Name : Ahtesham Ibne Mostafa

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Section : 22

Title: Days during the war of 1971 with Kuddus Khan, 2022 July 14

Name: Kuddus Khan

Age: 71 Years old

Gender: Male

In Dhaka, Kuddus Khan was born in 1951. He didn't come from a well-off household. They used to reside in Kapashiya, Gazipur, during the 1971 conflict. He had a farmer father and a housewife mother. His was about 17 years old at the time of the conflict. The family's oldest son, he was. His mother took the youngest members of his family to Rajendrapur, a deeper area of the jungle. When the war was going on, he used to live with his father. 'I used to take cows to graze in the pasture, the field was not far away from here,' Kuddus Khan said when explaining the origin of his name. There was no Lalmati Area; instead, there was a sizable, deep lake with a field next to it. He says, "During the day I used to plant seeds to harvest crops and tend to the cows, and at night I used the help of the trees to hang mosquito net to sleep." He frequently suffered from a cold and a fever because he used to sleep outside without any protection. At midnight, fog would gather on his chest, adding to his misery. Even then, he would ask his mother for food. He said, “I traveled to Narun, where there was a tiny market at the time, and I sold one of my cows there for 75 taka. With that money, I purchased additional groceries for my mother, my other siblings, as well as myself. His father used to visit them at midnight to check on things like whether the house was there or not and the state of affairs. Near their home, Pakistani forces established a camp. During the war, Kaliganj Road was being built instead of the current Ajmatpur Road, which was used to access the city center. On that road, two Pakistani soldiers once took him prisoner.” He recalls, “I was wearing a shirt and a lungi, and it was about four o'clock in the evening. Unbeknownst to me, a vehicle was coming towards me from behind when it abruptly stopped in front of me. There were just two soldiers in the car, one of them appeared to be a youngster and was carrying two rifles. The other soldier was the driver, who was very strong and muscular. When the driver emerged, he inquired about my destination. I retaliated by hazing cows. He then started searching me, and while he was doing so, he discovered my wallet. When he started to look inside, he discovered one 10 Taka note and one paisa coin. He handed over the wallet after taking the 10 taka out and keeping it to himself. He told me to get in the jeep when I believed they should depart now that they had some money. After a while, he simply shoved me into the car and left me there. The road was bumpy, full of potholes, followed by a stretch of smooth pavement. After a while, as the car approached a bump in the road, the child signaled to me inaudibly with his hand to jump. When the next bump came, I timed my jump to the car's jump. The moment the automobile turned onto the smoother route, it began to accelerate. After the jump, I lay on the ground for a short while before running as quickly as I could to the field where I had left the cows.” He also said, “But none of us wanted this level of independence in the slightest. I never wanted to die because I wanted to live and fight for a Bangladesh that was independent. But now I see no hope in this corrupted nation.”