



A local elderly resident shows rods sticking out of a broken pole on the premises of the primary school, established to commemorate martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury, at Gopairbagh village in Noakhali's Chatkhil upazila. The school has remained shut for 22 years over land dispute.

PHOTO: STAR

Tribute to Munier Chy, education for children lost to land dispute

ANWARUL HAIDER, Noakhali

Land dispute has locked up, over two decades, a primary school that had been opened up, in 1972, to commemorate martyred intellectual Prof Munier Chowdhury. Numerous attempts to reopen the school, which was located at Copairbagh village in Shahapur union No 1 of Noakhali's Chatkhil upazila, went in vain as a case remains under trial stage over the dispute. Locals urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures to reopen the school for preserving the memories of Munier Chowdhury. Even, there is no school in the village till now. During a recent visit, it was seen that there are some poles on the school premises. It is very difficult to understand that once there was a school in the village. In 1972, former late chairman of local union parishad Shamsuddin, cousin of Munier Chowdhury, established the school. A local woman, Karimun Nesa, donated 54 decimals of land for the school, said Golam Haider Kajal, nephew of Munier Chowdhury and son of Shamsuddin. Even, the land was registered in the name of the school in government's field survey in 1986, said Kajal, also chairman of local union parishad. But later Karimun Ness's son - in - law Anwar Hossain Iran filed a case challenging legality of donating the land. The land dispute has been going on

between the school authorities and Anwar since filing of the case. The case remains under trial in court, said Nazrul Islam, a former headmaster of the school. Even, special financial allocations were approved twice for infrastructural development of the school. But the money was sent back as a case remains under trial over the school's land, said Nazrul. Around 22 years ago, the school collapsed during storm, said Tapan Malakar, a local resident, adding that the school has been remaining shut since then. In December 2014, the issue was brought to light again by Chatkhil upazila parishad chairman Md Jahangir Kabir in Upazila Monthly Coordination Meeting. Since then, several discussions and attempts were made to rebuild the school. But no progress has so far been made. Contacted, Anwar said "I also want reopening of the school. Negotiation is going on with the school authorities to settle the issue." Chatkhil Upazila Nirbahi Officer ASM Mosa said he was not aware of the issue. He would take necessary measures in this regard. Talking to The Daily Star, Chatkhil upazila parishad chairman Jahangir Kabir, local lawmaker HM Ibrahim and Noakhali Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Khorshed Alam said they all would take coordinated measures to reopen the school.

Martyrs who still remain unrecognised

S DILIP ROY WITH FIROZ A MUZAHID

It was time to rebel. It was time to revolt. It was 1971. College student Dara Islam's blood was boiling. Infuriated by the disparity and oppression he saw all his life, the youngster from Sahebpara area of Lalmonirhat town sets alight Pakistan's state flag -- the emblem of injustice on the Bangalees. In the aftermath, the Pakistani occupation forces hunt the youngster down at his home and later kill him brutally. To 'teach a lesson' to the 'insolent' Bangalees, the Pakistan



Shilpi Akter Jharna from Sahebpara area of Lalmonirhat town hopes that her father and elder brother will receive the formal recognition as martyrs of 1971.

PHOTO: STAR

In 1971, the Pakistan army in collaboration with non-Bangalee settlers killed nearly 600 people, including 84 railway employees, at Rickshaw Stand in Lalmonirhat town.

army takes Dara's father Maqbul Hossain, a railway employee, to the Rickshaw Stand area near the train station in the town and guns him down too. While narrating the heart-wrenching events that took place 49 years ago, tears rolled down the cheeks of Dara's younger

sister Shilpi Akter Jharna. Her father or brother's body was never found, but her father's pen and cap were found at the murder site, she said in tearful whimpers. In 1971, the Pakistan army in collaboration with non-Bangalee settlers in the area killed nearly

600 people, including 84 railway employees, at Rickshaw Stand near the train station in Lalmonirhat town, said SM Shahan, a member of a martyr's family from the same area. But unfortunately, the government never officially recognised the 600 people killed at Rickshaw Stand as martyrs of 1971, he said heaving a sigh of discontent. Fatema Begum from the same area said her elder brother Hashem Ali, a college student, was killed before the very eyes of their father Umar Ali, who was also a railway employee, by the Pakistan forces during the Liberation War of '71. Wiping away tears, she added that the Pakistan army later killed her father in Rickshaw Stand area near the train station as the father-son duo had been preparing to join the nation's fight for freedom. It is now time to heal and time to recognise the martyrs of Rickshaw Stand killing site, the living members of the martyrs said.

They sell dreams, deliver violence

FROM PAGE 12 to get my family out of poverty," Hasan told AFP, recounting the promises of the low-level smuggler in the camp who was his main contact for organising the trip. Instead, after enduring beatings by crew members and watching others die during more than six weeks at sea, Hasan's boat returned to Bangladesh and he is back in his squalid home. "I will never forget what I've been through. The traffickers, the brutality of the sailors... I'd never do it again," Hasan said. AFP spoke to Hasan as part of an in-depth investigation into the people smuggling network that included dozens of interviews with refugees in Bangladesh and Indonesia, where hundreds arrived this year after months at sea. AFP also interviewed fishermen involved in the trade, police, government officials, community leaders and aid workers. The investigation revealed a sophisticated and always-evolving operation worth many millions of dollars in which members of the Rohingya community play a key role in trafficking their own people. Thai-registered fishing boats capable of holding 1,000 people, satellite phones, a mini-armada of smaller supply vessels and corrupt officials across Southeast Asia, as well as in the Bangladeshi camp, are also integral to the network. "It's a big business that uses humanity as its cover," said Iskandar Dewantara, co-founder of the Geutanyoe Foundation, an Indonesia-based refugee advocacy group. It can also be brutal. Hasan provided to AFP footage from a mobile phone he said had belonged to one of the Burmese crew members showing them beating the passengers. In the video, a trafficker uses what appears to be a whip to repeatedly strike shirtless men huddled together, with rake-thin children and women crowded around them. The sailor who owned the phone left it when the crew abandoned the boat following a mutiny at sea, according to Hasan. Rohingyas have for decades endured persecution in Myanmar, where they are

