



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

PLUS HALF PAGE JACKET ON BERGER

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVII No. 327 | POUH 3, 1424 BS | RABIUL AWAL 27, 1439 HIJRI

Your Right to Know

22 PAGES PRICE : TK 12.00



ON TITLE  
hip

PAGE 16

NORTH KOREA MISSILES

Mattis doubts they can strike US;  
Tillerson pushes for talks

PAGE 8



flag during a procession of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote at the Central  
out a procession to celebrate Victory Day.

PHOTO:  
PRABIR DAS

Of a unique  
burial ground  
of 1971



EMRAN MAHFUZ

The burial ground of 49 martyred freedom fighters at Dalura of Sunamganj is unique in the country.

The last rites of Hindu and Muslim freedom fighters were done here.

Forty-three bodies of freedom fighters were buried here and six were cremated.

A sculpture was placed next to the burial ground. The memorial and burial ground is near the Bangladesh-India joint border haat. Locals have been looking after it.

The story of the freedom fighters' martyrdom has

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## ROHINGYAS IN NO-MAN'S LAND Life laden with fear, worries

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, from Bandarban

Every dawn, Hamida's two-year-old girl wakes up and cries, hearing the sound of Myanmar army's heavy vehicles. She grabs her mother tightly out of fear. And the soldiers fire shots in the air, terrifying Rohingyas living in no-man's-land. This has been going on for the last three months at Tombru along Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Bandarban's Naikkhangchhari.

Due to the continuous patrolling by the Myanmar army along the border, the Rohingyas are haunted by fear that the army could attack them.

"I lost all my family members except the child in the violence [persecution of Rohingyas by the Myanmar army] at Laiya village of Maungdaw. When I see the same army, who killed my family members, just near my tent, I can't sleep anymore," a traumatised Hamida told The Daily Star at Tombru.

Rohingyas living there allege that the army is continuously planting landmines along the border and threatens any Rohingyas they come across on the other side of the barbed-wire fence.

At least 6,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter in the no-man's-land since late August when the Myanmar army

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Bangladeshis are unlike Akayed Say worried expats, stay watchful

RABIYA AHMED from New York

Even though there have been no complaints or reports of an uptick of hate crimes against Bangladeshis in the US, the community is feeling jittery in the aftermath of the morning attack at Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City on December 11.

The Bangladesh embassy said it was not aware of any hate crime incidents against Bangladeshis.

Shamim Ahmad, press minister of the Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC stated that the Bangladeshi community "...feels embarrassed and ashamed of the incident," mentioning the embassy publicly condemned the incident in New York City and hoped the perpetrator would be brought to justice.

Meanwhile, there is a general feeling of horror and disgust among the Bangladeshis living in New York City.

Mosfiq Chowdhury, a businessman living in NY for the last 25 years, is concerned.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Noble effort in unlikely place

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Sekandar Ali, a morgue attendant, who worked on more than 80,000 bodies in his 35 years in the profession at Dhaka Medical College, also nurtured a rather wholesome hobby.

He spent a lot of time planting trees around the morgue, transforming the atmosphere from a dismal one to a garden of tranquility.

Sekandar, through his own effort, planted around 25 floral and fruit-bearing trees of different species in the premise in the last 16 years. Where there was once an overpowering stench, now people can breathe easy.

Morbid and foreboding, a morgue is not a happy place to visit. Most visitors come to take the physical remains of their dearly departed.

Sekandar, who had been destined to follow in the footsteps of his father, uncles and grandfather, undertook the grisly task of dissecting bodies at the morgue for autopsy since 1982.

He was always a shoo-in for the job as a successor to his forefathers, starting at only 17 out of a pressing need for a means of livelihood.

But Sekandar never let his profession get in the way of his passion. He was always pro-environment and likes to keep his surroundings neat and clean.

During his childhood, Sekandar used to live with his family in a house beside the morgue. He had observed the pall of gloom in and around the morgue for years.

Heart-broken relatives mill around the morgue for their relative's bodies for six to seven hours, but they could not even stand there due to foul odour, Sekandar observed, adding that though there is a separate waiting room, people anxiously wait near the morgue.



s near the morgue at Dhaka Medical

PHOTO:  
SHAHEEN MOLLAH

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# BEAT THE HEAT



Introducing BERGER WeatherCoat-Cool! The premium exterior paint that keeps your house cooler in summer days by reflecting 45% more sun rays than regular exterior paint. It reduces surface temperature\* by 5°C and keeps your walls as good as new, year after year.

Conditions apply