

Memorial plaque of historical 'Jahajmara battle' remains in a sorry state

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Liberation War memorial reminiscing the glorious victory in the 'Jahajmara battle' at Sirajkandi in Bhuapur upazila under the district has remained uncared for seven years since its construction.

The Public Works Department (PWD) constructed the memorial beside the Jamuna River, four kilometres to the north of the Bangabandhu Bridge east end, and eight kilometres to the south-west of Bhuapur upazila headquarters, at a cost of Tk 1 crore 64 lakh in 2013. Later, they handed over it to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

On August 10 in 1971, valiant freedom fighters belonging to 'Kaderia Bahini' in Tangail attacked two arms, ammunition and fuel-laden ships of the Pakistan occupation army -- ST Razan and SU Engineers LC-3-- on the confluence of the Jamuna and Dhaleswari rivers at Sirajkandi.

Defeating the enemy, they captured huge number of modern arms and ammunition worth around Tk 21 crore (at that time) from the ships and burnt those up, causing a blow to the supply chain of the Pakistani army to the northern region.

Locals started calling the place Jahajmara (destroyer of ships) and commander of the daring operation Habibur Rahman Bir Protik (now late) became famous as 'Jahajmara Habib'.

Visiting the memorial recently, this correspondent saw the plaque has already been covered with algae and weeds. The lightings of the memorial have also gone out of order.

Local people said the memorial was constructed on a filled-up pond of Bangladesh Bridge Authorities and regular

plying of sand-laden trucks to and from local dockyard is causing damage to the structure.

"Jahajmara battle is a glorious event in the history of our Liberation War and the new generation should be made aware of it. But the memorial has remained uncared since its construction," said Motahar Hossain, one of the FFs who took part in the historical War. "We are disappointed to see the dilapidated state of the glorious war memorial installation. We want proper preservation of the place," he added. "The next generation will be deprived of knowing the history of the sacrifices and glory of the Liberation War if the place of the glorious confrontation with the Pakistani army and the actual history of the liberation war are not properly preserved," he added.

Contacted, Al Amin Mohammad Nurul Islam, executive engineer of PWD in Tangail, told The Daily Star that after constructing the memorial plaque in 2013, the department handed over it to the authorities concerned for taking its care. "As per the procedure, the care taking authorities should inform the PWD in written for holding anything about its developments or other works.

However, none of the authorities or concerned others informed the department about the state of the memorial plaque so far," he said. "We shall take necessary steps about the memorial plaque after getting the letter," he said.

Dr Ataul Gani, deputy commissioner in Tangail, while giving interview to a private television channel in this regard told that necessary steps will be taken to preserve the memorial plaque of the historical battle of the Liberation War.



The Liberation War memorial reminiscing the glorious victory in the 'Jahajmara battle' at Sirajkandi in Bhuapur upazila under Tangail has remained uncared for seven years since its construction. PHOTO: STAR

A fish factory in Sreepur

SHYKH SERAJ

You always have to be strategic to become successful in the farming sector. Success in farming depends on how skilled a farmer is. It's not just about investing money and time, it's about investing talent, thoughts as well as using modern technology in the work process. Over the past few years, there has been a great deal of interest and enthusiasm among the youth for fish farming using the biofloc method. While some biofloc projects have been successful, there have been reports of failures also. However, the initiatives haven't stopped.

In December last year, Mohammad Abdullah Jaber, managing director of Noman Group of Industries, called me and said he had seen my reports on biofloc on YouTube and had taken up the initiative of fish farming on a portion at his factory premises in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila. I was very curious about the matter because I was glad to know that industrialists are also giving spaces for farming enterprises, which I have dreamt of for long.

I know Jaber for a long time. He is a man, full of passion for agriculture and has been engaged with farming since his childhood. As a child, when everyone at his home liked to watch cartoons and entertainment programmes on television, he liked my agricultural TV shows.



Shykh Seraj looks at one of the biofloc fish tanks on the compound of Abdullah Jaber's textile mill in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila. PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is a BIDS, Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



He also cultivates vegetables and raises poultry beside his factory. I went to his factory to see his biofloc method and harvest. Jaber has done different species of fishes, including shing, gulsha and shoal in 5,33,000 litres of water. Indoor fish farms have become an attractive venture for young entrepreneurs. A biofloc shed, 182-feet long and 65-feet wide, next to Noman Group's huge factory. Eleven tanks made of rod cages and Korean PVC-coated plastic on the top. The height of the tanks are about four to four and a half feet with a capacity of 10,000 to 1,00,000 litres. There are aerators, oxygen bubbles installed in the tank. Each tank has different varieties of fishes. Jaber said the sheds and tanks were made of unused iron sheet, rods and old materials. As a result, the cost was not too high. Jaber released

only a gram of fingerlings in these tanks back in December, 2020. Like fabric production, fish production is going on in other sheds of the textile mill.

Jaber's biofloc factory is a smaller version of the fish factory I had seen in China. Water was cleared from two tanks from where Jaber would harvest fish. Shing fish in one tank, tengra in the other. I was amazed to see lots of fishes in a small place, a 10-feet by 10-feet tank, containing 10,000 litres of water which produced fish that might have required 0.40 acres of pond in reality.

First I went in front of the shing tank. Arif, who is in charge here, said fingerling quality, is a big issue in biofloc fish farming. If the fingerlings are not good, it is difficult to harvest the desired size. It takes four months to produce shing fish in biofloc method. Jaber is very optimistic about the purity of the fish produced in this way. He said, the colour and taste of this fish is like river fish or you may call it freshwater fish. Even I had not seen such bright shing fishes for a long time. The colour of gulsha and tengra was also shiny. The other nine tanks were cultivating Vietnamese shoil, monosex tilapia, Vietnamese koi and pabda fish. Jaber and his colleagues are very happy with the success they achieved from the experimental production in the first couple of months. Jaber dreams of distributing fish he produced from biofloc to his staff. Through this, he can see there is a good market and demand for biofloc fish. He is very much optimistic that Bangladesh will soon export a lot of fish produced, using the biofloc method. And I was really pleased by seeing an industry owner getting more interested in farming and a factory is leaving space for fish cultivation, in other words, for farming. I believe the revolution in the agricultural industry will be accomplished

through entrepreneurs like Mohammad Abdullah Jaber.

Traditional farming is now rapidly shifting to commercial arena. Commercial entrepreneurs are leaning towards production systems which can be financially profitable in a short time. To accelerate this system, various technologies, Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence have been added to agriculture sector. Consequently, production has increased scientifically and has become dynamic. If there is no mechanical disorder, there is no risk of loss in production. Therefore, people from unemployed youth to the largest financial entrepreneurs are getting involved in agriculture through farm enterprises. Both sides want quick financial return. Many are also reaching success by following proper management. But some are lagging behind in management just to focus on money. Over the last few years, biofloc has become a very attractive investment sector for new entrepreneurs. But keep in mind that 'biofloc' is a completely scientific method for fish farming. There is a lot of competition going on around the world for this system. There is RAS method, Bottom Clean Raceway and also IPRS (In-Pond Raceway System) method. Again, several methods are being practiced for fish farming in intensive and semi-intensive approaches. In fact, it is a matter of paying close attention. It is a matter of following scientific management. There is no chance to do anything outside the formula here. If an entrepreneur does not fully apprehend the issue, it will be fatal. I wish success to all the entrepreneurs. With that, I hope you will put more emphasis on systematic tactics that will give you a productive commercial agricultural enterprise.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi. Phone: 0247-812276; Fax: 772279. e-Tender Notice. e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works: Installation of Medical Gas System at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Rajshahi.

Lightning kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two people including a teenage boy were killed in separate incidents of lightning strikes in Gomostapur upazila yesterday.

The victims were identified as Bidai Linda, 52, son of Jharia Linda of Kothadanga village, and Yeasin Ali, 14, son of Emran Ali of Boro Dadpur Schoolpara village in the upazila.

Officer in Charge (OC Investigation) of Gomostapur Police Station Mohammad Selim Reza said lightning struck Bidai while he was working in a paddy field at Sonabar village around 9:00am amid rain, leaving him dead on the spot.

Meanwhile, at the same time, Yeasin was cutting grass for their domestic cattle at a field near his house when a streak of thunderbolt hit him.

The boy instantly died on the spot, the OC added.

ASSAULTING POLICE

Two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Members of Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested two people in a case for assaulting DB officials and helping an arrested drug trader escape in Naogaon's Manda upazila.

The arrestees are Parul Begum, 45, wife of accused drug trader Khalilur Rahman, and Ladu Mollah, 50.

DB sources said arrested Parul and Ladu beat up Constable Anwar Hossain when they arrested Khalilur from his house with 20 grams of heroin on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, taking advantage of the situation Khalilur fled the scene.

জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয় গাজীপুর www.zpgazipur.gov.bd. e-Tender Notice No-07/2020-2021 (LTM). e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works. Table with columns: Sl. No, Package No., Tender ID & Ref. No., Tender Publishing Date & Time, Tender Documents Last selling (Date & Time), Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time).

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