

# 17 charged in Magura

FROM PAGE 20  
The incident sparked a huge outrage in the country.

Miraculously, the baby survived after a two-hour caesarean operation on her mother at Magura General Hospital on that day. The 35-year-old mother survived too.

The baby's relatives brought the newborn to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on July 26. A 10-member medical board was formed to ensure proper treatment of the baby.

The two returned to their Magura home on August 20 after undergoing treatment at the DMCH for about a month.

A case was filed with Magura Sadar Police Station in connection with the July 23 clash, accusing 16 people, including Sen Suman.

"The incident is very sensitive and created sensation at home and abroad. We were also serious and conducted the investigation carefully," said IO Imaul Haq.

In the charge sheet, names of three more people have been included, while an accused named Rana was excluded because of mistakes in his identity.

Besides, name of another accused in the case, Mehedi Hasan Ajibor, was excluded as he was killed in a "gunfight" between his accomplices and police in Magura after the shooting incident.

The three new names that were included in the charge sheet are of Munna Hossain, Ainal Hossain and Tota Hossain.



**Nazma Begum with her baby Suraiya at her Magura home. Suraiya was hit by a bullet in her mother's womb on July 23 when two factions of Jubo League engaged in a gunfight at Doarpara village of Magura Sadar upazila over establishing supremacy in the area. The clash left one person killed and the unborn child injured. The Detective Branch of Magura police yesterday submitted the charge sheet in the case before a local court.**

FILE PHOTO

# Genocide they wrote

FROM PAGE 1  
To the trigger-happy Pakistan army officers, Bangalees were no more than just clay pigeons to be shot as mentioned by one Brigadier Iqbalur Rehman Shariff. In his deposition, the brigadier said during his visit to formations in East Pakistan General Gul Hassan used to ask the soldiers -- "How many Bengalis have you shot?"

While describing the use of excessive force on the night of 25 March, 1971, one Brigadier Shah Abdul Qasim told the commission that "no pitched battle was fought on the 25th of March in Dacca. Excessive force was used on that night. Army personnel acted under the influence of revenge and anger during the military operation."

The Hamdoor Rahman Commission maintained that mortars were used to blast two residential dormitories of the Dhaka University, thus causing excessive casualties.

The statements appearing in the evidence of Lt. Col. Aziz Ahmed Khan who was Commanding Officer 8 Baluch and then CO 86 Mujahid Battalion are also directly relevant. He said, "Brigadier Arbab also told me to destroy all houses in Joydebpur. To a great extent I executed this order."

The commission observed that "indiscriminate killing and looting could only serve the cause of the enemies of Pakistan. In the harshness, we lost the support of the silent majority of the people of East Pakistan.... The Comilla Cantonment massacre (on 27th/28th of March, 1971) under the orders of CO 53 Field Regiment, Lt. Gen. Yakub Malik, in which 17 Bengali Officers and 915 men were just slain by a flick of one Officer's fingers should suffice as an example."

Looting also became the order of the day for the morally bankrupt Pakistan army.

Lt. Gen Niazi, as Maj Gen Farman Ali told the commission, on the very first day he took over command from Gen Tikka Khan said: "What have I been hearing about shortage of rations? Are not there any cows and goats in this country? This is enemy territory. Get what you want. This is what we used to do in Burma."

Niazi took over command of the eastern zone on April 10 after Tikka had already started the genocide.

Another significant statement came from Brigadier Mian Taskeenuddin. He said: "Many junior and other officers took the law into their own hands to deal with the so-called miscreants. There have been cases of interrogation of miscreants which were far more severe in character than normal and in some cases blatantly in front of the public. The discipline of the Pakistani army as was generally understood had broken down. In a command area (Dhoom Ghat) between September and October, miscreants were killed by firing squads."

Niazi, apparently in an effort to put the blame on his predecessor Lt Gen Tikka Khan, stated before the commission that "military action was based on use of force primarily, and at many places indiscriminate use of force was resorted to which



**They were born to lie. What they did was very unfair and for that we should cut all our ties with them. As a Saarc nation, they**

**MAJ GEN (RETD) KM SHAFIULLAH**  
Chairman, Sector Commanders Forum



**It's a shameless attempt by the Pakistan government to deny the worst genocide and barbarity of the 20th century. I can't just understand why the Pakistan government has tried to deny these atrocities**

**HAROON HABIB**  
FREEDOM FIGHTER AND JOURNALIST

alienated the public against the Army. Damage done during those early days of the military action could never be repaired, and earned for the military leaders names such as 'Changez Khan' and 'Butcher of East Pakistan.'

