

VICTORY DAY CELEBRATED IN DISTRICTS

Call for trial of war criminals

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Victory Day was celebrated in different districts yesterday with renewed pledge for standing firm in the demand for the trial of war criminals.

Thousands of people from all walks of life kept the streets in Rajshahi city lively as they observed the 38th Victory Day with enthusiasm, reports our staff correspondent from Rajshahi.

The day's programme began with giving 31 times gun salutes by the district administration and Rajshahi City Corporation's placing wreaths at Bhubon Mohan Park Central Shaheed Minar at 12:01am.

Then lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha placed wreaths there and read out an oath to hundreds of people declaring a firm stand for the trial of war criminals and restoration of 1972 constitution.

Besides placing wreaths at different Shaheed Minars in the city, political, social and cultural organisations arranged patriotic songs, street drama, recitation of poetry, mass songs, photo exhibition and blood donation programme and health camp at different places of the city.

The Victory Day programme at Rajshahi University (RU) campus

began with placing of wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar by the university Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan at 12.01am, reports a correspondent from RU.

Different organisations held discussions and cultural programmes including patriotic songs, street drama, poetry recitation at different points of the campus.

People from all walks of life celebrated the Victory Day with enthusiasm and festivity in the port city as elsewhere of the country yesterday, reports our staff correspondent from Chittagong.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Amin was the first to place wreath paying homage to the martyrs of Liberation War at the Central Shahid Minar in the city and Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury followed.

High officials of civil administration and police, Mukti Juddha Sangsad, political, social, cultural and professional organisations paid homage to the martyrs by placing wreaths.

A large number of people went to the Central Shahid Minar and placed floral wreaths to pay tribute to the martyrs of Liberation War in the early hours of the day.

Different programmes including colourful processions were brought out to mark the day.

Programmes of the Victory Day in Khulna began with a 31 times gun salute at one minute past 12 midnight at the independence memorial at Gallamari, reports our staff correspondent.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Munnun Sufian and city Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque placed wreaths there to pay homage to the Liberation War martyrs.

Leaders of several political parties, socio-cultural organisations, high officials of civil and police administrations, judiciary, army and Rapid Action Battalion, teachers of different institutions also placed wreaths.

Victory Day programmes in the city included march past at Khulna Stadium, discussions on Liberation War, show of documentary films, painting competitions, and milad mahfils and special prayers at mosques, temples and churches.

Pabna district unit of Mukti Juddha Sangsad and district unit of Awami League organised a Victory Day rally in the town yesterday noon, reports our Pabna correspondent.

"Trial of the war criminals is the

oath to the Victory Day this year. The present government is determined to ensure trial of the war criminals," The state minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku said during inauguration of the rally.

"Trial of the killers of Bangabandhu has been completed. Trial of August 21 grenade attack case and 10-truck arms case will also be done. People should remain alert as conspirators are active," Tuku said on the occasion.

Different political and social organisations and educational institutions placed wreaths at Durjoy Pabna, a Liberation War memorial, and arranged discussions and cultural programmes.

Our Netrakona Correspondent adds: District administration and different social and political organisations took various programmes to mark the 38th Victory Day yesterday.

Sectors Commander Forum organised a human chain demanding punishment of the war criminals.

District administrations and social, political and cultural organisations took up various programmes to celebrate Victory Day in different districts including Chandpur, Noakhali, Narsingdi, Madaripur, Feni and Munsiganj.

V-DAY IN PICTURES



PHOTO: STAR

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Students perform artistic feat at Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore, children with hearing impairment exhibit physical feat at Chandpur Stadium, students of different educational institutions of Rajshahi city take part in a colourful march past at Rajshahi District Stadium, children perform a colourful display at Magura stadium and Tangail district unit of Awami League brings out a colourful procession.

SNIPPETS

Bomb attack on journo's house

UNB, Narsingdi

Unidentified criminals hurled four bombs at the house of ATN Bangla district correspondent Benjir Ahmed Benu at Shib Bagh in the town early yesterday. "The bombs exploded at about 1:00am with a big bang while the electric cable caught fire creating panic among the inmates of the house and neighbours," police and witnesses said. On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the inmates of the house. Political leaders and fellow journalists condemned the attack. District administration officials visited the house. A case was filed in connection with the bomb attack.

Youth found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A young man was found dead in old Kasba area of the town yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Parvez, 22, son of Abdul Basar of Pabari area in the town. Parvez went to Dhaka on Monday but did not return home till yesterday morning, relatives said. The same morning, an unknown caller informed Parvez's brother by phone to receive the body of his brother from beside Monica Clinic in old Kasba area. Accordingly, family members went there and found the body of Parvez. They saw marks of deep stab injuries in his abdomen. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Jessore General Hospital. A case was filed in this connection.

Rice mill owner's house looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Robbers looted house of a rice mill owner at Kesthapur village in Birganj upazila early yesterday. Equipped with sharp weapons, a gang of about 15 to 20 robbers, entered the house of Ferdous Rice Mill owner Md Mokhesur Rahman by breaking open the door at about 2:00am, locals said. They beat up the house owner's wife, sons and daughters and took away valuables worth Tk4.5 lakh. A case was filed with Birganj police station yesterday. However, none was arrested till filing of this report in the afternoon.

Dialysis unit opens at MMCH

BSS, Mymensingh

Dialysis for treatment of kidney disease has started at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) yesterday. State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Capt (ret'd) Mujibur Rahman Fakir, MP, formally opened the dialysis unit at nephrology department of the hospital. MMCH director Brigadier General Maung Tin Win, Mymensingh Medical College principal Dr Mirza Hamidul Haque, civil surgeon Dr Momtaz Uddin Bhuiyan, doctors, students and officials were present. The state minister also visited different wards and talked to the patients. He exchanged views with the nurses of the hospital.

Three 'outlaws' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Three alleged cadres of the outlawed 'Bidhan Bahini' were arrested and two arms and two bullets recovered from their possession at Arpara in Shalikh upazila on Sunday night, police said. The arrestees are Amol Kumar Biswas, 40, and Biswajit, 38, of Dakshin Kashimpur in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district and Rupkumar Bor, 35, of Uttar Dharmasima village in Magura Sadar upazila. A team of detective branch (DB) of police arrested them and recovered the arms and ammunition during a raid at around 10:30pm. Of the arrestees, Amol is a convicted fugitive. He was awarded eight years jail in an arms case while Biswajit is accused in at least 10 criminal cases including murder and illegal toll collection, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Noted litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha and President of Poet Khondaker Zahanara Begum Memorial Council Ruhul Amin Pramanik hand over a crest to eminent Bengali author Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay at a reception organised by the council at Nanking Darbar Hall in Rajshahi city yesterday.

Cuet closed for 17 days after BCL infighting

Clashes in Meherpur, Patuakhali on Victory Day leave 10 hurt

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The authorities closed Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) for 17 days following a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League over placing wreaths at Shaheed Minar on the campus on the Victory Day yesterday.

At least 25 people from both sides were injured during the clash. Cuet students were asked to vacate their dormitories by yesterday afternoon, according to our staff correspondent from Chittagong.

Besides, several other people were injured in clashes over Victory Day celebrations in Meherpur and Patuakhali.

Campus sources said the trouble began in the morning when the two factions--one led by BCL leader Abdul Gani

and the other by Sujan--went to the Shaheed Minar on Cuet campus in the morning to place wreaths, marking the Victory Day.

The clashing BCL men also vandalised windowpanes of around 20 rooms in four dormitories during the clash.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Additional police have been deployed on the campus.

Cuet Vice-Chancellor Shaymal Kanti Biswas said a five-member committee headed by Dr Jahangir Alam has been formed to investigate the incident. The committee will submit its report by the first week of January, he added.

In Meherpur, at least five people, including two law enforcers, were injured in a clash between two factions of

Awami League over Victory Day celebration in Gangni upazila yesterday morning, reports a correspondent.

