



This memorial at Chehelgazi village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, built in honour of the freedom fighters who met tragic death in accidental series mine blasts on January 6 in 1972.

PHOTO: STAR

Dinajpur people to recall 'mine blast tragedy' today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

January 6 brings back the horrific memory of the mine blast tragedy at Dinajpur town in 1972 that left at least 235 freedom fighters dead. They had been staying at a transit camp in Balubari area in the town. According to freedom fighters, the Pakistani troops planted hundreds of landmines at different places in the district as they sensed their defeat in the nine-month-long fierce fight against the valiant freedom fighters. The freedom fighters collected the mines and stored those at Dinajpur Moharaja Girijanath High School compound after the victory. According to witnesses and survivors, around 800 freedom fighters from different districts, including Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh,

Joypurhat, Naogaon and Rangpur, started residing at the transit camp soon after the independence of Bangladesh was declared. The freedom fighters in the transit camp collected the mines and stored those at the transit camp premises. Besides the landmines, the transit camp was full of other explosives like tank mine, antipersonnel-mine and mortars. The recovered mines were brought to the transit camp on January 6 in 1972 in two trucks from Ghoraghat upazila when the freedom fighters in the transit camp were preparing to offer their evening prayer. Some freedom fighters were engaged to unload the mines. The horrific incident occurred in a second, as a landmine fell to the ground from the hands of

a freedom fighter. Rapidly, the mines of the area went off with loud noise and big explosion of fire, which was visible from a long distance. The explosion rocked the entire town. Around 200 freedom fighters were killed on the spot, said Forhat Hossain, a freedom fighter of Dinajpur, while scores of them were injured badly. Their bodies were recovered and buried at Chehelgazi Mazar, under Dinajpur Sadar upazila, with state honours the next day, he said, adding that all were buried without shrouds. So far, 235 of the deceased freedom fighters have been identified, he added. "Even 47 years after that tragedy, the exact number of the dead could not be collected due to lack of initiatives," Forhat said.

Newborn rescued from drain of Tangail hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A newborn baby was rescued from a drain of Tangail General Hospital on Friday evening. When she saw the baby in the drain, Farida Begum of Torabganj area under Tangail Sadar upazila and relative of a patient at the hospital, took him to the children's ward at the hospital. Being informed, Tangail Social Services Department Deputy Director (DD) Abdul Hamid went to the hospital the same night and arranged treatment for the baby after talking with the superintendent of the hospital. Dr Nurul Islam Shamim, senior consultant of the children's department of the hospital, said the condition of the

baby boy is critical as he was born after only 30 weeks with very low weight (1,300 gram). The baby is suffering from acute birthing problem and there are injury marks on his hands and legs, he said. He was undergoing treatment at the Scano section in the child ward at the hospital, Dr Shamim added. DD Hamid said his department has taken responsibility of treatment and other needs of the baby. The hospital authorities were also requested to provide all necessary treatment facilities to the baby, he said. Local police was also informed about the matter and a general diary was filed with Tangail Model Police Station in this regard, the DD added.



PHOTO: STAR

This newborn baby, rescued from a drain of Tangail General Hospital on Friday, is under treatment at the hospital.



This rare Himalayan vulture, rescued from Charkushabari village in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj on Thursday, was sent to Rajshahi Wildlife Division Office for treatment.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rare Himalayan vulture rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Wildlife experts rescued a rare Himalayan vulture from Charkushabari village in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj on Thursday. The critically ill vulture was later taken to Rajshahi Wildlife Division Office for treatment on Friday, according to the forest officials. Villagers first spotted the vulture when it took shelter at the house of Najibur Rahman of the village on Thursday and informed the forest officials, who later rescued the sick and hungry vulture from there. "The vulture was hungry, sick and too weak to fly when villagers spotted it," Pabna Divisional Forest Officer Mahabubur Rahman said. Being informed by the villagers, forest officials went to the spot and rescued the vulture on Thursday, Mahabubur said, adding that later officials from Rajshahi Wildlife Division took the sick vulture for treatment under their supervision. The number of the rare species bird, which is also known as Nepali vulture, is gradually decreasing due to severe environment pollution, Mahabubur added. The authorities concerned will put the vulture in an eco-park or zoo as soon as it become fit to fly, Mahabubur said.

2 AL men held as youth tortured on 'theft charge'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police in a drive early yesterday detained two local Awami League (AL) men in connection with a case for torturing a youth, hanging him upside down from a tree, on theft charge in Harinakundo upazila of the district on December 28. The arrestees are Shahinur Rahman, former general secretary of Taherhuda union unit AL, and his fellow party activist Babul Kazi, son of Aktar Kazi. Police quoted the villagers as saying that a television set was stolen from the AL election office at Sreepur Bazar under Taherhuda union on the night of December 27. The following morning, some local AL men, on suspicion, forcibly picked up Rana Hossain, 27, son of Omar Ali of Sreepur village, while he was working at a cropland at around 10:00am. They later took Rana to Sreepur Bazar, hung him upside down from a tree and started beating him mercilessly until he fainted. Villagers later rescued critically injured Rana from the spot and admitted him to Harinakundo Upazila Health Complex. The brutal incident came to light when a video footage of the torture, videoed by some unknown witnesses, went viral on the internet on Friday morning. Police filed a case with Harinakundo Police Station accusing four people the same night and also arrested them early yesterday, Sub-Inspector Golam Sarwar, also the investigation officer, said. The arrestees were produced before a Jhenidah court yesterday that sent them to jail, he added.

Deer traps seized from Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Two teams of the forest department seized seven bundles of deer hunting traps measuring a total of 1,000 feet from Charkhali area in Sharankhola Range of Eastern Sundarbans division on Thursday. Two teams of the forest department conducted operations in the area on the basis of secret information that a group of deer hunters had set traps inside the forest, said Sharankhola Range Assistant Forest Conservator Joyanal Abedin. The deer hunters escaped, sensing the presence of the forest guards. Later, the deer hunting traps including net and ropes were seized and taken to the Range office. Operation is continuing in the area to arrest the deer hunters, he added.

9 nursing students fall sick from food poisoning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least nine female students of a nursing college in Habiganj fell sick on Friday due to food poisoning. All the nine students of Habiganj Nursing Institute are now undergoing treatment at Habiganj Sadar Hospital. A number of guardians of the victims alleged that after having their lunch, provided by the institution, at around 3:00pm on Friday, the girls started vomiting and also complained of abdominal pain. The authorities of the nursing institute often supply low quality food to the students, said Nusrat Jahan, a student of the institute, adding that earlier they found ants and flies in their food on different occasions. Nusrat also demanded a probe body to investigate the incident. One of the teachers of the institution, on condition of anonymity, said no such incident ever happened before, adding that they will look into the matter. One of the victims from the food poisoning Shahina Akther Liza said after nearly three hours of taking her lunch she started vomiting and having a severe stomach pain. The girl fell sick as the food they took might have been poisonous, Medical Officer of the hospital Debasish Biswas said, adding that they are out of danger now.

Youth held with Yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in a drive arrested a youth with 7,000 Yaba pills from Lakkhir Char village in Shibganj upazila of the district on Thursday. The arrestee is Shariful Islam, 25, son of Nazrul Islam of Motlabpara village under Shibganj upazila. On information, a team of BGB from Raghunathpur border observation post went to Lakkhir Char village at around 11:10am, conducted a raid in the area and arrested Shariful Islam, said Lt Col Sajjad Sarwar, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 53 Battalion. The border guards recovered 7,000 Yaba pills from his possessions, the CO said.



Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner KM Kamruzzaman Selim distributes blankets among the impoverished ethnic people at Gobindanagar in Thakurgaon municipality on Friday night, in an attempt to ease sufferings of the affected people during the ongoing cold wave sweeping the northern region.

PHOTO: STAR