But Niazi was held in disdain by his own soldiers. He was corrupt and an infamous womaniser. Officials knew he was involved in the smuggling of pan (beetle leaf) in which his son also had a stake.

A witness told the commission: "The troops used to say that when the Commander (Lt Gen Niazi) was himself a raper (sic), how could they be stopped?"

Maj Gen Rao Farman Ali said: "Harrowing tales of rape, loot, arson, harassment, and of insulting and degrading behaviour were narrated in general terms."

The Hamdoor Rahman Commission felt the necessity for the Government of Pakistan to take effective action to punish those who were responsible for the atrocities. However, Pakistan never did it and thus justified its own dastardly acts in 1971 in Bangladesh.

# Outrage

FROM PAGE 1  
committed against humanity in 1971 were crimes against world civilisation. Pakistan's statement on the ongoing trial of war criminals is a blatant interference in our domestic affairs."

The rally was organised at Swadhinata Chattar of Suhrawardy Udyan to mark the beginning of the month of Bangladesh's victory in 1971.

Responding to a query, he said, "We today announce that we will not send any student representative from our university to Pakistan until the country apologises for its statement on the war crimes trial."

Asked what if any student representative from Pakistan wants to visit DU, the VC said, "We will think about that."

He said the Bangladesh government should appeal to the United Nations for cancelling Pakistan's membership since the country's stance is against the spirit of the UN. Dhaka should also move to have cancelled Pakistan's membership of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

At another victory rally at Suhrawardy Udyan, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said, "I think we should consider whether we should keep political ties with Pakistan unless it apologises."

"They have no remorse even after so many years. They show no sign of offering apology," he said.

Meanwhile, the BNP said the Pakistan government was trying to conceal the truth about the 1971 genocide.

"It is not possible to hide the truth by making false statements on the genocide, as Pakistani soldiers led the genocide in Bangladesh during our Liberation War," BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon said at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltn headquarters.

In a statement, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee said, "We not only condemn and protest this falsehood but also demand that Pakistan unconditionally apologise for hurting the sentiment of the people of Bangladesh through this lie."

It also urged the government to take steps to hold trial of the Pakistanis responsible for the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh and realise compensations from Pakistan.

"We urge the government to seek the international community's support in putting pressure on Pakistan for trying Pakistani war criminals, giving compensations to Bangladesh and offering unconditional apology to Bangladesh," read the statement.

Gonosonghoti Andolon, a leftist group, also made similar demands through a press release. It called for bringing back Bangladesh's assets lying with Pakistan since 1971.

Referring to Pakistan's remark on the war crimes trial in Bangladesh, Sector Commanders Forum-Liberation War'71 said Pakistan's statements proved that it could not accept Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty even after 44 years.

"There can be no rationale for keeping diplomatic ties with such a country," it said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Gonojagoron Mancha announced that it would hold a protest rally and bring out a procession from Shabbagh at 4:00pm today with the demand for severing all ties with Pakistan for its audacious statement.

# Draw up road map

**Suggest lawmakers on implementation of CHT Peace Accord on the eve of its 18th anniversary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers yesterday suggested that the stakeholders concerned should chalk out a roadmap with a timeframe to force the government to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

They also advised the government to remain vigilant about the anti-CHT Peace Accord force and asked the local administration not to indulge them.

The CHT Peace Accord was signed on this day 18 years ago.

The lawmakers made the comments while addressing a High Level Policy Dialogue on Status of the Implementation of the CHT Accord organised by the parliamentary caucus on indigenous affairs at the capital's CIRDP International Conference Hall.

Prof Dr Abdullah Al Faruque of law at Chittagong University screened a review of the status of the implementation of the accord.

In his review Prof Faruque said the land right of the "tribal" people in the CHT is violated due to state acquisition of private and common land, forcible occupation by Bangalees interest groups and private and multinational companies for commercial purposes.

Pointing out a portion of the accord which highlights preserving the special characteristics of the region, Prof Faruque said apart from a few legislative measures, no significant legal or administrative steps have been taken by the government so far to protect those special characters.

"On the other hand, continuing influx of Bangalee settlers in the region, illegal land grabbing, inclusion of Bangalee settlers and non-indigenous outsiders on the voter list, issuance of permanent resident certificates by the deputy commissioners and the provision of the Bangalee settlers with employment and other opportunities including lease and settlement of land are destroying the special characters of the region," he observed.

He further said the delayed implementation of the accord is also creating social instability as the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) continue to fight among themselves to establish supremacy. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said it is not possible for the government alone to implement the accord though the same government made its signing possible. "We need cooperation from everyone," he added.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister and member of the Caucus Rashed Khan Menon said the characteristics of CHT are diminishing which should not be overlooked.

