

# State remembrance

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convicted war criminals from World War II.

Last month, however, Xi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who provoked China's ire by visiting Yasukuni last December, held a strained first formal summit in Beijing on the sidelines of the annual APEC leaders' meeting in a bid to improve bilateral relations.

The "Rape of Nanking" is an exceptionally sensitive issue in the often-tense relations between Japan and China, with Beijing charging that Tokyo has failed to atone for the atrocity.

The Japanese military invaded China in the 1930s and the two countries fought a full-scale war from 1937 to 1945 that ended with Japan's defeat in World War II.

China says 300,000 people died in a six-week spree of killing, rape and destruction after the Japanese military entered Nanjing, although some respected foreign academics put the number lower.

China historian Jonathan Spence, for example, estimates that 42,000 soldiers and citizens were killed and 20,000 women raped, many of whom later died.

In Japan, however, some question that view. In February, a senior executive at Japan's publicly-funded TV broadcaster NHK denied the massacre, reportedly dismissing accounts of it as "propaganda".

Japan's official position is that "the killing of a large number of non-combatants, looting and other acts occurred", though adds "it is difficult to determine" the correct number of victims.

In commentary ahead of the ceremony, Xinhua accused Japan of "attempting to whitewash" and "gloss over its wartime atrocities".

# Direct bus

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from Dhaka to Bangladesh that would take around nine hours, 56km from Bangladesh to Kakarvita through Panitanki border in Shiliguri in India that would take around one hour and 618km from Kakarvita to Kathmandu which would take around 11 hours.

Currently, there are three trans-boundary bus services between Bangladesh and India -- Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka, Dhaka-Agartala-Dhaka and Dhaka-Shiliguri-Dhaka. "Passengers have to travel as much as 80km more to obtain immigration clearance at the Burimari Port due to the lack of immigration facilities at Bangladesh Port. But it would be better if the government took an initiative to set up an immigration office at Bangladesh," said the high commissioner.

Asked what the process would be and how long it might take to launch the bus service, she said the process would start with a joint secretary level bilateral technical committee meeting.

The launch of the bus service was possible within a few months once the process started, she observed. Bangladesh submitted the proposal to Nepal in 2013 and the issue of duty-free access of goods was also discussed at a joint secretary level meeting of the commerce ministries of the two countries.

Bangladesh has proposed duty free access of 108 categories of goods, while Nepal sought duty free access for 146 types of goods at that meeting.

Currently, around 4,500 students from Nepal are studying in Bangladesh and the number is increasing every year. Last year, more than 700 students came to Bangladesh from Nepal to pursue higher education, mostly in medicine and engineering, and most of them travelled by bus.

As many as 862 Nepalese students have submitted applications this year, the high commissioner said, adding 22 of them have got government scholarship.

At the same time, every year several thousand Bangladeshi tourists visit Nepal, a popular destination for people around the globe.

Around 26,000 tourists went to Nepal only from Bangladesh last year. The direct bus service is likely to be very popular among the tourists as it would be through Eastern Nepal where many popular tourist spots are located.

The bus service would also increase the number of Nepalese tourists visiting Bangladesh, said a Bangladesh national working in Nepal who was involved in making the proposed route map.

Bangladesh is also looking to launch a direct bus service with Assam in India.

# Gang robs

FROM PAGE 1  
critical condition. Police said the robbers armed with sharp weapons entered Gini Gold Jewellers and Aparupa Jewellers in a market in front of Bangladesh Bank around 9:00pm.

Sub-Inspector Nirupam Barua of Kotwali Police Station told The Daily Star that they were yet to figure out how much gold was taken.

# Cold, killing design

FROM PAGE 1  
the door in clear Bangla. The others stood behind them in the staircase.

"Yes," replied Serajul's younger brother Shamsul Haque Khan nervously.

"Is he inside?" was the next question. Perplexed Shamsul replied, "He is on the ground floor ... at Dr Ismail's home."

The men then went down to the ground floor. Within a few minutes, they took Serajul out of the flat and dragged him to the minibus blindfolded.

