



A Muslim and a Hindu woman offer prayers for souls of their martyred relatives at Sahebpara mass grave in Lalmonirhat town.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# Sahebpara mass grave: An epitome of communal harmony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

"The Pakistan army and Urdu-speaking Biharis killed my seven-year-old younger brother Binoy Chandra Das and four-year-old younger sister Minoti Rani Das before my very eyes," said a tearful Shefali Rani Das.

A Birangana of 1971, from Sahebpara area of Lalmonirhat town, Shefali is now 64 years of age.

"My father Charu Chandra Das was a railway driver. [That day] he was driving a train from Lalmonirhat to Burimari station. My mother went to visit a relative in the town. My two younger siblings and I were at home.

"The day was April 4, 1971. Twilight just began to fade into evening. The house was locked from outside. The army and the Biharis broke the lock and entered our house," said Shefali, who was only a teenager back then.

"I cried a lot, but I couldn't do anything for my younger siblings. They later blindfolded me and dragged me out. That day I could recognise Kalu Mastan, a Bihari gang leader from Sahebpara area."

Shefali found out several days later that a member from the local sweeper community was engaged to bury the bodies of her brother and sister, along with bodies of nine other



children who were killed the same day, in a mass grave by a bush nearby.

The names of the nine children are Asma Khatun, 7, Jalal Uddin, 9, Helal Uddin, 4, Babu Islam, 12, and Altaf Hossain, 15 (children of railway employee Nasir Uddin Mandal); and Benu Khatun, 5, Sheli Khatun, 7, Hosna Khatun, 9, and Sahidul Islam, 15 (children of railway employee Mohammad Mandal).

On April 4 and 5 in 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces, accompanied by their local collaborators including the non-Bangalees and Bangalee Razakars, went on a rampage against Bangladeshis to retaliate deaths of Pakistanis during a confrontation that took place at Lalmonirhat Air Base on April 1, between Bangalee and non-Bangalee members of East Pakistan Rifles, according to locals.

Golam Mostafa, 62, son of Mohammad Mandal, said he lost four of his siblings on April 4.

Narrating the massacre, he said he and his

father were out of the house that evening. His mother Sulekha Begum was in the house with his four siblings.

The Pakistan army and the Biharis abducted his mother after killing all the four children in front of her and they later shot her dead, Mostafa said. "I later came to learn that my mother's body was also buried in the same mass grave, by the same sweeper.

"I still remember the faces of my siblings and my mother. I can't forget them. We had no chance to bury them according to our custom and we couldn't arrange Janaza for them," he sighed.

In 2009, Golam Mostafa, with the help of locals, demarcated the mass grave of Sahebpara and put up protective walls around it. He continues to hoist the national flag there every day to honour the martyrs.

With members from both Hindu and Muslim communities often gathering before the mass grave at the same time to offer prayers for the souls of their martyred relatives, the Sahebpara mass grave has become the epitome of communal harmony and national unity.

Locals said the site of historic significance deserves to be preserved by the departments concerned of the government.

# Bauls in their hundreds in deep crisis for survival

MD AMINUL ISLAM

Hundreds of baul artistes in Mymensingh region are in distressed state as they are passing their days with almost no contract since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

Winter is the peak season for baul artistes as they are hired to perform the mystical songs especially in the rural areas but the scenario is totally different this year because of the pandemic induced crises, said some baul artistes while talking to this correspondent.

There are around 4,000 baul artistes including 1,500 female artistes in Mymensingh region.

Apart from the artistes, around 1,000 musicians are also involved with baul songs in the region that includes Mymensingh, Netrakona, Sherpur and Jamalpur districts, said Rezaul Karim Aslam, secretary of Mymensingh Baul Samity, a forum of baul artistes.

Most of the artistes, who depend on income from rendition of baul songs, are the worst sufferers as they are not being hired in the pandemic time, he said.

A few of them have got a meagre financial support amid coronavirus pandemic.

Thirty bauls got 30-kg rice each while six bauls and four musicians got a grant of Tk 5,000 each from Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy so far, Aslam added.

A 79-year-old Baul Ahmad Ali of city's Kalibari area said the situation that he experienced in coronavirus pandemic is first of its kind in his 45-year long career.

"As baul artistes we get respect and love from all sections of people; usually we do not get involved in any other work for survival," said Ali who has to run a five-member family from his income. He has so far managed five contracts of performance.

A 55-year-old baul artist Mahtab Uddin said since the coronavirus pandemic, she has not got any contract yet.

"I have been suffering from heart complication for long but cannot take medicine regularly. The income from my profession was the only means to continue my treatment and my daily meal but now I am passing my days in serious misery. Now, I have to depend on my only son Shawkat Ali, a drummer. Shawkat also has to maintain a four-member family including two children."

