

## Month of Victory



PHOTO: STAR

This spot at Chararhat village in Nawabganj upazila under Dinajpur district that witnessed massacre of over a hundred freedom-loving people by the Pakistan occupation army during the Liberation War, gives a common ordinary look as authorities concerned have done nothing for preserving the memory of the martyrs.

## Most of 33 mass graves in Dinajpur, Joypurhat in utter neglect

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Most of the 33 mass graves in Dinajpur and Joypurhat districts, bearing testimony to the brutalities of the Pakistan occupation forces during the 1971 Liberation War, hardly see any maintenance by the authorities concerned.

There are 22 such mass graves in Dinajpur and 11 mass graves in Joypurhat but most of them are now difficult to identify by visitors as there is hardly any arrangement to preserve them, said sources of Dinajpur Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

During recent visit to different mass graves in Biral, Bochaganj, Nawabganj, Parbatipur and Nawabganj upazilas of Dinajpur district, this correspondent found signs of utter neglect in most cases.

"The Pakistani troops shot dead at least 40 people at Bahola village in Biral upazila of Dinajpur on December 13 in 1971. Later family members and locals buried them near the killing spot. A memorial has been built at the spot, but the concrete wall, built by the locals around the graveyard, has recently collapsed," said Goni Mia, a witness to the massacre.

The killing ground and mass grave at Chararhat village under Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur, where at least 105 people were shot dead on October 10 in 1971, is hardly distinguishable from a

cattle grazing field, observed this correspondent during his recent visit to the area.

"After 41 years, could not take steps to take care the massacre place and grave at the area," said Md Yahia, a witness who narrowly escaped the brutality in that time. With personal initiative a memorial however was built at Chararhat last year, he added. According to the freedom fighters of these districts a large number of people were detained and shot dead by the Pakistan occupation forces in Parbatipur, Nawabganj, Biral, Bochaganj, Ghoraghat, Dinajpur Sadar, Khansama, Chirirbandar, Phulbari and Hakimpur upazilas of Dinajpur during the Liberation War.

The large killing grounds and mass graves in Parbatipur upazila -- Rahmatnagar, Ibrahimnagar, Abbasnagar, Muzaffarnagar have been named after martyred freedom fighters.

Ranirbandar High School ground in Chirirbandar upazila and Bhabaldighi and Chatoil in Birganj upazila are some other major killing grounds and mass graves of the Liberation War.

Syed Mokaddes Hossain Bablu, commander of Dinajpur Muktiyoddha Sangsad, has urged the government to take proper steps for preservation of the mass graves to keep the memory of the Liberation War martyrs alive in the mind of the future generation.

## Police foil processions, arrest 13 Shibir men in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least 13 Shibir activists were arrested in Natore town and Lalpur upazila of the district on Monday night.

The arrestees are Lalpur upazila Shibir president Hamidul Islam, 35, Shibir activists Hasibul Islam, 28, Sazedul Islam, 22, Shafiqul Islam, 31, Amirul Islam, 28, Solaiman Ali, 26, Nazmul Hossain, 27, Masum Hossain 29, and Atikur Rajman, 25, Nurun Nobi, 35 and Mobarak Hossain, 22.

Police arrested the Shibir men while they were trying to bring out a procession from Gopalpur area in the upazila at around 7:00pm in support of today's hartal called by Jamaat in Rajshahi division.

Police also foiled a Shibir procession in Natore Rail Station Bazar area the same night and arrested two activists from there.

## 20 injured in Satkhira clash

UNB, Satkhira

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over taking possession of a cow shed at frontier Taluigachha Uttarpara in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Locals said there was a longstanding dispute between one Abdul Khaleque and Mofizul Islam over the issue.

A clash ensued between the rivals on Monday when Mofizul along with his men went to the site. At this, incidents of arson and vandalising two houses also took place.

Khaleque filed a case with Sadar Police Station in this connection.

## Two boys drown

UNB, Satkhira

Two minor boys drowned in a pond at Taltola village in Sadar upazila on Monday evening.

The deceased were identified as Maruf Hasan, 2, son of Masud Hasan and his cousin Ruhin, 3, son of Badruzzaman of the village.

Local people said the duo were playing on a raft, made of banana plants, near the bank of a pond beside their house and suddenly fell in the water.

Locals found their bodies floating in the water and recovered those in the evening.

## Robbers loot two houses

UNB, Noakhali

Robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables from two houses at Kachihat village in Begumganj upazila early yesterday.

Police said the gang first stormed into the house of Saudi expatriate Mohammad Ullah breaking open the collapsible gate at about 1:00am.

They took the house inmates hostage at gunpoint and looted 75 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 20 lakh and seven mobile phone sets.

Later, the robbers swooped on the nearby house of Oman expatriate Nasu Miah and took away two tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 5,000 after confining the family members in a room.

