

Some unknown martyrs of Sylhet town

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Mar 27: People of Sylhet still remember the days of our liberation war with great awe.

Twenty-third March was the Republic Day of Pakistan. It was observed as Resistance Day in 1971. People hoisted the new Bangladeshi flag atop many houses and government buildings on the day.

Here a group of Chhatra League activists gathered in the house of Awami League leader Dewan Farid Gazi in Sheikhhata area. Afterwards they went to the Deputy Com-



A historic procession coming from the South Surma area crossing the Keane Bridge on March 24 in 1971.

missioner's (DC) office in procession. They hoisted the new Bangladeshi flag atop the DC office. They also brought out a big stick procession in the town. Thousands of freedom-loving people joined the procession from different areas. They chanted different slogans denouncing the Pakistani Junta's repressive acts.

It was mid-night of March 25. A good number of enthusiasts gathered in front of the office of the district Awami League. There the AL workers were preparing for another 'Stick Procession' in the town on the next day. The then General Secretary of the district Awami League and member of the National Assembly, Dewan Farid Gazi was standing in front of Awami League office. Many people were anxiously waiting to know the latest news of the situation. Farid Gazi told

specially the leaders and workers to go on hiding at once and resist the Pakistani invaders. Immediately, every body left the place. It was about 11-55 pm.

Within an hour, a lorry of Army was seen near the Head Post Office located in the central area of the town. It was on its way to the western part of the town, said some eye witnesses. The occupation Pakistani Army took position near important positions like T&T office and elsewhere. From there they made a crack down on the innocent people. Pak army men were already staying at the then Residential Model School. Several hundred others were also staying at the BDR establishments at Kadimnagar, Khanchi Bari and Akhalla in the town and its suburb. Most of them arrived recently from the

— File photo

ated among the common men from the early morning of March 26.

A leading personality of Nayasaraka area named Osman Miah, 60, was the first martyr who was killed by the Pak Army in the early morning of March 26. He came to offer his Fajr prayer at the Nayasaraka Mosque as usual. He was shot dead when he just sat for *Oju* (cleaning). The body was seen lying near the *minar* of the mosque till 11 am. Later on, it was picked up by the hospital ambulance. A beggar named Majnu Miah who was going for begging was the second martyr at Mirabazar. It was also shifted by the hospital ambulance at noon. A rickshaw puller named Jolai was shot dead by the invading Pakistani Army in Ambarkhana area when he raised 'Jol Bangla' slogan. Two others standing nearby were also killed by the Pakistani troops. The hospital staffers picked up all the bodies through ambulance. Baby son of a Nepalese origin named Tullram was shot dead at 11 am near Chouhatta. He did not know anything about curfew. A medical student who was on duty in the Medical College later informed that as many as 17 bodies had been picked by a team of hospital staffers from different areas on that day and 26 others with critical wounds were admitted into the hospital.

Lt Colonel Ziaur Rahman was the then Director, in-charge of the Medical College Hospital and Dr Shamsuddin Ahmed was also working at the same institution. Both of these great men were also shot dead by the occupation Pak forces.

The arrested were identified as Abu Taleeb, a police source, of Dulahazara village of Chakoria thana and Momtaz Mia Mintu of Baghmara village in Banshkhali thana.

A case was filed with the police.

Robbers loot valuables from temple

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 27: Armed dacoits looted valuables from a temple at Nathpara in Chakoria thana here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said a group of bandits stormed into the Kalmundir and ransacked seven statues and furniture and looted gold chains and wall clocks.

Later villagers caught two of them from a house near the temple and handed over them to the police.

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Bail prayer rejected

SHERPUR, Mar 27: A Union Parishad (UP) chairman was sent to jail after a court here rejected his bail petition on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said Khandaker Amanullah, chairman of Rani Shimul Union in Sreewardi thana, was arrested on charge of misappropriating 766 kgs of foodgrains from 9 mts allocated for VGF programme ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Death anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

The second death anniversary of renowned social worker Abdul Jabbar will be observed on Tuesday (today) at Charkona village under Pakundia thana in Kishoreganj district.