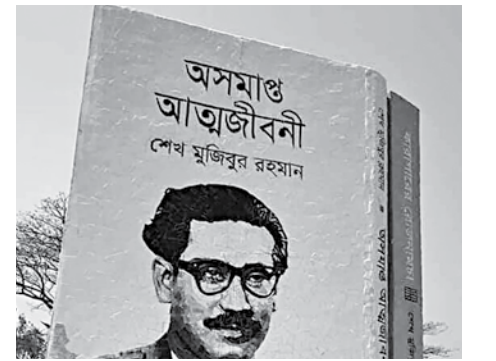
"Since the diagnosis of my heart disease, I mainly perform stage shows in day time but since the onset of the pandemic I haven't been able to earn. The crisis that I am facing this year is the worst in my 35-

year long career. I haven't got any financial assistance from the government yet", said a helpless Maleka.

Another female artiste Ruma Sarker, 40, also echoed her serious hardship amid coronavirus pandemic.

Rajkumar Wrishi, a famous traditional a dhol player with baul artistes, said he has been in the profession since 1981 and enjoys it much. But now he is in serious trouble as he has been passing his days in utter hardship in the prevailing situation.

"In every winter, I had to perform at about 130 shows but so far, I have got only six contracts this season", said Rajkumar adding "now I have to perform at programmes marking marriage ceremony and birthday celebrations to support my six-member family".



Some baul artistes rendering song at a shop of musical instruments 'Naban and Co' in Mymensingh city. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Baul Sunil Karmakar, president of the samity said as the number of stage programmes is nascent in recent months and most of the baul artistes are out of work, we have started a programme titled "Baul Boithak" in the city since November last year to continue the practice of baul songs.

Senior baul artistes are invited in the programme for discussion on the glorious past of this traditional song in Mymensingh region where great baul artistes like Jalal Uddin Khan, Ukil Munshi, Umed Ali, Abed Ali, Upendra Sarker, Jong Bhadrur Shah, Abdul Mazid, Mahtab Uddin, Sadir Uddin, Provat Kumar, Mohammad Shamsuddin, Idris Ali and the like, were born, said Sunil Karmakar.

The bauls need a long-term loan on soft interest from the government to survive at this critical juncture, Sunil Karmakar urged.

**রাঙ্গামাটি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
অস্থায়ী প্রধান কার্যালয়, ভেদভেদী, রাঙ্গামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা  
তারিখ: ০৯/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ

**Invitation for Tenders (IFT)**  
Rangamati Science and Technology University

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2. Agency	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh/Rangamati Science and Technology University.
3. Procuring entity name	Professor Dr. Pradanendu Bikash Chakma, Vice Chancellor, Rangamati Science and Technology University.
4. Procuring entity district	Rangamati.
5. Invitation for	Construction of Administrative Building-02 of Rangamati Science and Technology University.

**KEY INFORMATION**

6. Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).
7. Budget and source of fund	GoB.

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

8. Project/programme name	Not applicable.
9. Quotation/tender package No.	--
10. Quotation/tender publication date	09/03/2021.
11. Quotation/tender last collection date	22/03/2021 (office hours).
12. Quotation/tender closing date and time	23/03/2021; 12:00pm.
13. Quotation/tender opening date and time	23/03/2021; 12:30pm.
14. Name & address of the offices	
-Collection of quotation/tender document	Planning & Development Department, 2nd Floor, Admin Building, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Rangamati-4500.
-Receiving quotation/tender document	Planning & Development Department, 2nd Floor, Admin Building, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Rangamati-4500.
15. Place of opening quotation/tender document	Conference Room (2nd Floor), Admin Building, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Rangamati-4500.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

16. Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	a). Updated trade licence, b). TIN certificate, c) VAT registration certificate, d). Bank solvency certificate; and e). Experience in relevant work and other qualifications (as mentioned in tender documents/schedule).
17. Brief description of works	As per schedule.
18. Price of tender document	Non-refundable of Taka 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only.
19. Tender security	Taka 79,000/- (Taka seventy-nine thousand only) payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favor of "Vice-Chancellor, Rangamati Science and Technology University."

**PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS**

20. Name of official inviting tender	Abdul Gafur.
21. Designation of official inviting quotation/tender	Assistant Director (P&D).
22. Address of official inviting quotation/tender	Rangamati Science and Technology University, Vedvedi, Rangamati-4500.
23. Contact details of official inviting quotation/tender	Mobile: 01830 161369.
24. Special instructions	a) Any tender received after deadline for submission of tender, shall be declared late, will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender to annul the tender process or to reject any or all tenders at any time prior to award of contract.
25. The tender will be performed according to "The Public Procurement Rules".	

