

Nation remembers them today



Fl. Lt. Matiur Rahman

They're anxious to visit grave of their dearest one

By A Staff Reporter

Mrs. Matiur Rahman, wife of Bir Sreshtha Flt. Lieut. Matiur Rahman, and their two daughters are anxiously looking forward to the day when they would be able to visit his mazar at Karachi cantonment.

The two girls—Maheen Matiur and Tuhin Matiur were only two and half years, and eight months old respectively when their father had embraced martyrdom.

for the cause of the nation on August 20, 1971.

Maheen is now a student of first year HSC student at the Holy Cross College and Tuhin studying in Class IX at Holy Cross School. The family was transferred from Karachi to Dhaka on September 29, 1971 on the day before Mrs. Matiur Rahman was allowed to have an eye view of the grave from a distance of about a mile.

In an interview with the Bangladesh Times on Sunday, Mrs. Matiur Rahman said she had tried in vain over the past 14 years to go and visit the grave of her husband. During the initial years of liberation a visit to Pakistan was discouraged as the relationship of that country with Bangladesh was not friendly.

Flight Lt. Matiur's mission was to fly out of Pakistan taking a plane to participate in the War of Liberation. He took a T-33 trainer plane and tried to force its trainee pilot Rashed Minhaj to follow his command. In the ensuing scuffle they lost control of the plane which was flying at a very low altitude to evade radar. The plane made a nose-dive and crashed killing both.

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By Muzaffar Hussain

We remember them today, those who fought for liberating their motherland and showed extraordinary courage and valour in the face of the enemy forces and laid their lives. They are not dead. They are Shaheed - martyrs. It was for them that we are now a proud nation—independent and sovereign.

The war of our independence is full of heroism of our people. Millions of people were killed. Many men, women and children died in action. But seven of them proved their extraordinary talent in the face of enemy forces—they are 'Bir Shreshthas.'

They sacrificed their lives for their motherland and the grateful nation bestowed on them the highest national award for their valour and courage.

MATIUR RAHMAN

Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman joined the then Pakistan Air Force as cadet in 1961 and was commissioned in 1963. He attained martyrdom on August 20, 1971 when he made an abortive attempt to hijack a PAF plane.



MOSTAFA KAMAL

Sepoy Mostafa Kamal was a soldier in the Fourth East Bengal Regiment.

After March 25, 1971, as a member of a platoon, he encountered the occupation forces at village Daruin, near Gangasagar at Akhaura. Though they did not have food for consecutive two days, Mustafa Kamal fought to the last and was killed in the bunker when his ammunition were exhausted.

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The Bangladesh Times Remembers them

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HAMIDUR RAHMAN

Sepoy Hamidur Rahman joined East Bengal Regiment on February 2, 1971. He joined the Liberation War along with others of the First East Bengal Regiment posted in Chittagong.

As a member of the Mukti Bahini, Sepoy Hamid along with others stormed a strategic outpost at Dholoi border of Sylhet on October 27.

The outpost ultimately fell in the hands of the Mukti Bahini. The occupation forces suffered huge men and materials. But Hamidur Rahman was killed in the encounter.

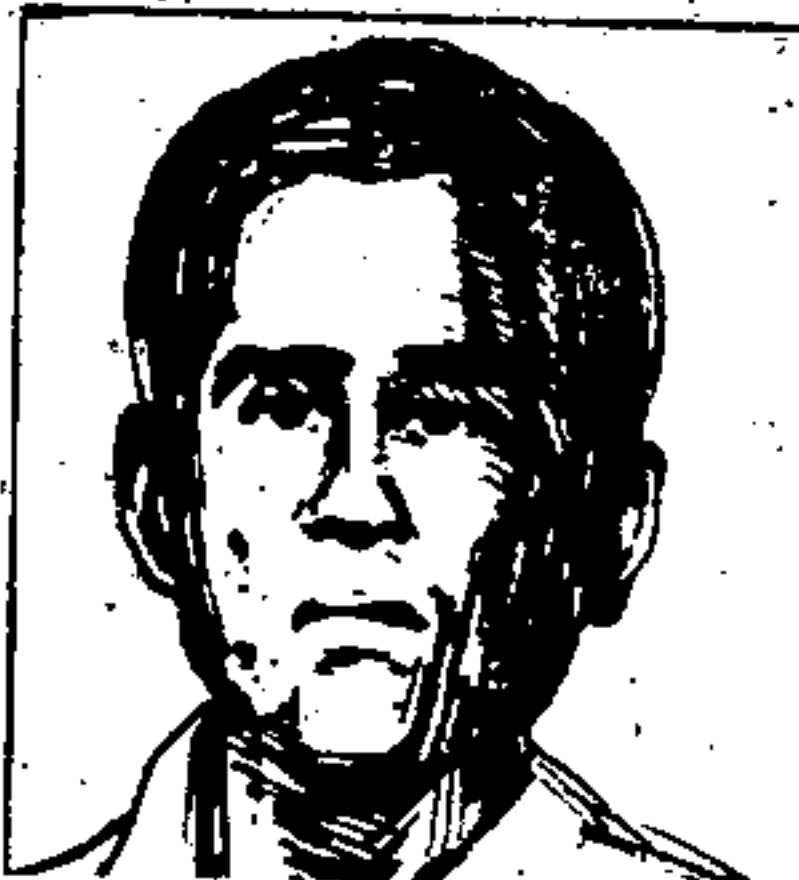


NOOR MOHAMMAD SHEIKH

Lance Naik Noor Mohammad Sheikh, who joined the then East Pakistan Rifles in 1959, was born in village Mahishkhola in Nerrail dist.

On September 5, 1971 a standing patrol was sent to village Gosalhati under the leadership of Noor Mohammad. Suddenly, the occupation forces surrounded the members of the patrol forces.

The brute occupation forces gauged his eyes and bayoneted him to death.



RUHUL AMIN

Artificer Mohammad Ruhul Amin joined the then Pakistan Navy as a Junior Mechanical Engineer in 1953. After March 25, 1971 Ruhul Amin crossed the border and joined Sector Number Two. He took part in a number of naval actions against the occupation forces.

He was killed in an encounter near Khulna Shipyard on December 10.



MUNSHI A RAUF

Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rauf, a member of the then EPR, was born in village Salazraipur under Kamarkhali of Faridpur district.

Prior to March 25, 1971 he was posted in Chittagong and joined the Liberation War with the Bengal Regiment. He was killed in an encounter

with the occupation forces at Burighat off Rangamati on April 8.



CAPT. JAHANGIR

Born in Rahimaganj in Barisal district, Capt. Mahiuddin Jahangir joined Pakistan Military Academy as a cadet in 1967 and got commission in Engineering Corps in 1968. Prior to his joining the War of Liberation he was associated with 173 Engineering Battalion of the Pakistan Army. He fled from Pakistan in September 1971 along with three other Bengali officers and joined the Mukti Bahini. He died in an encounter with the occupation forces on December 54, only a couple of days before the surrender of the occupation forces.

They're anxious

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Mrs. Matiur Rahman recalls her husband's playing of cards with herself, and her elder sister on the night of August 19 when he had informed her that he was leaving no financial debt for the family. Matiur left the residence to attend office on August 20 morning. She came to learn about his death on August 21 evening. On the preceding day her residence was thoroughly searched, she added.

Mrs. Matiur Rahman who now lives at their residence near Mohakhali rail gate, said they did not receive life insurance claims against her husband because they did not have the documents. They received Taka 15,000 against the provident fund of the deceased a year ago.

SHAHEED DR. TALUKDAR

The family of Shaheed Dr. Ashraf Ali Talukdar visits his grave at Baluchhara near Chittagong Cantonment every year to pray for his salvation. A physician serving the Department of Health, Dr. Talukdar was posted at the Chittagong Police Hospital when the war broke out.

Dr. Talukdar was an ardent supporter of the liberation movement and the flag of Swadhin Bangladesh was hoisted at his residence in the Chittagong police lines on March 25, 1971.

On March 26, the family left the police lines residence and Dr. Talukdar decided not to resume duties. On April 15 an army van picked up Dr. Talukdar and his eldest son Masudul Hasan.

Later the killers opened brush fire at them at Baluchhara. Dr. Talukdar died on the spot and his son with 18 bullet wounds somehow survived at the instance of the nearby villagers. The family was informed about the incident on April 16 and advised to leave that place to avoid massacre.

The family of Dr. Talukdar lived at two abandoned houses for a monthly rent of Taka 560 between 1973 and 1980. Now they live in a rented house at Zigatala. Mrs. Momtaz Begum wife of Dr. Talukdar said she felt proud that her family had a share in the blood shed for the liberation of Bangladesh.