

National

She prays for materialisation of martyrs' dreams

By Z A M Khairuzzaman back from Nilphamari



Rizia Ahmed

Rizia Ahmed, octogenarian mother of Shaheed Captain Bashar, prays to almighty Allah for materialisation of the dreams of all the martyrs of our Liberation War in 1971.

"Millions of sons of the soil like my son shed their blood to wrest the national independence, but the dreams for which they fought are yet to be materialised fully."

She was talking to this correspondent recently at her residence at Nilphamari.

"Bashar was my eldest son who made me a proud mother of lakhs of sons of this soil by sacrificing his life for independence of the country from the clutches of the autocratic Pakistani rulers", physically weak but mentally strong Rizia Ahmed said.

Recalling her sweet memory of meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Third Reunion of Army Service Corps (ASC) at Jahanabad Cantonment in Khulna on November 4 last year, she said that she had

forgotten the unbearable pain of losing her son 'for a while' when the prime minister (PM) consoled her addressing as Maa (mother). The PM wished that none would embrace the fate of Captain Bashar who was killed by the occupation Pakistan Army after brutal torture for days together.

In response to an appeal from Rizia Ahmed, the prime minister assured her that all the martyrs of the liberation war including her son would be awarded state honour.

The Shaheed mother attended the ASC Reunion pro-

gramme after receiving an invitation from Bangladesh Army where she said my eldest son Bashar made me a proud mother. My son is still alive among the proud members of Bangladesh Army.

However, it is more tragic for the Shaheed family that the then Pakistani rulers did not hand over the body of the Shaheed to members of the family. Till now no trace of the body of Captain Bashar has been detected. So nobody can offer feteiha or place wreaths to pay homage to this brave son of the soil.



Shaheed Captain Bashar



A gate named after Shaheed Captain Bashar at Jahanabad Cantonment in Khulna.

Ershad criticises govt's diplomatic policy

HABIGANJ, Mar 25: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad on Friday said that Awami League could not go to power if its party did not lend support to it in forming the government, reports UNB.

He alleged that after assuming power the ruling party did not keep any of its pledges. "So this repressive government can't be kept in power anymore."

Addressing a public meeting at Mithila Bazar under Chhatra thana, Ershad said US President Bill Clinton did not go to the Smriti Soudha for the

diplomatic failure of the government and thus damaged the dignity of the country and its people in the world arena.

Depicting various failures of the government, the deposed President said the country has turned into dens of terrorists and black marketeers. The country is being turned into a market of India, he added.

The Jatiya Party chief said the four-party alliance would soon take up tough programmes to overthrow the incompetent and failure government.

He called upon the people to elect Jatiya Party in the coming

election and promised to wipe up terrorism from the country within six months.

Ershad said the next election will be to protect the Islamic values and to throw out the repressive government from power.

The meeting, presided over by Alhaj Sadek Mia, was also addressed by Nital Roy Chowdhury, Abu Lais Md Mobin Chowdhury MP, Md Nasiruddin Chowdhury MP, Major (ret'd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury MP and Kawsarul Gani.

Liberation war memorial to be built in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Mar 25: The government will establish a liberation war memorial at Feni town at a cost of Taka 45 lakh.

According to local Public Works Department (PWD) sources, the memorial will be established at children's park at Master Para in the town.

The construction work will begin soon.

New UP in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Mar 25: A new union parishad (UP) has been established here.

It is the 68th union parishad in Moulvibazar district and 18th in Kaulaura thana.

Habibur Rahman Khan, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Kaulaura thana declared "Qwasim Nagar Union Parishad."

The UP was named in memory of Hozarat Quazim Uddin (R), one of 360 companions of the great saint of Sylhet Hazrat Shahjalal (R). Holy Mazar Sharif of Hazrat Quazim Uddin is located in the new UP.

Official source said Qwasim Nagar Union parishad is constituted with the villages of Montipara, Yougimora, Ratna Tea Estate, Elapur, Puthi Chhara, Jalapur, Batligat, Kashinagar, Kaprapahar, Patila Sangan, Beergugali and Motharpar.