Abdul Jabbar, who was also called Master Saheb, was the founder of Charkona High School and the founder president of the governing body of Char Adarsh College.

A *mild mahfil* will be held after Asr prayer on the occasion at the house of the deceased at village Charkona. Relatives and friends are requested to attend the programme.

Cow boy injured by BSF

JAMALPUR, Mar 27: A cow boy was injured when BSF opened fire on March 20 at about 12:45 pm, according to BDR sources, reports UNB.

Shahadat Hossain, 12, a cow boy while looked after cattle within 50 yards of border post in Jhongram under Rowmari police station of Kurigram district, suddenly BSF opened fire causing serious injury to Shahadat. He was immediately taken to a hospital.

Battalion Commander of BDR, Jamalpur said he lodged protest to the Company Commander of BSF. But they denied the charge. He will file soon another protest note.

Mafizul Islam
Executive Engineer, R&H
(Current Responsibility)
Road Division, Habiganj

National

Rly land grabbers warned

PARBATIPUR (Dinajpur) Mar 27: State Minister for Communications Anisul Huq Chowdhury on Saturday warned against the illegal land grabbers of Bangladesh railway and said legal actions would be taken against the illegal occupants of railway land by evicting them, reports BSS.

The warning came at his meeting with the high officials of Railway Western Zone, during his visit to the railway land and buildings here.

Anis said actions will also be taken against those officials and employees of railways who are involved with illegal occupants of railway land.

Describing railway as a safe mode of transportation, the State Minister said services of railway will have to be improved to turn Railway into a profit-making organisation.

He asked the officials and employees of railway to discharge their duties with honesty, efficiency and hard-work.

Earlier, the State Minister visited the repairing works of Rangpur-Parbatipur-Maddypara road.

60 kg hemp recovered, two held

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 27: Police recovered about 60 kg of *ganja*, or hemp, and arrested two persons from a boat in the river Jamuna near Hatital under Belchaita thana last week.

During a patrol in the river, police raided the boat on suspicion recovered the contraband and arrested boatman Zel Huq, 50, and his son Rafiqul, 20, of village Dokhaor Char under Ulipur thana in Kurigram district.

Zel Huq told police an influential hemp trader rented the boat for carrying the contraband.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Bagerhat

Notice Inviting Tender

No. 16/99-2000

1. Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the approved enlisted building contractor/firm of PWD according to their enlistment capacity for the undermentioned work and will be received by the Divisional Commissioner, Khulna & the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineers, PWD Division-I/II, Khulna & Satkhira up to 12:00 Noon of 14.4.2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the intending tenderer who may like to remain present. The tender form and tender documents may be seen and obtained from all the offices of the Executive Engineers under PWD Circle Khulna up to 10.4.2000 during office hours on payment of usual charges.

2. Name of work : P/F of E/I work compound and gate light, S/Inst of transformer and pump motor set for public library at Bagerhat.

3. Estimated cost : Tk. 6,01,584/-

4. Earnest money : 12,050/-

5. Time for completion of the work is 180 days from the date of issue of work order.

Executive Engineer
PWD Division
Bagerhat.

Tale of an unknown freedom fighter

From Aroop Talukdar



Sahanara Parveen Shova

Bartali district.

Shova was married off when she was a student of class nine. In 1971, Pakistani occupation soldiers killed her husband brutally.

After the incident, she joined freedom fighters to avenge the killing of her husband.

Shova participated in the training camp set up by freedom fighters. When Pakistani soldiers attacked Kuriana village, Shova along with other freedom fighters fought a fierce battle against the occupation forces.

Shova also rescued two young girls from the clutches of Pakistani soldiers. Three Pakistani soldiers caught the two girls and were taking their camp in a speedboat. Shova threw a bomb at the boat. The boat sank.

Later freedom fighter rescued the girls and killed the enemies. Shova later was caught by the occupation army and was jailed in Bartali. After 17 days she was released.

Shova further went into hiding and engaged herself in guerrilla warfare.

But thousands of freedom fighters like Shova were not recognised as freedom fighters. They remained unknown.

After the liberation, Shova took shelter at Jhalakati Women Rehabilitation Centre, where she took training on women welfare.

She started her life afresh. She married again. She is now blessed with two children.

News snaps



A unique example

Sirajganj Motor Workers' Union has set a rare example by donating an amount of Taka 60,000 to the widow of a member of the union who was killed on August 15 in 1999 by some terrorists at Rangpur Jahaj Company intersection. Photo shows Sahera Begum, widow of the victim receiving the donation at a function at New Dhaka Road on March 23 from workers' leader Nazimuddin, while Sirajganj Motor Workers' Union leader Abdul Kuddus, Mobarak Hussain Titu, leader of North Bengal Motor Workers' Union and Nasiruddin, General Secretary of North Bengal Road Transport Workers' Union look on.

— Star photo by Akhteruzzaman Bablu

Marriage trickery!

JAMALPUR, Mar 27: Trickery by fake marriage registrars has increased in seven thanas, giving rise to multiple and early marriages, reports UNB.

According to an official, there is one government marriage registrar in each union of the country in addition to 4-5 sub-registrars. But some fake registrars have grown up who are registering the marriages of under 18 girls and polygamists, violating the country's laws. There are some 100 unauthorised marriage registrars in the district, said an official.

Eight killers convicted

HABIGANJ, Mar 27: A court here has convicted eight people to life term imprisonment in a murder case, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts — Mohon Miah, Mohammad Ali, Rahmat Ali, Farook Miah, Misir Ali, Abdur Hy, Renu Miah and Mohammad Ali of Joipur village of Madhabpur thana — Tk 500 each, in default, to suffer 15 days more rigorous imprisonment. According to prosecution, the convicts killed their fellow-villager Atar Ali in his house on April 21, 1991 following previous enmity. The Judge after examining records and witnesses punished the eight and acquitted 19 others on March 20.

Boy killed in road accident

JAMALPUR, Mar 27: A boy was killed in a road accident on Fulbaria on Jamalpur-Madhabpur Road on March 20. The victim was identified as Saiful Islam, 14, son of Muslimuddin of Fulbaria under Jamalpur Municipality, reports BSS.

According to witnesses, Saiful, while riding a by-cycle was knocked down by a speeding tempo at the back on March 19. He received serious injury and was rushed to Jamalpur General Hospital and later he was shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he died. Following the accident some angry youths ransacked some tempos at the stand here.

Second case under PSA at Muladi

JALALPUR, Mar 27: The second case under PSA was filed against two persons, Kamal Hawlader and Ali Sarder, in Muladi thana on March 17 for collecting illegal tolls from a businessman, reports BSS.

According to police, the accused forcibly realised Taka 17,000 in the name of toll and took a wrist watch from the businessman, Rafikul Islam at Ramcharai area when he was going to Banaripara in a boat on Arhial Khan river loading vegetables.

Electrification programme

KHULNA, Mar 27: In an effort to bring 102 villages under electrification, Jessor Palli Bidyut Samity-2 is installing power lines in Fultala thana in Khulna and Avonagar thana in Jessor districts, reports UNB.

Officials said a 518-km electricity line has already been installed in the area while works on 487 kms are progressing fairly well. The Samity has so far given 19,385 power connections, including 15,229 household ones, to its consumers. Another report adds: Local Government Engineering Department has undertaken 14 small projects, involving Tk 56 lakh, to construct roads and culverts in four thanas of the district in the current fiscal. The projects are likely to be completed by June next.

Two killed in road mishap

GAIBANDHA, Mar 27: Two persons were killed and 45 injured as a night coach dashed with a roadside tree at Taltala on Bogra-Rangpur highway Friday night, reports UNB.

Mizanur Rahman, 20, of village Donga and Monsur, 30, of Kasia More, passengers of the coach, died on the spot. Police said the accident occurred at 10:45 pm when a tire of the Dhaka-bound coach of Jahangir Enterprise was burst and dashed with the tree with a big bang. Of the injured, 5 were admitted to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

BCIC International

Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পনে জাতীয় অর্থগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Karnaphuli Paper Mills Limited, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong invites sealed quotation on C&F (C) Chittagong basis under any suitable source of financing for the following items under two envelope system: