

Killing grounds in utter neglect in Lalmonirhat

FFs demand memorials for Liberation War martyrs

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Over a dozen killing grounds and mass graves in the district where hundreds of Bangladeshis were massacred by the Pakistan occupation forces during the 1971 Liberation War are heading towards virtual obliteration.

On April 5 in 1971, Pakistan army killed about 600 people in the town and buried them in mass graves beside the railway office at Railway Colony village in the town.

Soon after the independence, over 200 skeletons, bones and skulls were recovered from the area and the spot became known as Railway Rickshaw Stand Bodhyabumi (killing ground).

Over 200 people who were fleeing to India met tragic death on April 25, as the Pakistan army opened fire indiscriminately on them near Barobari Bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Nine potters were brutally killed and buried by Pakistani forces at Khochabari village in Lalmonirhat town on April 28, said freedom fighter Syed Ali, a resident of the village.



PHOTO: STAR

This place beside Lalmonirhat Railway Station witnessed brutal massacre of around 600 people by the Pakistan occupation forces on April 5 in 1971, but the spot, now being used as a rickshaw stand, would appear nothing different from an ordinary surrounding as the authorities concerned did not take any initiative for preservation of the place in honour of the Liberation War martyrs.

At least 52 people including two freedom fighters lost their lives in a dreadful fight with the Pakistan army at Saptibari union of Aditmari upazila on June 8, 1971.

There are also mass graves at Saheb Para in Lalmonirhat town,

Khedabag in Sadar upazila, Doljor Dola Railway Bridge area, Bhelabari, Polashi and Mohishkocha villages of Aditmari upazila, Bhotmari and Dolgram villages of Kaliganj upazila, and Goddimari and Barokhata villages of Hatibandha upazila in the district.

"We demand memorials at the mass graves of the martyred people. The memory of the heroic sons of the soil must be kept alive in the mind of future generations," said Abu Bakkar Siddique, commander of Lalmonirhat Sadar unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Youth held with pistol, bullets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Detectives arrested a young man along with a foreign-made pistol and five bullets at Atapara in the district town yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Obaidur Rahman Pantho, 33, son of Selim Mia of the area.

Police said a team of DB police, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Pantho at around 7:00am and arrested him along with the firearm and bullets.

The arrestee was involved in criminal activities in the area, said Amirul Islam, officer-in-charge of DB police in the town.

A case was filed against the youth under the Arms Act, said the OC.

Robbers loot house in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

Robbers looted cash and gold ornaments from a house in Tala upazila to the district early yesterday.

Shadhan Sarkar, owner of the house, said a gang of 5/6 stormed into his house and took away Tk 86,000 and 18 tolas of gold ornaments.

The robbers also beat up the family members as they tried to resist them, he said.

A case was filed with Tala Police Station yesterday morning. The officer-in-charge of the police station said they are raiding different areas to arrest the robbers.

Petrol bomb seized from BNP man's house

UNB, Magura

Police seized a petrol bomb, two crude bombs and some bottles filled with petrol from the house of a BNP activist at Derua village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a drive at the house of Shariful and seized the bombs in the morning.

However, Shariful managed to flee the scene, sensing the presence of the law enforcers, said Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

A case was filed in this connection, said the OC.

Tortured schoolboy takes own life in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A schoolboy committed suicide after being mercilessly beaten upon 'false allegation' of stealing in Bhaluka upazila under the district on Wednesday night.

The victim, Sanwar Hossain, 14, son of small farmer Abdus Samad of Kongsherkul, was a Class VIII student of Kongsherkul High School.

Local youth Rubel Hossain, 25, an auto-rickshaw driver, and his friend Altaf Hossain, 28, a human hauler driver, called out Sanwar from his house on Wednesday evening and took him to the restaurant of Rubel's father Amir

Hossain at local Birunia Bazar, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Selim Ahmed, referring to family and locals.