25 hurt in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25: At least 25 people were injured in a clash between youths of two localities at Bazar Station area here on Friday evening, police and witnesses said.

Youths of Masipur and Malshapara fought over an old rivalry over a cricket match last year, according to police.

A case was registered with local police. However, none was arrested in this connection.

Mother of a Birshrestha wants to visit the grave of her son

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Mar 25: Mother of Liberation War hero Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman has a desire to visit her illustrious son's grave before she dies.

Kaidasunnesa, 71, the mother, said she will remain grateful if government makes the arrangement to fulfil her desire.

In October 1971, Hamidur Rahman, who was born on February 2, 1953 at village Khordo Khalishpur, was fighting in Sylhet border during the War of Liberation. Hamid took part in many important battles in the region. His valour and chivalry always earned appreciation from his fellow freedom fighters. But a bullet from the enemy forces pierced his forehead, causing his martyrdom. Later he was buried in Ambasa area in India.

Talking to this correspondent recently at her village home at Khordo Khalishpur in Moheshpur thana of the district Kaidasunnesa said Hamidur fought under the leadership of late president Ziaur Rahman.

"The late president promised her to make arrangement for her visit. But unfortunately he was killed before he made the arrangement", she said.

Ziaur Rahman government donated the house where she lives in. However, later during president Ershad's regime the house was formally handed over to the mother.

After the fall of Ershad government, Begum Khaleida Zia's



Kaidasunnesa

government provided job opportunities for Hamid's brother and brother in law. The incumbent Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, donated Taka one lakh to the Shaheed family. She also announced Taka three hundred monthly allowance for the family.

Shukur Ali, younger brother of the Birshrestha, said the government renamed Jhenidah Stadium as Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman Stadium, much to the happiness of local people. But no monument, commemorating the hero, has been constructed so far here.

He appealed to the government to fulfil the desire of her mother so that she can visit the grave of her son.

40,000 hectares under Aus farming in G-K Project

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA: Mar 25: Ganges-Kobadak (G-K) Project has taken up a scheme to bring 40 thousand hectares of land under Aus cultivation in the coming Kharif season No 1.

The project authority has taken up the scheme after completing the dredging work of intake channel facilitating operation of its main pump house having three main pumps with capacity of lifting 1,300 cusecs of water and 12 subsidiary pumps with capacity of 125 cusecs of water.

When implemented, 1.6 lakh MT of paddy will be produced. When Ganges Kobadak project, biggest of its kind in the country, was taken up in 1954 one lakh 97 thousand 5 hundred hectares of land were covered in 13 thanas of greater Kushtia and greater Jessore districts. But due to introduction of high yield in variety of paddy only

one lakh 42 thousand hectares of land got irrigation facilities.

At present the Ganges Kobadak project authority has developed high standard of distribution of irrigation water management among the farmers within the lifting capacity of GK pump houses. In two existing pump houses total capacity of water lifting is 153 cusecs. Irrigation is given to 193-kilometre long main canal, 467-kilometre long secondary canal, 995-kilometre of tertiary canals and 971-kilometre of drainage channel. Total electricity consumption is 14 megawatt and total population under the command area is 20 lakh. Total yearly spending for maintenance cost of the project is 29 crore Taka and for meeting partial expenditure irrigation taxes have been imposed at the rate of Taka 600 and 625 per acre in Aus and Aman seasons respectively.

67 killed in fire incidents in six S dists last year

BARISAL, Mar 25: At least 67 people were killed and 2,000 others injured in 233 fire accidents in six southern districts under Barisal division last year, official sources said, reports BSS.

According to the sources, the Fire Service and Civil Defence Department saved properties worth over Taka ten crore from these fire accidents in the districts during this period. Of the total, the highest 96 fire accidents took place in Barisal district, in which two persons were killed. The loss of properties in these fire incidents was estimated to be about Taka 76 lakh.

The highest 61 persons were killed in 31 fire incidents in Bhola district during this period. At least 435 persons were also injured in these fire incidents and properties worth about Taka four lakh were damaged by the fire.

In Jhalakathi, three persons were burnt alive and properties worth about Taka 17 lakh were gutted by 24 fire incidents, the sources added.

One person was killed and

properties worth about Taka 29 lakh were damaged by 45 fire incidents in Pirojpur district in the period.

None died in Patuakhali and Barguna districts due to fire but properties amounting to Taka 40 lakh were gutted by 37 fire incidents in these districts in the last year, the sources said.

Vegetables perishing

THAKURGAON, Mar 25: Lack of transhipment and storage facilities have perished a huge quantity of winter vegetables here, disheartening the beleaguered farmers, reports UNB.

Sources at the Agriculture Extension Department said some 55,000 metric tons of surplus vegetables were produced here this year, where some 4,000 hectares of land had been brought under winter vegetable cultivation.

Market sources said 25 per cent vegetables, including tomato and cabbage, have already perished here.

News snaps

Motia visits agriculture fields

NAOGAON, Mar 25: Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury on Thursday visited different modern agriculture and fish cultivation fields in three thanas, reports BSS.

She saw for herself a number of fish cultivation projects in paddy fields and vegetable cultivation on plot-demarkation-islands in some remote villages of Baro Kumuria, Khardanarayanpur, Bolihar and Mirpur. Shahin Monowara Huq, MP, accompanied the minister during her field visit. Speaking before a gathering at Mirpur here the agriculture minister said the government has given priority to the agriculture sector and has achieved an increase of production by implementing the National Agriculture Policy and new Agriculture Extension Policy.

New ideal village at Charboalia

CHUADANGA, Mar 25: A new ideal village (Adarsha Gram) has been set up recently at Charboalia under Alamdanga Thana with a view to rehabilitating 40 landless and destitute families, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the selection of 40 landless and destitute families for the ideal village has been completed. The registration work of settlement deeds for the selected families in the ideal village is expected to be completed soon.

Pest invades tomato fields

MADARIPUR, Mar 25: Infestation of pest damaged vast tract of tomato fields incurring heavy loss to the growers, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said tomato on about 500 hectares of land were attacked by Leda pest incurring an estimated loss of Tk one crore. The affected areas are Laxmiganj, Rupia, Charmaguria, Putia, Hajrapur, Mostafapur, Kulpaddy Chhillarchar under Sadar thana, Utrail, Sheikhpur and Vardason in Shibchar thana, Amgram, Hossainpur of Rajor thana. The farmers appealed to the authority concerned to take proper steps to combat the pest attack.

Drug addict handed over

FENI, Mar 25: Local people handed over a drug addict to police here on Tuesday as he assaulted his parents for money, reports UNB.

Witnesses said neighbours caught Alamgir, 21, son of Intu Miah of Rampur area, as he swooped on his parents for money to buy drug and handed him over to police.

Drug addict commits suicide

SUNAMGANJ, Mar 25: A drug addict allegedly committed suicide at Badurpur village in Sadar thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said Abdur Rashid, 35, took his life as his demand to his mother for some money to buy hemp went unheeded. Another report from Habiganj adds: Having failed to endure the shock of divorce from her husband, a young woman killed herself at Peergergaon in Chunaroghat thana on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Janu Akhter, 19, of Gabhigaon village of the thana.

128 roads constructed

PIROJPUR, Mar 25: Some 128 roads and 290 bridges and culverts were constructed in six thanas in last three years spending Tk 25.97 lakh, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department implemented the projects under the government's rural infrastructure development programme. Officials said road communication has improved remarkably following construction of the roads and bridges.

2 bus passengers held

MANIKGANJ, Mar 25: Two bus passengers were arrested along with a revolver and three rounds of bullet from Daulatdia Ferry Ghat on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police after searching a bus of Eagle Paribahan arrested Zakir Gazi, 27, of Kotwali thana and Alam, 35, of Barisal along with the German-made revolver and the bullets.

