

## Lawmaker's daughter stabbed

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Criminals stabbed the daughter of a lawmaker from Bagerhat at Shaltala More in the town yesterday evening.

Aditi Baral, daughter of Happy Baral, MP of a reserved seat for women in parliament, had been given first aid and she was out of danger, said civil surgeon Arun Chandra Mandal of Bagerhat.

Aditi said she along with her mother went to attend a rally at Amalpara School in Shaltala. A young man stabbed her in her thigh when she was about to get into her car to come home around 7:00pm, she said.

Happy Baral said criminals shot her husband dead in 2000 and since then they have been attacked several times. She said Aditi was stabbed in the leg eight months ago as well.

Even though a case was filed then, police could not do anything, she said.

Officer-in-Charge Mahtab Uddin of Bagerhat Sadar Police Station said they were conducting raids to arrest those involved.

## House help found dead at city flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a 15-year-old girl from her employer's flat at DOHS Baridhara in the capital yesterday.

Jannat of Dinajpur was the house help of Sayed Mukhlesur Rahman, a former army major, said Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Cantonment police Station.

Mukhlesur said they left the girl alone in the flat in the morning. When they returned around 3.45pm, the door was locked from inside.

After reportedly failing to open the door, he informed the DOHS authorities, who sent locksmiths, said OC Mahbubur.

Entering the flat, they found Jannat hanging from a ceiling fan.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

## Life laden

FROM PAGE 1

launched a brutal crackdown against Rohingyas in Rakhine State.

Villagers from Deybuinna, Raimongkhali, Medi, Tombru, Laipuiya, Ponduiya, Khuyangcipong and Panirchora of the state's Maungdaw are currently living there. "They [Myanmar army] are still threatening us not to come back to our ancestral land when they patrol along the border. Otherwise, we have to face dire consequences," said Sayed Salam of Khuyangcipong village.

Rohingya people sometimes enter Myanmar to collect dry wood and to see the condition of their arable land, not far from the border, and they fall victims to landmine explosions that leave them injured or dead.

Salam's grandson was wounded in such an explosion a few days ago while crossing the border into Myanmar to see his paddy field, he added.

Salam alleged that the army sometimes detains the injured and kills them.

"We saw them [Myanmar army] planting the landmines along the border. So, when we enter Myanmar, we try to avoid those places where the landmines are laid," said Mohammad Siddik of Deybuinna village.

During a recent visit to the border area, this correspondent found that trucks carrying soldiers were going past the border area.

"The appearance of the truck with ammunition makes our blood run cold as this is the army who killed our men, raped our women, burnt our homes and looted our valuables and crops," Dil Mohammad, a graduate from Yangon University, told this correspondent.

Locals and BGB do their best to help them. Even their pregnant women give birth to children at locals' houses, he added.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is providing the Rohingyas with food and first aid.

Talking to The Daily Star, Abul Kalam, who opened his door to the refugees from the very first day of their arrival at Modhyampara along Tombru border, said at least 100 Rohingya women gave birth with the local women's help at his house.

The army tries to frighten them by exploding bombs and firing bullets as if it is their offence to help the Rohingyas, he added.

According to an UN estimate, over 622,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar since August 25.



President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in silence after placing floral wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar marking Victory Day yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Homage paid, unity urged

FROM PAGE 1

Like Rafiqul and Nayeem, thousands of people, socio-political and cultural activists thronged the National Memorial and other monuments across the country, remembering the supreme sacrifice of the war heroes.

They called upon political leaders to work for eliminating all forms of discrimination from the society and run the country in the spirit of the Liberation War.

The day's events began with a 31-gun salute at the National Parade Square at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The Jatiya Sangsad Speaker, acting chief justice, leader of the opposition, ministers, lawmakers, freedom fighters, diplomats and top civil and military officials also paid respect to the martyrs.

Later in the day, the president as the chief guest took salute at an attractive Victory Day Parade at the National Parade Square. The parade was organised under the auspices of the 9th Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army with supervision of the armed forces, reports BSS.

Different contingents of Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Guard Bangladesh, law enforcement agencies and various ministries participated in the parade.

The prime minister witnessed the attractive parade, spectacular fly-past, aerobatic display and armoury acquisitions

of different regiments and contingents of the armed forces.

