



PHOTO: STAR

This memorial, marking the killing ground used by Pakistan occupation forces in Barisal city during the Liberation War, loses its sanctity as people going there just for pastime do not even care for taking off shoes in honour of the martyrs. Right, the bunker of the Pakistan army at their cantonment set up at the then complex of Water and Power Development Authority is getting damaged due to lack of proper maintenance.

## Killing ground, memorial lie in utter neglect

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The *badhyabumi* (killing ground) in Barisal city, a major witness to the brutalities of the Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War, is gradually losing its visible marks due to lack of maintenance during four decades after the independence.

During a visit to the Liberation War memento on the bank of the Kirtonkhola River a couple of days ago, this correspondent found the place lying in utter neglect.

The Pakistani occupation army set up its regional headquarters cum cantonment at the then complex of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) in Barisal town on the bank of Kirtankhla.

The barbaric force detained and tortured a large number of freedom fighters and Liberation War activists there. Many of the freedom-loving people were shot dead on the riverbank and floated on the water.

"The Pakistan army continued detaining, torturing and killing freedom fighters and common people in that cantonment from April 25 to December 8 in 1971, when the occupation army left the town," said Enayet Hossain Chowdhury, a leader of the district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

However, Al-Badars and Razakars, the local collaborators of the enemy force, continued occupying the stronghold till December 18, he said.

During the BNP led four-party alliance government in 2004, a memorial was constructed at an 'unsuitable' place inside the WAPDA complex, he said.

But the memorial built with a scanty budget of Tk 65 lakh lacks proper maintenance and it has now become a place for dating youths, and drug peddlers and other unsocial elements, he added.

"It is very unfortunate that after 40 years of independence we have to cry for preservation and maintenance of the mementoes of our glorious Liberation War," said Harunor Rashid, one of the freedom fighters who were detained and tortured in that cantonment of the occupation army said.

"In 2009, Barisal Sangskritik Sangathan Samannay Parishad with the help of Muktiyoddha Jadughar and Barisal City Corporation (BCC) took an initiative to construct a memorial complex at the killing ground. Tarik Ali, trustee of the Muktiyoddha Jadughar, handed over a design of that complex to BCC authorities in May 2011 for preparing a project," said MD Qutubuddin, district unit commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Admitting the matter, Nikhil Chandra Das, chief executive officer of BCC, said, "BCC is preparing a plan for the memorial complex at the *badhyabumi*. It will be placed before the local government ministry within a short time."

## Nation to recall martyrdom of Bir Shreshtha Jahangir today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Today is the 41st death anniversary of Bir Shreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir.

On this day in 1971, just two days before the victory, Captain Jahangir embraced martyrdom in a battle with the Pakistani occupation forces at Rehaichar in Chapainawabganj town.

On December 10, 1971, Captain Jahangir along with 50 freedom fighters crossed Mohananda River and engaged in a fight against Pakistani army.

The freedom fighters took position near Rehaichar Moholla in Chapainawabganj town on December 13. On the following day, Captain Jahangir went ahead of the defence line and charged grenade into a trench of Pakistan occupation army. But hit by a bullet from Pak army, the valiant freedom fighter died on the spot.

He was buried on the premises of Sonamsjid on December 16. Sector Commander Lt Colonel Kazi



Bir Shreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir

Nuruzzaman, other freedom fighters and local Awami League leaders were present.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Chapainawabganj unit and different socio-cultural and political organisations will pay tribute to the martyr by placing wreaths at his grave on Sonamsjid premises in the morning.

To mark the day, Muktiyoddha Sangsad will hold a Qurankhwani, doa mehfil and discussion meeting on Sonamsjid premises today.

## Stray incidents of violence mark 8-hour shutdown

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The eight-hour countrywide shutdown enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance to press for the release of BNP's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir passed off amid stray incidents of violence in the districts yesterday, according to our correspondent.

At least 40 people were injured in clashes between police and pro-hartal activists and over 28 vehicles were vandalised and set afire during hartal. Police arrested 71 pickets from different districts.

In Narayanganj, pickets vandalised 20 vehicles on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Nayabari in Kanchpur and on Dhaka-Narayanganj-Munshiganj Road at Kashiipur under Fatulla Police Station in the morning. They also set fire to tyres to block traffic on the roads.

Police picked up eight pickets, including two Jamaat men, on charge of vandalism during hartal hours, said Sheikh Nazmul Alam, superintendent of police.

Besides, police dispersed pro-hartal activists from Ghat No 5 area in the city and Chowdhurybari area in Sadar upazila.

In Rajshahi, police picked up JCD leader Shah Mainul Hasan from Sopura area of the city at around 7:00am. While JCD men were trying to bring out a procession from there, Tajul Islam Shahin, a city BNP leader, was also picked up from a procession in ward No 8.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the pickets who were trying to block Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Binodpur in the city at around 7:30am.

Unidentified criminals set fire to a students' bus of Rajshahi University (RU) on the campus at around 4:10am. Over 100 leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir brought out a pro-hartal procession in the university area at 7:00am.

In Sylhet, At least 15 people were injured during a clash between police and

Jamat-Shibir activists on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway in the city's Temukhi area at around 1:00pm.

Witnesses said pro-hartal activists blasted around 10 cocktails during the clash. Police resorted to baton charge and fired blank shots to disperse the pickets.

Meanwhile, Jamaat extended yesterday's hartal until 6:00pm in four districts of Sylhet division protesting the arrest of its acting Secretary General Shafiqur Rahman. The Jamaat leader was arrested from his Dhanmondi residence in the capital early yesterday.

In Sirajganj, five Shibir men were injured in a clash with Police at Rahmatganj in the town at noon. Police arrested nine people, including Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal Lenin, sports secretary of district BNP, during hartal hours.

In Brahmanbaria, police arrested 21 opposition activists from different areas of the district town on Wednesday. BNP activists brought out a procession in the town during hartal.

In Cox's Bazar, police picked up 24 BNP and Jamaat activists from different areas of the district on charge of vandalism during hartal.

Police were deployed in front of district Awami League office and BNP office to avoid any untoward incident.

In Satkhira, pickets vandalised three vehicles, including two passenger buses, in the town during hartal. Later, police arrested six BNP-Jamaat activists on charge of damaging the vehicles.

In Lalmonirhat, Pro-hartal activists torched a motorcycle of a policeman during a chase and counter-chase at Shaptibari in Aditmari upazila at around 10:00am.

Police had to fire two tear gas shells to disperse the pickets. They arrested a BNP man from the spot.

In Noakhali, pickets vandalised a bus of SA Paribahan in Majdee area of Sadar upazila at around 5:00am.

In Pabna, at least 10 people were injured during a clash between BNP and Awami League in Ishwardi upazila.

Pro-hartal activists vandalised two motorbikes of AL men and the residence of Md Babu Mondol, secretary of Pakshey union AL unit, at Diar Baghail village in the morning.

Babu Mondol claimed that pro-hartal activists attacked AL men at Natunhat intersection, prompting the AL men to retaliate.

Bogra, At least 15 people, including two policemen, were injured during a clash between Jubo league and Jubo Dal men on Nawab Bari Road in the town during hartal.

The clash ensued after Jubo league and BCL activists vandalised BNP office in the area at noon. Police fired rubber bullets and tear shells to disperse the clashing groups.

## Doc bombed to death in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A homeopathy doctor was killed in a bomb attack by muggers at Rotirampur village in Jibonnagar upazila of Chuadanga district on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Abdur Rahim, 40, son of late Sobhan Mandol of the village.

Police arrested one Zia, a resident of Ramnagar village in Damurhuda upazila, in this connection.

Md. Sahjahan, officer in charge of Jibonnagar police station, said the gang way-laid Rahim on Amtola-Rotirampur road at Uthli bus stand around 8:30pm and hurled two bombs on him, leaving him dead on the spot when he was returning home from his chamber at Monohorpur Bazar.

Hearing the sound of bomb blasts, neighbours rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

## 2 hurt as Khasias open fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two Bangladeshi nationals were seriously injured as a group Indian Khasia people opened fire on them in the hill area near Narayantala frontier on Sunamganj-Meghalaya border on Wednesday evening.

Kamal Mia, 32 and

Mokbul Mia, 40, of Islampur Uttarpara under Sunamganj Sadar police station, were admitted to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital with bullet wounds on chest and abdomen respectively.

The victims said that Khasias opened fire all of a sudden when they along with four others went to the

area for collecting wood.

Lt Col Abu Bakar Siddique, commanding officer of 8 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) battalion, said a flag meeting between the BGB and Indian BSF was held yesterday in this connection.

The BSF assured us of looking into the matter, he said.

## Punish culprits who attack, assault journos

Human chain in Rangpur demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur


Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association of Rangpur district unit formed a human chain in the city yesterday, demanding immediate arrest and punishment of those who attacked newsmen.

Among others, Shakil Ahmed, president of the unit and Liyakat Ali Badal, member secretary of Bangladesh Television Journalists Forum district unit, took part in the human chain at Rangpur Press Club.

The participants said criminals beat up Haji Maruf, chief of the Daily Bogra in Rangpur, up mercilessly, leaving him critically injured on December 10 when he was covering a report on upcoming RCC polls.

On Tuesday, Amran Hossain, a senior photo journalist of The Daily Star and Sourav Laskar, a photo journalist of The Daily New Age, were assaulted by police on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sign Board area during the countrywide daylong hartal enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance, they said.

They also urged the government to take stern action against the attackers.



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For further information, please contact:  
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