Bomb blast at AL MP's house: Trial on Apr 11

SYLHET, Mar 25: The trial of the much-talked case of bomb explosion at the Chhatra residence of Awami League MP Muhibur Rahman Manik will begin on April 11 at the Sunamganj District and Sessions Judge Court, reports UNB.

Two youths — Arif Haider and Abul Kalam — identified as associates of Manik, were killed in the bomb explosion on March 15 last year.

Abu Lais Chowdhury, a cousin of Manik, was admitted to hospital with injuries sustained in the bomb blast. Later, police arrested him from hospital.

Another youth, Gopal, who was present at the MP's residence during the explosion, managed to flee the spot and he is still absconding.

Chhatra thana OC Abdus Salam filed a case after the explosion while Muhibur Rahman Manik MP registered another case. Later, the two cases were handed over to the CID for investigation.

After a long investigation, CID submitted charge sheet in the bomb explosion case accusing six people, including Muhibur Rahman Manik MP,

Complaint against govt baseless: Nasim

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim on Friday flayed opposition leader Begum Zia for making "baseless" complaint to a visiting foreign statesman — US President Bill Clinton — against the government, reports UNB.

Addressing a function of local Muktiuddha Sangsad in the morning the minister said Clinton visited Bangladesh on his own initiative and finance to see industrial prospects and liberal democracy in Bangladesh, not to mediate solution of political disputes.

"While the country has been advancing well through establishing democracy and strengthening economy in last four years, the opposition party in league with anti-liberation forces has been hatching conspiracy against the government," Nasim said.

"They fear if the pro-liberation forces come to power again, their existence will perish," the minister told the freedom fighters.

The Home Minister said present government is pledged-bound to maintain law and order in the country and change the fate of countrymen.

About the freedom fighters he said after assuming power the government took various programmes, including rehabilitation of the freedom fighters. "It also has taken up programmes for the injured and disabled freedom fighters."

Hartal observed in Patuakhali

PATUAHALI, Mar 25: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed on Thursday in the town protesting the arrest of district Jubo League and local Bus Owner Association convenor and Pura Commissioner Mohammad Milon Mia, reports UNB.

Police arrested him from his office at Natun Bazaar on Wednesday night in connection with several complaints, including a launch damage case.

After the arrest, local Jubo League, Chhatra League and Sramik League workers staged demonstration in the town and called for the shutdown demanding his release.

During the hartal, shops remained closed and buses and rickshaws wet off the road.

Magura people still remember their brave sons

From Hossain Seraj

MAGURA Mar 25: As the Independence Day approaches, people in the district recall the turbulent days of 1971 with heavy heart. People from all walks of life forged strong resistance against the Pakistani occupation forces to wrest the national independence. A large number of freedom fighters embraced martyrdom during the nine month long War of Liberation. Local people still recollect the struggle and heroism of the brave sons.

Pakistani soldiers entered the then sub divisional headquarters on April 23, 1971. The barbaric soldiers killed hundreds of innocent people including women and children, destroyed a good number of dwelling houses and business establishments, as they intruded the tiny town.

But local people started organising themselves following the crackdown on March 25, 1971. Former minister late Sohrab Hossain, late Sayed Afor Ali, late Asduzzaman and the then Sub Divisional Officer (SDO) of Magura, Waliul Islam, played pioneer role in organising people. Besides, late Sayed Maibubul Haque Benu Mia, Altaf Hossain, late Abdur Rashid, Akbar Hossain Mian,

Khondoker Abdul Majed, Molah Nabuot Ali, late Tayebur Rahman, late Abdul Jalil Sarder, Advocate Abul Khaer and Abu Naser Bablu contributed a lot to organising freedom fighters. Fozle Ali, an engineer of the GK Irrigation Project, also played a praiseworthy role.

Elderly freedom fighters said Magura war front was divided mainly into three parts. In Mohammadpur area Golam Yakub, Bir Protik, was the commander of the freedom fighters.

In Sreepur area freedom fighters led by Akbar Hossain Mian waged war against the Pakistani soldiers.

