

## Nation recalls

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collaborators -- Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams -- abducted frontline Bengali intellectuals and professionals as on December 14 and killed them to cripple the nation intellectually.

The killers drag renowned academics, literatures, doctors, engineers, journalists and other eminent personalities out of their houses in Dhaka and massacred them at Rayerbazar and other killing fields in the city.

The martyred intellectuals include Prof Muneir Chowdhury, Dr Alim Chowdhury, Prof Muniruzzaman, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Sirajuddin Hossain, Shahidullah Kaiser, Prof GC Dev, JC Guha Thakurta, Prof Santosh Bhattacharya, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, journalist Khandaiker Abu Taleb, Nizamuddin Ahmed, SA Mannan (Ladu Bhai), ANM Golam Mustafa, Syed Nazmul Haq and Selina Parvin.

The day returns with families of the martyred intellectuals still waiting to see punishment to the perpetrators of the wholesale killing of the best Bengali minds.

Families of many martyred intellectuals had lodged cases since 1972 seeking justice. Until March 1973, a total of 42 cases were filed against the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams but over the years files of the cases gathered dust only.

On September 24, 1997, Farida Banu, sister of slain intellectual Giasuddin, filed a case and subsequently some police investigations were carried out. But as the old files and police records became untraceable, things did not advance much.

Political, cultural and civil society organisations will commemorate the tragedy that took place only two days before the fall of the Pakistani army on December 16 after the bloody war that left some three million Bengalis killed.

To mark the day, different sociocultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes, including seminars, discussions and wreath-laying at Mirpur and Rayerbazar monuments in Dhaka.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina delivered separate messages on the eve of the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

Black flag will be hoisted atop important government offices as a mark of condolences on the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

Bangladesh Betar and TV channels will broadcast special

## Women

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today.

Barrister Sigma Huda, wife of Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, and 12 other women leaders claimed in the petition that the act is unconstitutional and that it has not demarcated the constituency. As a result, the petitioners said, the 45 women could be elected from a single seat.

They also said if a woman wanted to be elected as a member of parliament in the reserves seat, she should be affiliated with a political party having representation in parliament, which is against Article 66 of the constitution.

Women-rights activists and civil society members earlier had filed two writ petitions with the High Court challenging the provision of 45 reserved seats and the court issued show-cause notices on the government. The matter is now pending with the court. In the meantime, the government on November 29 enacted the women reserved seats election act and gazetted it on December 8.

Senior lawyer Dr M Zahir and Advocate Asaduzzaman will move the case for the petitioners.

## Biggest away

an innings and 131 runs.

Resuming on 170-8, overnight batsmen Manzur Islam and Tapash Baisya lasted just 5.2 overs before falling to the pace duo of Irfan Pathan and Zaheer Khan in the space of four deliveries.

Tapash, who hit successive boundaries off Zaheer in the morning, smashed a magnificent cover drive off Pathan to reach 29 but next delivery he gave a high catch at square-leg to Sachin Tendulkar while trying to fend off a short pitched ball.

It was Pathan's first six-wicket haul in a Test innings which helped the left-arm seamer finish the match with 11 for 96 (5-45 and 6-51), the best ever figures by an Indian bowler on foreign soil. He was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Left-handed Manzur, who had completed his maiden Test fifty in the last over on the third day, hit four boundaries including three off Pathan to reach 69 off 116 balls. But he soon followed his overnight partner when a mistimed pull against Zaheer went to wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik off the glove.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar admitted that apart from the return of Mashrafee-Bin Mortaza after a long lay off, they were a total failure.

Ganguly, who did not field on Monday due to a mild fever, returned to celebrate India's win and praised Pathan and Tendulkar's match-winning efforts. He was also happy to have four day's rest before going into the second Test in Chittagong, which starts on December 17.

## LUGGAGE THIEVERY Irked Biman fliers board Indian flight

BSS, Dhaka

programmes and newspapers will bring out special supplements.

Awami League will hold a discussion on the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum premises tomorrow afternoon while the opposition leader will meet members of some martyred families at their Dharmundi office this afternoon.

A cultural programme would be held at Liberation War Museum this evening.

Dhaka University will hold a discussion marking the day at Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) at 10:30am.

Protesting the construction of public toilets in close vicinity of Rabindra Bhawan, the sons and daughters of the martyred intellectuals will stage a token hunger strike for an hour from 10:00am today.

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion at 11:00am on the life and work of the martyred intellectuals. Shilpkala Academy will also organise a discussion at 10:30am.

**Ministry to slash  
number of forest  
check posts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has identified forest check posts as the source of corruption and decided to slash their number.

"We've found each check post to be overstuffed as a result of their hectic lobbying to get posted there. There are allegations that these staff have link with timber smugglers," said Environment Minister Tariqul Islam.

The minister expressed the hope that timber smuggling will be halted once the forest check posts are downsized. The staff of the dissolved check posts will be transferred to forest areas to guard forest resources, he said.

There are 50 check posts across the country including 16 in the Sundarbans and 15 in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

According to administrative setup, each check post is comprised of five staff, but a probe has found seven to 10 employees at each.

**5 die**

FROM PAGE 1  
outlaws at Fallabazar in Rampal upazila at 1:15am yesterday.

Outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) cadre Rabibul Islam, 30, was killed early yesterday in 'crossfire' between police and outlawed operatives at Hazari-danga village of Courchadpur upazila in Jhenaidah.

**DHAKA**

A gang including Kamal and Milon attempted to mug police Sub-inspector Monimur Rahman and Sergeant Abdul Kalam Azad as they were walking past Lion Eye Hospital about 1:30am, police said.

The criminals also stabbed and seriously wounded Monimur.

As the two policemen shouted for help, members of 'Cheeth' and 'Cobra' rushed to the spot. The gang fired on the law-enforcers, who returned fire, leaving Kamal and Milon dead on the spot.

Police seized two revolvers, four bullets, one 'chapati' and a knife from them.

**Barisal**

A team of Rab-4 arrested Riton from Sangsab Bhaban area in the capital Sunday noon, our Barisal correspondent reports.

Riton was brought to Barisal and handed to Rab-6 stationed at Barisal Sunday night.

Rab sources said taking Riton with them, members of the elite force raided a hideout of outlaws on the bank of the Mongla canal near Norotmoni village in Banaripara upazila at around 5:30am. Riton was fatally injured in crossfire between Rab and outlaws while fleeing and died on the spot.

Rab members seized a revolver and a light gun loaded with eight bullets from the spot.

A Rab press release said one Rab member was injured in the operation.

Riton was an accused in more than a dozen cases, including for bomb attack at Banilachang Church in Gopalganj, six murders, arms loot from Ansar members, abduction and toll collection.

Locals brought out processions in Banaripara upazila hearing the news of Riton's death.

**Khulna**

Rab raided Saguna Dakhhinpara in Rampal upazila and arrested 'Kana' Rezaul, our staff correspondent in Khulna reports.

He was killed in crossfire as joint forces came under armed attack by accomplices of the arrestee during an arms recovery operation. The two sides traded 30 rounds of fires in which Rezaul was killed and a police constable injured.

A revolver, a shutter gun, a forged-made revolver and two rounds of revolver bullets were found on him.

He was an accused and a suspect in more than 40 criminal cases filed with several police stations of Bagerhat district, police said.

**Kushtia**

Police arrested Rabibul on Saturday and recovered three powerful guns acting on his confession, our Kushtia correspondent reports.

Rabibul went to village Hazardanga to seize arms from outlaws. Accomplices of Rabibul opened fire on police and they retaliated. Rabibul was killed in crossfire as he tried to escape by jumping from police van, police said.

Police sent the body to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

## Lost their loved ones

FROM PAGE 1  
army) picked up Selina, editor of literary magazine *Shilalipi*, from her Moghbazar residence. Sumon Zahid, her only son, can still recall the day that turned his fragile childhood world upside down.

His mother's body was found in the Rayerbazar killing ground on December 18 and later buried in Azimpur graveyard.

The road.

"Everybody wanted proof whether I was really a son of a martyred intellectual. To satisfy them I even had to collect newspaper clippings to substantiate my claim," he added.

Sumon said he never wanted any benefits from the government. All he longed for was the government recognition of his mother as a martyr to the independence of this nation.

**Abu Musa Mohammed**

Masuduzzaman, son of late Professor Muniruzzaman said, "Everybody talks about the martyrs only when the December 14 is around while the rest of the year goes without showing a shred of respect for them."

Muniruzzaman, a statistics professor at Dhaka University was brutally killed along with his younger brother and elder son by the Pakistani army.

Masuduzzaman, only an eight-year-old in 1971, was numbered by the terrible shock at the sight of his father, brother and uncle being killed right in front of his eyes.

"The gruesome picture still makes me tingle with horror and I guess I will never be able to erase the memory," he said maintaining that the family members of the martyred intellectuals are not honoured properly by the state.

"We used to receive some Tk 1500 from the government since after independence but in 1988 the government ceased giving us the money although my mother is still alive," said Masuduzzaman.

He also regretted that some officials of the Mayor's office misbehaved with him when he went there with the prayer for renaming

The matter was immediately brought to the notice of the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin.

Meanwhile, 43 passengers agreed to board the aircraft, though the rest 22 passengers refused to leave with the prayer for renaming

The minister ordered a probe into the matter and instructed the authorities concerned to take disciplinary action against the officials involved.

The remaining 22 passengers left yesterday for Mumbai by an Indian Airlines flight via Kolkata, the handout added.

**46 bridges**

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ment agreed to raise the assistance to Tk 128 crore and the number of bridges to 46, said sources.

Earlier the DFID had conducted a survey on the roads and highways in southwestern districts and found 106 bridges to be in need of immediate reconstruction. The survey also found that the bridges were anything but ready to cope with the increased rush of the highway traffic.

It identified 36 bridges to be in worst state and committed to provide the necessary fund to repair those. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in 1998 between the government and DFID accordingly, said the source.

Formation of a separate bridge management unit in the Ministry of Communications was one of the preconditions, the RHD officials informed the meeting. Now, as the government has opened a bridge management unit there is no need to starting the construction work, they added.

The AL and its allies in the anti-government movement -- left leaning 11-Party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (NAP) -- went for yesterday's programme to protest the attacks on their workers in Bogra, Gaibandha and Chittagong on Saturday.

Addressing a rally in front of the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office, the AL leaders bitterly criticised LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan for his remarks that the human wall programme would follow the current one of human wall on the highways.

Mainuddin Khan Badal, Syed Zafar Sazzad and Shirin Akhtar, among others, addressed the rally.

ISD leaders at a rally in front of its central office threatened of forming a human wall around the 'centres of power' of the government.

They said such programme would follow the current one of human wall on the highways.

They asked the government to stop such 'repression' on the opposition, and warned of tougher programme if it did not.

**11-Party rally**

Leaders of the 11-Party at a rally at Muktagong blasted the government for 'attacks' on Saturday's peaceful demonstration.

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**Opposition agitates**

FROM PAGE 12  
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Addressing separate rallies, they said people expressed 'no-confidence' in the government on Saturday by joining the cross-country human wall. The ruling coalition should now quit showing respect to people's desire, they added.

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