"There Rubel, Amir Hossain, Altaf and Mamun allegedly started beating the boy with sticks, saying that he had stolen food from Amir's restaurant.

"They tied the boy with a chair and continued beating him for several hours.

"Hearing the incident, local chowkidar (guard) Shahjahan Miah informed Faruq Ahmed, member of Kongsherkul ward of Birunia union parishad, around 1:00am.

"Faruq rushed to the spot, rescued the boy and reached him home.

"The tortured boy got too upset and told his parents

and elder sisters that he was beaten on false allegation and it would be better for him to die to save the family from dishonour."

"When all went to sleep, the boy hanged himself with a scarf from a tree near his house. Informed, police recovered the body around 2:30pm Wednesday. The whole body bore marks of injury caused by severe beating," said SI Selim Ahmed, also investigation officer of the case filed in connection with the incident.

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

None was arrested as of filing of this report.

Fish poisoned to death over land dispute

Two siblings among 4 sued in Pirgachha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Fishes worth Tk 13 lakh were poisoned to death over a land dispute at Protap Joysen village in Pirgachha upazila on Tuesday night.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between one Md Nurunnabi Sarkar, 40, son of late Khalilur Rahman of the village, and his younger brothers Shahajan Mian, 33,

and Saiful Islam, 30, over a piece of land.

Nurunnabi, owner of Rana Fish Hatchery, said he released various species of fish in his pond this year.

As a sequel to the conflict, a gang, allegedly led by Shahajan and Saiful, poisoned the water of the pond on Tuesday night.

Later, dead fishes were found floating in the pond, said police.

The two siblings went

into hiding soon after the incident, said Md Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Pirgachha Police Station.

Nurunnabi claimed that the loss caused by the heinous act could go up to Tk 13 lakh.

Mokter Hossain, another younger brother of Nurunnabi, filed a case, accusing four people, including Shahajan and Saiful, in this connection on Wednesday, said the OC.



PHOTO: STAR

Huge quantities of fish die afloat at a pond of Protap Joysen village in Pirgachha upazila under Rangpur district as the pond water was poisoned allegedly by rival brothers on Tuesday night.

2 JMB men arrested in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Detectives arrested two operatives of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Panditpur village in Nachole upazila early yesterday.

The arrestees are Abdul Motakabbir alias Bulbul alias Fahim alias Nabin, 27, son of Yeasin Ali of Shbnagar village in Manda upazila of Naogaon, and Ashrafur Islam alias Ashraf alias Roni, 26, son of Abdul Haque of Char Chakla village in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the village around 12:30am and detained Motakabbir and Ashrafur from a house.

The arrestees were wanted in a number of cases filed with different police stations of Chapainawabganj, said Hamidur Rashid, inspector of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police in Chapainawabganj.

Attack on Independence Day programme in Sherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

At least five schoolboys were injured as criminals attacked an Independence Day programme at Ainapur High School in Jhenaigati upazila of the district yesterday morning.

Critically injured Talash Mahmud, 16, a Class X student of the school, was admitted to Jhenaigati Upazila Health Complex while the rest were given first aid at the hospital.

Police and school authorities said a gang of criminals, equipped with lethal weapons, swooped on the programme at around 11:00 am.

The gang injured five students of the school, vandalised the venue and left the scene. The reason behind the attack could not be known.

Md Hasmat Ali, headmaster of the school, demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Fasiur Rahman of Jhenaigati Police Station said law enforcers have already launched a drive to arrest the culprits involved.

INDEPENDENCE DAY IN FRAME



PHOTO: STAR
1) Students make an artistic display at Chapainawabganj Stadium, 2) Dinajpur Shishu Academy arranges a painting competition for children, 3) students take part in a march past at Pirojpur Stadium, and 4) schoolchildren display a scene of the Liberation War on the ground of Mymensingh Circuit House as the nation celebrated the 45th Independence Day yesterday.



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