In Hazipur area under Sadar thana, late Kazi Yousuf and Khondoker Abdul Majed were the chief and advisor respectively of freedom fighters.

Distinguished freedom fighter Captain Abdul Wahab, now serving as Major General in Bangladesh Army, formed a force named 'Eagle Bahini' and played an important role.

Significant battles during the liberation movement in Magura district took place in Mohammadpur TDC camp, Aralia-Sreemontapur road area, Sreepur police camp, Min-

gram-Mandartala road area, Binodpur Bazar camp, Magura Ansar camp, Khampara, Kadipara and Nohata-Joyrampur road area, Shalokupa police station and Kamanna in Jhenidah district.

The martyrs of the War of Liberation in Magura include Lalul Pagla, Mukul, Mokarmam Ali, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Motaleb, Alamgir, Riat Ali, Abdul Wahed, Sharifuul Islam, Ali Hossain, Motaleb, Anisur Rahman, Moniruzzaman, Alimuzzaman, Kawsar Hossain, Masim Hossain, Tajul Islam, Abdus Sattar, Nazrul Islam, Abdur Kader, Abdul Momin, Shahidul Islam, Solaiman, Munshi Abdur Razzak, Sheikh Mofizuddin, Haresar Mian, Abdus Salek, Abdur Hossain, Selim Hossain, Abdul Aziz, Adhir Kumar, Gulzar Hossain, Khondoker Abdur Rashid, Hossain Ali, Gour Kumar, Nazrul Islam, Moktar Hossain, Hafizur Rahman, Khalilur Rahman, Nirmal Kumar Biswas, Mohammad Abdus Sattar and Arif Munshi.

At the end of the war, the Allied Forces launched fierce air attack on the Pakistani soldiers, forcing them to flee the district on December 7, 1971, much to the happiness and relief of Magura people.



A liberation war memorial at Talkhuri village under Shalikha thana in Magura district.

— Star photo

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Munshiganj Road Division Bagmamudali, Munshiganj RHD Notice Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No : 49/RD Munshiganj of 1999-2000.
2. Name of work : Tender for construction of brick masonry guide wall at 20th KM of Fatullah Munshiganj-Lauhajong road under Munshiganj Road Division during the year 1999-2000.
3. Estimated cost : Tk. 4,78,288/-
4. Earnest money : Tk. 9,800/- only in BD/TC/PSP/BSP certificate in favour of "EE, RHD, Munshiganj Road Divn." during the year 1999-2000.
5. Time allowed for completion of work : 40 (forty) days from the date of issue of work order.
6. Eligibility of contractors : "A to E" general category of RHD contractors.
7. Last date for selling tender documents : 3.4.2000 during office hours.
8. Last date & time for receiving tender documents : 4.4.2000 up to 12:30 PM
9. Date & time for opening tender documents : 4.4.2000 at 12:45 PM (except this office).
10. Date & time for centrally open the tender documents : 6.4.2000 at 12:30 PM in this office.
11. Name of offices where tender documents will be sold : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Divn, Dhaka/Narayanganj/Gazipur/Manikganj/Narsingdi/Munshiganj/Planning & Design Divn., Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka /Bridge Design Divn.-I(Eastern), Dhaka/Sup-Divnl Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Divn., Sreenagar/Keraniganj/ Munshiganj/1st Line Workshop Sub-Divn. under Munshiganj Road Divn.
12. Name of offices where tender documents will be received : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning & Monitoring, Evl. Circle, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Divn., Munshiganj/Sub-Divnl. Engr. RHD, Road Sub-Divn., Sreenagar / Keraniganj/ Munshiganj/1st Line Workshop Sub-Divn. under Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj.
13. Date & time of lottery (if necessary) : 6.4.2000 at 2.00 PM.
14. Chargeable head : 266-CACW

Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the RHD enlisted contractors according to their financial limit for the mentioned work under Munshiganj Road Divn. The tenders will be received/opened at fixed time and date of abovementioned offices.

Md Abul Quasem Bhuiyan
Executive Engineer, RHD
G-550 Munshiganj Road Division Munshiganj.