

Dozen mass graves in Lalmonirhat lie neglected

Pakistani occupation forces and collaborators killed 600 Bangalees on April 5 in 1971

S DILIP ROY

April 5, 1971 is a black day that lives on in the memory of survivors and the Liberation War generation of Lalmonirhat.

On that day, Pakistani forces -- with the help of the Biharis -- had started picking up Bangalees from around Lalmonirhat and taking them to a spot near the railway station area.

Siblings Saiful Islam, 68, and Akter Hossain, 66, among the few detainees who survived, recently shared with The Daily Star their memories of the massacre that followed.

Saiful and Akter were 18 and 16 years old respectively and their family lived in the town's Wireless Colony area, as their father, late Entaz Ali, was a railway employee.

"A group of Biharis led by Kala Khan, alias Kala Gunda, came to our residence at around noon. They forcibly entered our house by breaking open the doors," said Saiful.

"They took us near the railway area. We saw many Bangalees who were brought there in a similar way," he added.

They did not count the number of people there, Akter said.

"But after independence, we came to know that over 600 people were there. Of them, 88 were family members of



The rickshaw stand area, where nearly 600 Bangalees were brutally killed by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators, in Lalmonirhat town. Below, one of the mass graves in the town that lies unprotected even after 50 years of the country's independence.

PHOTO: STAR

railway staff, including a few doctors from the railway hospital."

The Pakistani forces kept the people standing in a row. Suddenly, following a directive of a Pakistani Major Seresta Khan, they opened fire on the Bangalees.

"The bullet-hit people instantly fell to the ground. Almost all of them died on the spot. My brother and I sustained bullet injuries on our arms and legs. We also fell on the ground and pretended to be dead," said Akter.

Then, the brothers said, the Pakistani forces asked members of the local Harijan community -- who traditionally

work as sweepers -- to dump the bodies into nearby canals.

Subsequently, the forces and their collaborators left the scene, assuming that all the people were dead.

"At that time, a Harijan man Nanna Bashfor came to us hearing our screaming and asked us to flee quickly.

"Our physical condition was so bad that we could not stand up. But we started crawling and left," recalled Saiful.

The brothers are still haunted by the brutality of that day's massacre, said Akter.

BANGALEE-BIHARI CLASHES DURING THE WAR

This is not the only major incident in which Biharis played a prominent role in the killing of Bangalees.

Survivors and freedom fighters said Biharis in Lalmonirhat had helped Pakistani forces throughout the entire Liberation War.

As Lalmonirhat was a railway divisional headquarters, many Urdu-speaking non-Bangalees, or Biharis as they were referred to, had been working and living there for a long time, they said.

One held for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Saturday detained a member of a fraud gang from Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila for allegedly luring a youth to Narayanganj for a job and killing him.

The arrestee is Abdur Rouf, 25, of Uchna village in the upazila.

OC of Panchbibi Police Station Polash Deb said one Sagar Islam, 26, of Hatkhola village, paid Tk 6 lakh to Abdur Rouf to avail a job by the end of March.

On March 24, an unknown caller called Sagar out of his home and left for Dhaka to settle the matter.

Meanwhile, Narayanganj's Sonargaon police recovered Sagar's body from Bodyerbazar village the following morning.

Man crushed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A young man was crushed to death under the wheels of a running train in Joypurhat town yesterday.

The deceased, Abu Hossain, 32, son of Asad Mia of Veti village in Joypurhat Sadar upazila, was owner of a makeshift tea stall at Purba Bazar in the town.

Quoting witnesses, police said the accident occurred when Khulna-bound Rupsa Express train hit Abu while he was crossing the rail tracks in Sagarpara area yesterday noon, leaving him dead on the spot.



They've right

FROM PAGE 12

investigations are running in connection with corruption allegations or cases from leaving the country, and they have the right to free movement according to the constitution, the court had said on March 16.

A citizen's liberty of movement involves his or her personal independence, which is universal, the HC said in the full-text verdict released yesterday.

If such a liberty has to be restricted, it has to be done within the prescribed rule or procedure of the relevant law, which means that no one should be condemned unheard before any action is taken against him or her, the HC bench said in the full text of the verdict.

"We have no hesitation in saying that controlling and restricting citizens' constitutional right to movement by any individual or authorities on whimsical desire is unconstitutional," read the verdict.

The HC bench came up with the judgment following the writ petition filed by one Ataur Rahman from Narsingdi challenging the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC's) action to restrain him from going abroad as a graft allegation against him was being inquired.

The HC declared the ACC's action illegal and allowed Ataur to go to Sweden where he lives with his family.

The ACC issued a notice on August 24, 2020, asking Ataur, known as Sweden Ataur, to submit his wealth statement to the commission.

After he submitted the statement, the anti-graft body started an inquiry into his wealth and on December 20 that year, issued a letter to immigration police to refrain Ataur from going to Sweden.

Ataur then filed the petition with the HC challenging the ACC's action.

In the full text of the verdict, the HC bench observed, "It is the reality that enquiry or investigation of corruption or money laundering cases is a matter of time, though there is a time limit under the relevant rules.

"Our judicial experience says the commission [Anti-Corruption Commission] or other investigation agency or authority cannot complete enquiry or investigation within the stipulated period.

"It is also a reality that many corruption suspects or accused are leaving the country at the enquiry or investigation stage and cannot later be put before the law and courts.

"Considering these realities, it has become indispensable to formulate necessary laws or rules in order to restrain or control the movement of people involved in enquiries or investigations related to corruption or money laundering cases..."

"Provisions of assigning reasons for restricting the suspects from leaving the county and scope for placing their [aggrieved persons] statements or objections have to be included in the law or rules.

"Imposing such embargo on a person for an indefinite period is an unconstitutional and antihuman measure and therefore, specifying a time limit to this effect will be justified," reads the verdict.

In the full text of the verdict, the HC bench also observed that the competent courts concerned will have the full jurisdiction to pass necessary orders on whether such people against whom inquiries or investigations are underway can go abroad until a law is enacted or rules are framed to this effect.

"The competent courts can permit the enquiry or investigation agencies to impose embargo on suspect persons from leaving the country and it [embargo] cannot be more than 60 days," the HC said in the verdict.

The ACC on March 21 filed the petition with the Appellate Division seeking stay on the HC verdict. The stay petition is pending with the apex court.

Thrice MP

FROM PAGE 12

of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, other ministers, and leaders of different political parties have expressed deep shock and sorrow at the demise.

In a condolence message, the prime minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Planning Minister MA Mannan, Health Minister Zahid Maleque, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud, Law Minister Anisul Huq, among others also expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Aslamul Hoque.

In separate messages, they said Aslamul would be remembered for his welfare activities.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Road Transport and Highways Division
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
Nagar Bhaban (Level-12), Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000

Memo: 35.02.0000.016.11.001.20-67 Date: 04 April, 2021

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)
For
Individual Consultant-Procurement Specialist

1. Background
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) is the Transport Planning and Coordination Authority of greater Dhaka. It has prepared the Transport Master Plan of Dhaka and adjacent districts named as Strategic Transport Plan (STP) (revised and modified in 2015) which is the guideline document for all planning and transportation infrastructure development works in Dhaka and adjacent districts. DTCA want to hire a procurement specialist consultant having in-depth experience in service and goods procurement under revenue budget.

2. Scope of Tasks/Service and Qualifications of Individual Consultant-Procurement Specialist
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority is hereby requesting proposals for the Individual Consultant-Procurement Specialist. The consultant will be exposed to a wide range of procurement issues in DTCA. The selected Individual Consultant-Procurement Specialist will be asked to support various procurement activities of DTCA under both revenue and development budget.

Post	Brief Scope of Tasks/Service	Qualification and Experience
Individual Consultant-Procurement Specialist (24 Man-Months)	1. Preparation of invitation for bids, request for expressions of interest (EOI), bidding documents, request for proposals, evaluation reports, contracts, and other documents concerning procurement of goods, services and non-consultancy services. 2. Develop procurement plan for goods, services and non-consultancy services under DTCA, and update the Plan as and when necessary. 3. Preparation and processing of service and goods procurement as per PPR-2008. 4. Closely monitor procurement activities in reference to the Procurement Plan timeline and the procurement approval process of the Government. 5. Provide such support to officials of DTCA staff as may from time to time be required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate/Post-graduate qualification (at least Bachelors in Engineering or Masters in procurement/commerce/finance/business/management/suitable equivalency). Minimum 05 (five) years working experience with at least 03 (three) years of experience as Procurement related works. Experience in procurement of Service under QCBS and FBS method will be preferred. Understanding of e-Government Procurement (e-GP).

3. Detail scope of services and qualifications are provided in Request for Application (RFA), which may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during normal office hours or may obtain from DTCA website.

4. Interested applicants are requested to submit their Expressions of Interest (EOI) in accordance with the application forms provided in RFA. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details as required as per the Application Form).

5. The consultant will be selected in accordance with Public Procurement Rules (PPR) 2008.

6. It is expected that the service will commence in May, 2021 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

7. Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the above position must be delivered in sealed envelope to the address of the Additional Executive Director (Mass Transit), DTCA on or before 21 April, 2021 up to 5:00pm with clearly marked "Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Individual Consultant-Procurement Specialist".

8. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs.

04.04.2021
A K M Hafizur Rahman
Additional Executive Director (Mass Transit)
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
Nagar Bhaban (Level-12), Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000
Mobile: 01753904534

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Memo No. 46.02.0000.726.07.049.2020.5344 Date: 04/04/2021

Corrigendum Notice (2nd)

It is notified for all concerned that the following amendments are hereby made in the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) floated vide office Memo No. 46.02.0000.726.07.049.2020.5108, dated: 08/03/2021, Package No. AF-S24 for Design and Supervision Consultancy Services for the Extended Period.

Name of Criteria	Corrigendum	
	Existing	Revised
Firm selection criteria	Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by 05/04/2021 up to 5:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time).	Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail/e-mail) by 12/04/2021 up to 5:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time).

All other terms & conditions as laid down in the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) will remain unchanged.
The Corrigendum Notice shall form a part of the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI).

Md. Sohrab Ali
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GD-668