

Untold tales

FROM PAGE 5
“We fought from midnight till the next morning. We exchanged fire like rain. We almost cornered the Pakistani forces. But they doubled forces in a couple of hours and forced us to fall back.”
“We had no helmets. Bullets hit nine of our companions and they died while fleeing. I thought that was my last day, but I dodged two bullets that went right past my ears.”
He learnt later that the Chapainawabganj road was stained red with the blood of the Pakistani army, who were carried away in trucks.
After victory, Uttam surrendered his firearms in Rajshahi and returned home to begin anew in a free country. But it was difficult for him.
He passed his matriculation examinations the next year and continued studying and trying to find a job at the same time. Working as a deed writer and then at an NGO for several years, he finally returned home and worked on the fields ever since.



Over 500 vehicles created a tailback approaching the Shimulia ferry terminal in Munshiganj yesterday, with people travelling south to take advantage of a three-day holiday. Passengers in cars, covered vans and trucks faced difficulty; authorities admitted that the ferry service was understaffed and operating below capacity. Story on page 16.

Road accidents kill seven, injure 21

STAR REPORT
At least seven persons were killed in separate road accidents in Dinajpur, Pabna, Rajshahi, Sirajganj and Jashore districts in the last two days, while 21 others suffered injuries.
In Dinajpur, a motorcyclist was killed in a road accident in Parbatipur upazila yesterday.
The deceased was identified as Aktarul Islam, 40, of Basudebpur village in the upazila, said police.
The accident took place when Aktarul's motorcycle collided head on with another bike in Parbatipur-Phulbari road, killing him on spot.
In Sirajganj, a member of Bangladesh Army was killed and 13 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck in Sadar upazila on Friday, according to UNB.
The deceased was identified as Zahidul Islam, 28, Lance Corporal of Bangladesh Army and posted at Ghatail Cantonment in Tangail.
In Rajshahi, two women were killed after being hit by a speeding truck in Puthia upazila on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway on Friday.
The deceased were identified as Suruji Biswas, 35, and Sheuli Biswas, 25, both from Dhananjoypara village in the upazila.
Officer-in-Charge of Puthia Police Station Sakil Uddin Ahmed said the truck hit a human haulier and the two passengers fell on the road. They died on spot.
Six others including five female passengers and the driver of the human haulier were injured in the incident. One of the injured women was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with critical injuries, said police.
In Pabna, a motorcyclist and his wife were killed as his vehicle lost control and rammed into a roadside tree on Chatmohor-Tebunia road in Chatmohor upazila on Friday, UNB reports.
The deceased were identified as Monirul Islam, 45, assistant accountant of Faridpur LGED office and his wife Afroza Khatun, 35.
Quoting witness, Officer-in-Charge of Chatmohor Police Station Nasir Uddin said, Monirul's motorcycle skidded off the road and hit a tree around 4:30pm, leaving the couple dead on spot.
In Jashore, van driver Zahanur, 40, of Monirampur upazila, was killed while two others were injured as the van collided head-on with a truck on Jashore-Chuknagar road in the upazila. No further details were known immediately.

Bimal Roy Chowdhury

FROM PAGE 5
death of the language veteran and former president of Jashore district unit of Awami League, reports BSS.
In her condolence message, the premier recalled his outstanding contributions in the political arena, saying that his death created a vacuum in the country's politics.
Bimal was a great politician who restlessly worked for the welfare of people until his death, she said.
The prime minister prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

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Nation celebrates Victory Day

FROM PAGE 3
acknowledgement to one of the world's most glorious speeches, through which Bangabandhu effectively declared the country's independence during a mammoth public rally on Ramna Racecourse ground (now Suhrawardy Udyan) in Dhaka on March 7, 1971.
The speech provided inspiration to the Bangalee nation in their quest for freedom and energised freedom fighters in freeing the country.
Different socio-political, educational and cultural institutions and organisations have chalked out a series of programmes to celebrate the nation's glorious victory.
The government has taken elaborate programmes to celebrate the day at national level as well.
The day will start with 31 gun salutes. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at National Memorial in Savar with the rise of the sun.
They will be followed by freedom fighters and their family members, foreign diplomats, leaders of different political and social organisations, as well as people

from all walks of life.
The prime minister will pay tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreath at the portrait of the father of the nation in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban on Dhanmondi-32 in Dhaka.
AL and its associate bodies, different educational institutes and socio-cultural and professional organisations will also pay homage to the supreme leader of the Liberation War by placing garlands at his portrait.
The day is a public holiday. The national flag will be hoisted atop government, semi-government and private offices as well as offices of autonomous bodies across the country.
Important buildings and establishments will be illuminated at night.
Major roads and road medians will be decorated with miniature national flags and colourful festoons.
President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.
National dailies are carrying out special supplements marking the day, while state-owned and private televisions and radios are broadcasting month-long special

programmes highlighting the significance of the occasion.
Different organisations will hold discussions and screen Liberation War-related documentaries today.
Receptions will be accorded to freedom fighters and family members of martyrs at city, district and upazila levels.
Special prayers will be offered in mosques and other places of worship, seeking eternal peace of the souls of the martyrs and the country's progress and prosperity.
Improved diets will be served in jails, hospitals, orphanages and vagrant homes across the country.
Destitute children will be allowed to visit children's parks and other recreational centres across the country free of cost.
Marking the day, AL will organise two-day programmes. National flag would be hoisted at its central office, Bangabandhu Bhaban and all AL offices across the country with the rise of the sun.
Wreaths would be placed at the National Memorial at 6:34am and at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi.
AL leaders will offer prayers at the grave

of Bangabandhu in Tungipara at 10:00am. Special doa and milad mahfil will also be held.
A discussion will be organised at 3:00pm on December 17 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the programme.
Besides, "Bijoy Mancha" (stage of victory) will be built at upazila and district levels across the country from today, where discussions on history of the Liberation War, photo exhibitions, film and documentary screenings, performance of songs on Liberation War and cultural programmes will be held.
Bangladesh missions abroad will observe the day through various programmes.
The Bangladesh High Commission in London has taken elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.
"National flag will be hoisted in the morning, while discussion, cultural programme, photo exhibition on the life of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and War of Liberation will be held in the afternoon. Noted personalities and local Bangladeshis will attend the programme, among others," Md Ashequn Nabi Chowdhury, press minister at the high commission, told the news agency yesterday.

An uncared

FROM PAGE 5
It takes three to four hours by boat and vehicle during the rainy season, and even longer by motorcycle during the dry season to get to the monument.
Barrister M Anamul Kabir Emon, former administrator of the Zila Parishad, said, "During my tenure, I commissioned monuments in all sub-sector headquarters and several structures at educational institutions. The Parishad should have maintained them with the support of the government, as they are symbols of our independence."
Obaidur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer of Dharmapasha, said the administration places wreaths at the monument on Victory Day and the premises will be cleaned by that time.
Nurul Huda Mukut, chairman of the Zilla Parishad, said they will consider regular maintenance of the monuments in the district soon after the national election.



People cross the river Atharobanki through Shekhpara-Shiali Ghat for free in Khulna, courtesy of Khulna-4 lawmaker Abdus Salam Murshedi. Locals say the MP has been bearing the fare for the last month, ahead of the December 30 parliamentary election in which he is contesting. The photo was taken last week.

Gono Oikya

FROM PAGE 3
to bring balance between the power of prime minister and president to ensure more transparency and accountability of government.
Terming the Digital Security Act "discriminatory", the manifesto said the party will review the act if they come to power.
"Gono Oikya clearly declares that it would eliminate all the black laws [that were] introduced to control the media," it said.
They would curb all political influence and illegal trade centring transfer and promotion of government employees and would adopt zero-tolerance policy against all terror activities, if they were elected or became part of the government, said the manifesto.
Gono Oikya is contesting the national election in 55 constituencies.

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