

MOULVIBAZAR LIBERATION DAY TODAY

Pro-liberation forces to hold first ever joint programmes

Martyred FFs' monument incomplete due to lack of funds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

December 8 is back again with painful memories of supreme sacrifices of war heroes.

On this day in 1971, Moulvibazar was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces.

This year, the day will have a special significance as all pro-liberation political parties, for the first time after independence, will hold programmes jointly to celebrate the Moulvibazar liberation day.

Awami League, NAP (National Awami Party), CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh), JSD (Jatiya Samajtantric Dal), BSD (Bangladesh Samajtantric Dal), Gono Forum Gonotantri Party along with journalists and cultural activists have jointly chalked out programmes.

A 45-member committee has been formed with former lawmaker Md. Azizur Rahman as convenor and district AL President Syed Mohsin Ali and CPB Presidium Member Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed as joint convenors.

The day will be observed through various programmes including placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar in the town, victory procession and cultural show.

But people are unhappy as construction of the Tk 2.5 lakh monument in memory of martyred freedom fighters near Monu Bridge in the town started by Moulvibazar district unit of Mukjoddha Sangsad during AL rule is yet to be completed.

When asked by this correspondent, officials of the Sangsad here said that after change of govern-

ment, there was no allocation of funds from its central committee for completion of the project.

As elsewhere in the country, Pakistani occupation forces launched a crackdown on innocent people in Moulvibazar on March 27, 1971. The occupation forces faced the first resistance on that day in Srirainagar area on Dhaka-Sylhet highway about three kilometres away from Moulvibazar town.

Thousands of people with bamboo sticks blocked the highway to resist Pakistani army. When they were proceeding towards Srirainagar, a convoy of occupation troops came and opened fire on them, killing two farmers—Tara Miah of Shabandar village and Jomir Miah of Radhanagar village died on the spot. They were the first martyrs in Moulvibazar.

The occupation army entered Moulvibazar town but within a week freedom fighters compelled them to flee.

Later, in April, the occupation army again captured Moulvibazar town and set up a brigade headquarters at the primary training institute (PTI).

On December 2, freedom fighters and allied forces attacked the Pakistani army base at Shamsnagar Airport. The occupation army

retreated towards Moulvibazar town from Shamsnagar.

The final victory was won on December 8 after a fierce battle at Baratilla in which but 127 allied troops were killed.

The then lawmaker Md. Azizur Rahman hoisted the Bangladesh flag the then Sub-Divisional Officer's office.



Construction of the Freedom Fighters Monument near Monu Bridge in Moulvibazar town, started during the previous government's rule is stopped now for lack of funds.

PHOTO: STAR

Khulna Police make list of 11 militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police have made a fresh list of 11 Islamist militants.

Nine out of them are yet to be rounded up despite a combing operation conducted jointly by police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The listed militants are JMB Kingpin Abdur Rahman, Jagrata Muslim Janat Bangladesh (JMJB) chief Bangla Bhai of Rajshahi, Asadullah alias Arif of Barguna, Mehedi Hasan of Barguna, Khalid Hasan alias Mintoof of Satkhira, Shaikhul Islam, Shahidullah alias Lokna of Bagerhat, Mahbubur Rahmana alias Palash of Satkhira, Moulana Muniruddin of Gopalganj, Mehedi Hasan of Gaibandha and Indian national Dr Masud bin Ishaque of Khulna city.

Imam gets death threat from JMB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An Imam of a mosque here received death threat from Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) on Tuesday.

Patuakhali Court mosque Imam Maulana Mozzaffar Hossain, also president of the district unit of Imam Parishad received the threat by a letter sent by post in name of JMB, Patuakhali unit on November 30.

The letter said, "We want to tell all Imams in the district through you that we are fighting for establishing a rule of Quran. If any Imam creates an obstacle by giving sermons against us at the time of prayers, he will be killed by blasting bombs. We know you as president of the district Imam Parishad. So, we want you to make other Imams aware about it."

Imam Parishad informed the matter to district and police administration.

Two UPDF men held with arms, ammunition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Army yesterday arrested two members of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession at Rumapara in Mahalchhari.

Song Ranjan Dewan and Tari Ranjan were arrested after a raid conducted by army at midnight. Two foreign made SBBL guns, ammunition and subscription books were recovered during the raid.

They used to collect tolls from businessmen in the area. They also confessed to their links with the UPDF and involvement in illegal activities, police said.

However, sources in the UPDF said the arrested are not their men.

Later, the arrested were handed over to Mahalchhari police.

Ruling party men chosen for making new voter list

Magura opposition leaders allege

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The names of supervisors and enumerators to prepare a new voter list in Magura have been finalised without consultation with opposition political parties, creating resentment among local leaders.

Most of the supervisors are supporters of either ruling BNP or Jamaat-e-Islami, Magura Awami League Secretary Md. Altaf Hossain claimed while talking to this correspondent on Wednesday.

They are teachers of non-government colleges and madrasas, chosen for the job on political links, he alleged.

He said officials of Magura District Election Office (DEO) did not consult with local opposition leaders before finalising the lists. "They have selected their men as part of a blue print to rig the election", he said.

The Election Commission (EC) is a constitutional body and it is supposed to work neutrally. "We are not interested to interfere in its activities and if it does anything out of biasness, it would be unfortunate for the nation", he said.

Central Joint Organising Secretary of Jatiyo Party (Ershad) Hasan Seraj Suja said, most of the listed supervisors are non-government college teachers, madrasa superintendents, and the enumerators are teachers of government primary schools, all appointed under political influence during the 4-party alliance rule. Neutral performance can not be expected from them, the JP leader

claimed. Both the AL and JP leaders said that protest would be lodged after getting reports from grassroots level during preparation of voter list.

When contacted, District Election Officer however said, "We had no option but to follow the criteria set by the EC in preparing lists of officials and workers to make a new voter list."

"We did not consult either opposition or ruling party leaders as we were not directed by the EC to do so", he said.

"It is not possible for us to know who among the appointed supervisors and enumerators are politically biased or not. We are committed to make a correct list of voters", the Election Officer said.

According to sources in Magura DEO, 1475 enumerators, 380 supervisors and 45 Assistant Registration Officers (AROs) have been recruited to prepare the voter list.

The DEO has recruited government and government primary school teachers as enumerators and upazila level officials, lecturers of non-government colleges, headmasters of government primary schools and madrasa superintendents as supervisors.

Training workshop of field level officials will be held next month. The work on preparation of voter list will begin on January 1.

Victory Fair cancelled in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The Victory Fair has been cancelled here due to threats of Islamist militants across the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting held here on December 2 with Manikganj Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

Victory Fair Celebration Committee chairman Advocate Fazlul Haque and co-chairmen Advocate Abdul Majid Photo addressed the meeting.

The fair was held here regularly as part of a month long Victory Day programme every year.

When contacted, the DC said the programme was cancelled due to security reason.

Ulema Parishad protest JMB bombings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Ulema Parishad yesterday brought out a procession in the town protesting recent bomb blasts by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). The processionists paraded the main streets of the town and chanted anti-JMB slogans.

Earlier, a rally was held at Railway Krishnachurasquare.

Speakers said Islam does not support anarchy. They stressed the need for a national consensus through dialogue of all political parties to tackle the bombers. They said such elements are enemies of Islam. Their activities should be stopped without further delay.

The rally was addressed by Ulema Parishad leaders Khaled Saifullah Sadi, Munjurul Haque Khan, Habibur Rahman, Rafiqul Alam, Shahidullah and Mustafizur Rahman and others.

RU admission test from Dec 18

RU CORRESPONDENT

The schedule of test for admission into first year honours classes in Rajshahi University (RU) for 2005-'06 academic session was published on Tuesday.

According to the schedule, the tests will be held from December 18 this year to January 01, 2006.

Admission tests will be held in four shifts from 9:30am to 5:00pm everyday according to roll of admission seekers.

However, no test will be held on December 23 to 25 for unknown causes, said a member of the test committee.

All classes and examinations will be suspended during tests. Results will be published on the university website www.ru.ac.bd and daily newspapers.

'Militant' Indian sent to jail

JMB suspect arrested in Barisal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Suspected militant Nawshad alias Akram Ali, 30, an Indian citizen, arrested from a residential hotel in Tangail town, was sent to the district jail on Tuesday.

Earlier, Sadar thana police produced Akram before a magistrate court.

Police arrested the Indian citizen from a hotel in bus stand area on Monday early morning.

In Barisal, a JMB suspect hailed from Panchagar was caught in Mehendiganj Tuesday night and handed over to Barisal police yesterday.

Our Tangail Correspondent reports: Police sources said Akram told them that he was from Kharball village in Sarbuk thana in Boropeta district of Assam.

He also told police that he was a student of Goalpara Madrasa and also performed the duty of an Imam at

Balavita Mosque there.

Police said Akram entered Bangladesh illegally without any passport and other documents, reached Tangail on Sunday evening and boarded the hotel on the same night, hiding his real name and address. At the hotel, he registered himself as a resident of Rourmary thana in Kurigram district in Bangladesh.

Police also recovered from his possession some Islamic books and cell phone numbers of some people in Bangladesh.

Police said that during primary interrogation they suspected him to have links with militants and came to Tangail for subversive activities. "But we are yet to know about his real motive for illegally entering the country", a police official said seeking anonymity.

S Alam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of

Tangail Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star that the arrested Indian citizen is very cunning. "We are verifying his address in Kurigram he gave at the hotel", the OC added.

Meantime, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police (Dhaka Zone) Siddiqur Rahman on Monday inspected security measures at the Jamuna Multi Purpose Bridge and held a meeting with security officials there.

He held a close-door meeting with high officials of Tangail district police at the Police Superintendent's office.

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: Shahinur Alam, OC of Mehendiganj police station said Shahin Alam, 16, was detained by local people at Gabtali launch station in Lata union for his suspicious movement.

He was handed over to Kazir Char police camp Tuesday night.

Later Shahin Alam was brought to Mehendiganj police station, where he identified himself as son of Ashraf Alam of Hatidoba village in Deviganj upazila in Panchagar district.

Police quoted him as saying that he fled from home out of fear after one of his classmates was arrested as a JMB suspect.

Police produced him before a court in Barisal yesterday, showing him arrested under Section 54 as a JMB suspect and prayed for seven days' remand.

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