

LANGUAGE MOVEMENT

# Women at forefront glorify role of Nilphamari

EAM ASADUZZAMAN,  
Nilphamari

Language Movement in Nilphamari is glorified by participation of a good number of women activists at the front line.

At a period when the society was largely conservative, the women organised processions and meetings, and rendering patriotic songs and poems, inspiring people to join movement to foil conspiracy against our mother language, said local Language Movement veterans.

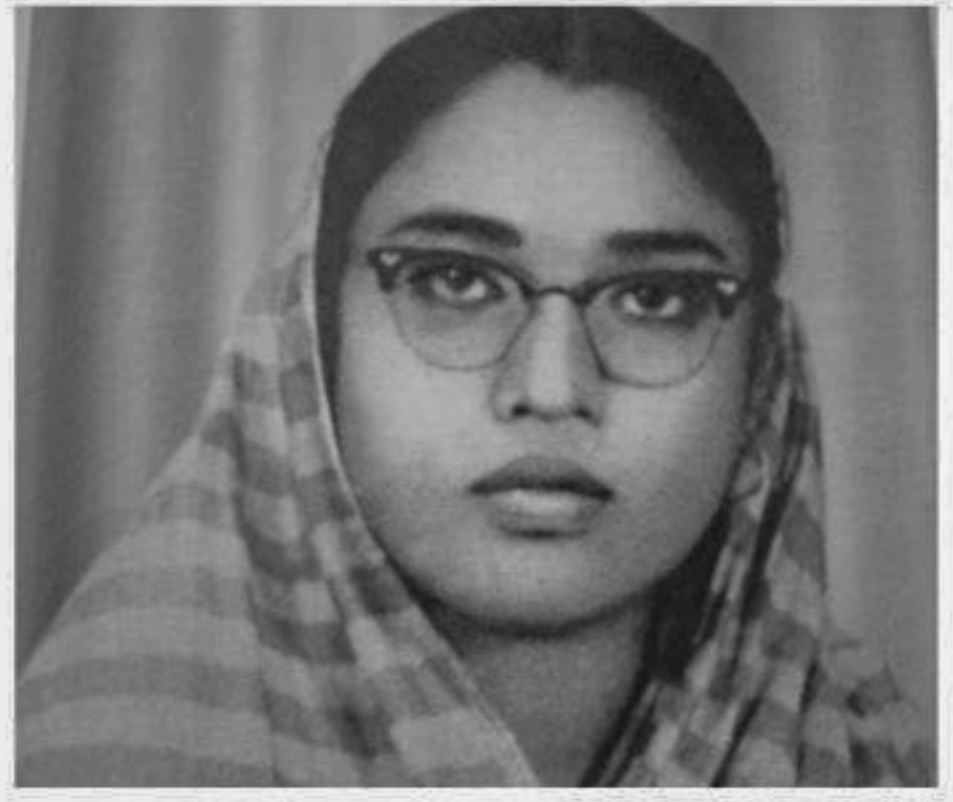
"In those days, women were mostly confined to houses. Still a good number of female activists, mostly students of Nilphamari Government Girls' High School, took active part in the Language Movement of 1952," recalled advocate Mahbubar Rahman Dulu, 78, a Language Movement veteran.

"The leading female activists in the Language Movement in the district included Foujia Begum, Zakia Sultana, Chhomela, Feroja, Halima, Rabeya, Saleha, Sufia and Bulu. Most of them were students of Nilphamari Government Girls' High School," he said.

On February 21 in 1952, an all out strike was observed in all educational institutions of Nilphamari, in line with the central programme in Dhaka. A big rally was held on the premises of Muslim Hostel of Nilphamari High School. Foujia Begum and Feroja Begum addressed the rally along with male student leaders.

The news of killing of Rafiq, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar, Shafiq and others on February 21 by Pakistani police in Dhaka reached Nilphamari on the night and thousands of people burst into protest in the town the next day.

Defying threat by the then non-Bengali sub-divisional officer (SDO), they continued processions and meet-



Foujia Begum



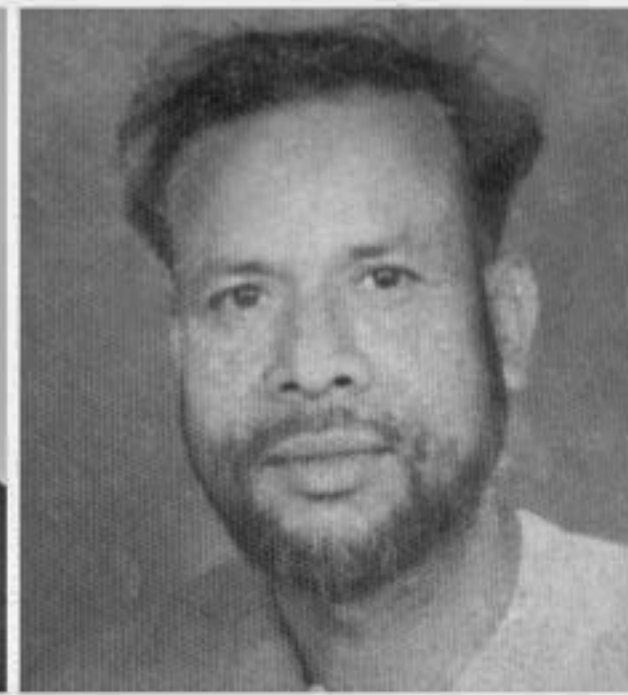
Chhomela Begum



Khairat Hossain



Shafiar Rahman



Nazem Mohammad Ali

ings in the town all day long. Agitation triggered further when Pakistan government arrested Khairat Hossain, opposition member of the then East Pakistan provincial assembly in Dhaka, on February 22.

Pakistan government was angered as this opposition Awami Muslim League lawmaker elected from the district along with renowned political personality of the country Moulana Abdur Rashid Tarkobagish walked out from the provincial assembly in Dhaka in protest against the killing of students on February 21.

Thousands of people from all walks of life including a good number of women on February 24, 25 and 26 took to the streets and chanted slogans demanding the release of Khairat Hossain and other political prisoners. The agitators also remained vocal demanding the status of Bangla as a state language.

Police arrested local Awami Muslim League convenor advocate Dabiruddin Ahmed and educationist Abu Nazem Mohammad Ali on the night of February 26.

As several other local leaders went into hiding, female activists including Jakia Sultana, Chhomela, Feroja, Halima, Saleha, and Sufia came forward to fill up the vacuum in leadership.

They arranged street corner functions and recited poems and rendered patriotic songs composed by Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Jibonnanando Das and others to inspire people to join the movement.

People continued agitation and besieged the local police station on February 28.

The then SDO Urdu speaking Monwar Hossain threatened guardians of female activists to prevent their daughters but to no effect.

As arrest warrant was issued against Foujia Begum

and Halima, they went into hiding but continued inspiring people from behind the scene. Foujia Begum, daughter of a wealthy man, continued financing for the programmes as before.

Police arrested local unit Muslim Chhatra League general secretary Shafiar Rahman and Jubo League convenor Shamsul Haque, triggering further protest from locals.

Khairat Hossain was released from Dhaka Central Jail after two years. Dabiruddin Ahmed and Abu Nazem Mohammad Ali were released after six months from Rangpur jail. Muslim Chhatra League leader Shafiar Rahman and Jubo League leader Shamsul Haque were released from Dhaka central jail after one month. Meanwhile, Shafiar Rahman appeared in the matriculation examination with special permission from the jail authority.



A team of Kolkata Football Lovers' Association, which reached Manikganj riding bicycles yesterday morning, left for Dhaka the same day. The team members will express solidarity with Shahbagh movement and place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar today. They will leave Dhaka for Kolkata tomorrow.

## Strike in India halts work at Hili land port

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

Export-import activities through Hili land port in Hakimpur upazila yesterday came to a halt as Indian opposition CPM enforced a two-day long strike, protesting recent economic reform by central government.

However, the loading and unloading continued and the port remained open for immigrants.

The land port will also remain closed on Friday due to weekend holiday, said a port official.

# Jamaat's hartal goes largely disregarded in Rajshahi divn

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Barring a few incidents of violence in three districts, the daylong hartal enforced by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami passed off largely disregarded in Rajshahi division yesterday, according to our correspondents.

Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations were held as per schedule at all centres in the division without any disruption, said Tanvirul Alam, chairman of Rajshahi Education Board.

Jamaat called the hartal in all eight districts of the division protesting arrest of its Rajshahi city ameer Ataur Rahman in Dhaka on Tuesday.

People of Bogra, Natore, Naogaon, Joypurhat and Sirajganj districts rejected the hartal while it ended amid a few stray incidents of violence in Rajshahi, Pabna and Chapainawabganj.

Pickets vandalised two trucks at Kharkhari Bazar at around 8:00am and set fire to tyres in Debishingpara and Binodpur areas of Rajshahi city.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Moniruzzaman said police fired 30 tear gas shells and rubber bullets during a clash with Jamaat-Shibir men in the city. Hartal supporters blasted five hand bombs during the clash that continued for ten minutes, the commissioner added.

Police chased Jamaat-Shibir men while they were gathering at C&B intersection in the morning to bring out a procession. At least 12 Jamaat-Shibir men were picked up from Binodpur, Debishingpara and C&B intersection.

Awami League led 14-party alliance also took out processions in the city, rejecting the hartal.

All educational institutions, shops and markets remained open during hartal hours.

Minibuses, public and private cars and a large number of CNG-run three-wheelers were seen plying the city streets. Rickshaws were also found dominating the thoroughfares. Train service was normal.

In Pabna, Jamaat-Shibir men vandalised seven shops at Abdul Hamid and Haji Mohammad roads in the town. Witnesses said the pro-hartal men came to the streets in processions and vandalised the shops. They also vandalised 10 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and battery-run three easy bikes on the roads.

Jamaat-Shibir men blocked Dasuria-Mirkamari Road in Ishwardi upazila and Jalalpur-Pushpapara in Sadar upazila in the morning. Most of the schools and colleges remained open but vehicles except rickshaws and auto-rickshaws were off the roads.

In Chapainawabganj, Jamaat and Shibir activists took out processions and set fire to tyres on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway at Upar Rajampur and Swarupnagar in the town. No untoward incident took place in the district headquarters during hartal. The Jamaat call shutdown was by and large peaceful in all upazilas of the district.

## PCJSS calls for urgent steps to free party men

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangamati

Partbatta Chhattagram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday demanded immediate steps to rescue the party men, who were kidnapped allegedly by the members of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) from Kattholi in Longudu upazila on Saturday.

The leaders of PCJSS submitted a memorandum in this regard to the prime minister through deputy commissioner Md Mostofa Kamal.

PCJSS claimed that the armed men of UPDF abducted 70 leaders and activists when they were going back homes after attending the party's 41st founding anniversary programme in the district town.

Among the victims are Moni Shankar Chakma, secretary of Longudu upazila unit PCJSS, Josho Chakma, secretary of Jubo Samity and its organising secretary Milon Chakma.

Although Longudu police said that at least 13 PCJSS men were freed by the kidnapers, leaders of the party trashed the police claim.

"We are yet to get any information from the family members of the victims about their release," said Sajib Chakma, assistant information secretary of PCJSS.

The party also demanded a ban on UPDF in hills and immediate arrest and punishment of the kidnapers.

Members of joint forces were raiding different hill areas to rescue the PCJSS men, said Md Rezaul Haque, officer in-charge at Longudu police station.

Meanwhile, Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), a student wing of PCJSS, yesterday formed a human chain and held a rally in the town, demanding proper execution of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) agreement.

## RECALLING THE LANGUAGE MARTYRS



FROM TOP: A florist busy preparing wreaths at his shop in Dinajpur town, children participate in a painting contest organised by Moumachhi Khelaghar Asar on its office premises in Bogra town, and Chandpur district administration and municipality authorities jointly arrange a four-day book fair on the premises of the Central Shaheed Minar in the town yesterday.



### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Power Division Power Cell

## Employment Opportunity

Applications are invited from bona-fide Bangladeshi nationals for the following post under the project titled "Technical Assistance for Implementation of Bangladesh Power Sector Reform (Phase-II)" under the Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post & Salary	No. of Post	Qualification, Experience and Responsibilities
01.	Director General (Monthly consolidated salary Tk. 50,950.00)	1	Must have Graduation in Electrical/ Mechanical Engineering or Master Degree in Business Administration or Economics with at least 25 years professional experience in administration or managerial aspects. Maximum age limit is 60 years. He/she should have good technical, financial and managerial skill and should have fair knowledge about reforms, restructuring & corporatization and regulatory framework for power sector.  He/she will be responsible for supervising or facilitating the preparation of detailed implementation plan, Co-ordinating and managing reform process, implementation of reform program of generation, transmission and distribution sector, policy issues of the power sector such as private power, captive power, commercial interface, promotional activities of sustainable energy, demand side management, clean energy development etc., develop strategic plan for private participation in the sector, tariff study and its formulation, distribution system rationalization, area demarcation and interface metering system among the utilities for energy audit system, review financial action plan of existing and emerging corporatized entities, review and finalization of investment plan prepared by various utilities, develop strategic plan for public private partnership in infrastructure building, prepare an appropriate HRD strategy for existing and emerging corporatized entities, develop a communication strategy among the stakeholders and establish a digital connectivity for MIS of the sector, establish computerized monitoring system of the entities, support to institutionalize the SREDA, legislation amendment necessary for reforms implementation and monitoring & supervision of consultant's activities.
02.	Director (Private Power) (Monthly consolidated salary Tk. 39,325.00)	01	Must have Graduation Degree in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering with at least 20 years professional experience in power sector planning, private power project development, distribution, tariff, reforms, restructuring and regulatory frameworks. Maximum age limit is 55 years. S/he will be responsible for helping the Director General in implementation of reform program and will act as counterpart with the International Consultants in private power development aspects of generation, transmission and distribution system.

#### Terms of Condition:

1. This appointment will be completely on temporary basis; primarily this appointment will be for one year. It may be extended on successful completion of job by the authority. But it will not be extended any beyond the completion of the project.
2. Applications should addressed to the Secretary, Power Division, Ministry of Power Energy and Mineral Resources, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, along with 3 (three) attested copies of recent passport size photograph and attested copies of certificates of all educational qualifications and experiences.
3. Application should reach to the office of the undersigned on or before 25 March 2013. Candidates already in service should apply through proper channel. Experience will be relaxable for the departmental candidates.
4. Name of the post must be mentioned on the top of the envelope.
5. Power Division reserve the right to appoint or not to appoint any one or the entire above project personnel without showing any reason thereby.

(Tapos Kumar Roy)

Additional Secretary, Power Division  
& Convener, Appointment Committee  
Ministry of Power Energy and Mineral Resources  
Biddyt Bhaban (10th Floor)  
1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.