Serajul Haque Khan, an assistant professor of Institute of Education Research of Dhaka University, never returned home like the scores of brightest and illustrious citizens, who were rounded up in similar fashion, tortured and killed just days before Bangladesh was liberated.

Sensing imminent defeat, the Bangalee collaborators, particularly the Al-Badr, executed the Pakistan army's blueprint to eliminate teachers, writers, doctors, lawyers, journalists and other professionals. This final act of atrocity was carried out to destroy the future of soon-to-be born country, to maim the nation permanently and rob it of its brightest minds.

Forty-three years after the acts of cold-blooded savagery, a son of Serajul thinks the vacuum left by the killing of intellectuals is yet to be filled.

"I think the killers have been successful to some extent. They created a vacuum at all levels of our national life. We are still struggling to fill the vacuum even after so many years," said Enamul Haq, Serajul's son.

The eldest among eight siblings, he saw his father's abduction happen and shared it with The Daily Star at his Khilgaon home.

He said his father was a believer of Bangalee nationalism and was a progressive man.

"Being a teacher of the education administration, he used to speak against the discriminatory education policy of the then Pakistan government. The ruler considered his actions as a threat to the national integrity of Pakistan," said Enamul, now a history professor at Jahangirnagar University.

"For these reasons, I think, my father became the target of the Pakistan army and their collaborators."

In fact these were the common reasons for the massacre of the intellectuals, he said.

Prof Munier Choudhury, Muffazzal Hyder Chowdhury, Shahidulla Kaiser, Selina Parveen, Abdul Alim Chowdhury and many other illustrious citizens met the same fate like Serajul.

And their fault was that they encouraged and seeded the idea of nationalism through their work, writings and activities, and helped freedom fighters during the war.

The local agents of the Pakistan army provided the information about the intellectuals. The Pakistan army formed special forces -- Al-Badr and Al-Shams, which carried out the systematic killing, said Enamul, who was the pro-vice-chancellor of JU from 2003-2007.

Almost all members of the forces, especially Al-Badr, were educated and well-aware of progressive citizens and their activities, he said.

Al-Badr was formed with the leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, the party that fought tooth and nail to thwart the birth of Bangladesh, according to historical documents.

Sixty-seven-year-old Enamul still vividly remembers the morning of December 14, 1971.

"I saw from the balcony that they blindfolded my father with his handkerchief and dragged him to the minibus," said Enamul, then a final year student of Dhaka University.

On that morning, they came to know that six other DU teachers and a physician of DU medical centre were abducted from the campus in similar fashion. They were: Giasuddin Ahmed, Anwar Pasha, Rashidul Hasan, Faizul Mahi, Abul Khair, Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya and Mohammad Martuza.

Enamul's family could not look for Serajul that day because of the curfew that was enforced.

As soon as the curfew was over, following the surrender of the Pakistan army on December 16, Enamul, his friends and his father's colleagues hired a vehicle to look for him and other abducted intellectuals.

"We first went to the Mohammadpur Physical Training College and then to Rayerbazar killing field. I searched for my father among the dead bodies," he said.

"I left no stone unturned. For two weeks we searched almost all killing grounds in Dhaka city and its surrounding areas. I even rushed to a river in Fatullah hearing about dead bodies floating there, but I didn't find him," he said.

The family started losing hope until NSI official Sattar, who was the class-



Serajul Haque Khan

mate of his father, went to their home with Mafizuddin in January, 1972. Mafizuddin was driving the minibus for Al-Badr that picked up the intellectuals from the university campus.

Seeing photographs, Mafizuddin identified the people abducted and put Enamul what had happened afterwards.

"The abductors took them straight to Mirpur Lohar Pool (near Gabtoli) with the plan to shoot them dead and dump the bodies in the Turag river," Enamul quoted Mafizuddin as saying.

But they could not do so as Razakars and other collaborators also assembled many Bangalees there to kill, he said. Making a U-turn, they started travelling on Mazar Road and stopped before a graveyard in Mirpur, where the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial was built after liberation.

"The abductors walked them to the graveyard until they reached a paddy field and shot them dead," said Enamul quoting Mafizuddin.