not recognised as citizens, and smuggling routes out by land and sea have long existed. Relatively affluent and Malaysia has been the main destination. More than 100,000 Rohingyas now live on the margins of society in Malaysia, registered as refugees but not allowed to work, forcing the men into illegal construction and other low-paid jobs. A Myanmar military crackdown in 2017, which UN investigators said amounted to genocide, turbo-charged the exodus, forcing 750,000 Rohingyas to flee across the border into Bangladesh's southeast coastal district of Cox's Bazar. That is now a sprawling refugee camp of one million people from where the only way out is the dangerous boat journeys. Spurring the demand are the Rohingyas men in Malaysia who pay smugglers to bring over families, or new brides from arranged marriages, according to advocacy groups and women involved. Malaysian authorities frequently turn back boats, and fears over Covid-19 have amplified their intolerance for more refugees. However, nearly 500 Rohingyas made it to Malaysia in three vessels this year, according to an AFP tally from the landings. Since June, about 400 Rohingyas have also landed in northern Indonesia -- all trying to reach neighbouring Malaysia -- in the biggest wave of arrivals there in five years. Hundreds more are believed to have died at sea from beatings, starvation or dehydration, while other boats have returned to Bangladesh. Escaping the Bangladesh camp starts with a down payment that can reach the equivalent of \$2,000, often paid by a refugee's husband or other relatives in Malaysia using mobile banking applications. Refugees then get a phone call typically from someone they do not know. "The call came after a few days and a man instructed us to go to the rickshaw stand in the main food market area of the camp," said 20-year-old Julekha Begum, who married a Rohingya man in Malaysia via a video chat app.

HC unhappy with cyber

FROM PAGE 12 before the court on November 24, was asked to appear before it again with the explanation yesterday. However, he neither appeared nor submitted the explanation before this court, the judge said during the hearing of two bail petitions filed by accused Shafiqul Islam Kajol in connection with the cases. The HC bench asked the IO to appear before it tomorrow to give the explanation. It also fixed tomorrow for hearing of the bail petitions and asked Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi to communicate to the IO so that he appears before it on that day. Lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua appeared for photojournalist Kajol during virtual hearing on the bail petitions yesterday. On November 24, the same HC bench granted bail to Shafiqul Islam Kajol in a case filed under the Digital Security Act. However, Kajol could not be released from jail following the verdict as he is arrested in two other cases. On the same day, the bench also asked the investigation officer of the cases lodged against Kajol with Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations whether he has taken permission from the cyber tribunal to probe the cases after 75 days of filing of the cases. The investigation officer and the tribunal had then been ordered to submit separate reports to the HC by December 15. The HC bench passed the order after Jyotirmoy told the court that the investigations into the two cases were illegal as the probes had to be concluded within 75 days of the cases being filed. The investigation officer has not completed investigations of the cases in 75 days, which is a violation of the relevant provision of the law, Jyotirmoy argued. Two cases under the Digital Security Act were filed against Kajol on March 10 and 11 with Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations. Fifty-three days following his disappearance after leaving his office in the capital's Hatirpool, Kajol was found by Border Guard Bangladesh in Benapole on May 3. He was then arrested, initially on charges of trespassing, but was granted bail after being produced before a Jashore court. Later, he was shown held under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after police informed court that three more cases against Kajol were filed with different police stations in the capital. The court then sent him to Jashore jail. Bride, 6 others drown

FROM PAGE 12 wedding party members left Shantirbazar Ghat in Hatiya for Daalchar of the Meghna river. It could not be known immediately how many guests remained missing. The trawler capsized due to strong currents, local sources said.



Long queues of vehicles on the west side of Bangabandhu Bridge in Sirajganj. Poor visibility due to dense fog disrupts vehicular movement through the bridge for nearly four hours yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Kazipur, Sirajganj
www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No. 46.02.8850.000.99.067.20-757 Dated: 14/12/2020

Invitation for Tenders (Works) e-Tender Notice No. 02/2020-21

The following e-Tenders (OTM) are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Package No. | Description of works | Tender last selling (date & time) | Tender closing & opening (date & time) |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 01 | 527489 | INF-2018-19-438850-01 | Supplying High and Low Benches to various institutions at Kazipur, Sirajganj. | 10-Jan-2021 16:00:00 | 11-Jan-2021 11:00:00 |
| 02 | 527500 | INF-2018-19-438850-02 | Construction of wash block for 07 (seven) Nos. Educational institute at Kazipur, Sirajganj. | 10-Jan-2021 16:00:00 | 11-Jan-2021 11:00:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Registration in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required to submit e-Tender. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any scheduled bank branch up to 04.00pm of 10-Jan-2021. Tender security amount has to be deposited online through the bank up to 10:30am of 11-Jan-2021. The abovementioned e-Tenders will be live from 11:00am of 17-Dec-2020. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk.

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