

Month of Victory



Wireless Colony area in Lalmonirhat town bears testimony to the brutal massacre of the innocent Bangalees by Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War but the place along with 14 other killing grounds and mass graves in different areas of the district have remained in utter neglect, thanks to the callousness of the authorities concerned regarding the memory of the martyrs.

PHOTO: STAR

Martyrs' graves neglected

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Fifteen mass graves of Liberation War martyrs in Sadar, Aditmari, Kaliganj and Hatibandha upazilas under the district, including the largest one near Lalmonirhat Railway Station of the district town, have remained neglected for long.

"Pakistan occupation army and their local collaborators brutally killed at least 620 people including women and children near Lalmonirhat Railway Station in Lalmonirhat town, said freedom fighter Abdul Hamid of Wireless Colony area in the town.

Other killing grounds and mass graves of Liberation War martyrs are at Storepara, Stadiumpara, Missionpara, Upyard Colony, Downyard Colony, Khedabag, Barobari under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, Swarnamoti Railway Bridge, Stationpara under Aditmari upazila, Dhalogram, Tusbandar, Bhotmari, Kakina under Kaliganj upazila and Barokhata under Hatibandha upazila, said officials of Lalmonirhat district unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad.

"On several occasions we the free-

dom fighters of Lalmonirhat sent project profile to the ministry concerned seeking fund for maintenance of mass graves of Liberation War martyrs in the district but we are yet to get any response," said freedom fighter Mohir Uddin of Storepara in the town.

Abu Bakkar Siddique, commander of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad, said, "About 350 people, including women and children, were killed by Pakistan army at Barokhata village under Hatibandha upazila in 1971 as the innocent people were going to India for shelter."

A few years ago, Lalmonirhat Zila Parishad took an initiative to build monuments at the mass graves in honour of the Liberation War martyrs but the plan has not been implemented due to lack of response from the government high ups, he said.

Yusuf Ali, commander of Lalmonirhat district unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad, urged the government to take steps to save the memories of the Liberation War martyrs for the future generation.

RANGPUR POLL
Campaigners fined for
violating code

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangpur

A mobile court yesterday fined two campaigners of two mayoral candidates in newly formed Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) polls for violating electoral code of conduct.

The offenders are Moshiur Rahman and Zahidul Islam, campaigners of AKM Abdur Rauf Manik, former organising secretary of JP central committee and Shoruddin Ahmed Jhaantu, former lawmaker and member of advisory committee of Rangpur district unit AL (WDB).

Of the mayoral aspirants, Manik was allotted "spectacle" symbol while Jhaantu got "motorcycle" for the polls.

Court sources said, Moshiur and Zahidul held separate motorbike rallies in Mahiganj and Jahaj Company intersection areas of the city in the afternoon respectively, violating poll code.

Later, the court led by executive magistrate Md Alam Hossain, found the duo guilty of violating electoral code of conduct and fined them Tk 3,000 each.

Earlier on Saturday, one mayoral and one councilor candidates were fined by a mobile court for violating poll code.

They are mayoral candidate Abdul Quddus and councilor aspirant Shah Alam.

Twelve mayoral, 91 women's reserved councilor and 321 councilor aspirants are contesting the RCC election, slated for December 20.

KPI ENCROACHER PUTS UP SIGNBOARD

First he crept into, now he is loud and clear

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Magura

The man, who earlier started earth-filling in the restricted area of four-vent Nabaganga regulator near Dhaka road bus stand in Magura town, put up a signboard there on Thursday, apparently to 'establish' his claim on the land belonging to the Water Development Board (WDB).

"This land is bought and owned by Alhaj Rajab Ali Majnu, son of late Abdul Hakim Biswas, and proprietor of Laboni Steel Corner, Syed Ator Ali Road, Magura," reads the signboard.

Majnu could not be contacted as he did not receive the cell phone calls made by this correspondent.

In late September, Majnu, known as an adherent of ruling Awami League, built a tin-shed structure on the land and started earth-filling in the restricted area adjoining the regulator, a key point installation (KPI) of the country.

He continued the callous act although the WDB officials served two notices on October 1 and October 2, asking him to remove the illegal structure.

WDB authorities on October 6 filed a case with Magura Sadar Police Station, accusing Majnu for violating the KPI Act

that does not allow any



PHOTO: STAR

The occupier, who earlier erected a tin-shed structure and continued earth-filling in the restricted area near Nabaganga Regulator in Magura town, put up a signboard there on Thursday, apparently to 'establish' his claim on the land belonging to Water Development Board. Right, the four-vent regulator.

structure within 150 metres of such installation.

As police did not record the case even after 17 days of its filing, Mohammad Faruk Bhuyan, the then executive engineer of Magura WDB, submitted a petition to the deputy commissioner (DC) in Magura on October 23.

On November 5, a team led by the ADC (Revenue) Goutam Chandra Pal and Magura Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Tabibur Rahman measured the land and asked Majnu to refrain from any construction work on the land until submission of the land measurement report to settle the issue.

But 40 days into the measurement, the team is

yet to submit the report to the DC for taking action in this regard, said sources in the DC office and WDB.

Meanwhile, after failed attempts to get 'sufficient cooperation' from police and civil administration to remove the structure built on the restricted land adjacent to the four-vent Nabaganga regulator, WDB authorities in Magura on December 6 sought help of the board's Security Cell in Dhaka for protection of the KPI in Magura town on Magura-Dhaka highway, said sources in Magura WDB.

Construction of any structure within 150 metres of the regulator will threaten the KPI and its collapse will disrupt businesses between Benapole

land port and capital Dhaka, said the WDB letter signed by Mohammad Lutfur Rahman, executive engineer of Magura WDB.

Besides, it will disrupt road communication between Dhaka and 10 south-western districts and hamper cultivation on about 3,000 hectares of land adjacent to the Nabaganga River, the letter adds.

On contact, ADC Goutam Chandra Pal expressed his ignorance about any signboard on the saidland.

He, however, said, "As Majnu had already ignored the instruction of the administration, we will take necessary lawful step after visiting the spot."



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