

# Justice brings solace to martyrs' families

Say freedom fighters, Santhia people as war criminal Nizami hanged

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, back from Dhulauri, Santhia, Pabna

The execution of war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami has brought some solace to the family members of the victims, freedom fighters and locals who witnessed the brutalities of the Pakistan occupation forces and their local accomplices in Santhia upazila under Pabna district during the 1971 Liberation War.

"My father helped the freedom fighters in the village. They (Nizami and his fellows along with Pakistan army) killed my

father mercilessly in front of my mother on November 27 among other people in Dhulauri village," freedom fighter Mazaharul Islam Liakot told this correspondent yesterday.

"My mother is now happy to see the justice although we had to wait 45 years for it," he said.

Liakot's father Md Abdul Awal, a village doctor, was among the 52 martyrs who were buried in Dhulauri mass grave on November 27 in 1971 after Nizami along with his associates and the Pakistan occupation army killed the innocent villagers as 'punishment' for supporting free-

dom fighters.

The death penalty of Nizami consoles the family members of the martyred people in Dhulauri village, said Md Abdur Rouf Montu who also lost his father Abul Kashem Fakir in Dhulauri massacre.

"After a long wait for justice, victim families are happy to see the execution of Nizami's death penalty," said freedom fighter Johurul Haque of Haria village, also the key witness in the case against Nizami regarding the massacre in Santhia's Demra where more than 400 people were martyred on May 13 night in

1971.

Motiur Rahman Nizami instigated the Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the occupation army, to commit crimes against humanity during 1971 Liberation War.

Nizami, also chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, was hanged early yesterday and buried in his ancestral village Monmothpur of Santhia upazila in Pabna in the morning.

Freedom fighters and the family members of the Liberation War martyrs in the area went to the mass graves and offered prayers for the peace of the martyred souls.

