

# Independence Day in dists

The 29th anniversary of independence was celebrated on Sunday in Gazipur, Faridpur and Rangamati districts as elsewhere in the country amid enthusiasm and festivity, reports BSS.

People from all walks of life in Gazipur district celebrated the Independence and National Day in a befitting manner.

Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions and trade unions chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The programmes included hoisting of the national flags atop of all private and public buildings, placing of the wreaths at central Shaheed Minar and the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, receptions to freedom fighters and Shaheed families, discussion and cultural functions, children rally and march past, food distribution and sports competitions.

A discussion was held at Gazipur Rajbari Play Ground on the day which was organised by district administration. Presided over by Shamsul Haque, Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur, it was addressed among others, by Ahsan Ullah Master MP, Awami League lead-

ers AKM Mozammel Haque and Nurul Islam Master.

In Faridpur, the day started with hoisting of national flags atop important public and private buildings. A colorful march past was organised by the district administration. Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur Atiqul Islam Chowdhury took salute and inspected the march past. Children from different educational institutions participated in the acrobatic show after the march past.

Local unit of Bangladesh Shishu Sangha arranged poetry recitation and musical programme at Kabi Jashimuddin Hall.

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ers professional bodies organised various programmes to mark the day.

The day in the district headquarters was heralded with 21 gun salutes. National flags were hoisted atop all public and private buildings, which were also illuminated in the night.

March past was held in the morning at the old Court Building ground in the town. Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Joytinendra Bodhipriya Larma, took the salute.

Reception was accorded to the family members of the martyrs of liberation war and freedom fighters by the Rangamati Hill District Council at Council's conference room at 11.30 am.

Octogenarian mother of Bir Shreshtha Lance Naik Munshi Abdus Rauf, who came in the town from her village home at Salamatpur in Boalmari thana of Faridpur district, attended the reception as the chief guest.

Documentary films on the liberation war were screened at local cinemas.

Improved diets were served in orphanages, jail and students dormitories by the administrations on this occasion.

A number of discussions were also held to mark the day.

A friendly soccer match between Deputy Commissioner's XI and Municipal Chairman's XI was held in the afternoon at local stadium.

Special prayers were offered in mosques, temples and churches for the peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

In Rangamati, district administration, political parties and different socio-cultural and

## Four mass-graves unearthed in Jessore

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Mar 28: During the last two months, the district unit of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad unearthed four mass-graves in the district.

In the mass-graves, bodies of hundreds of people were dumped by the Pakistani occupation soldiers and their local collaborators - members of Razakar, Al Badar and Al Shams forces during the War of Liberation.

According to reports, Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad, the organisation of freedom fighters, has initiated this programme recently to identify the mass-graves throughout the country.

As elsewhere in the country, a five-member Mass-grave Inquiry Sub-committee was formed here. Sarder Lutfur Rahman is the convenor. Shahjahan, Mokbul Hossain, Moslemuddin and Montu are members of the committee.

The committee, after a thorough investigation, discovered a mass-grave within the bound-

ary wall of Horticulture Development Board, adjacent to Jessore Cantonment.

Jahanara, a resident in the area, said Pakistani soldiers dumped many bodies of innocent Bangalees during the Liberation war.

Another mass-grave was unearthed within the boundary wall of Kartik Chandra Dey's house on the bank of river Bhairab at Rupdia Bazaar near the district headquarters.

Noted freedom fighters Mahbub Haque and Golam Mostafa, among others, were killed and buried in the grave.

Aminuddin, 80, who miraculously escaped death in the camp of Razakar force, told that he was caught on March 28, 1971 along with 50 others. All were shot dead one by one, he said. I was shot but escaped death, he added.

District unit commander of Mukti Joddha Sangsad Abdul Hai said steps should be taken to re-excavate the mass-graves to preserve the memory of those who laid down their lives for the cause of national independence. He, however, said re-excavation work will begin soon.

Bagan, Ayub, Pulin and Kartik were killed and dumped in the mass-grave.

Another mass-grave, biggest so far, was discovered in Nilkutti area on the river bank of Bhairab at Rupdia Bazaar under Sadar thana.

Another mass-grave was unearthed within the boundary wall of Kartik Chandra Dey's house on the bank of river Bhairab at Rupdia Bazaar near the district headquarters.

A large number of people were killed here and later dumped.

Kartik said at least ten烈士 were recovered from the place after the liberation.

Another mass-grave was discovered at Bagchari near the town. Local people said at least 35 Bangalees were killed and buried in the grave. Locals believed Gias, Sajit, Kalipada, Hrishikesh, Prasanta Probash, Sirabash, Dipak, Kesto Lal, Modhusan, Balai, Golinda, Basu Dev, Kanai, Sankar Modhu, Paritosh, Kali Charan,



People visit a mass grave on the bank of the River Bhairab at Rupdia Bazaar under Sadar thana, Jessore. The mass grave was discovered recently. Local people say during the liberation Pakistani soldiers and their local collaborators dumped 40-50 bodies in the grave.

— Star photo

## Faridpur roads in bad shape

From Abdul Matin Fakir

FARIDPUR, Mar 28: Faridpur-Sadarpur Road via Char Bhadrason and Faridpur-Sadarpur Road via Hat-Krishnapur are in bad shape.

Both the roads have developed cracks and path holes causing much inconveniences to the traffic movements.

Buses and mini buses in the routes run at a high speed causing frequent road accidents.

The drivers and the conductors of the buses reportedly misbehave with the passengers. The buses reportedly stop at any point on the route rather than stoppage and take passengers making unexpected delay to reach the destination.

It is alleged that the buses collect excessive fare from the passengers especially just before and after any kind of festivals.

Besides, the buses carry passengers beyond their capacity very often leading to frequent quarrels and conflicts between the passengers and the conductors.

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