

## Palashdanga Jubo Shibir of Sirajganj

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mobilising local students and youths. These young recruits then received training at Sirajganj Government College under soldiers from the Bengal Regiment, freedom fighter Sohrab Ali Sarker told this newspaper.

"On April 24, acting on a tip off that Pakistani troops were headed to Sirajganj from Pabna by train, over 100 freedom fighters, led by Latif Mirza, launched an attack on the Pakistani forces at Ghatina Railway Bridge in Ullapara."

The Pakistani army retaliated, leading to a fierce battle that lasted for around three hours. During the clash, five Pakistani soldiers were killed.

Twenty freedom fighters also lost their lives. At one point, the freedom fighters were forced to retreat.

Another freedom fighter, Lutfar Rahman Makhan, said that after the



A memorial, near the Koddar intersection in Kamarkhand, Sirajganj, stands as a testament to the heroism and bravery of the Palashdanga Jubo Shibir fighters. Adjacent to the memorial is a list of the names of 485 freedom fighters who were part of this valiant force.

## Papia Sarwar no more

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Her husband, Sarwar Alam, said her janaza will be held following the Jumma prayers today. Later, she will be laid to rest at Banani graveyard.

Papia Sarwar was born on November 21, 1952, in Barishal. A devoted admirer of Rabindranath Tagore from her childhood, Papia joined Chhayanaut in class six. Later, she enrolled at the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). Since 1967, she has been a listed artiste for both radio and television. She was also a student of the Zoology Department at the University of Dhaka.

In 1973, she travelled to India to pursue a degree in Rabindra Sangeet at Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan under a scholarship from the Government of India. She was the first Bangladeshi to receive the scholarship.

Her first audio album, titled after her own name, "Papia Sarwar," was released in 1982.

Throughout her illustrious musical career, Papia Sarwar earned the love of millions of listeners for her renditions of Rabindra Sangeet. Her unique voice and distinctive singing style were widely acclaimed in the music industry.

She also achieved success in modern Bangla songs. One of her most popular songs, "Nai Telephone, Nai Re Pion, Nai Re Telegram", garnered immense popularity among Bangla music enthusiasts.

According to music connoisseurs, Papia Sarwar was highly selective about the modern songs she chose to sing, which explains why her discography contains fewer albums. Her last album, "Akashpane Hath Baralam", was released in 2013.

In 2013, Papia Sarwar was given the Rabindra Award by Bangla Academy. She later received the Bangla Academy Fellowship in 2015. Her remarkable contributions were further acknowledged in 2021 when she was honoured with the Ekushey Padak.

During her long career, she held the position of General Secretary of the National Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad and subsequently served on its Executive Committee. In 1996, this eminent artiste established a musical ensemble called Gitasudha.

She left behind her husband and two children. Her elder daughter, Zara Sarwar, works as an assistant professor of biology at the College of New Jersey, while her younger daughter, Jisha Sarwar, serves as an executive with the Ministry of Finance in Canada.

## Goodbye, Andrew

FROM PAGE 14

organisations, including The Daily Star, where he began writing for the Star Weekend Magazine and other sections of the paper, contributing numerous articles on Bangladesh's diverse culture, history, and people.

His contribution to developing the language skills of the regional correspondents of this newspaper will always be valued. Andrew's connection with Bangladesh was profound. He travelled to nearly every district in the country, immersing himself in its landscapes and people.

Noakhali's Hatiya held a special place in his heart, and he often

referred to it as his "second native land". Apart from his love for Bangladesh, Andrew's life was a testament to global exploration and cross-cultural understanding.

He travelled to over 100 countries, living for extended periods in places like Norway and China. In 2018, he transitioned from journalism to teaching, initially at an international English medium school in Bangladesh and later in East Timor.

His dedication to education reflected his lifelong commitment to sharing knowledge and fostering connections across borders. Andrew's enduring bond with Bangladesh was

highlighted by his 30-year friendship with Reza Mobarak Ali Situ, who noted that Andrew always dreamed of returning to the country he loved so dearly. Sadly, his passing has cut short that dream, leaving a void in the hearts of all who knew him.

Andrew Eagle will be remembered for his relentless curiosity, his deep respect for cultures, and his unwavering love for Bangladesh. He leaves behind countless friends and admirers from around the globe, whose lives were touched by his kindness, intellect, and adventurous spirit. May his soul rest in peace.

Goodbye, Andrew.

## Nahid's remarks anti-politics

FROM PAGE 14

words come from their [advisers'] side, it will harm the current national unity. This is not right. Rather, it will create a kind of crack in the unity."

Rizvisaid, "You are the government. Different political parties and professional organisations will discuss and criticise you, and through this, you will benefit. Criticism is one of the key elements that strengthen democracy. You cannot destroy that element."

"Your primary responsibility is to ensure a free and fair election after completing necessary reforms."

He said, "Is an election different from other elements of democracy? They [advisers] react when they hear about elections. In fact, election is the most significant element for practicing and developing democracy."

"The issue of elections is being neglected. Political parties are urging that reforms be done in a reasonable timeframe and elections be conducted."

Meanwhile, BNP leader Fakhru returned to Dhaka yesterday after his 10-day visit to London.

Talking to reporters at the Dhaka airport, he relayed a message from

the party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

"The acting chairman has asked everyone to exercise patience. A significant victory has been achieved by the people. To make this victory meaningful, we all must work with patience and dedication. The election is the first step in democracy, and we need to be fully prepared for it."

"...Overall, my trip to London was productive and meaningful."

"Such perceptions [regarding reforms] are completely wrong. We discussed reforms two years ago. We have come up with a 31-point reform proposal. Even before that, in 2016 we had Vision-2023. We have called for holding elections after completing minimal reforms."

He said, "We say this because it will be very challenging to tackle all the problems that are emerging in Bangladesh without an elected government."

On Bangladesh-India relations, Fakhru said, "The problem will be resolved through talks. Things are moving ahead."

Responding to a question about the return of Tarique, he said, "He will return to the country once his legal issues are resolved."

## Region to benefit

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During the meeting, the chief adviser paid tribute to SFO founder Prof ABMF Karim.

Prof Yunus recalled how Prof Karim helped him and his family when his younger brother, writer and television personality Muhammad Jahangir, was diagnosed with cancer.

He said people of the country is still not getting the support they need for cancer treatment. However, he praised SAARC's role in providing treatment to cancer patients.

## UN condemns suicide attack on Afghan minister

AFP, KABUL

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan yesterday condemned an attack claimed by the Islamic State group that killed the refugees minister and several others.

The Minister for Refugees and Repatriation, Khalil Ur-Rahman Haqqani, was killed on Wednesday afternoon in a suicide bombing at the ministry's offices in the capital Kabul.

"There can be no place for terrorism in the quest for stability," the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said on X, offering condolences to the victims' families.



defeat, Latif Mirza led a group of 50 freedom fighters from Sirajganj and set out for India to receive military training.

"Of them, five men failed to meet with Latif and returned to Sirajganj."

They were Sirajganj College unit Student Union vice president Sohrab Ali Sarker, pro-vp Lutfar Rahman Makhan, and student leaders Abdul Aziz Sarker, Shafiqul Islam Shafi, and Monirul Kabir.

These five student leaders began mobilising the local force that went on to be known as the Palashdanga Jubo Shibir, Lutfar added.

**TRAINING**  
In May, these student leaders took shelter at the house of Chandu Sheikh, a resident of Jangaliagati village in Bhadrachhat union.

Abdul Aziz Sarker said, "The then Sirajganj sub-divisional officer AK Shamsuddin and sub-divisional police officer Anwarul Haque Laskar gave us 13 rifles that were in their possession to support the war effort."

Armed with these rifles, the

Freedom fighter Shafiqul Islam Shafi said, "Tipped off about our location, Pakistani troops attacked Bhadrachhat in the early hours of June 17. The over a hundred freedom fighters present at the camp put up a valiant resistance."

The Pakistani forces, unable to withstand the assault, were forced to surrender, suffering heavy casualties of 130 soldiers and razakars.

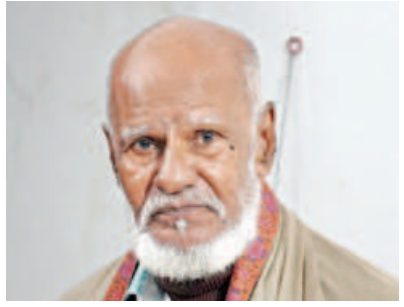
Freedom fighter Lutfar Rahman Makhan said, "It was the largest guerrilla battle in the north. At the end



SHAFIQUUL ISLAM SHAFI



LUTFAR RAHMAN MAKHAN



SOHRAB ALI SARKER



ABDUL AZIZ SARKER

A Pakistani soldier was killed in the ensuing battle. However, with the arrival of additional Pakistani troops, the freedom fighters were overwhelmed and forced to retreat, he added.

After that, the freedom fighters left Bhadrachhat and moved to the Chalan Beel region, setting up temporary camps on boats.

From there they conducted operations over a vast area spreading from Sirajganj's Ullapara, Belkuchi, Shahjampur, and Tarash, to Pabna's Faridpur, Sathia, Bhangura, Bogura's Sherpur and Natore's Gurudaspur.

**NOTABLE OPS**

An important operation was the raid on Tarash Police Station in the middle of July when a group of more than 100 freedom fighters attacked the station and looted 20 rifles in the armoury.

Abdur Rahman, the leader of the operation, said, "We arrived by boat around 5:00pm and launched a surprise attack on the police station. The policemen at the station complied with our orders and handed over all the rifles and ammunition in their possession."

On November 10, as freedom fighters set up camp near Naogaon Bazar for the night, they received intelligence of an imminent attack by the Pakistani army.

Led by Latif Mirza, the fighters quickly relocated to Naogaon Bazar, where they also had a camp.

When the Pak army did not find any freedom fighters at the location, they decided to check the nearby Naogaon Bazar camp.

There, the waiting freedom fighters launched an attack on the enemy forces.

of it, nine Pakistani soldiers, including a Pakistani captain, surrendered to us with a lot of arms and ammunition."

The bravery displayed by the freedom fighters in this battle was highlighted by Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

Following the war, in 1972, the freedom fighters of Palashdanga Jubo Shibir surrendered their arms to Captain M Mansur Ali, the then finance minister, at Sirajganj Government College ground.

**JANGALIAGATI STILL NEGLECTED**  
Despite its historical significance, Jangaliagati village remains neglected and isolated even 53 years after the nation's liberation.

A fragile bamboo bridge remains the sole means of crossing the canal to access the village, which remains submerged for most of the year. During the dry season, villagers navigate through the aisles of paddy fields.

The 150 families of Jangaliagati have been pleading for a bridge and paved roads for decades.

Motaleb Hossain, a local resident whose family sheltered freedom fighters, expressed his frustration, "Palashdanga Jubo Shibir was born here, but our village remains neglected."

Freedom fighter Abdul Aziz Sarker, also shared his disappointment, "It's a shameful reality that after so many years of independence, this village remains as remote as ever. Despite numerous appeals to the district administration and MPs, our pleas for a bridge have fallen on deaf ears."

Translated and edited from Bangla by Subrata Roy.

- **AREA:** Sirajganj Pabna, Bogura, Natore
- **KEY TACTIC:** Used a fleet of boats for temporary bases, transportation, attacks
- **TIMEFRAME:** May - Dec
- **OPERATIONS:** At least 50
- **MEMBERS:** At least 600

freedom fighters being mobilised by the student leaders began training in Bhadrachhat under the supervision of Lutfar Rahman Arun, a soldier from the Bengal Regiment.

Soon after, youths in dozens began joining the training sessions from nearby areas, Aziz added.

At the end of May, Latif Mirza returned from India with a group of 30 trained freedom fighters.

"Latif Mirza's arrival in Bhadrachhat boosted the morale of the freedom fighters," Sohrab said.

On June 6, in the presence of freedom fighters, the force was named Palashdanga Jubo Shibir.

"To avoid detection, we opted for 'Palashdanga' instead of using the more recognisable names of Jangaliagati or Bhadrachhat," Aziz told this newspaper.

**ATTACK ON BHADRACHHAT**  
During the initial phase of the war, the freedom fighters, aside from training, launched night operations against Pakistani forces.

সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজিবির অবসর প্রাপ্ত/শারীরিক অক্ষমতার দরুন চাকুরী হতে অবসর প্রাপ্ত সদস্যদের সন্তান, বিজিবির মৃত সদস্যদের সন্তান এবং বিজিবির শহীদ/বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সদস্যদের সন্তানদের বিজিবি শিক্ষা বৃত্তি প্রদান-২০২৪

বিজিবির অবসর প্রাপ্ত/শারীরিক অক্ষমতার দরুন চাকুরী হতে অবসর প্রাপ্ত সদস্যদের সন্তান, বিজিবির মৃত সদস্যদের সন্তান এবং বিজিবির শহীদ/বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সদস্যদের সন্তানদেরকে ২০২৪ সালের জন্য বিজিবি শিক্ষা বৃত্তি প্রদান করা হবে। সত্যায়িত মার্কসিট/একাডেমিক ট্রান্সক্রিপ্ট সহ বিজিবি কর্তৃক ছাপানো ফরমে যথাস্থানে অধ্যয়নরত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিভাগীয় প্রধানের সীল ও স্বাক্ষর গ্রহণ পূর্বক আবেদনপত্র আগামী ২২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে সদর দপ্তর বিজিবি, প্রশাসন শাখা, প্রশাসন পরিদপ্তর (কল্যাণ সেকশন), পিলখানা, ঢাকা বরাবরে প্রেরণ করতে হবে। বৃত্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরম বিজিবি এর সকল ইউনিট হতে পাওয়া যাবে। নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী কোন কোন শ্রেণীর বৃত্তি প্রদান করা হবে তা নিম্নে উপস্থাপন করা হলোঃ

ক। এইচএসসি/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় গোল্ডেন জিপিএ-৫ গ্রেডিং প্রাপ্ত।  
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ঘ। প্রথম শ্রেণী হতে পঞ্চম শ্রেণী পর্যন্ত পূর্ববর্তী শ্রেণীর সত্যায়িত মার্কসিট (শুধুমাত্র বিজিবি এর মৃত সদস্যদের সন্তান এবং শহীদ/বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সদস্যদের সন্তানদের অধ্যয়নের জন্য প্রযোজ্য হবে)।  
ঙ। হিফজ মাদ্রাসা থেকে পবিত্র আল কুরআনের হাফেজ হিসেবে আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে সনদপত্র প্রাপ্ত (যারা ০১ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখের পর হতে হাফেজ হবেন)।

আবেদন ফরমের সাথে স্কুল, কলেজ এবং হিফজ মাদ্রাসায় অধ্যয়নরত ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদেরকে পূর্ববর্তী ক্লাসের মার্কসিট/ পরীক্ষার ফলাফল সীট/একাডেমিক ট্রান্সক্রিপ্ট এর সত্যায়িত ছায়াছবি, শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান এর নিকট হতে মেধাবী/সাফল্য ও আচরণ সম্পর্কে প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র এবং সদ্য তোলা এক কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত রঙ্গীন ছবিসহ দাখিল করতে হবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিজিবি সদস্যদের তালিকাভুক্ত অনুযায়ী শিক্ষার্থীর নামের সঠিকতা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। নামের কোন গরমিল আবেদন ফরমে কোন ভুলত্রুটি পরিলক্ষিত হলে এবং আবেদন ফরমে কোন অসম্পূর্ণতা থাকলে তা বৃত্তির জন্য বিবেচিত হবে না। দুই সন্তানের অধিক বৃত্তি প্রদান করা হবে না। উল্লেখ্য যে, নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর আবেদন ফরম প্রেরণ করা হলে তা অগ্রহণযোগ্য হবে।

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আবু বকর সিদ্দিক সাইমুম  
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-২)  
মহাপরিচালকের পক্ষে

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department (EED)  
Chapainawabgonj  
E-mail: ee\_chap@eedmoe.gov.bd  
Website: www.eed.Chapainawabgonj.gov.bd

**Tender Notice S.L No. 22**

Memo No. 22/e-GP/EED/Chapai/4931/SHED/2024-25 Dated: 11-12-2024

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. This fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

SL No.	Package No.	Name of works	Procurement method	Tender ID No.	Tender security	Last date & time of selling documents	Last closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
1	EED/CHAPA I/SHED/4931/2024-25/07	Repair & Renovation Works of Chapainawabganj Govt. Mohila College, Sadar, Chapainawabganj. (Fy: 2022-2023)	LTM	1038089	60000	30-12-2024 Time-15.30	31-12-2024 Time-11.00	31-12-2024 Time-11.00
2	EED/CHAPA I/SHED/4931/2024-25/08	Repair & Renovation Works of 02-Storeyed Hostel Building at Nawabganj Government College, Sadar, Chapainawabganj. (Fy: 2022-2023)	LTM	1038090	60000	30-12-2024 Time-15.30	31-12-2024 Time-11.00	31-12-2024 Time-11.00

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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