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds: Victory Day programme organised by Rangabali upazila BNP was postponed amidst an attack that left at least five BNP men injured.

Of the injured, three were first admitted to Rangabali health centre and later shifted to Galachipa Upazila Health Complex. They are Farid Munshi, 45, assistant organising secretary of BNP Rangabali unit, and local Jubo Dal leaders Milon, 30, and Sarwar Hussain, 28.

Kabir Hussain Talukder, president of Rangabali BNP, blamed Chhatra League and Jubo League activists for the attack. BCL and Jubo League denied the allegation.

Criminals admit to rape, murder of two girls after 17 months

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Seventeen months after 'mysterious' disappearance of two teenaged girls of Kishoreganj town, two criminals have admitted, before a senior judicial magistrate, to killing them after rape.

Maniruzzaman Halud Mia, 28, a suspended police constable of Kishoreganj Police Lines, and Shamim Houladar Jahir, 35, a cleaner of an electronics company in Chittagong, strangled after raping Urmi, 18, and Sumi, 19, at Western Garden Hotel at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka on July 16 last year, said the two criminals on Monday and Tuesday.

Urmi was a Class-X student and daughter of advocate Md Nurunnabi in Kishoreganj town, and her friend college student Sumi was daughter of ex-teacher Abu Bakar.

Through mobile phone, Manir trapped into 'love' Urmi, while Shamim developed a relationship with Sumi early last year, police said, adding that the two men had introduced themselves as

sons of rich persons and owners of houses in Dhaka.

They took the girls to Dhaka by bus on July 16 last year and rented rooms No 306 and 307 of Western Garden Hotel.

According to their confessional statements, at around 1:00 pm on the same day, Manir killed Urmi and Shamim killed Sumi by strangulating them after rape and then fled the scene after locking the hotel rooms.

Fathers of Sumi and Urmi lodged separate cases with Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station in this connection.

SI Mustafizur Rahman submitted an incomplete charge sheet before a Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal on July 3 but Sumi's father Abu Bakar filed a narazi (non-acceptance) petition against the charge sheet, prompting the court to order further investigation.

Later, OC (Detective Branch) Amzad Hossain took the charge of investigation while under the directives of police headquarters another special probe committee headed by Senior ASP Nesar Uddin Ahmad was formed.

As the committee recovered a mobile phone from Shamim's brother Shahin

through mobile tracking, things began to be unfolded.

Police sought remand for Shamim and Manir, who were on bail from the court, and the court granted seven-day remand for them on December 9.

Taking Shamim and Manir with them, police raided Western Garden hotel on December 12 and arrested Dilbar, 22, a hotel boy.

In a confessional statement before a magistrate in Kishoreganj on Monday, Dilbar said the hotel authorities on July 16 last year found bodies of the two murdered girls after breaking locks of the two rooms.

After putting the bodies into two sacks, Dilbar threw one into Moghbar Hira Jheel and the other into a dustbin near Tejgaon Rail Station, he said.

Tejgaon and Ramna police recovered the unidentified bodies from the spot and filed two unnatural death cases.

"The criminals admitted to killing the two girls after rape during the remand. Their statements under Section 164 was recorded when they were produced before Senior Judicial Magistrate Aijuddin on Monday and Tuesday," ASP Nesar Ahmad said.

Three shot by BSF on Thakurgaon border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Three Bangladeshi cattle traders were injured in BSF firing on Parea border under Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon district Wednesday morning.

The injured are Azizul Haque, 25, son of Wasu Mohammad, Biplop, 25, son of Ratan, and Srikanth, 30, son of Monindra of Deurjhar village under the upazila.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and local sources said a group

of cattle traders were returning home with cattle from India at around 4:00am. When they reached near pillar no 388/3-S, Indian border guards of Hathkola camp opened fire on them, leaving the three injured.

The bullet injured Bangladeshis were rushed to Baliadangi Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Hospital sources said the condition of Aminul, one of the injured, is critical as he received bullets in lower abdomen.