

# Eid shopping spree in Natore, Faridpur

By Staff Correspondent

Natore and Faridpur towns have worn a festive look with decorated shopping centres and a large number of buyers as the Eid-ul-Fitr is coming nearer.

**Our Natore correspondent says:** In Natore the markets and shopping centres are now open for seven days.

Almost all shopping centres and markets have been decorated with multicoloured flags, banners, posters, and gates have been erected to welcome customers, most of whom through the garment or shoe shops.

The merchants and shopkeepers have devised new strategies this year to attract buyers. Eid sale campaign has been launched at different shopping centres ceremonially, like central Mosque Market, Uttara Super Market, Komela Super Market, Mandir Market and Hawkers Market. These shopping centres are illuminated in the evening.

Eid shopping spree has gained momentum here. Now an unusual rush of buyers is visible at almost all markets.

One can feel a clear demarcation between the rich and the poor during the Eid shopping. The poorer section of people through the traditional old markets like Nichabazar and Kapuria Potty, while rich people go to fashionable shopping centres.

However, poor and destitutes are not deprived of the joy of Eid when they receive the 'fitra' from the affluent section of people on the eve of this great festival for the Muslims. Many rich people spends 'jaka' money for the poor.

The markets of the town have abundant stock of goods. Garments shops have quite an impressive supply of sarees, especially Indian pieces.

Local Garments and silk industries have also supplied newer designs and varieties of saree, kurta, skirts and children's dresses. There is large supply of foreign goods in Natore markets. The import in private sector other than smuggling is the reason for supply of foreign goods in large volume. These goods vary from luxury to house hold essential items.

The buyers, most of them from middle class are found moving from shop to shop asking the price of goods. They usually buy a few items.

The cloth and readymade garment shops were more crowded. The shops too are flooded with latest fashion garments for both male and female. The shops are packed with new as well as traditional attire, especially to cater to every taste and fancy.

With the slump of buying capacity of the people particularly from middleclass, the shopping spree of the buyers has greatly dampened. But the shrinkage of buying capacity has not made any impact on the

crowding of shopping centres. Besides the buyers there are many onlookers who gather at the shopping centres. People from rural areas of the district are also coming to the town for Eid shopping.

**Our Faridpur correspondent reports:** As the Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the greatest religious festivals of the Muslims is approaching nearer, a mad shopping spree among adolescent boys and girls is visible at different markets of the town.

Elderly men and women are not lagging behind.

Every day after 9 am teenager boys and girls start pouring in readymade garment shops, cosmetic shops and shoe shops where garments, shoes and cosmetics of different varieties with a touch of novelty are being displayed in beautiful showcase alluring the adolescent customers who are generally captivated by out ward show.

The rush of buyers reaches its pinnacle from 11 am to 2 pm every day when housewives both young and elderly go to the markets along with their children.

It is during this period when a customer finds it difficult to thread his way through the crowd from one shop to another. The situation turns worse for a lot of onlookers roaming about the markets every day with and making any purchase.

The shopkeepers are seemingly happy with their sale proceeds and the profits accrued from them.

When contacted some shopkeepers of Faridpur Titumir Market told this correspondent that the sarees that are in great demands in the markets are kathan, gamdani, silk, Rajshahi silk, Mirpuri kathan, benarashi and gorget. The prices of each of them vary from Taka 1,500 to 5,000 according to their qualities and designs.

Low income groups are seen purchasing sarees worth Taka 500 to 750 each.

Three pieces of different kinds and design are selling here as hot cakes at different prices. Prices of each set of three pieces vary from Taka 500 to 5,000.

Similar is the case with shoe and cosmetic shops.

Gold smith shops are also busy supplying ornament to the affluent section of customers as per their order placed earlier.

The tailors are so busy that they have stopped taking orders on the plea that they will not be able to supply the ordered goods before Eid.

The law and order situation seems to be satisfactory still now as no untoward incident has been reported.

The police have been patrolling the market areas round the clock with all vigilance to avert any untoward incident.



Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on Sunday inaugurated a photo exhibition on Liberation War at Sylhet Press Club Auditorium which was arranged by the Sylhet divisional unit of Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association. One hundred fifty rare photos were put on display there.

—Star photo

## Power crushers force mills to rethink output target

**KUSHITA, Dec 23:** Kushtia Sugar Mill authorities may have to revise their output target downwards if the sugarcane crisis, caused by massive crushing through power crushers, continues to prevail, reports UNB.

According to an official, sugarcane supply to the mill has become uncertain due to random crushing of sugarcane by power crushers.

Over 200 power crushers in eight zones of the mill are engaged in crushing sugarcane to produce molasses. They are likely to crush 25,000 to 30,000 mts of sugarcane this season.

About 2.5 lakh mts of sugarcane are expected to be produced on about 18,000 acres of land in the eight zones

of the mill. Meanwhile, growers held rallies at Alamdanga and Bheramara sub-zones where they alleged that soaring prices of pesticide and chemical fertilisers affected their sugarcane cultivation.

The mill authorities have raised sugarcane price by Tk four per maund so that the growers feel encouraged to sell sugarcane to the mill.

But the growers alleged that the mill authorities make unusual delay in payment of their bills.

They also demanded further rise in the price of sugarcane and eradication of corruption of the mill officials and employees.

Besides, realisation of the loan distributed by the mill among the growers has also become uncer-

## Kishoreganj DIARY

### Weavers face problems

**KISHOREGANJ, Dec 23:** The weavers of Bhairab and Kullarchar upazilas of the district have been facing manifold problems due to price hike of necessary inputs, reports UNB.

About 15,000 weavers of these two upazilas are dependent on weaving to earn their living. But for want of working capital and price spiral of raw materials, cotton yarns, dice and lack of marketing facilities many of them have deserted their occupation and are passing their days in great hardship. They said easy availability of Indian clothes at a cheap rate has considerably reduced the demand of the products of the local handloom industry. As they are forced to buy the raw materials from the market at an exorbitant rate they cannot compete with the foreign garments. The weavers have urged the government to provide them with soft term loans and ensure fair prices of the inputs to continue their age-old occupation.

### Fish scarcity

Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing in different markets in 13 upazilas much to the inconveniences of the common consumers.

The people can hardly buy fish from the market due to exorbitant prices. Some small varieties like telapae, puti, chela, tengra, shing, kol and magur are now available in little quantity in the local markets and are being sold between Tk 120 and Tk 160 per kg. Other varieties like hilsha, ruhi, katla and mrigel are selling between Tk 160 and Tk 200 per kg. Big varieties of fish are not available in the market. Locals said low production of fish has caused the scarcity. There are hundreds of ponds, rivers and canals and other water bodies here. But most of those are lying abandoned due to lack of necessary initiatives by the concerned authorities. Some pisciculturists told that high interest of bank loans, non-availability of HYV fishes and lack of government patronisation are the main reasons behind the fish scarcity.

### Potato farming scheme

An extensive potato cultivation scheme has been taken up in seven districts of Dhaka agricultural region in the current Rabi season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department a total of 38,900 hectares will be cultivated in the region with a production target of 3.89 lakh metric tons of potato. Of the total land, 1,400 hectares will be brought under potato cultivation in Dhaka district, 2,000 hectares in Narayanganj, 2,600 hectares in Munshiganj, 3,400 hectares in Manikganj, 500 hectares in Gazipur, 1,600 hectares in Narsingdi and 4,000 hectares in Tangail.

## Kidnapped girl rescued in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

**SIRAJGANJ, Dec 23:** Police rescued teenage girl from Shahjadpur area after about one month's of her abduction.

A man, Amula Nath, 30, was arrested in this connection.

Police said the schoolgirl was kidnapped on November 8 this year on her way to school. Father of the victim filed a case with Shahjadpur police station.

Acting on a tip-off, police rescued the girl.

## Food grains to be distributed in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

**MYMENSINGH, Dec 23:** A total of 138 metric tons of rice and wheat will be distributed among 13,800 district families in 13 unions of the district and 21 wards of the district headquarters on the occasion of ensuing Eid-ul-Fitr.

Each family will get five-kg wheat and five-kg rice. The distribution work will be conducted by UP chairmen and commissioners of Mymensingh municipality.

## Two killed in Sirajganj road mishap

From Our Correspondent

**SIRAJGANJ, Dec 23:** Two people were killed in a road accident at Masumpur in the town on Wednesday.

They were identified Jamaluddin, 50, and Solaiman, 40, of Khamerkhand upazila in the district.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place when a truck hit a rickshaw van in which the two were travelling.

Jamaluddin died on the spot while Solaiman succumbed to injuries at Sirajganj General Hospital.

## 600 families rehabilitated in Habiganj

**HABIGANJ, Dec 23:** Some 600 homeless families have been rehabilitated in five upazilas under five Asrayan projects, reports UNB.

Of the homeless families, 20 were provided with homes in Sadar upazila under Charhamua Asrayan Project, 20 in Nabiganj under Chowshata Asrayan Project, 40 in Bahubal under Foyzabad Hill Asrayan Project, 20 in Madhabpur under Madhabilata Asrayan Project and 500 in Chunarughat under Pankouri Asrayan Project. Official sources said Tk 50 lakh has been allocated for the rehabilitated families so that they could undertake small projects for their self-employment. Besides, they said, 170 homeless families would be rehabilitated in Baniagang, Madhabpur and Azmiri upazilas under three more Asrayan projects.

## News snaps

### Poultry disease breaks out

**NETRAKONA, Dec 23:** A poultry disease has broken out in an epidemic form in the district, killing about 5,000 poultry birds, reports UNB.

The disease is spreading in an alarming proportion in 10 upazilas of the district killing hundreds of hens and ducks everyday. According to sources, villagers are selling their sick hens and ducks at throwaway prices, as there is no arrangement for vaccination of poultry birds in rural areas.

### Unemployed youths get money

**NARSINGDI, Dec 23:** Eighteen unemployed youths, including girls, were given Tk two lakh for their self-employment on the occasion of National Youth Festival, reports UNB.

Science and Technology Minister Muhammad Nuruddin Khan distributed the money at a simple ceremony here Sunday. The minister also distributed Tk 80,000 for renovation of a local mosque and distribution among the people affected by a recent storm. Later, the minister distributed scholarships among meritorious students of Dewan Char High School.

### Youth succumbs to injuries

**FENI, Dec 23:** A young man, who was critically injured in a clash at North Jahanpur village in Sadar thana on Dec 13, succumbed to his injuries at Sadar hospital Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdul Noman, 25, son of Abdul Halim of the village. Noman along with his father and two of his rivals were injured in the clash that took place in a sequel to a long-running land dispute between two groups of villagers.

### 7 unnatural deaths

**MANIKGANJ, Dec 23:** Seven unnatural deaths were reported here during last 24 hours till Friday, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said Shahadat Hossain, 24, of Paragram in Shibbalaya upazila, and Ruhul Amin, 18, of Bishwanathpur village in Sadar upazila, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison. Besides, Munnaf, 18, son of Ramzan Ali of Charakhur village in Gheor upazila, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison over family feud. Asma Akter, 22, wife of Rahaman of Kalyanpur village in Doulatpur upazila, died soon after she took litar on the day. A truck driver Torab Ali, 35, who was critically injured in an accident at Uchilla on Dhaka-Aricha Highway, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Apart from this, a 55-year old unidentified man was run over by a speeding car at Uthalee and a nine-year old child Delwar was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Manikganj bus stand.

