

Kaliganj massacre: Witnesses narrate the harrowing tale

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

It was a sunny morning on April 27, 1971 when another tragic chapter of brutality of Pakistani occupational force was written in a remote village of Nilphamari.

Over 200 Bangladeshi people were assassinated, many women were captured and some were buried alive simultaneously.

Even, infants were not spared. The ruthless Pakistanis snatched some infants from their mothers' laps. Then they threw the babies high in air and caught again.

"Finally, Pakistani soldiers dashed the babies on earth and killed them," said Dilip Kumar Biswas, who luckily could escape the assassination.

Dilip, 66, a resident of Balagram village under Jaldhakaupazila was talking to the correspondent recently.

Recalling the day, he said around 700 to 800 people of Balagram, Bottoli, Chawradangi, Salon gram and other adjacent villages under Jaldhakaupazila were heading towards Dangar Hat, a bordering point between Bangladesh and India.

"I was 16 at that time. I along with my other family members was walking with the group to cross the border," said Dilip, adding, "Suddenly, we saw a convoy of seven vehicles of Pakistani army standing in front of us."

Captain Allah Rakkha Khan, in charge of the then Nilphamari college army camp, led the convoy.

Pakistani soldiers divided Bangalis into three groups. The first group comprised of young people. The second group was formed with elderly persons. The last group was of women and children.

The first group was forced to sit near Kaliganj Bazar, the second group was taken to the slope of nearby WAPDA canal and third group of women and children was forced to sit aside.

Rolling on wheels slowly, 2 armoured vehicles took position targeting the first and second groups. Then, Pakistani force started brushfire on both the groups.

"Those, who tried to flee, were shot for multiple times," said Dilip.

Such brutalities went on for around one hour. Then, Pakistani soldiers picked girls and women on their vehicles and left scene.

Around five to six hours later, around 30-40 men led by local Muslim League leader Monwar Hossain Chowdhury and police from Jaldhaka Police Station reached the spot to bury the bodies.

"There were some people who did not die, but was in critical condition due to gunshot. The Razakars hit on the heads of these alive persons with spades used to dig the grave and later buried them alive," he said.

Dilip sustained bullet injury at leg and waist and made a desperate run to save life. Pakistani soldiers opened fire on him and but the bullets missed him.

"I started running desperately and kept running for around 2 hours. Then, I reached Shaldhanga village in Dimlaupazila and took shelter at a house," he said.

"After taking primary treatment, I started walking. Despite being seriously ill, I walked throughout the whole night and crossed border and reached Shamila Bass village in



Dilip Kumar Biswas, 66, one of the survivors who escaped death from Pakistani occupation force on April 27 in 1971 bursts into tears while narrating his harrowing experience to this correspondent in front of the memorial at the Kaliganj killing ground in Nilphamari's Jaldhaka upazila. Below, the memorial built by the government recently.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN



Kunchbihar district of West Bengal in India," said Dilip.

He found more than 100 wounded men of his area who managed to enter Indian territory through different routes and were taken to Dewanganj refugee camp.

Dilip narrated the heart-rending tragedy to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and foreign journalists when they came to visit the camp in mid '71.

"Five of my family members were assassinated on that day," said Dilip.

Another eye witness Pallab Shill, 54, who now works at a barbershop in Jaldhaka bazaar

said, "My father Srikanta Shill was bullet-hit and was lying on the ground but when he was being buried alive, tried to draw attention by raising a hand from the grave but he was hit on his head with spade to confirm his death."

On that day, war criminal Kazi Abdul Kader, who was a leader in all Pakistan Muslim League, tipped-off the Pakistani forces that the group of Bangalis was trying to flee the country.

In the general election of 1970, he was defeated by Awami League contestant. He and his men blamed the Hindus for his defeat and became furious to take revenge. He played

the key role to kill the minorities during the liberation war, alleged the survivors.

After independence, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sent letter of condolence and Tk 2000 to each martyred family.

"This is all. None took care of the martyred families after the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the other hand, Razakars and collaborators joined different political parties after independence, obtained high position and accumulated wealth," said said KhukhiBala, 70, wife of martyred Shibben Chandra Roy.

Rajlaxmi Rani (52), daughter of martyred Shibben Chandra Roy said in an emotion-choked voice, "My father sacrificed his life for the country. Our family became helpless after my father's demise. Even, I could not continue my study."

"But we did not get any facility from the state. Now people around us show such attitude that father made supreme sacrifice for our familial issue. Such attitude hurt us very much. But the reality is that my father sacrificed his life for the country," she added.

The incident of Kaliganj genocide was described in different books written by historians and researchers.

After liberation war, local youths built a memorial on the killing ground by their own expenses to commemorate the martyrs. Later in 2020, the government constructed a concrete memorial inscribing names of 78 martyrs.

But the list is incomplete. The authorities should talk to the eye witnesses to prepare a complete list of martyrs on that day, said Dilip Kumar Biswas, Baburhinimohon Adhikari and Amar Krishna, who witnessed the egregious notoriety.

Contacted, freedom fighter Abdul Gaffar, 72, an Academic Council member of Rajshahi University and also the campaigner for raising awareness to identify and preserve killing grounds and mass graves across the country, said "Authority should undertake intensive investigation to prepare complete list of martyrs."

Inmates of Kandapara red-light quarter living in hunger pangs

Around 550 sex workers get government food supports, cash aid

MIRZA SHAKIL

Several hundred sex workers at Kandapara red-light quarter in Tangail town have been passing their days in hunger as punters stopped coming due to the lockdown imposed by the government for curbing coronavirus spread.

Around 600 sex workers and their dependents are suffering from hunger at 60 houses at the 200-year-old brothel situated on three acres of land. Several sex workers at the brothel said they have been passing hard days since the outbreak of coronavirus last year.

Many of them had to live hungry as the visits of punters decreased due to the lockdown.

In this situation, a number of the sex workers have already left the area while many others are living on

by borrowing money from others, including moneylenders.

"My life has turned worse as punters could not come to visit us due to the lockdown. I am living in empty stomach due not having any income. Now, I am living by borrowing money from others," told Kanta (not her original name), a sex worker.

A sex worker said she has been living at the brothel for over a decade. Previously she earned Tk 1000 to Tk 1500 in a day. But her earnings dropped after the outbreak of the coronavirus. Her income, however, completely ceased after the lockdown was imposed.

"However, I have to give the house rent, feed my child and also send money for my parents. Then, think, how I am living," she said.

The condition of almost all the brothel inmates and their dependents

is the same, sources said.

Aklima Akter, president of the sex workers organisation Nari Mukti Sangha, said the brothel inmates have been living a very inhuman life since the beginning of the outbreak of coronavirus last year. Some of them are working at the house of the solvent sex workers for foods and other needs.

Being informed of the hardship of the brothel inmates, Dr Ataul Gani, deputy commissioner in Tangail, went to on Sunday and distributed food items among 550 sex workers as gift from the prime minister. The food items include 10 kilograms of rice, one kilogram of lentil, oil, sugar, salt, onion, gram (chhola) and two kilograms of potato.

The DC on Sunday also handed over Tk 500 cash to each of 120 children of the sex workers for buying their Eid dress in association with Tangail Ladies Club, a club of the wives of the government officers working in the district.

The brothel inmates, however, urged the administration that the government supports continue until the crisis ends.


The DC, in his speech, said they are extending food supports to the people who have been passing hand to mouth during the pandemic as gift from the prime minister. As part of this, the inmates of the brothel were provided the supports and more supports will be provided to them, he said.

"The Prime Minister has already sent supports (TR, KABIKA) of Tk 130 crore for the people of the Tangail. The supports will be reached to around seven lakh poor people in the district before the Eid," he added.



Around 600 sex workers and their dependents at the houses at the 200-year-old brothel at Kandapara in Tangail town bear the brunt of pandemic.

PHOTO: STAR




বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute

সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা

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Memo no: PN-GD 02/6919 Date : 26 April 2021

e-GP: Re-Tender Notice No.21(2020-2021)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

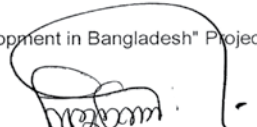
Sl No	Package no.	Tender ID & Ref No	Description of goods	Tender Documents Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing date & Time	Tender Opening date & Time
1.	PN-GD 02	571133 & IRN: 512	Laboratory Equipment 11 items	05.05.2021 17:00	06.05.2021 15:00	06.05.2021 15:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.




Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Name: "Strengthening of Oilseed and Pulses Research and Development in Bangladesh" Project.



(Md. Younus Ali)
Deputy Director (In-Charge)
On behalf of Director General

GD-840

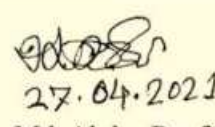




Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)

Ministry of Textiles and Jute

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) (International)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1	Ministry: Ministry of Textiles & Jute
2	Agency: Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)
3	Inviting Entity Name: Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)
4	Invitation for: Award of Lease for operation of the state-owned Jute Mills
5	Invitation Ref. No: 24.04.0000.204.99.007.21.16
6	Date: 27.04.2021
KEY INFORMATION	
7	Selection Process: Award of Lease to the highest scoring bidder ranked on the basis of combined score of technical and financial proposals weighted equally from among responsive bidders.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
8	Name & Address of the office - Opening of the Offers/Proposals: Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Adamjee Court (Anex-1), 115-120, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
INFORMATION FOR EOI	
9	Last date & Time of EOI Submission: Date: 15.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM (BST)
10	EOI Submission Place: Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Chairman Section (Room No. 506) 4th Floor, Adamjee Court (Anex-1), 115-120, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
11	Opening Date and Time of EOI: Date: 17.06.2021 Time: 11.00 AM (BST)
12	Other details: Submission of EOI should be made in closed format bearing the name and address of the individual/firm, EOI no. & date and be addressed to the EOI issuing authority in 07 (seven) copies in English including 01(ONE) 'ORIGINAL', in separate packets and in the form of book binding. Both the 'ORIGINAL' and 'COPIES' shall have to be covered within a single packet. The bidder shall have to mention the page number serially in every page of submitted EOI document.
INFORMATION FOR BIDDER	
13	Names of the mills to be leased out: # Chattogram Region (1) Hafiz Jute Mills Ltd. Baro Aulia, Sitakunda, Chattogram; (2) Gul Ahmed Jute Mills Ltd. Kumira, Chattogram; (3) KFD Jute Mills Ltd. Rangunia, Chattogram; (4) M.M. Jute Mills Ltd. Sitakunda, Chattogram; (5) R.R. Jute Mills Ltd. Sitakunda, Chattogram; # Dhaka Region (6) UMC Jute Mills Ltd. Narsingdi; (7) Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd. Ghorashal, Palash, Narsingdi; (8) Rajshahi Jute Mills Ltd. Shyampur, Rajshahi; (9) Jatio Jute Mills Ltd. Raipur, Sirajganj. # Khulna Region (10) Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Ltd. Town Khalishpur, Khulna; (11) Crescent Jute Mills Ltd. Town Khalishpur, Khulna; (12) Eastern Jute Mills Ltd. Atra I/A, Khulna; (13) Khalishpur Jute Mills Ltd. Town Khalishpur, Khulna; (14) Doulatpur Jute Mills Ltd. Town Khalishpur, Khulna; (15) Star Jute Mills Ltd. Chondanimahal, Digholia, Khulna; (16) Jessore Jute Industries Ltd. Rajghat, Noapara, Jashore; (17) Carpeting Jute Mills Ltd. Rajghat, Nawapara, Jashore.
14	Term of Award (of lease): 05-20 years (further extendable)
15	TOR including Schedules (of lease): Available on the following websites- (i) www.bjmc.gov.bd (ii) www.motj.gov.bd (iii) www.bida.gov.bd
INVITING ENTITY DETAILS	
16	Name of Official Inviting EOI: Md. Abdur Rauf
17	Designation of Official Inviting EOI: Chairman
18	Address of Official Inviting EOI: Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) 4th Floor, Adamjee Court (Anex-1), 115-120, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
19	Contact details of Official Inviting EOI: Telephone /Mobile Number: +88 02 9553364, +88 0171 1298665 E-mail: sctionchairman@gmail.com
20	Focal Persons to be contacted (if necessary): A. F. M. Ehteshamul Hoque Secretary, BJMC +88 01712222242 Md. Imran Ahmed Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Jute +88 01714766716
OTHER INFORMATION	
21	Any interested party may visit the enlisted Jute Mills for lease purpose.
22	Only short-listed bidders shall be invited for Request for Proposal (RFP).
23	The Inviting Authority retains the right to reject any or all EOI without assigning any reason.



27.04.2021
Md. Abdur Rauf
Chairman
Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation

Date: 27.04.2021