Killing fields, mass graves of '71 lie unprotected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhal

While most of the killing fields and mass graves of 1971 in Sadar and Begumganj upazilas are hardly recognisable now, the three sites where memorials had been built lie in utter disrepair.

Built to commemorate war crimes committed during the War of Independence in 1971 by the Pakistan occupation forces and their local collaborators, two among the three memorials have become safe haven for hooligans and drug addicts.

Locals said the indifference of the authorities concerned in ensuring routine maintenance and proper security measures for the establishments have created the

'Badhwabhumi Memorial and Liberation War Museum of 1971' was built by Begumganj district council in front of Begumganj Technical Government

But the museum was never opened to public and its main entrance till date remains occupied

> Built to commemorate war crimes committed during the War of Independence in 1971, two among the three memorials have become safe haven for hooligans and drug addicts.

by transport workers and passengers throughout the entire day till late at

second mass grave The memorial, also built by Begumganj district council, is at Kala Pool in Chaumuhani municipal area.

Abul Hossain Bangalee, former commander of freedom fighters in Begumganj upazila, said 111 people from different areas of the upazila were lined up at the northern side of Kala Pool and shot to death by the Pakistan army.



With its entryway unfinished and turned into a parking area of all sorts of vehicles, the 'Badhwabhumi Memorial and Liberation War Museum of 1971', in Begumganj of Noakhali, remains off limits to general public.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

They dumped most of the bodies in the nearby Wapda canal and buried about 50 to 60 of them near Kala Pool, said Abdul Karim Prakash Chowdhury, 72, a resident of Uttar Nazirpur village.

Another Nazirpur resident, Tayyaba Khatun, 65, said she sustained bullet injuries in 1971 when the Pakistan army attacked their house near Kala Pool.

She also said she witnessed how people were shot and their bodies dumped in the canal near the killing field.

The memorial of Kala Pool is now in a deplorable condition due to lack of maintenance. Moreover, the unprotected establishment has turned into a hotspot for local criminals and drug dealers, especially in the evening and onwards.

Locals requesting anonymity said no one dares to raise objection against the criminals who conduct their illicit activities at the memorial.

The third memorial is located at Sonapur Ahmadiyya High School in Sadar upazila.

Karim Bachchu, Mamtazul

Muktijoddha Sangsad in Noakhali, said the monolith placed on the premises of Sonapur Ahmadiyya High School in Sadar upazila bears the testimony of the June 15 massacre of 1971.

Several hundred students, teachers and different professionals from surrounding areas were huddled up that day near the school compound by the Pakistan army and killed.

About 30 to 40 people were killed and buried in a mass grave on the southern side of Maijdi Court Railway Station in Noakhali town and about one hundred and fifty more in Banglabazar area of Chaumuhani, but no steps were taken to preserve these sites, he added.

There were at least five other mass graves in the two upazilas where thousands were massacred and buried en masse, but the historic sites are now unrecognisable, as steps were not taken in time to preserve those, said local freedom

Mosharraf Hossain, a prominent freedom fighter and former general

former deputy commander under secretary of the Noakhali unit of Sector Commanders' Forum, said the five killing fields and mass graves include a site on the southeastern side of Noakhali Sadar Hospital.

All the killing fields or mass graves -- including the sites on the southern side of Noakhali Abdul Malek Ukil Medical College, near Atia Bari Pool in Alipur of Begumganj and the southwest corner of Begumganj Dighi -- deserve to be preserved and protected for their historical significance, said Mozammel Haque Milon, former commander of Noakhali District Freedom Fighters' Parliament.

Contacted, Noakhali Deputy Commissioner Khurshed Alam Khan said statistics on massacre victims of 1971 in Noakhali was not available.

With regards to the miserable state of the liberation war museum in Begumganj and other mass grave memorials in the district, he said advice of freedom fighters would be sought before taking necessary steps in order to protect and preserve all memorials of 1971.

Bumper Aman yield brings smile to flood-hit Netrakona farmers

Bumper vield of Aman has brought smile to farmers in Netrokona, who had faced several floods this year.

Three back-to-back floods affected Aman fields at initial stage this year, putting thousands of farmers at serious risk of cultivation.

But after the flash floods, insistent and moderate rainfall brought blessings for the farmers as it helped much to wash away the weeds from their field, said Md Habibur Rahman, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Netrokona.

Water-logging after the floods also caused delay in transplanting Aman paddy but the farmers overcame the situation transplanting high yielding and late varieties, said the official.

Though the cultivation target was not achieved this year, the Aman production will exceed the target due to bumper production, said the deputy director.

The cultivation target 132425-heactare in the district while Aman was cultivated on 126676-hectare this year with a production target of 585676 tonnes of paddy and the production target will exceed, hopes the official adding that "Around 76 percent of paddy has already been harvested".

to prepare floating Aman seedbeds

of BR-22, a late variety to support the flood affected farmers in Sadar, Barhatta, Mohanganj, Kalmakanda and Purbadhala upazila, said the deputy director.

Seedbeds on 232-hectare were also damaged in the flash floods, the official

Faruq Ahmed, upazila agriculture officer in Kalmakanda, said the cultivation target was 15275-hectare but Aman was cultivated on 14625-hectare against its production target around 54200 tonnes of paddy in the upazila.

Due to repeated floods, the cultivation target was not achieved but the production target will be achieved as the farmers here cultivated high-yielding BRRI Dhan varieties in massive form, said the official.

Ayub Ali, a farmer of Hasanuagaon in Kalmakanda, said his Aman field was affected in the flood but he is expecting a high yield from his seven hectares of land.

Alal Uddin, another farmer of the same locality, said a portion of his four-hectare transplanted Aman land was affected in the flash floods but favourable weather in the late season helped them much to get bumper production this year.

Md Mostafa Kamal, upazila agriculture officer in Mohanganj, said some 700 farmers in the upazila cultivated BRRI-75, an early rice variety, and each farmer Soon after the floods, the DAE started got some 5.50 tonnes of paddy from per



A smiling farmer harvests paddy at a field in Netrokona's Barhatta upazila. Flood-hit farmers in the district are happy following the bumper production of Aman paddy.

Kishoreganj villagers' clash leaves 2 dead,

30 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

At least two people were killed and 30 others injured in a clash between people of two rival villages in Kishoreganj's Itna upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Badal Mia, 40, son of Noor Hossain of Projarkanda village, and Miraj Mia, 70, son of late Lal Mia of adjacent Shantipur village in the upazila.

Quoting the villagers, Officer in Charge (OC) of Itna Police Station Mohammad Morshed Zaman said there had been a rivalry between people of Projarkanda and neighbouring Shantipur villager over different issues

for long. On Friday night, an altercation took place between two groups of the rival villages over boarding on an auto-rickshaw at a local stand.

Later, elderly people and representatives from both the villages sat for an arbitration at Amirganj Bazar the same night.

At one stage of the arbitration, people of Shantipur village beat up one Ataur Rahman of Projarkanda village, triggering a fresh tension among people of both the villages, the OC said.

As a sequel, hundreds of inhabitants of the two villages, equipped with sharp weapons, locked in a fierce clash in Andhair area around 6:00am that left two people dead on the spot and 30 others injured, police said.

The injured were admitted to Kishoreganj General Hospital and Habiganj's Ajmiriganj Upazila Health Complex, the OC said, adding that, additional police have been deployed at both the villages to avert any untoward situation.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division		Ministry of Social Welf	are		
2	Procuring Entity Name		Ministry of Social Welfare			
3	Procuring Entity Code		Not used at present			
4	Procuring Entity District		Dhaka, Bangladesh			
5	Invitation for		Goods			
6	Invitation Ref No		41.00.0000.017.07.009.20.764			
7	Date		22-12-2020			
KE	Y INFORMATION					
8	Procurement Method		OTM (Open Tender Method)			
FU	NDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget and Source of Funds		Revenue/GOB			
10	Development Partners (if applicable)		Not Applicable			
PAI	RTICULAR INFORMATION					
11	Tender Package No.	01 (2020-21)				
12	Tender Package Name	Lot-01 (Purchase of Stationary goods), Lot-02 (Toner cartridge & Scanner)				
13	Tender Publication Date	27-12-2020				
14	Tender Last Selling Date	10-01-2021		Time: 05.00 pm		
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	11-01-2021		Time: 12.00 pm		
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	11-01-2021		Time: 12.30 pm		
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	Minist	Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.			
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Deputy	Deputy Secretary, Administration-2, Ministry of Social Welfare, Room#301(ka)			
		Buildi	Building#6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.			
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	Not Ap	Not Applicable			
	- Receiving Tender Document	Deputy	Secretary, Administration-2, Ministry of Social Welfare, Room#301(ka),			
		Buildi	ling#6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.			
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17	Name &	Address of the office(s)	M	inistry of Social V	Velfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.		
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18		Eligibility of Tenderer	The tenders should be well Experienced with (1) Tender License (2) Incomes Tax Certificate(TIN) (3) Vat Registration Certificate (4) Undertaking of not being Black Listed/department an any Govt./Autonomous body (5) Bank Solvency Certificate (6) Minimum 3 (Three) successful completion Certificate within last 3 (Three) years etc.				
19		Brief Description of Goods	Purchase of Stationary goods, Toner cartridge & Scanner.				
20		Brief Description of	Not Applicable				
		Related Services					
21		Price of Tender Document (Tk)	LOT (1 & 2) Tk. 1,000/-				
22	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount(Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks		
	Lot-01	(Purchase of Stationary goods)	Ministry of Social				
	Lot-02	(Toner cartridge & Scanner)	Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.		Ready stock or purchase/supply from main dealer/reputer company of Bangladesh within 30 days from the date of issue of work order. Must submit sole distributor certificate distributor authorization letter for lot 02 along with tende document. If the company/supplier provides fake or edited letter/certificate, the respective company/ supplier will be black listed.		
23	Name o	f Official Inviting Tender	Ministry of	Social Welfare			
		tion of Official Inviting	Deputy Secr	etary (Admin-2)			
	Address	of Official Inviting Tender	Room#301(1	Ka), Building #6, 1	Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.		
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(Mohammed Rehan Uddir Deputy Secretary Ph: 02-9545036

E-mail: dsadmin2@msw.gov.bd

24 The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender without assigning any reason thereof. 25 Special Condition: This invitation for tender notice will be available at Ministry of Social Welfare's website: www.msw.gov.bd

GD-2074

Contact details of Official Inviting Tel. 02-9545036