### Four killed in road accidents

**COMILLA, Dec 23:** Four people were killed in three separate road accidents here last week, reports UNB.

Police said Nazir Ahmed, 35, who was critically injured in a road accident at Mostapur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on December 15, succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital later on. Shamim, 13, son of Harun Mia of Shankuchail village in Buriachang upazila and his 5-year old sister were run over by a bus on Comilla-Bagha Road on December 16. Besides, a motorcyclist succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital after he was hit by a bus at Suwaganj in Sadar upazila on December 18. The dead was identified as Motahar Hossain.

### Indian phensidyl recovered

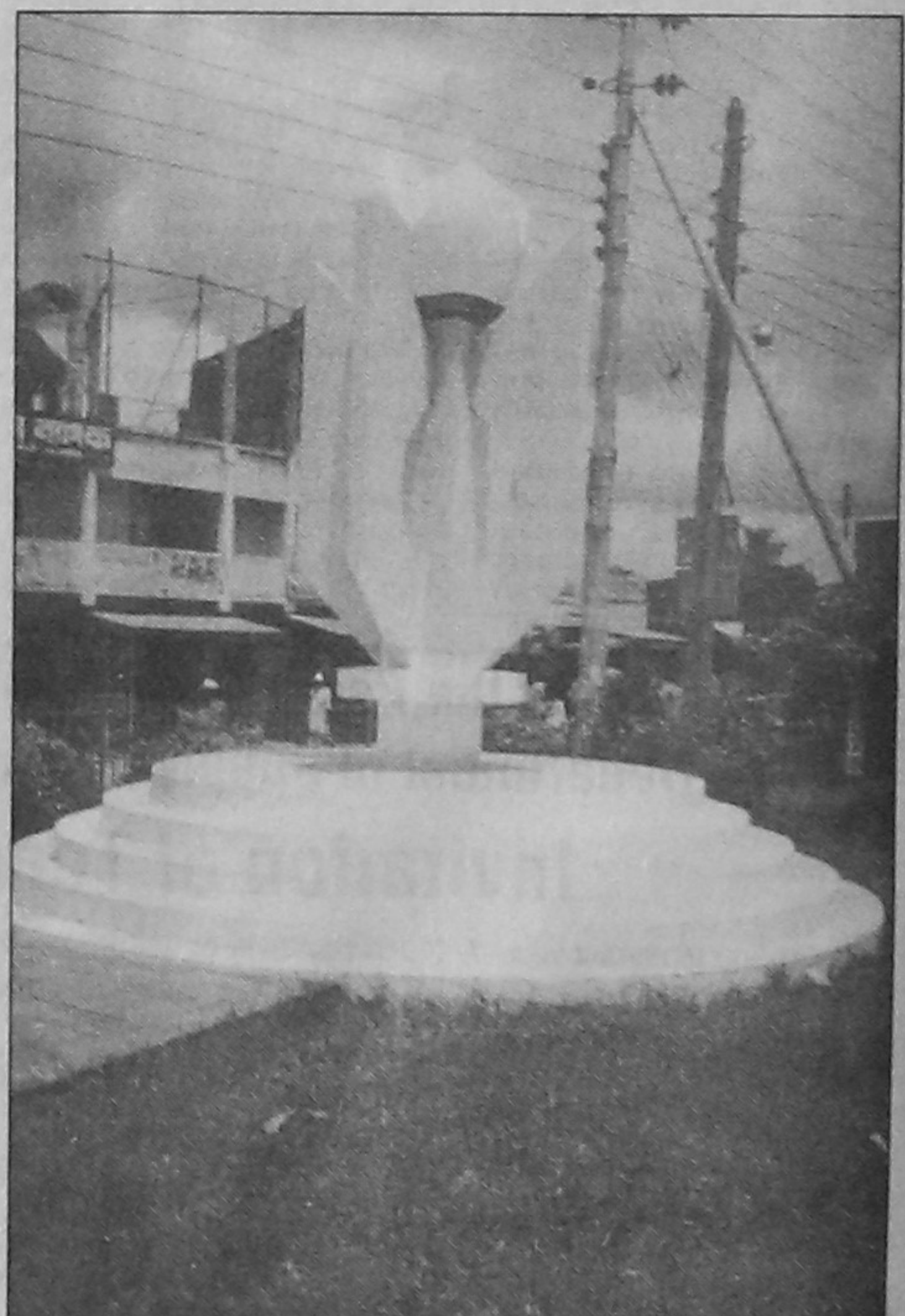
**JOYPURHAT, Dec 23:** Some 2,032 bottles of Indian phensidyl were recovered from different parts of Joypurhat, Noagaon and Dinajpur districts in last one month, reports UNB.

BDR men also recovered 8.5 litres of phensidyl syrup and three bottles of wine during their drives. The recovered contrabands were destroyed at the BDR headquarters in Sadar on Thursday. Meanwhile, a young man along with eight bottles of liquor was caught red-handed from Chechra village of Panchbibi upazila on Tuesday. BDR men nabbed Anwar Hossain, 33, of the village while he was bringing the liquor from India. Besides, the BDR personnel recovered 66 bottles of Indian phensidyl from the upazila on the same day, BDR source said.

### FFs' allowance distributed

**PATUAKHALI, Dec 23:** The distribution of allowances among insolvent freedom fighters (FFs) of Sadar and Mirajganj upazilas began on Friday with handing over of Tk 1.21 lakh among 81 freedom fighters, reports UNB.

Each of the freedom fighters was given Tk 1,500 for five-month allowance. Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah at a function distributed the allowance among the recipients. Addressing the function the Chief Whip mentioned various programmes undertaken by the present government for freedom fighters. After assuming power the government ensured 30 per cent service quota for the freedom fighters' children. Hasanat also described different socio-economic rehabilitation programmes of the government taken up for the betterment of poor and repressed section of people.



A monument in memory of the martyred intellectuals who were killed by the occupation Pakistan Army on December 7 in 1971 in Brahmanbaria. The monument is situated at Kawtoly in the district town.

—Star photo by Sk Md Shahidul Islam

### Loan for jobless youths

**MANIKGANJ, Dec 23:** A total of Taka 10.50 lakh has been distributed among 71 trained unemployed youths by the Youth Development Directorate on Wednesday, reports BSS.

On this occasion a meeting was held at Zilla Parishad Auditorium. AKM Zahangir, State Minister for Textile was the chief guest at the meeting. The loan was meant for poultry farming, pisciculture, sewing and cattle rearing. The meeting was presided over by Sheikh Mozahar Uddin, Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj.

# Zoha Hall mass grave testifies to turbulent days of 1971

From Kamran Reza Chowdhury

**RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 23:** The mass grave near Shahid Shamsuzzoha Hall on Rajshahi University campus, commonly known as Zoha Hall mass grave, testifies to the turbulent days of the War of Liberation in 1971. In the mass grave, enemy soldiers dumped hundreds of innocent Bangladeshis, who voiced against the Pakistani oppression. Indiscriminate killing, rape, abduction, torture and violation of human rights perpetrated by the Pakistanis 29 years back still haunt residents in the area.

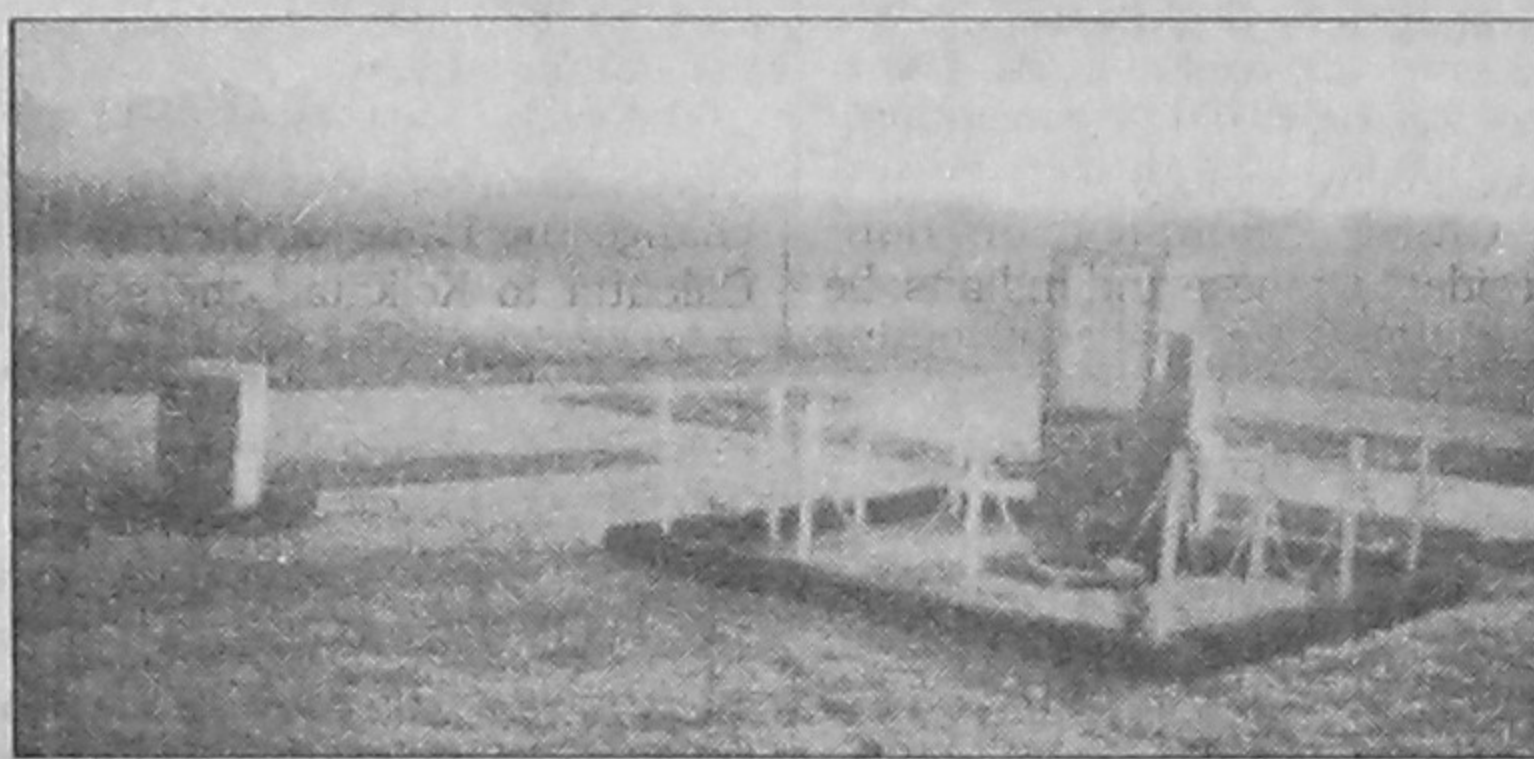
Invading Pakistani Army set up headquarters at the university dormitory after it entered Rajshahi city on April 14, 1971. The army, in fact, turned Zoha Hall into a concentration camp. All the people, whom they consid-

ered 'dangerous', were taken to the concentration camp and tortured to death. Later the bodies were dumped into the ditches and crop fields nearby.

Residents in the nearby villages witnessed the heinous crimes committed until December 16 when the people finally wrested the independence from the clutches of Pakistanis.

The soldiers used to employ villagers by force to dig graves and dump bodies in the dawn.

"We could hear screams and groans of innocent people, but could not do anything for their help," said Abul Bashar, a witness of the brutality on the campus. He has been serving as a peon in the academic section of the university and has been living in Purba Para on the campus.



A memorial plaque stands in the mass grave site near Shahid Shamsuzzoha Hall on Rajshahi University campus. In the mass grave, Pakistani soldiers dumped hundreds of innocent Bangladeshis during the War of Liberation in 1971.

—Star photo

200 yards off Zoha Hall, since 1969.

He related his bitter experience to this correspondent. "The captives were taken to the dormitory from different parts of Rajshahi district during day time and massacred at dead of night. The villagers including me were forced to dump the bodies."

Abdul Kader Mollah, an employee of Shahid Habibur Rahman Hall of the university, narrated his experience: "Frequently we were taken to the paddy and sugarcane fields, east of Zoha Hall, to dig graves." There are about 20 to 25 mass graves in the nearby fields.

The university authorities, with the help of the villagers,

identified only one mass grave in April 1972. There has been no initiative to discover the other mass graves.

However, the university authority built a memorial plaque in 1992 to commemorate the martyrs, but some anti-liberation elements demolished it. After a long time, a small memorial plaque was erected in the site in December 1999.

At present, a tiny tin-shed has been erected where some policemen stay to guard the humble monument.

Local people have urged the government to take necessary steps to discover other mass graves and build a full-fledged monument in the site.

## Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariate

Common & Co-ordination Section

No-1(11)/2000-Common (Part-7)/1661 Dated: 19-12-2000/ 05-09-1407 Bang

### Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed envelopes are invited from concerned trading establishment/supplier contractors for supplying mobile microphone set with mouthpiece (codless) and hand mike for use in the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariate.

2. Tenders can be deposited in the tender box kept at the office chamber of the Deputy Secretary (Administration-1) of this Secretariate on 08-01-2001 from 9-00 AM to 1-00 PM. Tenders will be opened the same day at 12-10 PM in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present).

3. The attested photocopies of the trade licence for the current fiscal year, income tax and VAT registration certificates original copy for purchasing schedule and 2.50% (two and a half per cent) of the total estimated cost in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order (refundable) as the earnest money in favour of the undersigned will have to be submitted.

4. Schedule containing details of tender and other terms and conditions can be procured from 03-01-2001 to 04-01-2001 a total of 3 days during office hours on payment of Taka 200/- (two hundred) (non-refundable) by applying in the pads of respective establishments by producing the original trade licence of the current fiscal year from the Accounts Section-1 of Sangsad Secretariate (South-West Block, Level-5, Room No-524). One tenderer will not be supplied more than one schedule.

5. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Md Rabiul Islam

Assistant Secretary (Common)  
Phone: 9124762.

DFP-31308-21/11/00  
G-2224

## Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariate

Common & Co-ordination Section

No-5(1)/99-Common (Part-2)/1618 Dated: 14-12-2000, 30-08-1407 Bang

### Re-Tender Notice (Third Time)

Tenders in sealed envelopes are invited from concerned trading establishment/contractors for activating archway metal detector by connecting necessary spare parts installed at VIP Gallery-1 & 2 of Sangsad Bhaban and for purchasing necessary goods for safety maintenance of 7 archway metal detectors.

2. Tenders can be deposited in the tender box kept at the office chamber of the Deputy Secretary (Administration-1) on 07-01-2001 from 9-00 AM to 12-00 Noon. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-10 PM in presence of tenderers (if anyone remains present).

3. Trade licence for the current fiscal year, attested photocopy of income tax and VAT registration certificates, original receipt of purchasing schedule, certificate of bank solvency and 2.50% (two and a half per cent) of the total estimated expenditure as the earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order (refundable) in favour of the undersigned will have to be submitted with tender.

4. Schedule containing details of tender and other terms and conditions can be procured from 03-01-2001 to 04-01-2001 during office hours on payment of Taka 150/- (one hundred fifty) (non-refundable) by applying in pads of respective establishments and by producing the original trade licence of the current fiscal year from the Accounts Section-1 (South-West Block, Level-5, Room No-524) of Sangsad Secretariate. One tenderer will not be supplied more than one schedule.

5. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Md Rabiul Islam

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DFP-31045-20/12  
G-2225