//Signed//  
**Abdul Gafur**  
Assistant Director (P&D)  
Rangamati Science and Technology University

GD-469

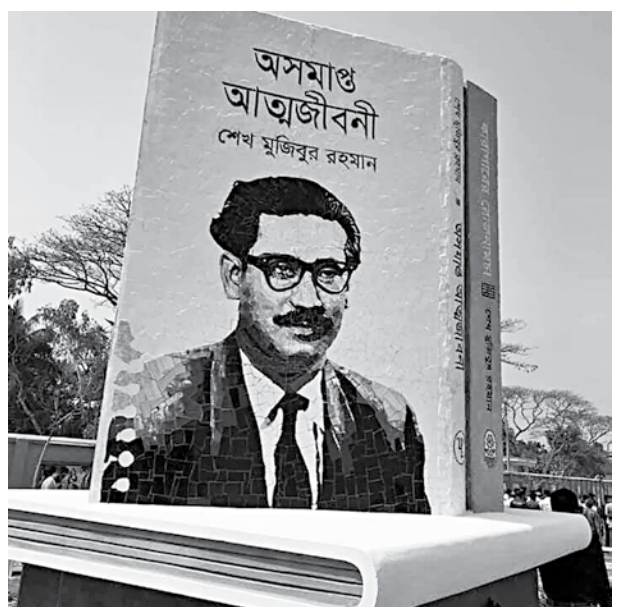


PHOTO: STAR

# Statue showcasing books by Bangabandhu unveiled on the bank of Jamuna river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A statue showcasing two books penned by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, complete with his image, was unveiled on the bank of Jamuna river in Sirajganj on Sunday marking historic March 7.

The books that are being showcased are *Oshomipto Attojiboni* and *Karagarer Rojnamcha*.

Sirajganj Water Development Board (WDB) established the country's first such statue to generate awareness among people for reading books to learn about Bangabandhu as well as learn real history.

The State Minister for Water Resources Jahid Faruk launched the statue on Sunday noon as the chief guest.

Deputy Minister for Water Resources Enamul Haque Shamim, Secretary of the ministry Kabir Bin Anwar and Lawmaker from Sirajganj-5 constituency Abdul Momin Mondol were also present on the occasion.

Architect Mrinal Kanti designed the 15-foot-long statue where the two historic books are set up with an image of Bangabandhu.

Sirajganj WDB established the statue spending Tk 23.5 lakh.

"*Oshomipto Attojiboni* of Bangabandhu and *Karagarer Rojnamcha*, both books give us the real history of Bangabandhu, his life, work and his messages to people of the nation. If we read these two books, we can learn how Bangabandhu organised a nation for the fight of freedom. These two books give us proper history of our liberation war," AKM Rafikul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of Sirajganj WDB told The Daily Star.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ  
সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর  
সড়ক বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর  
টেলিফোনঃ ০৫৩১-৬৫১৪১  
ই-মেইলঃ [rhddin@gmail.com](mailto:rhddin@gmail.com)

**সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৫ম আহ্বান)**  
মন্ত্রণালয়ের নামঃ সড়ক পরিবহন ও সেতু মন্ত্রণালয়।  
সংস্থঃ সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর।

০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	ঃ ০১-টোল/নিঃ প্রঃ/দি স বি/২০২০-২০২১ (৫ম আহ্বান)।
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	ঃ দিনাজপুর সড়ক বিভাগের অধীন ২০২১-২০২২, ২০২২-২০২৩ এবং ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরের জন্য গোবিদগঞ্জ-ঘোড়াঘাট-বিরামপুর-ফুলবাড়ী-দিনাজপুর (আর-৫৮৫) আঞ্চলিক মহাসড়কের ৮.৯তম কিলোমিটারে (Ch: 88+865 of R-585) অবস্থিত মোহনপুর সেতুর উপর দিয়ে চলাচলকারী যানবাহন হতে টোল আদায়ের ইজারা দরপত্র।
০৩।	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	ঃ ০১/০৭/২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪খ্রিঃ (মোট ১০৯৫ দিন)।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য	ঃ টাঃ ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	ঃ উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২১/০৩/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২২/০৩/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	ঃ ভ্যাকু ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার।
০৯।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন জয়ের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে	ঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর/আরুণগাঁও/পঞ্চগড়/নীলফামারী/রংপুর/ডকুমেন্টেশন এন্ড প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিভাগ, ঢাকা/প্রানিং বিভাগ-১/সেতু ডিজাইন বিভাগ-১, (পূর্বাঞ্চল) সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	ঃ ১. অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, রংপুর জোন, রংপুর। ২. তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, দিনাজপুর। ৩. নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর। ৪. জেলা প্রশাসক, দিনাজপুর। ৫. পুলিশ সুপার, দিনাজপুর।
১১।	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ স্থানঃ ১. নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর এর কার্যালয়। তারিখঃ ২২/০৩/২০২১ খ্রিঃ। সময়ঃ ৪.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	ইজারা আহ্বানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

**মোঃ মোমিনুর রহমান**  
সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ (অঃ দাঃ)  
সড়ক বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর  
জিডি-৪৭৪

**সুনীতি চাকমা**  
পরিচিতি নং ৬০২১৪৭  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ  
সড়ক বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর