

Dhaka Day by Day

A Freedom Fighter's Heroic Struggle

by Sharier Khan

One single bullet has changed the life of Saidur Rahman. He was a freedom fighter. Now he is a rickshaw-puller. He pulls the rickshaw with one leg. The bullet took away the other.

Md Saidur Rahman was a wholesaler of rice before the Liberation War. When the war broke out, he joined the freedom fighters under sector commander, Major Jall. During a guerilla attack against the Pakistani army in Khulna under Captain Ziauddin, a bullet hit Saidur's left leg, leaving him crippled for life forever. That accursed day was December 13, 1971.

He was later taken to the rest house for injured freedom fighters in Mohammadpur when it was set up immediately after the independence of Bangladesh. He stayed there till some time in 1974. Then he got the bad news that his father was dying.

So he went to his village on the other side of the Buriganga river. His father died, leaving behind him the whole load of a small family — his two mothers.

After the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Saidur saw no hope for getting any government assistance. He was in Jessore then and decided to become a rickshaw-puller.

If you don't look at the rickshaw-puller carefully, at first you will not notice that he does not have his left foot. Even when he starts to pull, you may not notice the difference because he is apparently nonchalant about his

disabled condition. He has been pulling rickshaws since 1975. Nothing has changed in his life except the amount of frustration that has piled up in his mind over the years. If you somehow enter through his defences, he will pour out his frustration.

"I have appealed to the government several times. I don't deserve rickshaw-pulling, I deserve a little better, don't I?" Saidur said. "I come from Kamrangir Char to Dhaka everyday for the last eight years to pull rickshaw. And I am going nowhere." Saidur got married several years ago and has two young sons who study in a mardasa in Kamrangir Char.

During the Ershad regime, a newspaper feature on him drew the government's attention. The authorities allotted him a tin shed house, but in the end, Saidur never got it. "I do not exactly know what happened to that tin-shed house, because nobody later told me what went wrong," he said seething with fury. "Since then I have

given up all hopes to get any government assistance. I do not write to the government any more. What's the use?" the bitter freedom fighter said.

Saidur's battle has continued since the Liberation War. He did not bow to his disability. He did not beg to earn his bread and butter. Who knows, you may meet him any day round the street corner.



Once a freedom fighter, now rickshaw-puller.



Leaders and workers of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (top) and the Bangladesh Awami League (bottom) offering munajat at the mazar of Kazi Nazrul Islam on the occasion of the poet's 95th birth anniversary in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Massive afforestation programme undertaken

The government has undertaken a massive afforestation programme to turn tree planting into a social movement for maintaining ecological balance in the country, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate Tree Plantation Programme-94 simultaneously in Dhaka and Bogra on June 15.

The Prime Minister is also expected to address the nation on Radio and TV on June 14 on the eve of launching the campaign, urging people's active participation in it and highlighting the importance of afforestation in development of the environment and the national economy.

Begum Zia will distribute saplings among school children to involve all in the programme.

Besides, the Minister for Environment and Forest will lead a rally on June 15 in the capital as part of the campaign. The Ministry has already instructed divisional and district officials to make the programme a success.

Newspapers will bring out special supplements on afforestation on June 15. Radio and Television will also plan three-month-long special programmes for inspiring people to plant tree. Bangladesh Post Office will issue commemorative stamp on the occasion.

During the week-long tree planting campaign from June 15 as part of the afforestation programme, authorities will arrange mobile sale of saplings and plantation of tree by eminent personalities.

The Forest Department will put up "Follow-up Programme" to save the planted saplings. The department has already selected areas for planting quality saplings.

Railway and Roads and Highways Department will also be included in the programme to ensure planting of trees in their marginal areas. A cell on tree plantation will also be set up in each of the departments.

Sources said the government and different non-government and socio-cultural organisations had planted more than 18 crore trees in the country in last two years in a bid to reach the requisite acreage of forest for striking a balance in the eco-system.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia being received by Ministers, diplomats and high officials at Zia International Airport on her return home on Tuesday night after performing the holy Hajj. — PID photo

Help achieve goal of development: Mosharraf

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain called upon the people to march forward to the production oriented politics of BNP to help achieve the optimum goal of development of the country and give hard-earned democracy an institutional shape, reports UNB.

"The only motto of BNP politics is to attain the cherished goal of development of this country and its people," Dr Mosharraf Hossain said while addressing a workers rally of BNP and its front organisations at Daudkandi on Tuesday.

Terming Jatiya Sangsad as the nerve centre of national development activities and also highest forum of solving any national problem, the Minister said, it is imperative to make the Jatiya Sangsad effective and meaningful to strengthen the parliamentary democracy in the country.

The rally was addressed, among others, by district BNP vice-president Obaidul Hoq

Bhuiyan, district Jubadal convenor KM I Khalil, Daudkandi thana BNP president Sadek Hossain and secretary Shamsul Hoq.

"We should work in a body for making the Jatiya Sangsad effective and meaningful through our active presence in all its sessions if we want to flourish the parliamentary democracy," Dr Mosharraf Hossain added.

Referring to the opposition demand of caretaker government to hold the upcoming elections, the minister said, "It is simply unconstitutional demand as there is no existence of such government in the constitution." The demand for caretaker government is not only against the spirit of the constitution but also a sheer denial of people's verdict as people elected their government through franchise.

The Energy Minister warned that violation of constitution only gives birth to indiscipline and political turmoil in the society, said an official handout.

Genesis team meets Biswas

A delegation of Genesis, a cultural organisation, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday on the occasion of the 95th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, reports BSS.

Talking to them, President Biswas paid tributes to poet Nazrul Islam and recalled his contributions to the awakening of the Muslims and removing the shackles of foreign domination.

President Biswas said that the Muslims had got a distinct tradition and cultural heritage and the new generation should be fully acquainted with that spirit of our nationalism for their further guidance.

Earlier, in a memorandum, the delegation demanded introduction of poet Nazrul Padak for literary excellence at national level, more research on different aspects on the life and literature of the poet and further expansion of the Nazrul Institute.

Among others, Nur Hussain Rana, president of the Genesis, Rafiqul Islam, Rehana Salam, Akmal Ahmed, Azimuddin and Mohammad Mahub were present during the meeting.

Two woman traffickers held

Police in a drive in the city yesterday arrested two suspected members of a woman trafficking ring, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, Amin Miah, 35, and Ramiz Uddin, 30, were picked up from Badda and Posta areas.

They confessed to police that they were collecting women from different areas of the country in the name of providing service and sending abroad but selling them for handsome amount to brothels and trafficking them to India and Pakistan.

Nazrul Joyanti programme

By Staff Correspondent

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has drawn up a two-day programme to mark the 95th birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam from today.

A discussion meeting on the life and works of the poet will begin at the Children's Auditorium of the National Museum. The first session with Prof Mohammad Abdul Qayum in the chair will begin at 4 pm. Nazrul researcher Abdul Mannan Syed will present the keynote paper while professor Ataur Rahman and Dr Abul Kalam Manzur Morshed will be the discussants.

The second session begins at 5 pm. It will be presided over by litterateur Obaidul Hoq while Dr Rafiqul Islam will present the keynote paper. Noted vocalist Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and Sheikh Darbar Alam will participate in the discussion.

On Friday, Shahabuddin Ahmed will present a paper in the first session to be chaired by Dr Mohammad Moiruz-zaman. In the second session in the evening, Mohammad Mahfuzullah will present a paper. It will be chaired by Sheikh Lutfor Rahman.

Meanwhile, the Nazrul Institute has decided to publish some research papers and translations of Nazrul's works to mark his birth anniversary. These include: Nazrul at Asansole, Kazirsimla and Darimpur— a memoir and research work on the poet's early life — written by the late Kazi Talebur Rahman.

Another book on the celebration of Nazrul's 94th birth anniversary at the national level in 1993 will also be published.

Lack of technical know-how bottleneck for shrimp culture

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Nomari emphasised to lease out land of the coastal areas for shrimp culture, reports UNB.

"Lack of technical know-how is the major bottleneck for the expansion of shrimp culture," the minister said while presiding over the first meeting of the coordination committee on the development of shrimp resources at his ministry here yesterday.

Training programme and demonstration farming at all levels, including hatchery, nursery transportation and processing, must be strengthened for the development of shrimp culture in the country, Noman observed.

He said that a coordinated programme must have to be taken to utilise the knowledge of those who were so far trained up in shrimp culture and now working at various fields.

The meeting discussed the

ways and means for the conservation of shrimp fries in the Bay of Bengal and prohibition of the use of *behendri* nets in specific rivers for a particular period to ensure movement of shrimp fries from the sea to the upper stream.

It also discussed minimisation of mortality rate of shrimp fries, dissemination of technical know-how by setting up demonstration farms in Cox's Bazar and Satkhira region, and introduction of a quality control system to increase the demand of the country's shrimp abroad.

Happy Birthday to Palash

Congratulations from Munna, Bappi & Gupi

What's on today

Art Exhibition: By six contemporary artists. Prof Md Kibria will open the show and Prof Rafiqun Nabi will be the guest of honour. Venue: La Galerie. Time: From 9 am to 5 pm daily up to May 31.

Seminar: On The Use of Electronic Mail in Developing Countries, jointly organised by the Electrical Engineering Division, Institution of Engineers and Drik Picture Library. Dr Hans JP Scheen, Head of Research Unit, TOOL Reference Centre, will present the keynote paper. Venue: Institution of Engineers. Time: 5 pm.

Voluntary Health Services Society: Organises a workshop on health and environment related publications. Venue: VHSS office, 273, Baitul Aman Housing Society, Road-1, Adabar, Shyamoli. Time: From 9:30 am to 2 pm.

Student killed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 25: A college student was killed in an armed clash over the possession of a salt bed in Banskhal thana Tuesday afternoon, reports UNB.

Nurul Kabir, 23, a student of Chittagong Government City College, succumbed to bullet wound instantly.

Police said there had been a dispute over the possession of a salt bed in Saral area of the thana between Aminur Rashid and Kashem Chowdhury. It erupted into a clash on Tuesday when the supporters of Rashid occupied the salt bed.

A case has been registered with police. None was arrested.

Student killed in Ctg

Thursday
4:30 Opening announcement
4:45 Al-Quran
4:45 Children's programme: Esho Gaan Shikhi
5:10 News in Bangla
5:20 National Television School Debate Competition
6:05 Mass Education Programme: Eshq Para Shikhi
6:30 Jiboner Alo
7:15 Nazrul songs
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Drama of the week: Bathyar Daan
10:00 News in English
10:30 Mini series: Rat Bag Hero
11:30 Khabar/The News

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said it may also occur with moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions during the period.

Day temperature may fall slightly across the country. Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 32.7 degree Celsius and minimum 25.1 degrees.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 34.1 degree Celsius in Jessore and the lowest 22.8 degrees in Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.39 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.12 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures of some major cities of the country recorded yesterday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.7	25.1	89	95
Chittagong	33.5	24.5	91	77
Rajshahi	31.8	25.0	86	90
Khulna	32.0	25.2	76	
Barisal	31.8	23.6	100	100

PADMA TEXTILE MILLS LTD.

REGISTERED OFFICE: 17 DHANMONDI R/A, ROAD NO. 2, DHAKA-1205.

CHANGE OF DATE OF CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS AND THE SHARE TRANSFER BOOK

This is for information of the valued shareholders of the Company that the Register of Members and Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Saturday the 4th June 1994 to Saturday the 18th June 1994 (both days inclusive) instead of 28th May 1994 to 18th June 1994. During the period of closure of Members Register and Share Transfer Book no transfer of shares will be effected.

The Company will receive the Share Transfer Instruments alongwith Share Certificates upto 5:00 p.m. on 2nd June 1994.

By Order of the Board

Sd/-
M. A. Qasem
Director

Dated 25th May, 1994

PADMA TEXTILE MILLS LTD.

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NOTICE OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Padma Textile Mills Ltd. will be held in the Ballroom of Sonargaon Hotel, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka on Saturday, the 18th June, 1994 at 10:30 am to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- To confirm the proceedings of the Ninth Annual-General Meeting held on the 10th June, 1993.
- To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1993 and the Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st December, 1993 together with the report of Auditors and Directors thereon.
- To declare Dividend.
- To elect Directors.
- To appoint Auditors for the year 1994 and to fix their remuneration.
- To transact any other business with the permission of the chair.

By Order of the Board

Sd/-
M. A. Qasem
Director

Dated 25th May, 1994

Notes:

- The Register of Members and the Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, the 4th June, 1994 to Saturday, the 18th June, 1994 (both days inclusive) and during that period no transfer of shares will be effected.
- Any Member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting may appoint another Member as his/her Proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. The Proxy Form must be stamped with revenue stamp of Tk. 5.00 and should be deposited at registered office of the Company not later than 72 hours before the time appointed for the Meeting.
- Members are requested to notify change of address, if any, to the Company.