

The turbulent days of 1971

New Jessore was liberated

JESSORE, Dec 25: For the people of Jagannathpur and Garibpur villages under the border thana of Chowgachha November 21 of 1971 is a memorable day. On this day, the freedom fighters and general people gave a mighty showdown to the Pakistani army in a hand to hand fight here, reports BSS.

After the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state, Jagannathpur was renamed as 'Muktinagar' in a tribute to the brave and heroic people of the area.

The diaries of the Indian army officers, reports of journalists and eyewitness accounts gave an insight into the battle that the freedom fighters general members of the public and the Indian army had fought against the barbaric Pakistani army here and forced them to retreat.

Recalling various events of the turbulent days during the Liberation War, wounded freedom fighter Ayub Hossain, Rahim Mallek, incumbent chairman of Singhajuli Union and several other eyewitnesses say that the Pakistani army had a strong base at Chowgachha. They used to patrol the area from Jessore to Chowgachha. The freedom fighters also kept a vigil on the activities of the Pakistani forces. The freedom fighters dug trenches at several

points in Garibpur, Singhajuli and Jagannathpur villages.

On November 20, which was on Eid-day, the Pakistan army came in a convoy of about 20 vehicles and opened random fire on the innocent people of Singhajuli, Garibpur and Jagannathpur. The Pakistani soldiers forced the villagers to stand in a line and opened fire on them killing hundreds on the spot. Two people including Motiur Rahman, brother of former parliament member Mashur Rahman, were also brought to death. On hearing the reports of the orgy of killing by the Pakistani army, the people of these villages and surrounding areas fled their homes in panic.

After these gruesome acts of the Pakistani forces, a contingent of freedom fighters with the support of the members of the Allied Force took up position at 'Charal Bagan'. At midnight the Pakistani army moved towards Jagannathpur village firing indiscriminately. The Pakistani soldiers were equipped with tanks, artillery vehicles and sophisticated arms. The Allied Force lent support to freedom fighters with tanks and mortars. Ear deafening sounds of fire from tanks and mortars of the two sides rocked the whole area as fighting continued.

The heavy fight that began at night continued till 10 am the next day. About one thousand soldiers from both sides lost their lives in the battle. The fight raged for two days, November 21 and 22, which the Pakistani army had lost three fighter jets. A good number of their tanks were also destroyed or immobilised.

In face of repeated attacks by the freedom fighters and the Allied Force, the Pakistani army at one stage abandoned the Jessore Cantonment and retreated towards Khulna and Magura. With the support of the Allied Force, the freedom fighters took over Jessore Cantonment on December 6. On the morning of December 7 the freedom fighters and members of the Allied Force locked in another battle at Rajarhat on Jessore-Khulna highway. Failing to resist the onslaughts of the freedom fighters and Allied Force the Pakistani army beat a hasty retreat towards Khulna. Thus Jessore emerged as the first independent district of Bangladesh.

A victory pillar at the premises of Muktinagar High School in Jagannathpur village today stands as a proud reminder of the supreme sacrifices made by the local people of the area for the independence of the country.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeting the members of Christian community at Ganabhan yesterday on the occasion of Christmas Day. —PID photo

X-mas Day celebration

Members of Christian community meet PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people of all religions to lend their support to establish peace in the society, reports BSS.

She was talking to a delegation of the Christian community who came to exchange greetings with her at her official Ganobhan residence on the occasion of Christmas Day.

The prime minister said that the month of December is a very important month on the nation's calendar as this month was liberated in this month. She said the month is equally important to the members of the Christian community as Jesus Christ was born in this month.

She said that people belonging to all religions had unitedly fought the Liberation War under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and achieved the independence.

"We must work together now to build a hunger, poverty and illiteracy-free society," she stressed.

Sheikh Hasina said Jesus

had brought the message of peace and his contribution to peace is well known. She said there are conflicts and violence in the present world. "But we have to work together to get rid of the situation," she added.

Referring to the Constitution of the country, the prime minister said secularism was one of the basic principles. She said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman strongly advocated for secularism and her government is working to the principle.

Expressing her government's firm determination to follow non-communal politics, she said: "Our religion — Islam — also teaches us to allow people of different religions to practise their faiths."

Ershad condemns attack on Kader Siddique's convention

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad has strongly condemned the attack on convention of Bangabir Kader Siddique at Engineers Institution on Friday in what he termed as a 'fascist manner' by government terrorists, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday the former President said that by spraying bullets and exploding bombs indiscriminately on the convention the present government had demonstrated its old fascist character. He said that no one having a slightest respect for democracy can foil the meeting of others by sending armed terrorists.

He demanded a judicial inquiry into the heinous and cowardly attack on the convention of Kader Siddique and arrest of the attackers.

How loony was the lunar show of Dec 22?

By M. R. Rousseau

Stargazers around the globe had quite overplayed the celestial event of December 22. Many, including newsmen like us, had elected to jump in to the band wagon of those who had elected to attach more importance to the phenomena than it did really deserve. Local dailies had devoted much of their precious front-page space in printing things relating to the full moon of December 22 beforehand.

Many had gone to the extent of advising drivers of auto vehicles to drive with their headlights off, because the full moon would be bright enough to do the job for them! Other print media members had deemed it right to tell their target audience to read their day's newspaper in moonlight! The moon, they had told their readers in so many words, would come nearest to our mother earth in 133 years or so and it would be bright enough on the night to enable them to do, what they usually do with the help of a table lamp or words to that effect! The performance of the moon on the night in question, however, was quite discouraging.

At least half a dozen of my colleagues at The Daily Star office had rushed to the nearest telescope to have a glimpse of the 'brightest moon' of a couple of centuries. Cent per cent of the night-shift, jolly good fellows, returned to the office rather disappointed. Nay, a couple of them had gone to the extent of terming the stargazers of today's world 'loony blokes'.

Whether or not it was right to call astronomers loony is a question that only time will tell. One disappointed like this correspondent, however, has every right to be angry. Angry, because many like me had been deprived of the promised show. Especially those living in the coastal areas of our deltaic

land. For, they were told to take extra care about the possible tidal surge in their neighbourhood! For them, it was neither fishing in the moonlit Bay of Bengal, nor anything in the nature of post-flood relief goods!

Many of those who had heard their parents or grannies chant the rhythmic verses 'Aye Aye Chandmama, Tip dieye Jaa' (Do come, Uncle Moon and leave an imprint on the forehead of our beloved moon — the infant) had reasons to have some consolation. For, the moon had responded, even if in a limited way, to the centuries old call for coming nearer to the earth, or the infant on the lap determined enough not to fall asleep right away. Uncle Moon had come closer. Closer by some 30,000 kilometres to our globe, which enabled those interested to have a closer look at the brightest moon in decades.

Eid mela opens at Sultana Kamal Sports Complex

Eid Ananda Mela, a fair of handicrafts, garments, leather goods and computer items, began at the Sultana Kamal Bhabha Krira Complex at Dhanmondi yesterday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader formally opened the 12-day fair with 100 stalls of different items.

The fair, that will continue till January 5, will remain open for all from 9 am to 9 pm everyday.

General secretary of Krira Complex Sultana Ferdous Ara Doli and president of Modulus Welfare Association were present on the occasion.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

MATTER NO.- 130 OF 1999

IN THE MATER OF: An application under Section 151 of the Companies Act of 1994.

AND

IN THE MATER OF: Sheba Telecom (Pvt.) Limited Level-13, Land View Commercial Center, 28 Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka-1212.

-Versus- Petitioner

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms Government of Bangladesh, 24-25, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. Respondent

It is hereby notified that an application under Section 151 of the Companies Act 1994, for condoning the delay and for extending the time for filing Return of Allotment of Shares to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms has been filed before the Hon'ble Company Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and his Lordship Mr. Justice Md. Joynul Abedin has been pleased to admit the application vide order dated 8-12-99 and fixed the same for hearing on 25-1-2000.

Any person wishing to contest the aforesaid application may appear in Court either in person or through a duly appointed Advocate.

A copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of requisite costs.

Dr. Syed Refaat Ahmed Advocate, Supreme Court

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

MATTER NO.- 128 OF 1999

IN THE MATER OF: An application under Section 81 (2) read with Section 85 (3) of the Companies Act of 1994.

AND

IN THE MATER OF: Technology Resources Industries Berhad, a shareholder and collaborator partner in Sheba Telecom (Pvt.) Limited, and having its registered office at 23rd Floor, Menara TR, 161-B, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Petitioner

-Versus- Respondents

Sheba Telecom (Pvt.) Limited, Level-13, Land View Commercial Center, 28 Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka-1212 and another.

It is hereby notified that an application under Section 81 (2) read with Section 85 (3) of the Companies Act 1994, for condonation of delay and direction and order to call, hold and conduct the Annual General Meeting of Sheba Telecom (Pvt.) Limited for the year 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 has been filed before the Hon'ble Company Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and his Lordship Mr. Justice Md. Joynul Abedin has been pleased to admit the application vide order dated 8-12-99 and fixed the same for hearing on 25-1-2000.

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