Ahsanul Islam, officer in-charge of Begumganj Police Station, said they were raiding different areas to arrest the robbers.

## CASE FOR VANDALISM, ATTACK ON COPS IN ISHWARDI

# 30 Jamaat-Shibir men sent to jail in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Thirty Jamaat-Shibir men, accused in a case for attacking policemen and vandalising vehicles in Ishwardi on December 4, were sent to jail yesterday.

They accused are Ishwardi upazila Jamaat Ameer Md Jobair Rahman, and upazila Jamaat and Shibir activists Md Abdur Rahman Pathan, Abdul Aziz Pathan, Saidur Rahman, Abu Isha, Md Mizan, Md Faridul Islam, Md Alam Pramanik, Md Jahid Pramanik, Md Sabbir, Md Abdur Rahman Master, Md Eunus, Md Montaz, Md Intaz, Md Khaled, Md Abdul Baten, Md. Hasan, Md

Asadullah, Md. Eusuf, Md. Zia, Md. Likhon, Md. Amirul, Md. Bellal, Md Akkas, Md Mojibar, Md Toibur Rahman, Md Nur Alam, Md Mamun, Md Masud and Md Faruk Hossain.

They appeared before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Pabna, and sought bail. After hearing, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Abu Saleh Md Salauddin sent them to jail, rejecting their bail prayers.

Sub-Inspector Md Riazu Hassan filed the case with Ishwardi Police Station on December 4 against over 200 Jamaat-Shibir men on charges of vandalising vehicles and attack on law enforcers at Iswaedi upazila

headquarters during hartal enforced by Bangladesh Jamaat-Islami on the day.

The Jamaat-Shibir men also clashed with police and vandalised vehicles at the upazila headquarters during hartal hours, the complainant stated in the case statement.

"We submitted prayers to the court, seeking bail for the Jamaat-Shibir men, but the court rejected the prayers and sent them to jail," said Advocate Masud Khandaker, lawyer for the accused.

Md Abu Taleb Mondol, general secretary of Jamaat Pabna district unit, said they will go to the higher court to seek bail for the party men.



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of roadside banana trees fall victim of massive destruction during the Roads and Highways Department's cleanliness drive from Shologhar to Chankhar Doakan on Chandpur-Comilla road in Chandpur town yesterday.

## PSTU staff assault 3 newsmen

Question at a view exchange meet evoked their wrath

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A few teachers and officials of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) assaulted three journalists yesterday noon, in reaction to a newsmen's question regarding appointment of some teachers and staff at the institution.

The victims are Nikhil Chatterjee, Patuakhali correspondent of the Daily Sangbad, Amirul Islam, Bauful correspondent of the Daily Ittefaq, and Sohrab Hossain, Patuakhali correspondent of The Daily Star.

At a view exchange meeting presided over by VC Dr Syed Shakhawat Hossain at the auditorium of PSTU yesterday noon, AKM Mostafa Zaman, dean of agriculture faculty, made a power point presentation on the 'success' of the PSTU during the four-year tenure of the vice chancellor.

Registrar Md Nawab Ali was conducting the meeting

Dr Syed Shakhawat Hossain

joined as vice chancellor of the university on December 21 in 2008 and his last working day is tomorrow.

Lawmaker from Barguna-1 Dharendra Devnath Shambhoo, Dumki upazila parishad Chairman Harun-Or-Rashid Howlader, both members of the Regent Board, the highest decision making body of the university, were present, among others, in the meeting.

After his presentation, Mostafa Zaman invited questions from journalists and local elite.

Nikhil Chatterjee asked a question about appointment of some officials and employees during the last seven days.

He also wanted to know about the alleged lack of required qualification of PSTU Registrar Md Nawab Ali.

Before Nikhil concluded his speech, some teachers, officials and employees led by Md Aatur Rahman, a newly appointed section officer, attacked Nikhil. They broke his spectacles and physically assaulted him.

Trying to save Nikhil, Sohrab Hossain and Amirul Islam also faced the attackers' wrath and received minor injuries.

Consequently, all the journalists boycotted the meeting and protested the matter.

Denying the allegation of physically assaulting newsmen, Aatur Rahman said, "We resisted Nikhil Chatterjee when he raised a question, personally aiming at the registrar."

After the incident VC Dr Syed Shakhawat Hossain said, "Nikhil Chatterjee published on his daily much negative news regarding PSTU during my four-year tenure with the bad intention."

There are 427 teachers, officials and employees at PSTU, who were appointed during the last four years, PSTU sources said, quite a few more staffs were appointed during the last one week.

Journalists in Patuakhali district have strongly protested the matter and demanded punishment of the culprits.

## Banker's wife, son murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Wife and son of a private bank manager were murdered at their apartment in Ukilpara area of Naogaon town on Monday evening.

