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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at the graves of four national leaders at the Banani graveyard in the city in observance of the Jail Killing Day yesterday.

BNWLA report 25 women killed, 62 raped in last one month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) in its monthly report on women repression said 25 women of various age groups were murdered and 62 raped across the country during the past one month.

The BNWLA report also said 25 women were tortured for dowry while 27 were abducted. Nineteen were acid victims and one fell victim to Fatwa. 22 cases of suicide occurred and 27 labeled as victims of unnatural death, the report said.

BNWLA also said that only 87 cases were filed among the total of 208 incidents.

Of the 208 victims, 45 were unknown, seven under six years of age, 29 in the age group of 7-12, 52 women between 13-18, 31 between 19-24, 26 between 25-30 and 18 victims above 30 years.

BNWLA prepares regular monthly reports on women repression across the country including rape, murder, dowry and acid related incidents, abduction, suicide and unnatural death. They collect the information from various national dailies Ittefaq, Prothom Alo, Jugantar, Bhorer Kagoj, Manabzamin, Janakantha, Inquilab, The Daily Star and The Independent.

Indo-Bangla customs talks open 2 crucial issues ignored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Talks between India and Bangladesh on customs related issues that began in the capital yesterday overlooked such crucial issues as non-tariff barriers and harassment by the Indian customs officials on Bangladeshi exporters.

Top customs officials of both countries kicked off the two-day long discussion at the conference room of the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Bangladeshi exporters often allege that they face difficulties in exporting goods to India because of various non-tariff barriers and unfriendly attitude by the Indian customs officials.

While talking to a group of newsmen at the end of the discussion, the officials said the talks focussed on resolving procedural problems and accelerating the pace of export-import business between the two next-door neighbours.

Asked whether they discussed the non-tariff barriers and negative attitudes by the Indian officials towards Bangladeshi goods, they responded in the negative.

When the Bangladesh delegation was asked whether they had raised the issue of harassment on Bangladeshi exporters by the Indian customs officials, Shahabuddin Ahmed, the leader of Bangladesh delegation, said they did not receive any specific allegation from the exporters and business community.

"We often hear of harassment by customs officials but have not been informed of any specific case which we could forward to the Indian authorities," he said.

On the question of non-tariff barriers, Shahabuddin, the customs commissioner of Benapole land port, said it is the commerce ministry, not the customs department, that

should deal with the matter.

"We are discussing problems at field level, but not any policy issues," he commented.

The joint group of customs sat in line with a decision at the commerce secretary level trade review talks in New Delhi in May 2000.

P C Jha, joint commissioner of Indian customs, is leading the five-member Indian delegation. He told journalists that the joint group of customs made a number of recommendations to be forwarded for approval by higher authorities of both governments.

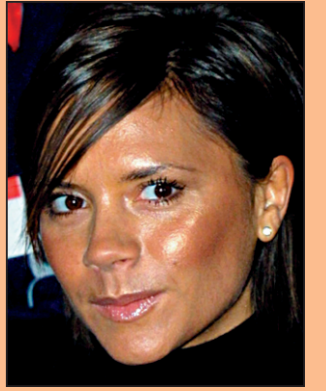
He said they have forwarded a proposal regarding opening three new land ports and introduction of juxtaposed system of checking goods at Benapole-Petrapole customs station.

The great advantage of the system is that the goods would be checked by the customs officials of both countries under same roof and those would be cleared quickly. Presently, the traders are required to open their goods for inspection at both points.

The proposed three land ports will be opened with the Indian borders of Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Bangladesh delegation leader said the proposals would be examined and forwarded to the higher authorities for final approval.

According to sources, the Bangladeshi exportable items like batteries, garments, ceramics, cosmetics and medicine cannot enter Indian markets in large scale because of some non-tariff barriers and negative attitudes by the Indian customs authorities.

The exporters said whenever they are to export a new



Plot to kidnap Beckham's wife: 9 held

AFP, London

Police were yesterday questioning nine people in connection with an alleged plot to kidnap Victoria Beckham, the former Spice Girl pop star and wife of England football captain David Beckham.

Seven men and two women were arrested Saturday and Sunday in connection with plotting to kidnap the singer, reportedly with a view to demanding a five-million-pound (7.8 million dollar/euro) ransom for her and possibly her two toddler children.

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Sutrapur double murder Court order on charge framing against accused on Nov 13

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, will give order on charge-framing against the accused in Sutrapur double murder case on November 13.

Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal passed the order yesterday. In a the case filed with Sutrapur police station, it has been alleged that Mohammad Mohsin, 18, and Mohammad Saem, 19, of S K Das Lane under Sutrapur thana, were picked up from their houses by a gang allegedly led by Rahid Hasan Sumon, son of Nasibun Ahmed, president of Dhaka City Mahila Awami League, on September 15, 2000.

The members of the gang took the two to the Gandaria Rifle Club and tortured them for Tk 50,000 ransom.

Later, the gang killed the victims, slashed their bodies into twelve pieces and dumped those into a manhole. Police recovered the pieces from the

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Earthquake in Pakistan kills seven

REUTERS, Islamabad

Seven people were killed and 30 critically injured when earthquakes jolted northern Pakistan yesterday, state media reported.

The Associated Press of Pakistan quoted officials as saying that the deaths were reported in the villages of Tatu Pani and Muthat villages, some 120 km east of Gilgit, a popular summer resort.

The agency said the area had suffered earthquakes and aftershocks for a third day in a row.

On Saturday, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press said an earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted the region.

The agency said the quake had damaged a three km stretch of the Karakoram Highway near Tatu.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 4		5-18 pm
Nov 5	6-07 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-50	4-05
Maghrib	5-26	5-32
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation