

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Bangladesh Times, 1 DIT Avenue, Dacca 2

Sculpture in remembrance: a contradiction

I have read the interview article captioned 'Sculpture in Remembrance' which came out in your daily on November 10, 1979. It seems that Syed Abdullah Khalid through this interview has distorted facts by skillfully evading the actual background. He has furnished certain information which are not based on facts and are also misleading.

The people who worked ceaselessly and against many odds to put that sculpture in front of the DUCSU building certainly played a

more important role than those who were employed to do the sculpting. But Mr. Khalid has sung his own praise and tried to hide the role of those who deserve credit for the project, particularly Mr M Hamid, former cultural secretary of DUCSU who is the pioneer and without whose efforts the project would not have seen the light of the day.

About the background of the project, he has mentioned that in 1974, he produced a model which was submitted to the Dacca University authority and was already approved with a budget of Tk. 30,000 (this is not true).

The fact is in the beginning of 1973, Mr. M. Hamid, the then cultural secretary of DUCSU, contacted Mr. S. A. Khalid to work for the

project and after finalisation of the plan Mr. Khalid started working on the model. The model was finally approved by DUCSU and the work was processed with a budget of Tk. 50,000 which also was approved by the DUCSU. This University authority was requested by DUCSU to bear 50 per cent of the expenses. All these happened in 1973 and not in 1974.

The work started under the supervision of a three-member committee—the members were Dr. Belayer Hossain, Mr. K. A. M. Sadiq and Mr. M. Hamid.

Although he mentioned the names of some members of the subsequent committee, he did not mention any name of the first committee probably because he did not

want to mention the name of Mr. M. Hamid. It may be noted in this connection that number of members of the committee was never 12. Previously it was 11 and now it is 13.

The work stopped in August, 1975 Mr. Khalid did not say anything about how the work started again in January this year although it is very important and significant factor as far as the project is concerned, because in this case also Mr. M. Hamid's role becomes overwhelmingly apparent.

It is all the more surprising that although a three-member body was working together on the sculpture from the beginning and was setting the same honour then, he has only passingly mentioned the name of Mr.

Badrul Alam Benu omitting the name of Mr. M. Hamid who was also very much a member of the team.

At the end where Mr. Khalid has mentioned that unless the varsity authority came forward he could not have ventured upon this project. It would have been more appropriate for him say that unless Mr. M. Hamid had come forward and convinced the authority this project could not have been materialised.

Why did he avoid the name of Mr. M. Hamid? Was it for the reason that mention of Mr. Hamid's name and his contribution would overshadow Mr. S. A. Khalid's role although he is the sculptor. Isn't it true that Mr. M. Hamid's role has not only helped establish the sculpture but the sculptor too, which he is afraid to recognise, may be out of some complex.

That facts cannot be kept concealed and will come out as day light on its own merit.

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