The victims were identified as Mita Sarkar, 38, wife of Joyantu Kumar Sarkar, manger of Southeast Bank Noagaon town branch, and their six-year-old son Joytu Sarkar.

Mozammel Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Naogaon Model Police Station, said Joyantu Kumar Sarkar returned to his rented apartment from the bank at around 7:30pm and saw the main door open.

He entered the bedroom and found the bodies of his wife and son lying in a

pool of blood.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Naogaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said the gang entered the apartment and killed Mita and her son Joytu by slitting their throats. The gruesome murders took place between 5 and 7 in the evening, they added.

Police could not unearth clues to the double-murder as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday. They picked up Nazrul Islam, driver of Joyantu, from the house for quizzing.

Contacted, OC Mozammel Haque said they are investigating the matter and trying to identify the killers.

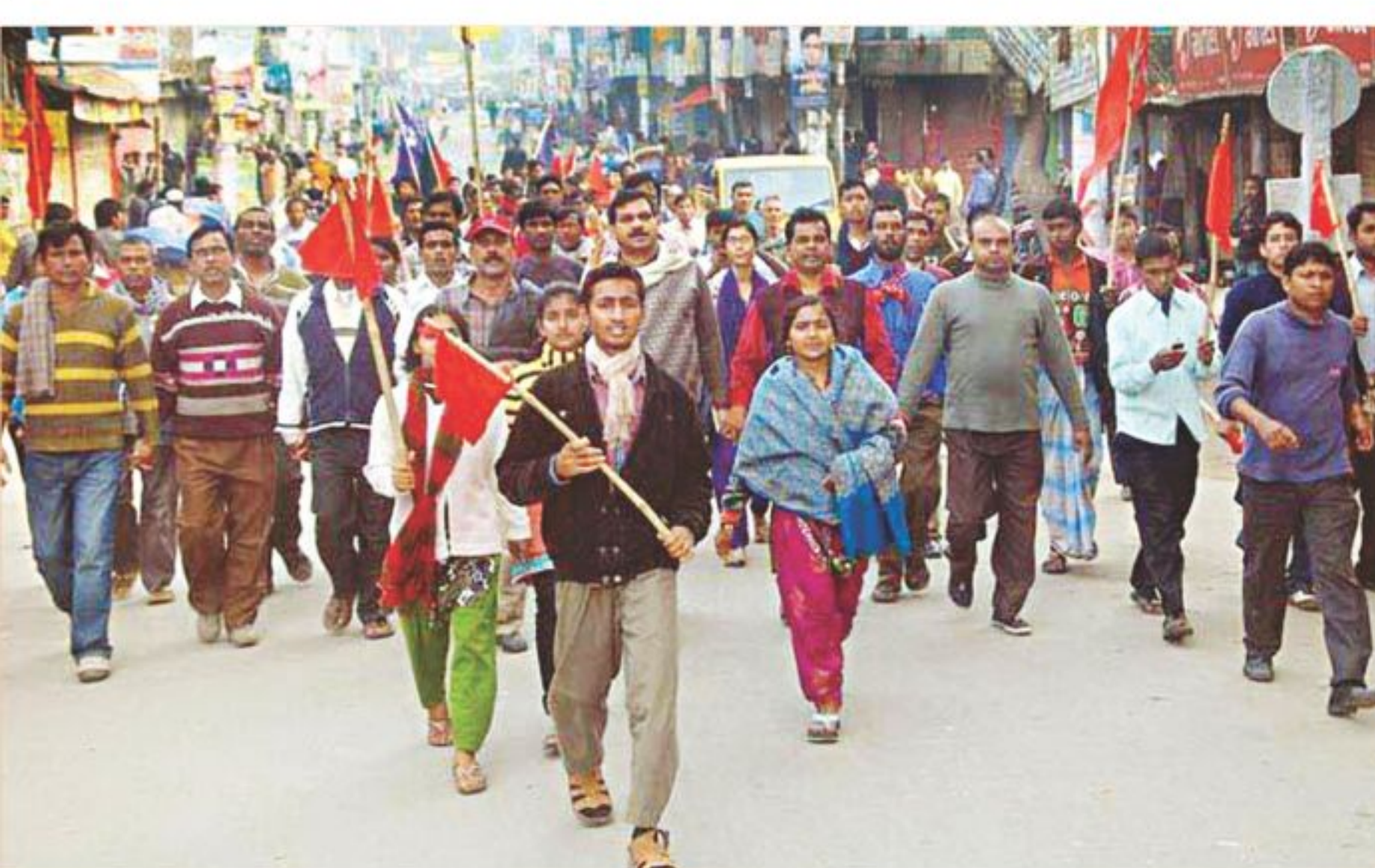


PHOTO: STAR

Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal bring out a procession in Gaibandha town during yesterday's countrywide dawn to dusk hartal called by a few left-leaning parties.