

Fake FFs' names still on Kishoreganj memorial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Names of some fake freedom fighters are still on the victory memorial on Gurudayal Government College compound in Kishoreganj town while many martyred freedom fighters including Khairul Zahan Beer Pratik did not find place on the plaque.

The plaque contains names of 84 freedom fighters but names of many others are left out, leaders of Kishoreganj unit of Muktiyoddha Sanshad said. Names of two fake freedom fighters have not been erased despite demand by freedom fighters and people, they said.

Martyred freedom fighter Khairul Zahan Beer Pratik was resident of Kharampatty area of the town and his grave is at Parabhanga village, only two kilometers from Kishoreganj town but his name has not been inscribed on the plaque, they said.

When contacted, Executive Engineer Md. Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan of Kishoreganj Public Works Department said, Muktiyoddha Sanshad submitted a written application to erase names of fake freedom fighters and include names of freedom fighters dropped when the memorial was constructed in 2006.

The application was sent to the liberation war affairs minis-

try, he said.

"We cannot drop or write any name in the plaque. We are waiting for instruction from the ministry to include names of freedom fighters and erase those of fake freedom fighters."

Former commander of the Sangsad Md. Idris Ali said, names

of at least two fake freedom fighters

have been inscribed on the plaque while names of well known martyred freedom fighters including Khairul Zahan Beer Pratik, Shamrat Ali, Omar Faruk, Gouranga Deb Nath, A B Siddique is not there.

It is an insult to freedom fight-

ers", he said.

The freedom fighters demand immediate removal of names of fake freedom fighters and inscribing names of martyred freedom fighters.

The memorial was built in 2005-2006 at a cost of Tk 12 lakh.

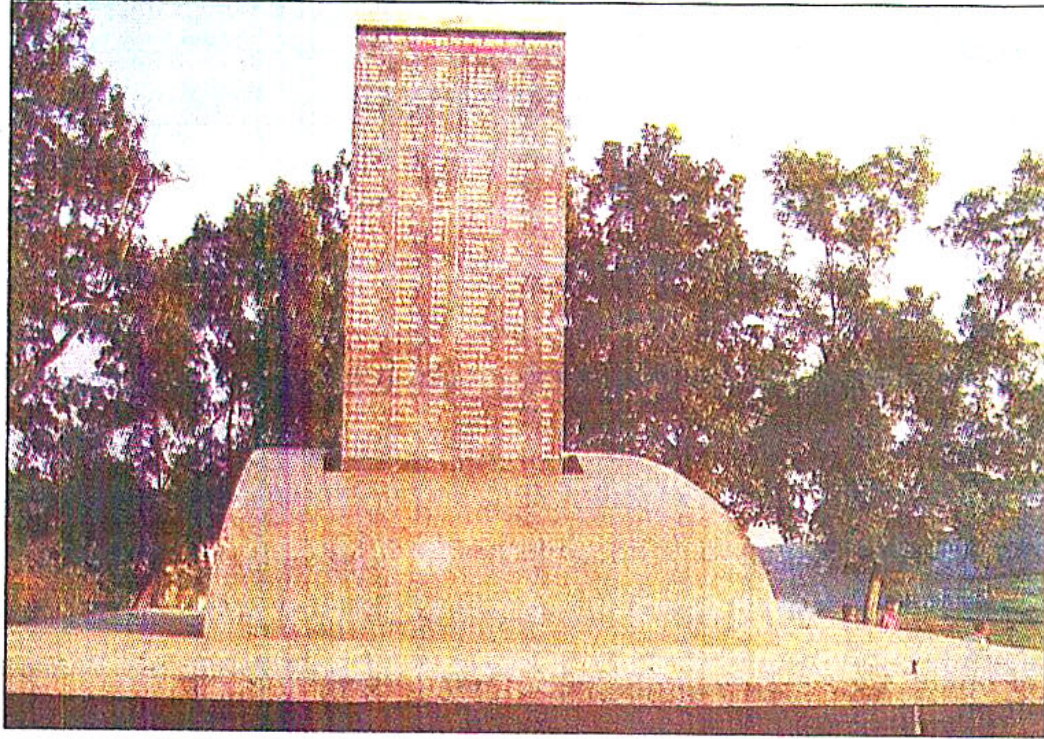


PHOTO STAR

The plaque of Victory Memorial on the premises of Kishoreganj Government Gurudayal College also contains names of fake freedom fighters.

25,000 Sidr victims get work in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rupantor, an NGO, has so far provided jobs to 25,000 Sidr victims in Sharankhola and Morrelganj upazilas of Bagerhat district by introducing cash-for-work (CFW) scheme funded by OXFAM.