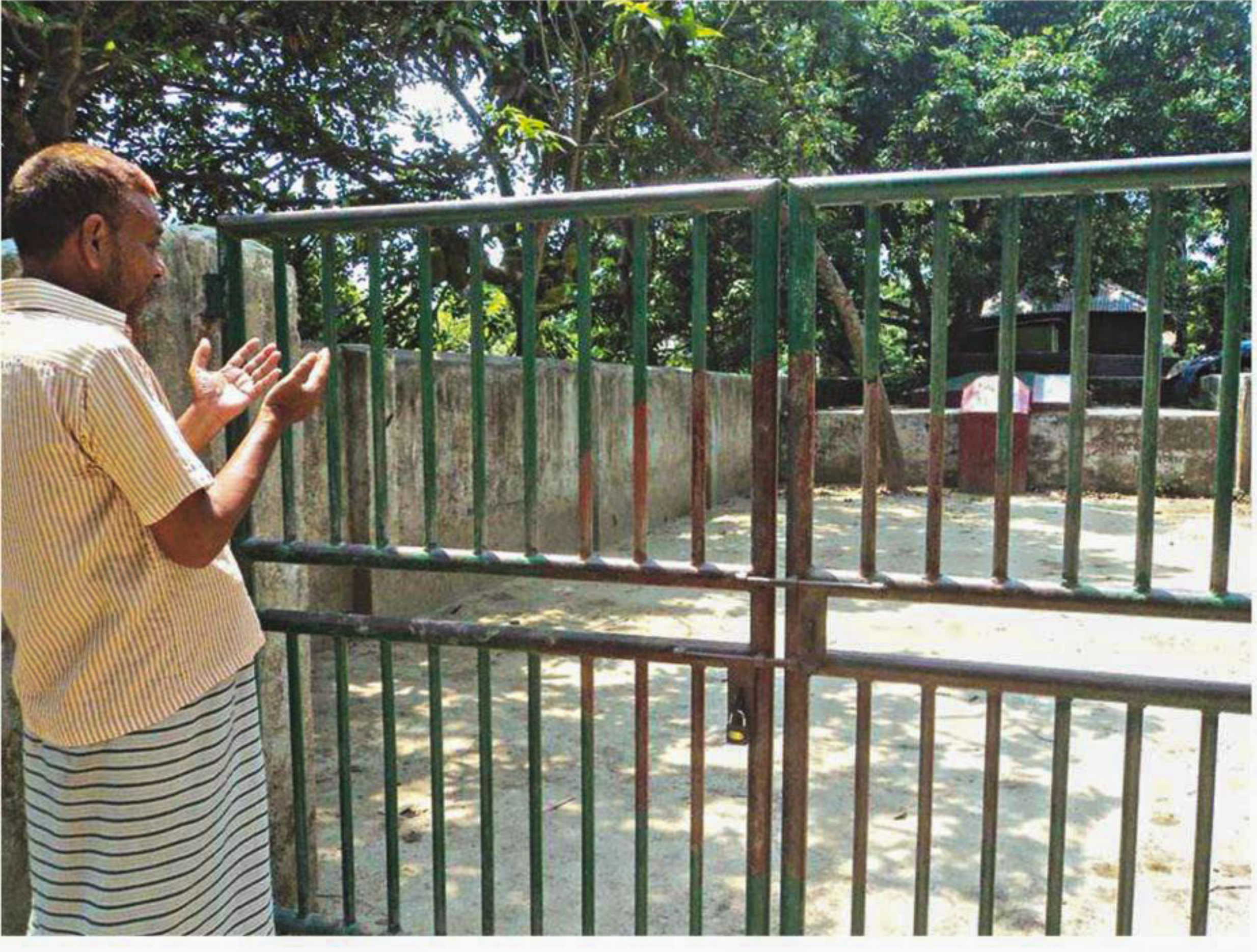


PHOTO: STAR  
Freedom fighter Majaharul Islam Liakot prays in front of Dhulauri mass grave in Santhia upazila under Pabna district, a reminder of the brutal killing of dozens of villagers by the Pakistan occupation army and their local collaborators led by Motiur Rahman Nizami on November 27 in 1971, after execution of the war criminal yesterday. The mass grave also contains the mortal remains of Liakot's father Abdul Awal, a victim of the massacre.

## Field test on for 3 more GM crops

FROM PAGE 16  
technology in recent times, reflecting farmer satisfaction with biotech crops, it said.

The ISAAA, governed by an international board of directors, is composed of three centres: the AfriCenter in Nairobi, Kenya; AmeriCenter, Ithaca, New York; and the SEAsiaCenter in Los Baños, the Philippines.

The ISAAA report said, "Success with Bt brinjal has led Bangladesh to prioritise the field testing of a new late blight resistant potato [an important crop occupying 0.5 million hectares in Bangladesh] which could be approved as early as 2017."

Potato is the fourth most important food staple globally and with an annual output of nine million tonnes, Bangladesh is now a potato exporting country.

Once released, the RB (blight resistant) potato will be farmers' answer to late blight, one of the most devastating plant diseases caused by fungal attack, Rafiqul Islam Mondal, director general of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), told The Daily Star. He is optimistic that the biotech potato will get regulatory approval by 2017.

Farmers in Bangladesh spend up to Tk 100 crore a year in spraying 500 tonnes of fungicide to protect this major tuber crop.

"Given the importance of the large cotton/textile industry in Bangladesh, Bt cotton is being evaluated in field trials as well as Golden Rice, which could address the prevalent Vitamin A deficiency in the country," stated the ISAAA report.

The Bt cotton seeds are infused with genetic traits taken from a soil-dwelling bacterium -- Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) -- that

effectively fights bollworm, a harmful caterpillar responsible for damaging cotton yields.

Each year Bangladesh grows a paltry 0.15 million bales of cotton and spends up to Tk 20,000 crore for importing over 5 million bales more to meet the demand, said Cotton Development Board (CDB) Executive Director Farid Uddin.

Industry sources said typical synthetic pesticides have become increasingly ineffective in fighting cotton bollworm, thereby causing up to 20 percent crop losses. Cotton growers' expenditure on pesticides accounts for 40 percent of the total production costs.

"China is just one example of biotechnology's benefits for farmers in developing countries. Between 1997 and 2014, biotech cotton varieties brought an estimated \$17.5 billion worth of benefits to Chinese cotton farmers, and they realised \$1.3 billion in 2014 alone," explained ISAAA Global Coordinator Randy Hautea.

Also in 2015, India became the leading cotton producer in the world with much of its growth attributed to biotech Bt cotton. India is the largest biotech cotton country in the world with 11.6 million hectares planted in 2015 by 7.7 million small farmers. In 2014 and 2015, an impressive 95 percent of India's cotton crop was planted with biotech seed; China's adoption in 2015 was 96 percent.

Meanwhile, scientists at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) told The Daily Star that on completion of a successful trial of the genetically engineered Golden Rice at the transgenic screen house of BRRI, they have taken the biotech rice --

GR-2 E BRRI dhan29 -- to confined field trials late last year.

As follow-up steps, open-field and multi-location trials would be conducted, setting into motion the last stage for its release to the farmers, they added.

Along with two other rice varieties (IR-64, a variety developed by the International Rice Research Institute, and RC-28, a Filipino variety), BRRI Dhan-29, one of Bangladesh's most productive rice varieties, has been genetically engineered to have greater expressions of a corn gene responsible for producing beta carotene (also known as pro-vitamin A). This has been widely publicised as Golden Rice for its yellowish colour.

Rice does not contain any beta carotene. Dependence on rice as the predominant food source, therefore, necessarily leads to Vitamin A deficiency (VAD), most severely affecting small children and pregnant women.

Consumption of only 150 gram of Golden Rice a day is expected to supply half of the recommended daily intake (RDA) of vitamin A for an adult. People in Bangladesh depend on rice for 70 percent of their daily calorie intakes.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) global database on vitamin A deficiency, one in every five pre-school children in Bangladesh is vitamin A-deficient. Among pregnant women, 23.7 percent suffer from the deficiency.

The IRRI says VAD is the main cause of preventable blindness in children and globally, some 6.7 million children die every year and another 3,50,000 go blind because they are vitamin A-deficient.

Referring to doubling of

Bt brinjal acreage from 12 hectares in 2014 to 25 hectares in 2015, the ISAAA credited the success to Bangladesh's political will, particularly from Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury.

It said, "Importantly, seed [Bt brinjal] is now being multiplied to meet the growing needs of substantially more farmers in 2016."

"Since 1996, 2 billion hectares of arable land -- a massive area more than twice the landmass of China or the United States -- have been planted with biotech crops. Additionally, it is estimated that farmers in up to 28 countries have reaped more than US\$150 billion in benefits from biotech crops since 1996. This has helped alleviate poverty for up to 16.5 million small farmers and their families annually totalling about 65 million people, who are some of the poorest people in the world," said the

## Karnaphuli

FROM PAGE 2  
Later, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court vacated the HC stay, prompting the MMDC to take the issue to the arbitration board.

The board is currently hearing the matter.

Currently, the CPA is planning to resume the dredging on its own.

Contacted, CPA Member (admin) Mohammad Jafar Alam recently said they would have to do the dredging all over again as the work remained suspended over three years.

They would take initiatives for dredging in the newly-built jetty area at Sadarghat where lighter vessel berth, he said.

Alam said they also claimed Tk 178 crore as compensation from the Malaysian firm.

## Man 'commits suicide' in Sirajganj police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in police custody early yesterday, hours after he was picked up on charge of stealing and taken to Kamarkhanda Police Station.

The victim, Babu Hossain, 40, of Dhopakandi village in the upazila, was arrested from Jamtali Rail Station area on Tuesday evening and later taken to the police station.

Babu hanged himself from the ventilator of the police station's toilet with his shirt some time between 3:00am to 4:00am, Officer-in-Charge Babul Sardar of Kamarkhanda Police Station said.

Police recovered his hanging body around 5:30am and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC added.

Sirajganj Superintendent of Police Mohammad Miraj Uddin Ahmed said they have already formed a three-member probe-committee to investigate the incident.

## 4 abducted fishermen buy freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Four fishermen were released by a gang of robbers in the Sundarbans after paying a ransom of Tk 1 lakh on Tuesday night.

They are Tarikul Islam, 23, Mahfizul Dhali, 30, Moazzem Dhali and Bablu Sardar, 28. They all hail from Chandimukhi village in Shyamnagar upazila of the district.

The victims' families said they paid Tk 25 thousand for each of them to Noya Mia, the leader of a gang of robbers active in the Sundarbans, through bKash account.

The fishermen went for fishing in the Sundarbans on May 4 after taking permission from the authorities at Burigoalin Station in Satkhira.

When the fishermen went to the Kateswar River on May 6, the gang abducted them and kept them in their den in the mangrove forest and demanded money from their family members' for their release.

The victims returned home after paying the ransom on Tuesday.

Shoab Khan, assistant conservator of forests in Satkhira range, said he did not receive any complaint regarding this matter.

## Polls violence victim dies in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man, who was injured in a clash during voting on May 7 at Palashbari Government Primary Polling centre in Baliadangi upazila of the district, died early yesterday at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The victim was identified as Nazim Uddin, 62, son of late Choitun Mohammad of Jhikra village under the upazila.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Baliadangi Police Station, told this correspondent over cellphone that supporters of two member candidates -- Talibur Rahman and Foijur Rahman -- engaged in a clash during the UP elections outside Palashbari Government Primary Polling centre on May 7, leaving several people from both sides injured.

Nazim, who was critically injured during the clash, was admitted to Baliadangi Upazila Health Complex and shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital on the same day. He died there at around 2:30am.

## JUBILATION OVER BRILLIANT RESULTS



PHOTO: STAR  
JOY OF SUCCESS: GPA-5 achiever students of 1) Amana Baki Residential Model College and College in Chiribandar upazila under Dinajpur district, 2) Bidyamoyee Government Girls' High School in Mymensingh town, 3) Mirzapur Cadet College in Tangail, and 4) Bogra Cantonment School and College flash V-sign on the premises of their institutions after publication of the SSC examination results yesterday.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর  
৩৭/৩, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সংশ্লিষ্টদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরের ট্রেড-ইন্সট্রাক্টর, স্টাফ-লিপিকার কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, স্টাফ-মুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর ও হিসাব সহকারী পদে জনবল নিয়োগের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ১৩/০৫/২০১৬ তারিখে বিকাল ৩ঃ৩০ ঘটিকায় ইডেন মহিলা কলেজ, আজিমপুর, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হওয়ার কথা ছিল। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ উক্ত পরীক্ষা স্থগিত করা হলো।

বর্ণিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৭/০৫/২০১৬ তারিখ সকাল ১১ঃ০০ ঘটিকায় সিদ্ধেশ্বরী গার্লস কলেজ, বেইলী রোড, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। পূর্বে ইস্যুকৃত প্রবেশপত্র বহাল থাকবে। এর জন্য পুনরায় কোন প্রবেশপত্র ইস্যু করা হবে না।

সুলতানা বেগম  
উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাঃ ও অর্থ)  
ও  
সদস্য সচিব  
নিয়োগ কমিটি  
মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা  
ফোনঃ ০২-৫৮৩১০৭৭০

জিডি-১০৫৫