end of their lives when a vessel sank in the River Bishkhali on Barisal-Patharghata route.

Some 250 passengers have been killed when passenger launch ML Patuakhali capsized in the River Paira in Patuakhali district in 1995. The same launch, earlier, capsized twice in the names of "Glory of Patuakhali" and "prince of Patuakhali", leaving 32 passengers killed. In the same year eight people drowned in the river Sugandha in Jhalakati district.

In 1996, some 120 passengers were killed at Banderchar in Bhola, 12 in the River Buragouranga in Patuakhali. Some 52 people drowned in two accidents in the Rivers Tetulia and Kalapara in 1997.

Some 30 people were killed in the River Charkhali Kacha in Pirojpur and three in Meghna in 1998.

In two recent accidents, some 120 passengers drowned when ML Dweepkanyia and ML Falguni capsized on Daulatkhan-Char Alexander route on May 8 and December 11 respectively.

Officials attributed that disregard to the riverway safety laws by the launch owners and want of sufficient monitoring are the main reasons behind the increasing number of accidents.

## They tore down nat'l flag

PATUAKHALI, Dec 19: Three students of Amragachia High school in Mirzaganj thana and its headmaster were injured in an attack on a discussion meeting by terrorists on Friday, reports UNB.

The gangsters attacked the meeting on Victory Day on the school premises injuring headmaster Mohammad Bazlur Rahman and SSC candidates Jahangir, Shahid and Shahin.

They also tore down the national flag while leaving the spot.

The headmaster filed a case against four people with Mirzaganj police. But police could not yet unearth the cause behind the attack.

## Unrest in B'baria prison

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 19: Inmates in Brahmanbaria jail on Thursday chanted slogans against the jail authorities protesting alleged malpractice in distributing foods among the prisoners.

The protest continued throughout the day, creating a tense situation. The situation, however, was brought under control by the evening.

A prison official, seeking anonymity, said when the authorities resisted a bid to supply illegal drugs to inmates they started agitation on flimsy ground. Visitors often supply drugs like phensydid syrup and hemp to inmates, he added.

## Bangladeshi forest guard killed by BSF

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 19: Indian border force BSF personnel allegedly gunned down a Bangladeshi forest guard at Mandarbana near the Sundarbans on December 4.

The dead was identified as Kadrat Ali, 28. He was shot just at the moment he surrendered raising his hands on board a mechanised boat, which came under the attack by the BSF men who trespassed Bangladesh waters through the Roy Mangal river. Kadrat Ali died on the spot. Three other forest guards on board, however, managed to escape.

Officials of the Sundarbans Forest Division including DFO Zahiruddin visited the place of occurrence on December 5 along with over fifty armed forest guards. They investigated the incident and got a lot of evidences that BSF attacked the boat without any provocation.

Some of the top officials said that BSF personnel were on a mission to rescue Indian fishermen. Twelve Indian fishermen were allegedly kidnapped from Dublarchar area near the Bay of Bengal by Bangladeshi pirates on December 3. Earlier on the same day, some Indian pirates allegedly kidnapped six Bangladeshi fishermen from the same place.

## Poachers active as guest birds start arriving

GOPALGANJ, Dec 19: With the advent of winter, a section of people have become active in catching the guest birds in the district defying government ban, reports UNB.

A group of amateur hunters, most of them members of local rifle club, are engaged in the carcase shooting down or catching at least 500 winter migratory birds daily in the area, an unofficial source said.

Every year, thousands of guest birds come to the district and stay Chander beel, Borni Bazar, chars of the rivers of Kashiani thana, Madhumati river and its adjacent Kalia area as part of their cruise to the tropical countries to save themselves from the chilly weather of Siberian region.

The birds locally known as Pankouri, Chakha, Dighari, Kaldighari, Sarail, Balishash, Burisiorok, Herons, Koa, Modotak are found abundantly around the rivers, beels and baors during the winter.

A section of unemployed youths of the area also involve themselves in catching of the birds as a means of source of their income during the winter season. They prepare nets, traps and other instruments to catch the birds.

The source said although there is government ban on killing or catching these guest birds, the ill work is being done under the nose of law enforcing agency and a section of government officials.

## Rescue of abducted businessman demanded

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Dec 19: Local traders and businessmen on Friday staged demonstration in the town demanding immediate rescue of businessman Ashadul Hoque Asha, who was abducted from village Alokdia, three miles off the town, 19 months ago.

The demonstrators also brought out procession, which paraded main thoroughfares, and later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

Recently a rumour has run through the town dwellers that Asha was killed by the terrorist Nantu and his accomplices.