Chief Executive of Rupantor Swapan Guha said the CFW programme would continue till January next year. The programme gained support of people.

Under the CFW program, Sidr-hit people in Southkhali and Rayenda unions under Sharankhola and Boluibunia and Hoglabunia unions under Morrelganj upazila are being paid Tk 100 per head every day for cleaning roads, water bodies and houses.

The main purpose of introducing the CFW program is to financially help Sidr victims by engaging them in some sort of work for money which they badly need for maintaining their families till they are rehabilitated, Swapan said.

Reception to freedom fighter journo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira Press Club yesterday accorded reception to two freedom fighters turned journalists with a call for trial of war criminals.

They are Prof Abu Ahmed of The Daily Star and Kali Das Roy of The Daily Janata.

Held at the Press Club auditorium, the reception ceremony was chaired by club convenor Kazi Dulal.

Speakers demanded of the government to try and punish war criminals by forming special tribunals across the country.

Cattle market venue occupied before bidding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Boys were playing in Masimpur field of Sylhet city Corporation (SCC) in the afternoon. All of a sudden, some people came with shovels and asked them to leave.

They erected bamboo poles and said there will be a cattle market in the field. A short while later, some cattle, kept nearby, were brought and tied to the poles.

The Masimpur field was thus turned into a makeshift cattle

market Friday afternoon, allegedly at the backing of some local influentials.

Acting mayor of SCC Azam expressed his utter disappointment over the matter.

The SCC had floated tender for leasing the venue along with some others.

"I don't know who occupied the field. However, an urgent letter had been sent to the commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police for taking legal steps against the illegal

occupants", SCC secretary said on Saturday.

Local ward commissioner Haji Faryuque Ahmed said, "I don't know how the incident took place".

When asked yesterday how filed was occupied for cattle market while the leasing process was going on at SCC office, officer-in-charge of Sadar police station Abdul Noor said, "I also heard about this but did not get any order to evict them (occupiers)".

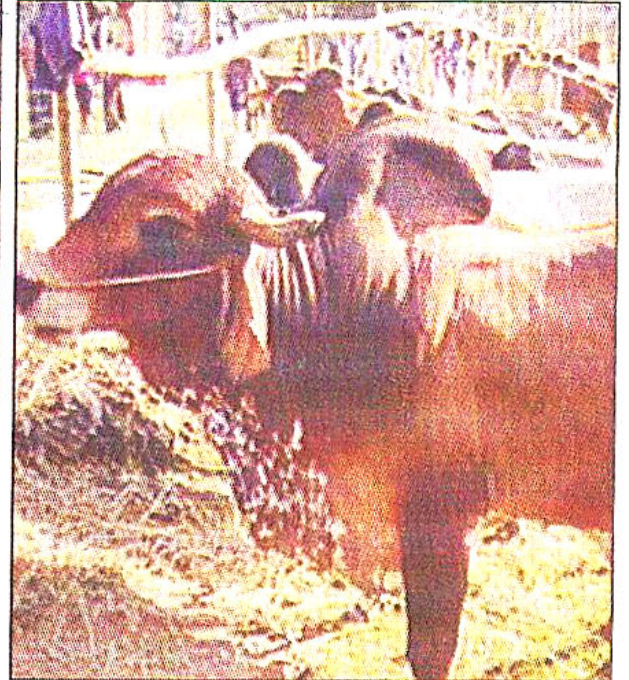


PHOTO STAR

CAPTURED BEFORE TENDER: People engaged by some local influential persons setting bamboo poles on Masimpur field in Sylhet city, left, cattle brought there hurriedly for sale.

Rejoinder, our reply

Quazi Md Khurshid Hassan, executive engineer of Sirajganj Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has sent a rejoinder to the news titled "Allegation against Sirajganj LGED engineer" published on the National page of The Daily Star on December 12.

The LGED engineer said the news was not based on facts.

He did not demand Tk 5 lakh from Md Golam Mostafa, representative of Mita Construction, as mentioned in the story, he added.

"Mr Golam Mostafa borrowed license from some bona fide contractors through his brother Mr Golam Kibria, executive engineer of LGED in Pabna," the rejoinder said.

"Mr Golam Mostafa as a representative of the contractor demanded bill/security for two partially damaged roads and he was directed to rectify both the damaged roads and then only can get the bill/security money," it added.

Our reply

The news item headlined "Allegation against Sirajganj LGED engineer" was prepared on the basis of a written statement of Md Golam Mostafa at the press conference.

After the press conference, this correspondent contacted engineer Khurshid Hassan for his comment. He said he did not know Md Golam Mostafa or whether he was a representative of Mita Construction.

Khurshid had filed a general diary with Sirajganj Sadar Police Station against Mostafa on November 22.

