Respect, is it Buried?

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Land Filling of Haikkar Khal just behind the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial located at Rayerbazar

OUR nation has come a long way since its independence. Stepping towards the 40th year the country looks back at what has been achieved and also what has been lost, and finds plenty of differences between the two. The post-independent generation can never fathom the horrendous moments of war and distress amongst the countrymen. Notwithstanding, millions of martyrs, with their heads held high, fought the blazing machine guns, bullets went home shattering the dreams of a freedom fighter who wanted to see the first dawn of independence. Stories have been told and read over and over again, photographs have been archived, and documentaries made and watched; we learnt, understood and bowed our heads in respect. However, to the question of achieving justice for the general people in the country and also for the martyrs who fought for independence, there is still no answer.

Monuments, sculptures and memorials have been built in Bangladesh, just like in other countries that have lost soldiers. It is true that our martyrs are living on, but in dates and in months. They are remembered on occasions where we are touched and even talk about them in talk shows and show file footage in the news hours, and it ends there. We say we need to be like them, patriotic and confident enough to make a change, and it too, ends there. Even after so many years of independence we are still being under the scrutiny of being a corrupt nation and when all of that is being said we become very egocentric and do not want to talk about it. We are always being busy criticising and playing blame