

BIR PROTİK TARAMON BIBI LIBRARY

Nothing but a sign left after 12 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Over the last 12 years, a sign reading 'Bir Protik Taramon Bibi Pathagar O Muktijuddher Chetona Bikash Kendro' had been on top of the tin-roofed building. But there is no book or any activity of a library in the building.

The library in the name of the Liberation War hero was established in 2009 on the compound of Char Rajibpur Upazila Parishad in Kurigram. But members of the Ansar force are now barracked in the building intended for the library.

Taramon Bibi fought with frontline combat unit of Mukti Bahini during the 1971 Liberation War in Sector 11 under the leadership of Sector Commander Abu Taher, Bir Uttam. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's government honoured her with the 'Bir Protik' award in 1973 for her courageous role in 1971. She is only one of the two woman freedom fighters who received such award.



The building where Bir Protik Taramon Bibi library was established in 2009 -- on the premises of Char Rajibpur Upazila Parishad in Kurigram -- is now being used to provide accommodation to Ansar members.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Taramon fought with frontline combat unit of Mukti Bahini during the 1971 Liberation War under the leadership of Sector Commander Abu Taher, Bir Uttam.

Taramon was born to Abdus Sobhan and Kulsum Bewa in Shabkar Madhabpur village of

Kurigram's Kodalkati union in 1957, according to 'Ekattorer Bijoyinee', edited by Mustafiz Shaif and Tawhidur Rahman in February 2011.

The war veteran passed away at her home in Rajibpur upazila on December 1, 2018 at the age of 61.

Bir Protik Taramon Bibi's son Abu Taher said though there were some books and furniture at the library during the first several months after his mother inaugurated it in 2009, those disappeared soon afterwards and all that is left now is the signboard.

"It's my demand to the

administration that they keep Bir Protik Taramon Bibi's memory alive by running a fully operational library in her name," he added.

Local cultural activist Ruhul Sarkar said Bir Protik Taramon Bibi is the pride of Char Rajibpur and in order to uphold her memory, it is necessary that books and furniture are provided for the library.

Blaming the administration for the situation, former professor and freedom fighter Abdus Sabur Farooqi said it is regrettable that the library is now being used as a barrack of the Ansars.

Contacted, Char Rajibpur

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nabirul Islam said he also noticed only the sign of the library above the building on the upazila parishad premises since he joined the office in June of 2020, but no one from the area ever sought his support in running the library.

The members of Ansar were using the library building for the time being as their housing facility was under construction, he said, adding that he would soon have discussion with locals on ways to revive the operation of the Bir Protik Taramon Bibi library.

Family living in classroom for 3 months!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

In an example of misuse of public property and flagrant disregard for rules, the chairman of Madarbumia Union Parishad (UP) allowed a family to live in a classroom of Nandipara Government Primary School in Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

Mosharruf Hossain, the occupant, said he and his wife had been living in a classroom of the school for the last three months as the school was closed due to coronavirus situation.

His three sons live in Chattogram and his only daughter was married, he also said.

However, Mosharruf was found to be occupying the room during a visit to the school on September 16 -- four days after the school already reopened on September 12.

Several benches were seen put together to make two separate beds in the room. Some other benches were being used for putting different household items. A corner of the veranda adjacent to the room was being used as kitchen.

Rafiqul Islam, the school's headteacher, was not available for his comments. Reached over phone, he requested this correspondent not to publish any report on the matter.

He also said as the school was closed for Covid-19, he let Mosharruf stay in the

classroom after UP Chairman Milon Majhee approached him with the request.

Assistant Teacher GM Hillary said he heard that the headteacher allowed Mosharruf to stay in the classroom at the request of the UP chairman.

Habibullah, another teacher of the school, said partial classes are being held after the school reopened, but once all classes resume, the occupied classroom will need to be vacated.

Mosharruf Hossain, whose grandfather was a donor of land for the school, said he does not have any land of his own and the UP chairman arranged the classroom for him after he requested for an accommodation.

Rizia Begum, acting chairman of the school's managing committee, said the occupant of the classroom would be evicted within a few days.

UP chairman Milon Majhee could not be reached for his comments over the matter as repeated calls made on his cell phone went unanswered.

Contacted, Primary Education Officer in Sadar upazila Shahidul Islam said, allowing someone to live in a classroom is against rules.

The room would be vacated soon and necessary action would be taken against the headteacher concerned, he also said.



Benches are placed together to make a bed and store household items inside a classroom at Nandipara Government Primary School in Patuakhali Sadar upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Case against MJF

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standing of these two individuals. We strongly criticise the case and call on the authorities to deal with it responsibly," said the Forum.

The statement was signed by Sara Hossain, executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Golam Monowar Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, Tamanna Hoq Riti, coordinator of HRFB, Zakir Hossain, executive director of Nagorik Udyog, Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development, Sanjeeb Drono, secretary general of Bangladesh Adibashi Forum, and Saleh Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu Social Welfare Trust.

"Certain vested quarters have been methodically running a smear campaign against Anam, Gomez and the Editor of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam," said the statement. "A coalition called Nagorik Udyog had placed a draft Hindu inheritance law that proposes equal rights for all Hindu citizens. Not one organisation is involved with this draft. Rather, it was created by several national and district level human rights organisations and individuals," said the Forum. It added that during the creation of the draft, several consultation sessions with stakeholders were conducted.

"The aim of the draft law is not to create any rift within the Hindu community. Rather the objective is to ensure the constitutional rights of Hindu women," it said.

The Forum said that those participating in this initiative should not become victims of harassment.

"There can be opposing views to this draft law, but the opposition can be expressed with tolerance and by upholding the standards of the constitution -- and a case solely meant to harass cannot be an acceptable method," said the Forum.

They demanded that the case be withdrawn immediately.

ASI dies

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the OC said. Police later arrested Polash again. A murder case was filed against him too.

Peyarul joined the police department in 2011 as a constable and performed his duties efficiently. Later, in 2018, he had been promoted to ASI rank of Bangladesh police.

The incident has triggered a wave of shock in the entire police department.

Chinese villages

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-- which could add up to more than \$15,000 in total per baby.

The average annual income in Lianjiang was \$3,295 per person in 2019, according to official data.

The subsidies, worth several million yuan in total, were donated by a wealthy man in the village, local newspaper Zhanjiang Daily reported.

Carpal tunnel syndrome

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news.

There are no certain reasons for this condition. It can happen due to many. However, science has listed things that can aggravate your chances of getting the syndrome -- typing or writing; small, rapid and vigorous hand movements, and applying pressure on your hands for a prolonged period.

Most doctors, however, will want to know if you are an avid gamer. Video games require constant, vigorous, and precise movement of the hand muscles due to various keys that need to be pressed over a very small area. It rarely matters what type of device the game is being played on,

like a PC or a console, since a lot of the actions involved are similar.

It is in no way a bad activity but caution and preparedness always wins. So, console players using a controller can try to open their hands and close it for 5-10 times while rolling their wrists. This helps to increase blood flow, and in preventing carpal tunnel syndrome.

For PC players, the objective is to keep your wrists level with the surface, and not in an angle. A good trick can be to use cushions or some other form of soft object to keep their hands and wrists properly leveled. The main goal is to keep blood flowing properly.

Taking 10 minute breaks in

between playing can also help reduce the chances of carpal.

What about those who do not play video games, you ask? Wearing a wrist splint can at times help. A splint helps keep your hands straight, wearing it while sleeping may at times help reduce the pain.

Carpal tunnel syndrome usually takes a long time to recover, a minimum of 2-3 months and a maximum of 6 months. There are home exercises, readily available on the internet, that can keep your hands active yet not too intense to strain your muscles further. However, it's always best to consult your doctor before choosing your recovery routine.

Mystery solved after 6 years

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romantically involved with.

On Friday, the PBI arrested Rejaul Karim Swapan, a retired corporal of Bangladesh Navy, from Cumilla's EPZ area, who gave confessional statement before a Dhaka court yesterday, said Banaj Kumar Majumder, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police and chief of PBI, at a press conference in PBI's Dhanmondi headquarters yesterday.

The victim was identified as Shampa Begum, daughter of a retired army member Elias Sheikh. At the time of the incident, she was only 25.

Banaj Kumar said that on the day of the incident, someone had bought a ticket at the counter of Eagle Paribahan in Chattogram's AK Khan intersection and handed over a steel trunk to the bus helper to keep inside the luggage compartment and said a passenger would board the bus at the next stoppage at Bhatiali.

However, no one boarded the bus there.

When the bus reached Dhaka's Gabtoli around 5:45pm, the conductor noticed the heavy trunk and informed the Darus Salam police, who found the body.

CID had submitted the final report of its probe to a Dhaka court but the court refused to accept it and transferred the case to PBI, Banaj Kumar said.

Hilsa prices soar

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Islam, inspector of quality control at the Department of Fisheries in Benapole.

Most of the hilsa exported to India is over a kg, said a source at the Fisheries department.

Asked about the lower export price, Nizamuddin, owner of Union Venture Limited, which has been approved to sell 40 tonnes to India, said his firm is buying hilsa from remote markets where the price is lower.

Azizur Rahman, commissioner of Benapole Customs, said, "We are following the commerce ministry's instruction over the price of the hilsa."

The commerce ministry on

Monday gave permission to 52 firms to export 2,080 tonnes of hilsa to India. Even though the decision seemed to affect prices in the local market, the government on Thursday allowed 11 more firms to export 440 tonnes to India.

In 2020, the government allowed hilsa export of 1,475 tonnes to India during Durga Puja.

The ministry order said the export procedure should be complete by October 3, because the National Taskforce Committee on Hilsa Resource Development imposed a 22-day ban on catching hilsa from October 4.

(Our Correspondent from Benapole contributed to the report)

Taliban hang

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crane hoisted one man up.

A crowd of people looked on as armed Taliban fighters gathered around the vehicle.

Another video showed a man suspended from a crane at a major roundabout in Herat with a sign on his chest reading: "Abductors will be punished like this".

The display across several squares in the city is the most high-profile public punishment since the Taliban swept to power last month, and is a sign the Islamist hardliners will adopt fearsome measures similar to their previous rule from 1996 to 2001.

Muhajir said security forces were informed a businessman and his son had been abducted in the city yesterday morning.

Pak move to bar Bangladesh

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inflicted 7 casualties on the enemy. On the night of September 26, Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops on Paksighanj-Kamalpur road and killed two enemy soldiers. Two vehicles and two ferry boats were destroyed near Kathalpur on the same day.

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini engaged Pakistani troops with mortars and small arms near Ijksa area. Seven troops were killed in action, and Mukti Bahini captured two Chinese rifles.

BANGLADESH SOLUTION WITHIN PAK FRAMEWORK: LABOUR MP

The Labour Party of Britain favoured a political solution of the Bangladesh issue

within the framework of Pakistan. This was made clear to newsmen in Kolkata today by Douglas Houghton MP, the chairman of Labour Parliamentary Party.

About British government's view, Houghton said, "I think the government's line of thinking on the East Pakistan situation was to avoid as far as possible "making a judgement on the internal affairs of Pakistan or on the relationship between two member nations of the commonwealth unless the situation become so acute and dangerous that the whole commonwealth was involved."

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Pakistan, India trade barbs

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the US invasion after the September 11 attacks.

Khan, a longstanding critic of the 20-year US war ended by President Joe Biden, blamed imprecise US drone strikes for the flareup of extremism inside Pakistan and pointed to Islamabad's cooperation with US forces.

"There is a lot of worry in the US about taking care of the interpreters and everyone who helped the US. What about us?" Khan said in a speech, pre-recorded by video due to Covid-19 precautions.

"At least there should have been a word of

appreciation. But rather than appreciation, imagine how we feel when we are blamed for the turn of events in Afghanistan."

US officials have long accused Islamabad's powerful intelligence services of maintaining support for the Taliban, leading Biden's predecessor Donald Trump to slash military aid.

FIERY CLASH
Biden has yet to speak let alone invite Khan, although Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Thursday on the UN sidelines with his Pakistani counterpart and offered thanks for help repatriating US citizens from Afghanistan.

An-Noor

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