Voters rise in Sylhet city in new listing

Around 2.75 lakh now against 2,55,710 in previous list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The number of voters in Sylhet City Corporation areas got a big increase in the new listing.

According to the latest statistics, the number of enlisted voters is 2,71,177 against 2,55,710 in the list prepared in December last year, which was however cancelled at that time.

The number of voters is already 15,467 more than that of the last year and the total may ultimately stand at about 2.75 lakh, election officials said.

The 2,71,177 voters were enlisted in 27 wards, of whom 2,54,691 have completed their data entry with photos. A total of 16,486 voters are yet to enter their data and photo, the official said.

The highest number of 16,473 voters has been listed in ward No. 7 and the lowest 5734 in ward No. 2.

Meanwhile, some minor irregularities have been alleged in voter listing this time.

Afzal Hossain, who contested for the post of ward commissioner

in ward No. 25 in last city corporation election, on Sunday last filed a written complaint to district Election Officer-1, alleging that some prospective voters in his area were listed in another ward. Such allegations were made in some other wards also, sources said. The election officer assured probe into the matter soon.

In the first phase, voter listing was done in 15 wards out of 27 from October 20 to November 8. Separate registration centre was set up in each ward.

Voter listing in the rest 12 wards were done in the second phase from November 10-November 22.

Now a centre is open at Sylhet stadium for eligible voters who failed to enlist their names on scheduled dates in specific centers. It will remain open there till December 22, election officials said.

Deputy Election Commissioner of Sylhet division Khondker Mizanur Rahman said voter listing is a continuous process and those who could not enlist their names would be enrolled.

BSF returns body of cattle trader in Dinajpur

2 others tortured to death near Satkhira border

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday returned body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) while two other cattle traders were tortured to death by BSF in last two days, report our correspondents in Dinajpur and Satkhira.

BSF and BDR traded gunshots on Madra border in Kalaroa upazila in Satkhira yesterday.

BSF killed Mohammad Ali 34, of Mithipur village under Phulbari upazila near Amra border outpost (BOP) in Dinajpur on Friday. They took away the body to India.

BDR strongly protested the killing and asked for a flag meeting. Accordingly, BSF returned the body to BDR after a flag meeting.

In Satkhira, a Bangladeshi

cattle trader who was allegedly tortured to death by BSF was identified as Shafiqul Islam, 25, of Haroddah village in Sadar upazila while identity of another victim could not be known till yesterday.

Villagers found the two bodies on the Ichhamoti on Friday and Saturday, BDR and police said.

Being informed, BDR and police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Sadar police station officer in charge (OC) Abdul Kader Beg said they found marks of torture on the bodies.

BSF at Daharkanda camp fired five shots yesterday targeting BDR at Madra camp while BDR responded by firing 19 bullets, Maj Kamrul Hasan, Operations Officer, 41 Rifles Battalion said.

'Encourage women in shrimp farming'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a women Golda (prawn) farmers rally yesterday urged the authorities to formulate a strategy to encourage women in its cultivation in sweet water.

They said Golda cultivation in sweet water saves trees and paddy fields in surrounding areas and keep other fish species intact. It is also profitable than shrimp cultivation, they added.

The rally was organised by local

NGO Women Job Creation Centre in Tala upazila, run by women. Its coordinator Ashrafunnahar Asha presided over the rally held on its office premises in Tala.

Satkhira district fishery officer Abdul Wadood and Tala upazila fishery officials Akhtar Uddin and Sohrab Hossain also attended.

Over 800 people, most of them women including some women Golda farmers, joined the rally, first of its kind in the district.

The fishery officials said Golda

cultivation in sweet water will bring about a revolution in fish cultivation in the country as it could be spread without harming the environment. Saline water shrimp cultivation affects land, they added.

Wadood said the country now earns around Tk 1200 crore foreign exchange annually from Satkhira by exporting shrimp and frozen foods. This can be increased five times if sweet water Golda cultivation can be spread in the district, he said.

MOTHER, DAUGHTER MURDER IN BARISAL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The sensational case of the murder of housewife Kajal Begum and her school-going daughter in the city has been handed over to Detective Branch of Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP).

The killers were known to the victims and condition of the dead bodies recovered on Friday morning suggested that the double murder happened two days earlier, Mahmudul Kabir Chowdhury, assistant police commissioner of DB of BMP, said.

Arrested Habibur Rahman, who works as caretaker and night guard of the apartment complex, Razia Palace on Kalibari Road gave important clues to the murder, he said.

Sub inspector Gopal Chandra, who conducted spot investigation said the family's living standard is not compatible with the legal sources of income of Kajal's husband Sohail.

Bodies of Kajal Begum, 34, and her daughter Sathi Akhter, 14, were recovered from their locked apartment on West Kalibari Road on Friday morning.

Indian govt to rebuild 3 Sidr-hit villages

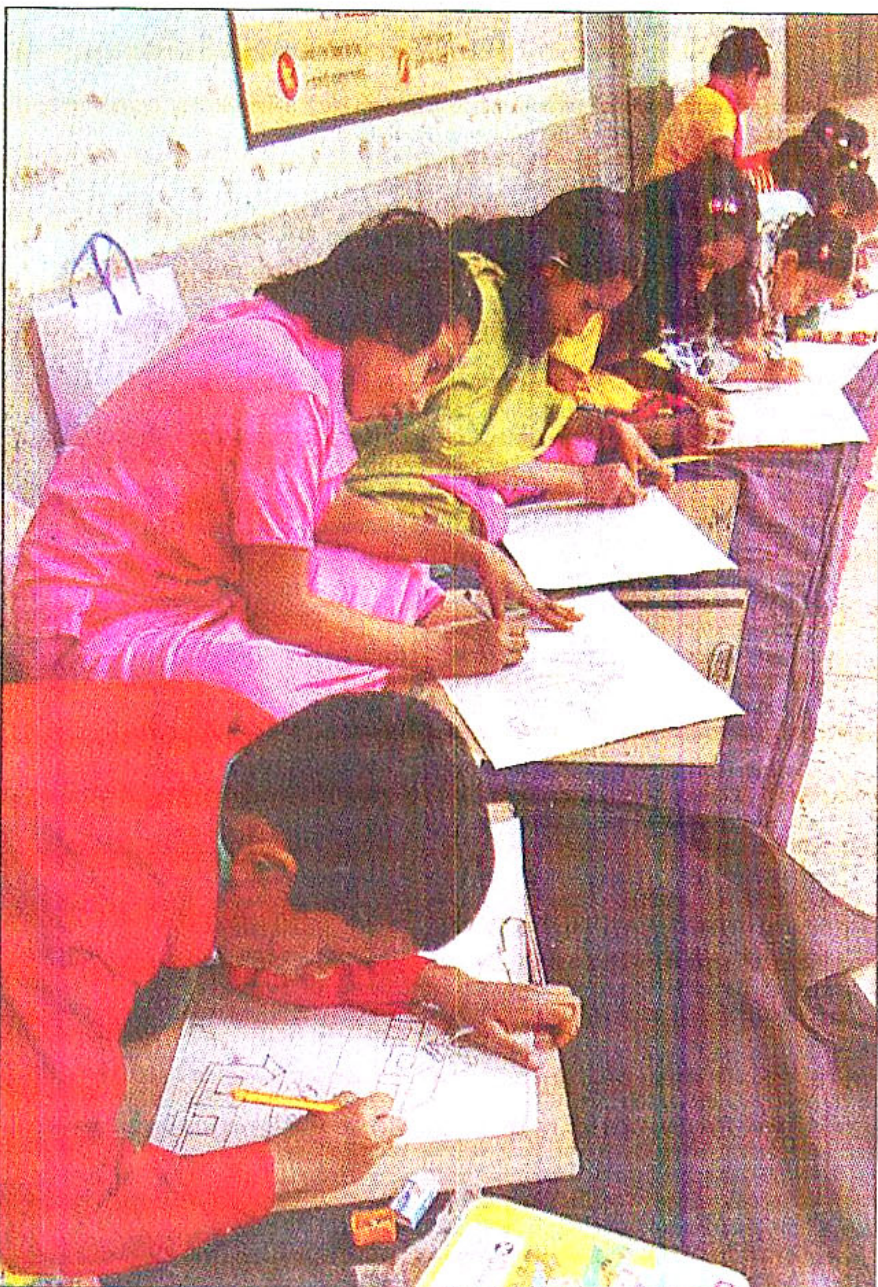
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Indian government will rebuild three Sidr-hit villages and rehabilitate the victims in Patuakhali.

The district administration has started a survey to assess their needs.

The villages are Charkhali in Deuli Subidkhali union in Mirzagonj upazila, Lalapul-Akkelpur in Nilgonj union in Kalapara upazila and Char Gonga of Chotobaisidha union in Galachipa upazila, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO) Abdul Malek told this correspondent.

The Indian government will rebuild all infrastructures including dwelling house for each family, roads, bridge and school there.



VICTORY DAY IN PICTURES

PHOTO STAR

Clockwise from left: Children's painting competition in Bogra; a human chain in Sylhet and freedom fighters' rally in Chandpur district demanding trial of war criminals; and Victory Day march at Mymensingh stadium.