Following Mafizuddin's lead, eight bodies were exhumed from the graveyard.

"I identified my father's body with his belt and the Italian gabardine trousers. I also found his identity card in his pocket," he said, adding that the families of the other intellectuals also identified their loved ones.

The brutality of the Pakistan army and their collaborators and the clinical way they carried out the killings of the intellectuals started unfolding after Victory Day 1971.

Newspapers, including Dainik Purbadesh, ran reports on it and published the photographs of many of the killers, including Al-Badr kingpins Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, with the caption "help capture the killers of intellectuals".

"I saw the photos in Purbadesh and identified the smart two youths, who came to our home to pick up my father on that morning [December 14]. They were Mueen and Ashraf," Enamul said.

Al-Badr men started rounding up and killing professionals from the second week of December. However, there was no specific government list of martyred intellectuals.

On December 22, 1971, Dainik Azad published a report quoting Indian radio channel Akashbani news where Ruhul Quddus, then secretary general of the Bangladesh government, had said at least 280 intellectuals and professionals were killed on December 14 and 15 in four areas -- Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna and Brahmanbaria.

According to Banglapedia, around 991 academics, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers and 16 others were savagely killed during the war.

Only on February 7 this year, the Awami League government announced that it would publish a comprehensive list of all the martyred intellectuals by June this year.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque had made the announcement during a parliament session, but no such list was published.

Time elapsed and the agony of the justice seekers continued until the formation of the International Crimes Tribunal in March 2010. The tribunal last year began trial against Chowdhury Mueen and Ashrafuzzaman in absentia for the killing of 18 intellectuals.

Like many other martyred intellectuals' children, Enamul testified in the case. "Initially I thought of not testifying. What would it yield after so many years? But later I thought it was my national duty and I testified," Enamul said.

The Tribunal-2 sentenced Mueen and Ashrafuzzaman to death. Mueen is now staying in the UK while Ashrafuzzaman in the USA. Experts believe it was almost impossible to execute the verdict because bringing the duo home was difficult. A monitoring cell was formed to bring them back but it made little headway in this regard.

But Enamul does not think so. "I have doubts over the government's sincerity to bring them back home."

Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, who were the top leaders of Al-Badr, were also awarded death penalty by the tribunals for planning the killing of intellectuals. They have appealed to the Supreme Court.

On the eve of Martyred Intellectuals' Day, Enamul expects little from the country his father gave his life for.

"We don't want anything from personal level or family level. We only want to see the dreams and objectives of Liberation War fulfilled," said Enamul, staring at his father's photograph on the wall of his living room.

# Fog continues

FROM PAGE 1  
Rain will remove fog and subsequently, the temperature will come down at night, said an official of BMD weather forecast centre.

The highest temperature was recorded at 29.7 degrees Celsius in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar and the lowest at 11.4 degrees Celsius in Jessore yesterday, BMD officials said.

Ferry services on Shimulia (Munshiganj)-Kawrakandi (Madaripur) route were suspended because of dense fog for five hours from around 3:00am. It created long tailbacks on both sides of the Padma river, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

On Paturia (Manikganj)-Daulatdia (Rajbari) route, ferries operated but at a very slow pace since nothing could be seen even in a short distance.

The rough weather is also disrupting launch communications at night, said launch owners and officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

# Lucky Rabbit

FROM PAGE 16  
The short movie is nearly a complete version of Empty Socks - the first Christmas film by the US entertainment giant, starring Mickey Mouse's predecessor Oswald the Lucky Rabbit.

The film was found during an inventory of a facility owned by Norway's National Library in the northerly town of Mo i Rana.

"At the beginning, we didn't know it was a lost cinematographic treasure," Kvale Soerensen, an archivist at the library, told AFP in a statement.

"The film was in two reels which weren't clearly labelled."

The original version of "Empty Socks" was five and a half minutes long but between 30 and 60 seconds from the middle part of the footage found in Norway are missing.

The historic piece of reel has since been authenticated by Disney cartoonist David Gerstein.

# Agitation soon

FROM PAGE 16  
She did not mention any timeframe for starting an anti-government movement. Khaleda, however, said they will enforce tougher agitations immediately after any probable announcement of energy price hike.

The 20-party chief called upon people to take to the streets with whatever they can grab when she would soon announce a movement to force the government to hold a fresh election.

"This time around, all of us will take to the streets under any circumstances, no matter how long it takes, be it in the winter, summer or the rainy season, to oust the government," she said.

"We won't shed tears any more, not let the oppressor government kill us. We are ready to brave bullets. Face the movement on streets if you [government] have the courage."

Reiterating her call to hold an inclusive election, she said otherwise, the government would have to face dire consequences. "Bad days are ahead of you [Awami League men]. Time will come when you will not be able to come out of your houses."

Accusing the government of politicising the civil administration, she said it is now "trying to remove the brilliant public servants."

Khaleda also warned judges of getting strict punishment from Allah on the Judgment Day for "not delivering right judgments" in the cases against opposition men. "You should fear Allah, not Hasina."

Referring to the seven-murder in Narayanganj in April, the BNP chief claimed the government was behind the gruesome murders. She alleged that Colonel Ziaul Ahsan of Rapid Action Battalion was "one of the mas-

# Two killed

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The deceased was wearing jeans trousers, full sleeve shirt and a black jacket.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead around 9:30am, said Sirajul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

He suffered serious injuries to his head, said the ASI, quoting doctors. An unnatural death case was filed in this connection, he added.

Meanwhile in Tongi, police recovered the body of a 30-year-old man from rail track near Tistar Gate area around 11:00am.

His body was found in two pieces, said Sub-inspector Obaidur Rahman Khan of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

Locals said they saw the body on the rail track at the crack of dawn. Police suspected that he might have been killed the previous night.

Both the bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsies.

# Dhaka eyes

FROM PAGE 16  
for setting up a thermal plant on a joint venture with a Bangladesh entity in India.

According to Tawfiq-e-Elahi, the Indian side expressed its willingness to take the proposal forward.

Bangladesh has an installed capacity of around 13,000 MW and is looking to increase electricity supplies to meet the rising demand.

The peak power deficit or shortage of electricity when the demand is highest is in the range of 5-10 per cent.

Asked about the progress of the 1,320 MW Rampal plant, Tawfiq-e-Elahi said the first 660 MW unit is expected to be ready in four years time.

The project is being implemented by Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Pvt Ltd, an equal joint venture between NTPC and BPDB.

Besides, India is supplying about 500 MW of electricity to Bangladesh and plans are on the anvil to increase the same to 1,000 MW.

# Multi-vehicle highway collision kills 12 in China

AFP, Beijing  
A multi-vehicle collision and subsequent fire on a southern Chinese expressway killed 12 people early Saturday, state media reported, the latest fatal road accident in the country.

The pileup occurred in Guangdong province at about 2 am on Saturday (1800 GMT Friday), Xinhua news agency said, citing local authorities.

# পূজিবাজারে বিনিয়োগ শীর্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ

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ফোনঃ ৯১১৩১৯০, ৯১১৩৪০০, ই-মেইলঃ [bicmbd@gmail.com](mailto:bicmbd@gmail.com), [info@bicm.ac.bd](mailto:info@bicm.ac.bd)

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**পূজিবাজার এর উপর প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচী**

বাংলাদেশ ইন্সটিটিউট অব ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট সরকারী অর্থায়নে পরিচালিত পূজিবাজার এর জন্য একটি জাতীয় বিশেষায়িত প্রশিক্ষণ ইন্সটিটিউট। বিআইসিএম নিম্নে উল্লিখিত প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচী তালিকা গুরু করছেঃ

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ই-মেইলঃ [debnath@bicm.ac.bd](mailto:debnath@bicm.ac.bd)

বিআইসিএম অফিসঃ  
ফোনঃ +৮৮-০২-৭১১৩১৯০  
ই-মেইলঃ [info@bicm.ac.bd](mailto:info@bicm.ac.bd), [bicmbd@gmail.com](mailto:bicmbd@gmail.com)