At the Gono Bhaban, the PM released the memorial postal stamp of Tk 10 and its first day cover, issued by Bangladesh Postal Department marking the Victory Day. She also released a Tk 5 data card and a souvenir.

In the afternoon, President Abdul Hamid hosted a reception at the Bangabhaban. The prime minister was also present, reports UNB.

The president along with his wife and the premier exchanged greetings with the guests and war-wounded freedom fighters.

### THOUSANDS THROG NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Different political parties and organisations, including the BNP, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh, Gonoforum, Bhashani Oikya Jote, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Bangla Academy and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, paid tributes to the Liberation War martyrs by placing wreaths at the National Memorial.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders and activists paid homage to the martyred freedom fighters by placing wreaths at the memorial.

Abdul Alim along with his wife and two children went to the memorial in Savar from Gazipur. The 38-year-old said, "I think people should know the history of the Liberation War. And for this reason, I have brought my children here today [yesterday]."

Physically challenged Raju Chandra Sutradhar, aged about 14, also went to the National Memorial with an around 50-member team of Centre for the Rehabilitation for the Paralyzed (CRP). He has been undergoing treatment at the CRP for more than a year.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said, "We dream of a better Bangladesh as cherished by martyred freedom fighters."

The Dhaka district police and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy jointly hosted a day-long cultural event at an open stage near the National Memorial. A blood donation programme and a photo exhibition were also organised by the Dhaka police there.

In the capital, the Sector Commanders' Forum arranged a programme at Shadhinota Chattar inside Suhrawardy Udyan. Different cultural organisations from in and outside Dhaka performed songs, dances and recited poems at the event.

Leaders of the forum along with eminent personalities also handed over the national flag to a group of youth people, who are the future

nation builders.

Students of the theatre and performance studies department of Dhaka University staged a play that resembled the historic surrender of the Pakistani occupation force on December 16, 1971, at the then Race Course ground.

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development; Bangladesh Rice Research Institute; Bangladesh Ansar and VDP; Islamic University; Patuakhali Science and Technology University; Rangamati Science and Technology University; Institute of Architects Bangladesh; Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Oikyo Nap; Barisal Reporters Unity; Bangladesh Shishu Academy and Shahid Zia Smriti Sangsad also organised different programmes marking the day.

Bangladesh embassies and missions abroad, various educational institutions, and government, non-government, political, social and cultural organisations celebrated the Victory Day with different programmes.

The day was a public holiday. National dailies brought out special supplements and the electronic media aired special programmes. Different government and non-government offices and establishments were illuminated at night.

Our correspondent in Savar contributed to this report.



Forty-two martyred freedom fighters have been laid to rest in this graveyard at Dalura of Sunamganj but what is different here is that six of their Hindu comrades have also been cremated there. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: EMRAN MAHFUZ

## Of a unique burial ground of 1971

FROM PAGE 1

been recorded in a scattered manner.

Ansar commander Abul Kalam, also known as Madhu Miah, collected the bodies of the freedom fighters killed in different areas and arranged their burial on the 1.60 acres of government land in his village, Dalura. He also saw to treatment of the injured.

During the Liberation War, Madhu buried the fallen with the help of six others. Munshi Taru Miah led the namaj-e-janaza of the martyrs. Nepu Thakur took care of the cremation.

Madhu recorded the names of the martyrs and their details. His notebook is now a source of information on the martyrs. Madhu himself had fought the Pakistan army.

Madhu died on March 15, 2004, and he was buried beside the freedom fighters as per his last wish.

Local folk researcher Sumon Kumar Das said the burial ground is of significance as no other place in Sylhet region held the spirit of patriotism like this one.

In 1979, local Mukti Sangram Smriti Trust took an initiative to preserve the graves. The graveyard was walled. Sub-sector commander Lt Col (ret'd) AS Helal Uddin took the initiative to inscribe the names of all the martyrs on marble plaques.

Khoka Miah, appointed by Mukti Sangram Smriti Trust, has been taking care of the graveyard since 2001.

Local commander of the freedom

fighters Lutfur Rahman Joj Miah said people fled Dhaka, after the crackdown in March 1971, to villages for safety.

Dalura was a good choice as it was near the border and communication was good, he said.

Many crossed the border to Meghalaya. Some of them also took shelter in the refugee camps in India. Others joined training camps for freedom fighters in India and returned to fight the occupation force.

He said students of Sylhet MC College, Mymensingh Ananda Mohan College, Bhairab College and other colleges used to go through this village to go to India. That was why Dalura was strategically important, he said.

He claimed that the Pakistan army had set up a camp on the bank of the Surma to prevent people from going to India. The freedom fighters had to take a detour to get to Dalura.

Sources said Dalura was under Balat of sector-5. Several lakh people took shelter in Moilam area of the Indian state of Meghalaya.

The freedom fighters had set up their camp on a hill in Balat. They fought with the Pakistani forces in the nearby areas and the ones killed were buried at the Dalura graveyard.

Sunamganj administration and Mukti Sangram Smriti Trust jointly place wreaths at the memorial sculpture on December 15 morning every year.

## Dhaka-Tangail

FROM PAGE 18

Mohammad Jakir Hossain, a traffic warden on duty at Rabna bypass, said the high number of vehicles during weekends and holidays worsen the problems created by potholes and road work.

"Normally 10,000 to 12,000 vehicles travel on this highway but at least 16,000 vehicles were on the highway this weekend," he explained.

## BCL men

FROM PAGE 1

conducting drives to arrest the others involved in the attack.

Md Ismile, vice president of BCL Bandarban unit, said "We heard the attackers are BCL supporters. It was an unexpected incident as they didn't know they were policemen".

Secretary of Bandarban district unit AL, Md Islam Baby, said "We will not spare those who attacked policemen".

The victims were being treated at Bandarban Sadar Hospital.

## US mulls

FROM PAGE 18

southern Bangladesh since the end of August.

"We are continuing to examine the circumstances around all of the events since the August attacks that have led to the enormous migration of people out of Myanmar, and have already identified one individual and we are examining other possible individuals to hold responsible for targeted sanctions from the US," Tillerson told reporters at the United Nations.

US officials told Reuters that President Donald Trump's administration was considering only limited action at this stage. They said it was preparing narrow, targeted US sanctions against Myanmar's military and could roll out the punitive measures by year-end.

The sanctions will be aimed at increasing pressure on Myanmar authorities, but are not expected to hit the highest levels of the military leadership and will stop short of reimposing broad economic restrictions suspended under former President Barack Obama, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The limited nature of any new sanctions is expected to be seen as little more than a warning for Myanmar and are not likely to satisfy international human rights groups and some US lawmakers who have accused Myanmar's armed forces of crimes against humanity.

Other world powers and the United Nations called Myanmar's campaign against the Rohingya population "ethnic cleansing" well before the United States did so in late November.

US officials in Washington and Yangon have been looking in particular at ways to use the Global Magnitsky Act, a law originally designed to target Russian human rights violators, but which has recently been expanded to allow sanctions for abuses anywhere in the world, the sources said.

That can take the form of US asset freezes as well as bans on travel to the United States.

A spokesman for the US State Department said the administration was in the final stages of preparing this year's Global Magnitsky report and had taken "an expansive view of implementation" of the act in the past year, but could not say when it might be delivered.

Myanmar's powerful army chief, General Min Aung Hlaing, is expected to be spared from the latest sanctions, according to three US officials and a congressional aide familiar with the matter.

In November, Myanmar's military said it had replaced Major General Maung Maung Soe, the general in charge in Rakhine state, but gave no reason for his transfer from a post as the head of the country's Western Command.

It was not immediately clear how far down the chain of command the US measures would reach and who might be named.

Two of the US officials said the Trump administration is considering only limited action at this stage to avoid upsetting the delicate political balance in Myanmar, where the civilian-led government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi must still contend with an influential military.

Washington also wants to hold tougher options in reserve to escalate the US response if needed, the officials said.

Although the sanctions plan was still being finalized, the U.S. officials said the aim was to roll it out before the end of December, possibly before Christmas, though one person close to the matter said an announcement could be delayed until early next year.

"We have nothing to announce on sanctions," a White House National Security Council spokesman said when asked the coming measures. He declined comment on who might be named.

Preparations for Myanmar sanctions come at the same time that Washington has expressed concern over the detention this week of two Reuters journalists.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had worked on stories about the military crackdown on the Rohingya population in Rakhine state.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh say their exodus from the mainly Buddhist country was triggered by a military offensive in response to attacks by Rohingya militant on security forces.

Washington has sought to balance its wish to nurture the civilian government in Myanmar, where it competes for influence with China, with its desire to hold the military accountable for the abuses.