"The problems won't be dissolved if the majority gets priority in our mindset," he said, adding they would give all-out efforts to implement the accord.

Convener of the Caucus and lawmaker Fazole Hossain Badsha said the accord must be implemented. "If it fails, political distrust will be created among the people," he noted.

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Refugee Affairs Taskforce on indigenous returnee refugees from India and internally displaced people Jatindra Lal Tripura said land dispute is one of the strongest reasons for disharmony in the region.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, asked indigenous people of Chittagong to keep patience and work on to implement the accord.

Lawmakers Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Kazi Rozi, Hazera Sultana, Tipu Sultan, Nazmul Haque Pradhan and AKM Fazlul Haq and coordinator of the Caucus Prof Mesbah Kamal, among others, spoke on the occasion.

# A chance to fight back?

FROM PAGE 1

He, like most other BNP leaders, did not want to be named.

Founded in 1978, the BNP for the first time since 1991 does not have any representation in parliament as the party-led alliance boycotted the January 5, 2014 parliamentary polls. It also earned a bad name at home and abroad after its anti-election movement turned awfully violent.

The 20-party combine also miserably failed to press home its demand for a fresh election under a non-party administration despite an over three-month-long movement since January

6 this year. The movement turned violent this time as well and around 100 lives perished.

"We want to turn around from the present sorry state of our organisation. And we are preparing to contest the municipality polls in that spirit. We want to fight back. The message will be circulated among the party's ranks and files," a BNP senior leader commented.

As part of its strategy, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will send "special messages" to the president and the general secretary of every district unit in a day or two and ask them

to work united, leaving aside all sorts of differences over selection of the mayoral candidates.

"The BNP chief will send an SOS [Save Our Souls] to the grassroots leaders to save the party and the country by ensuring victory for our candidates," another BNP leader said.

Khaleda approved the final list of its mayoral candidates in the early hours of yesterday and started distributing the party's nomination letters to the candidates or their representatives from yesterday, said Prince.

More than 60 nomination letters

had been distributed as of 2:30am today, BNP Joint Secretary General Md Shahjahan told The Daily Star.

Around 80 of the prospective candidates are incumbent mayors, BNP sources said, adding that the party considered the aspirants' past record, popularity and acceptability in their constituencies while selecting them.

It also picked some 10-15 candidates based on suggestions from its "well-wishers", sources said.

As per its strategy, the BNP has nominated 25-30 young "but dedicated, popular and promising" leaders where

the party is not much strong.

"As we have doubts over winning in those municipalities, we have nominated some young leaders. We believe that they will strengthen the party base in those areas," said a BNP standing committee member.

BNP insiders said the party high-ups have instructed its local leaders to field dummy candidates in as many municipalities as they can and to use them against the rivals.

Prince told this correspondent that the BNP chief was happy at the way her party deputies worked and selected final candidates.

Meanwhile, BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon yesterday termed the Election Commission "submissive and spineless, and incapable" of holding the municipality polls in a free and fair manner.

Ripon also accused the government of arresting its prospective mayor candidates even after the announcement of the election schedule.

"Police yesterday [Monday] arrested Azizul Islam, incumbent mayor of Mymensingh's Nandail municipality. He was our choice for the upcoming polls as well. We find no reason behind his arrest at this time."

www.singerbd.com

# SINGER Home Appliances & Electronics

## MAKES LIFE EASY, EASILY!

0% interest for up to 6 months | Easy installment facility for up to 15 months

**Ensured Discount**

Available in 5 models

Cash Price Tk. 11,000  
Monthly Tk. 857+

**Ensured Discount**

Available in 7 models

Cash Price Tk. 22,500  
Monthly Tk. 1,811+

**2 Years Panel Warranty**

Available in 15 models

Cash Price Tk. 32,800  
Monthly Tk. 2,562+

**8 Years Warranty on Compressor**

Available in 35 models

Cash Price Tk. 47,500  
Monthly Tk. 3,666+

**Special Discount on Cash Purchase for LED Television and Refrigerator**

Cash Price Tk. 40,990  
Monthly Tk. 3,136+

**Special Discount on Cash Purchase for LED Television and Refrigerator**

Cash Price Tk. 37,500  
Monthly Tk. 2,871+

**Special Discount on Cash Purchase for LED Television and Refrigerator**

Cash Price Tk. 32,500  
Monthly Tk. 2,518+

GRUNDIG beko good

SAMSUNG Skyworth

# SINGER