## Extortion in rivers up

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Dec 19: Incidents of robberies and extortion of money from boatmen have increased alarmingly in the rivers Jamuna, Hurasagar and Baral in recent days.

Boatmen and traders in the riverine areas of the district alleged a section of members of law enforcing agencies are also cooperating with the criminals. A large number of traders and boatmen of Bera, Chatmohar and Bhangoora thanas of the district largely depend on river based trades.

They alleged armed hoodlums swoop on boats carrying goods and valuables at different points of the rivers.

The hoodlums on board engine boats wait for prey. Whenever they find any boat carrying goods and valuables, they whistle the boatmen move towards waiting vessels and pay 'toll' to hoodlums. The boatmen and traders also fall victim to robberies.

It is alleged that the toll collectors have fixed rates of toll for boats. Vessels carrying jute, rice and paddy have to pay Tk 150 to Tk 2,000 while boats carrying fodder have to pay Tk 100 to Tk 150.

Chatmohar thana police said they arrested such hoodlums recently.

About two weeks ago, armed robbers gunned down a boatman and injured several others in broad daylight in the river Jamuna near Alekdiar Char, three kilometres from Nagarbari ferry ghat.

Traders and boatmen have urged the authorities concerned to deploy police in the rivers for ensuring safe river communications in the district.

## Boy killed over land dispute in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 19: A 12-year-old boy was killed on Friday when a group of villagers beat him up mercilessly following an altercation over land dispute at village Mokimpur under Harinakundu thana.

The boy succumbed to his injuries at hospital. The dead was identified as Faruque, a student of class eight.

## Shoal land people anxious as harvesting begins

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 19: With the beginning of harvesting of Aman crops, farmers in char, or shoal, areas in the district are passing their days with anxiety.

Poor farmers usually grow crops on char lands, which are regarded as khas or disputed lands.

But with the advent of harvesting influential people hire professional musclemen and loot the crops from the disputed lands.

The chars emerge in the Meghna, the Padma and the Dakatia. Raj Raserwar Char, Haimchar, Balar Char, Ibrahimpur, Hanar Char, Char Kasem, Char Bhairavi Nilka-

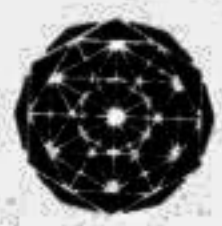
mal Char, and Borowchar are disputed areas.

Hired musclemen, locally known as lathials, attack poor farmers during harvesting and snatch crops.

Lathials usually use weapons like bamboo sticks, spears and other sharp weapons. However, in recent days musclemen also use firearms.

Every year a large number of people are killed in clashes during the harvesting season.

A large number of suits are also filed over ownership of newly emerged char lands. Every year district administration takes necessary measures to check violence.



## BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিয়ারনে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, NGFF Ltd., Fenchuganj, Sylhet invites sealed quotation against Tender Enquiry No. 1) NGFF/LP-86/MM/1041 dt. 22-11-99 for supply of Refractory Motor, Ferro-cast etc. & 2) NGFF/LP-561/Hard/RS/922 dt. 22-11-99 for supply of MS Channel etc. delivery at NGFF Stores basis. Tender document may be purchased at Tk 25/- (Taka twenty-five) & Tk 50/- (Taka fifty) only per set respectively (Non-refundable) from i) BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & iii) NGFF Ltd. Fenchuganj, Sylhet on all working days. Tender will be received up to 11-00 hours on 28-12-99 and will be opened immediately thereafter in public. No tender documents will be sold on opening day.

BCIC-1182/8/12/99

DFF-27769-13/12

G-2129

Kazi Fazlul Hoque

Addl. Chief Manager (Pur)

NGFF Ltd.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Department  
District Shariatpur  
Invitation for Bids (IFB)

## "Corrigendum"

The Tender Notice No. IFB No. 20/1999-2000 Vide Memo No. LGED/EE/STIDP/Shariat/G-151/97/3507 Dated: 28.11.99 have some corrections in para 6, 8 & 9 as follows:

- Bids must be delivered to the office of the (i) Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, District Shariatpur, and (ii) Chairman, Damuddya Pourashava, District Shariatpur on or before 2:00 PM of 17.1.2000 instead of 9.1.2000.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3:00 PM on 17.1.2000 instead of 9.1.2000.
- A pre-Bid conference will be held on 3.1.2000 instead of 13.1.2000.

Other terms & conditions will remain same.

Executive Engineer

DFF-27784-13/12

G-2128

Local Government Engineering Department

District Shariatpur.



Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Rifles  
Communications Directorate

## Purchase Notice

### No 10/1999-2000/Communications

- Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide contractors enlisted with Communications Directorate for purchasing one 5+25 line digital telephone exchange in local currency for sector headquarters, Rangpur, Bangladesh Rifles.
- Schedule for the said exchange can be purchased from 26th December to 30th December '99 on every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday (except holidays) from 0800 hours in the morning to 1400 hours on payment of specific cost from number 4 BDR Gate at Peelkhana. Date of opening tender, time including the details of the exchange will be mentioned in the schedule.
- The authority reserves the power to increase/decrease the number of exchanges in need of Bangladesh Rifles or to purchase through repeat order within the financial year later.
- Intending tenderers will keep the specimens of their exchange ready. Specimen may have to be deposited on the day of opening the tender.
- The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFF-27723-12/12

G-2125

GSO-1 (Communications)

On behalf of the Director General



The Central Shaheed Minar of Moulvibazar where more than 100 freedom fighters are buried. They died in a mine explosion on December 20, 1971. —Star photo

## Moulvibazar post liberation tragedy 100 freedom fighters died as mine went off in camp

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 19: December 20 is a day of great sorrow for the people of Moulvibazar.

On this day in 1971, just after three days of the final victory, the country lost over 100 violent freedom fighters here.

Moulvibazar district was liberated on December 8, eight days before the final victory. The freedom fighters were returning home with great enthusiasm from different battlefields. They were joining in batches their fellow freedom fighters amidst great cheers at a transit camp set up for them at the local century old Moulvibazar Government High School. They were taking rest at the camp.

Most of them were carrying arms and ammunition. It was December 20 morning. Some freedom fighters were arriving in the camp and some were departing.

All on a sudden, a mine fell down from the hand of a free-

dom fighter on the floor and exploded with a big bang damaging the school building instantaneously. A panic was created in Moulvibazar town and people started fleeing from the town.

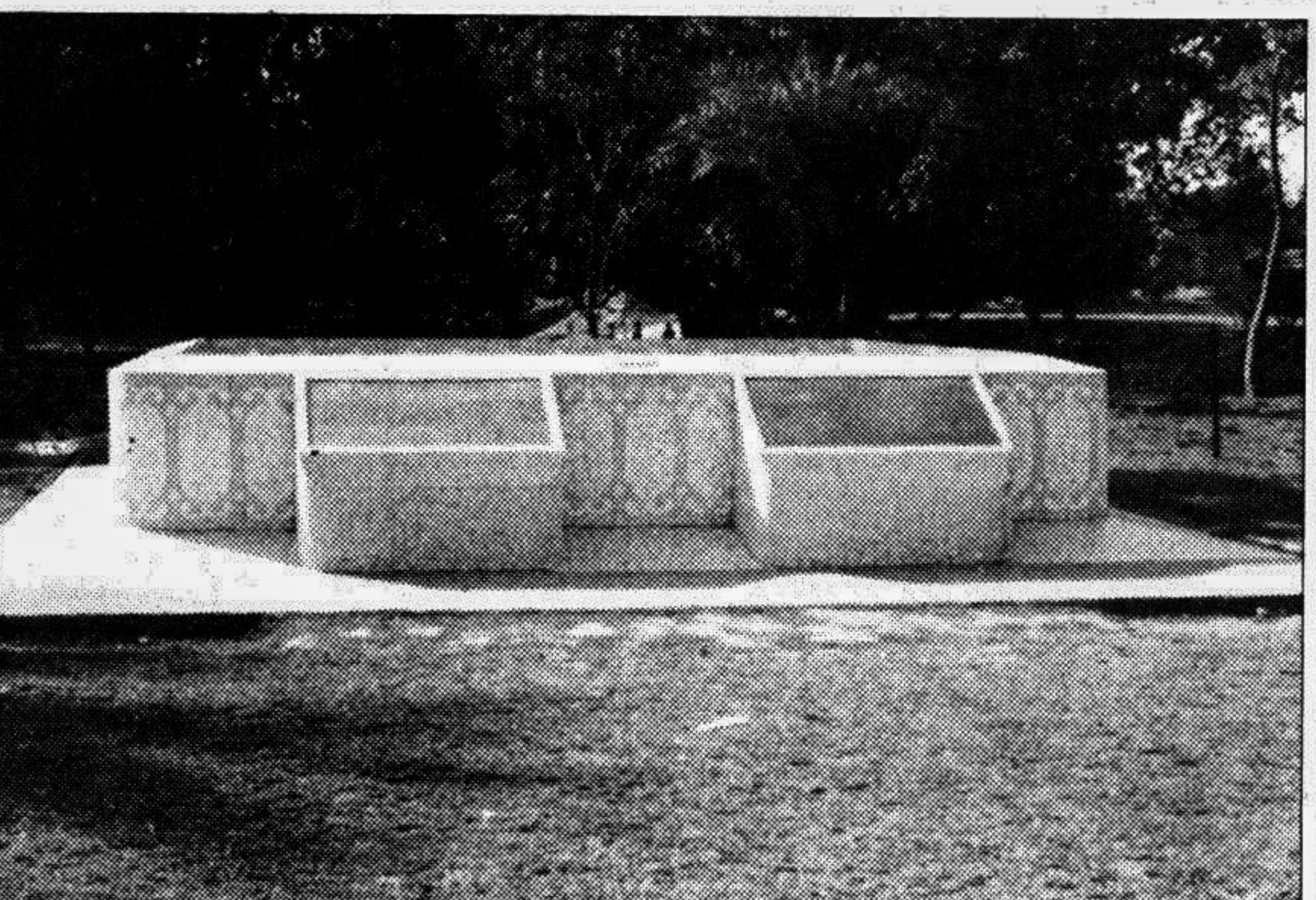
Members of the Allied explosion was over. They could not find no forces who were staying in another place, rushed there. But they saw there only a vast heap of rubble. After a thorough search, dead bodies of more than 100 freedom fighters were recovered from there. Of the dead freedom fighters only 21 were identified.

Later on they were buried with due honour at the south eastern corner of the play ground of Moulvibazar Government Boys' High School. The place has been earmarked as Moulvibazar Central Shaheed Minar. Names of 21 identified freedom fighters who were buried at the school field are: Asker Ali, Rahim Bakhs Khuka, Yanur Ali, Satyandra Chandra Das, Zahir Ali, Aslam

Ali, Rabindra Bhattacharya, Pradeep Chandra Das, Nanda Lal Bauri, Md Abdul, Tarani Mohan Deb, Kishitesh Chandra Deb, Suleman Miah, Abdul Khalek, Abdul Zabber, Toraj Miah, Makhin Chandra Pal and Kanu Chandra Das.

After the tragic incident, different political parties, student organisations — especially National Awami Party (NAP Muzaffer), Communist Party (CPB) and Bangladesh Chhatra Union and freedom fighters demanded of the local administration and the government of Bangladesh to arrange an investigation into the incident. They also demanded to take necessary steps to identify all unknown freedom fighters who died in the explosion. But their demands are yet to be fulfilled.

Since then, every year the people of Moulvibazar observe the day with due solemnity as Shaheed Day in memory of those martyrs.



Symbol of sacrifice: The grave of Bir Shrestha Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir which is a symbol of sacrifice. —Star photo

## Mohananda Bridge named after Bir Shrestha Shaheed Capt Jahangir

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 19: Chapainawabganj was freed on December 14 in 1971 from the occupation of Pak army.

On this day in 1971, Major Giasuddin, Lt Rafiq and Lt Qayum entered Chapainawabganj with their troops of freedom fighters.

Pak occupation army fled away from Chapainawabganj and their collaborators Raza-kar, Al-Badar went underground. During the fight on the very day at Haripur on Nawabganj-Rajshahi Road EPR Nayek Mojid Nabruddin fell a martyr fighting bravely.

On the same day Mohiuddin Jahangir along with his forces

reached Baroghoria under sadar thana. They took position along the bank of the River Mohananda and launched attack on Pak army and their collaborators. But getting no reply they crossed the Mohananda in three groups. One group led by Capt Jahangir crossed the Mo-

hananda near Akunbaria, and other group led by Lt Rafiq and Lt Qayum crossed the Mo-hananda near Balaiddanga the third group crossed the Mo-hananda near Kalinagar led by Major Giasuddin Chowdhury.

Troops of Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir took position near Rehaichar and launched attack

on the enemy bunker. Suddenly a bullet of the enemy, hit him and he was killed on the spot. Then his dead body was buried at the Sona Masjid premises.

On December 16 a mammoth public meeting was held at Nawabganj College ground where Major Giasuddin named Chapainawabganj as Jahangirabad after the name Shaheed Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir. But later on the declaration remained unimplemented.

However, the grand bridge constructed over the River Mohananda was named as Bir Shrestha Shaheed Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir Bridge.