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# The Daily Star

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## Independence Day today

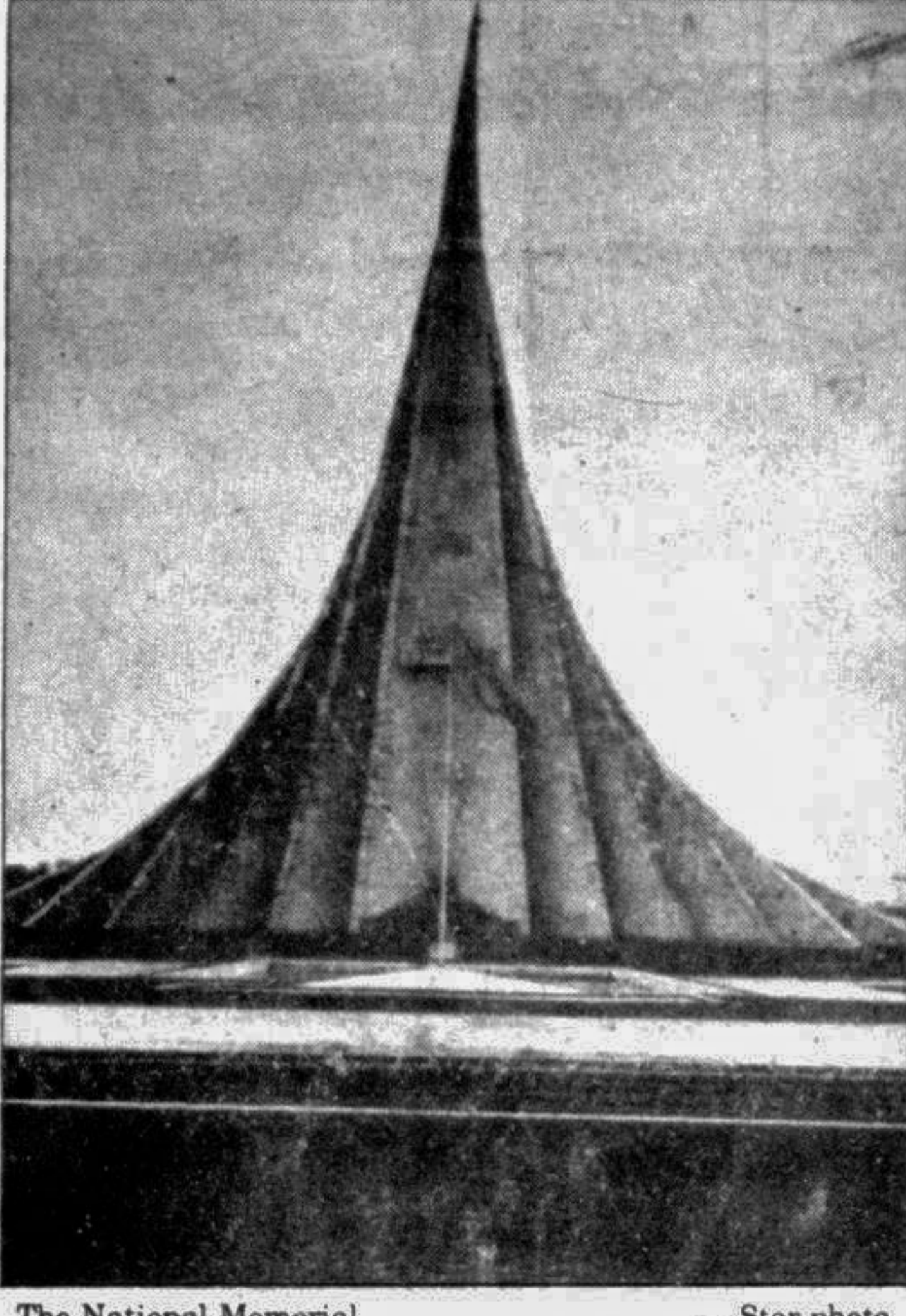
The nation celebrates the Independence and National Day today (Thursday) with a renewed determination to protect the country's sovereignty and resist the anti-liberation forces.

The independence of the country was proclaimed on this day in 1971. The valiant sons of the soil waged the War of Independence against the occupation Pakistani forces. Freedom fighters, members of the police, BDR, Army, Navy and Air forces fought the bloody war that lasted nine months and cost over 30 lakh lives.

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out throughout the country to celebrate the day with due solemnity.

The national flag will be hoisted atop all government and non-government institutions in the country on the occasion of the Independence and National Day.

Wreaths will be laid at the



The National Memorial — Star photo

Jatiya Smriti Shoudha at Savar by various organisations in the morning.

The ceremonial Independence and National Day parade of the combined forces will be held at the National Square beginning at 8:30 am.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will take salute and inspect the parade while Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be present during the occasion.

Radio and Television will broadcast special programmes to observe the day. Different socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate day-long programmes around the country including seminars, discussion meetings, symposiums, exhibitions and cultural programmes to mark the day.

Special diets will be served in orphanages, hospitals and other institutions around the country on the day.

Prime Minister Begum Zia will lay wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Shoudha at 7:30 am on the day.

The BNP has chalked out elaborate day-long programmes to mark the day starting with laying of floral wreaths at the National Monument and at the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman in the morning.

The Bangladesh Awami League has chalked out day-long programmes to mark the day with due solemnity. At 6:30 am, the national flag along with the party flag will be hoisted at the Awami League central office.

A rally will be held at Bangabandhu Bhaban and flowers will be laid at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at 7 am followed by laying of floral wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Shoudha at 8 am.

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## Trial to go ahead: Jahanara

Jahanara Imam Wednesday called upon the people to attend the planned public trial of Golam Azam in thousands and without fear at the Suhrawardy Uddyan today.

Briefing newsmen after a meeting of the Central Coordination Committee for the realisation of the ideals of the Liberation War and resistance to the killers and collaborators of 1971, the Convener of the Committee Imam said, "The trial shall be held... no one will dare to stop it."

A total of 48 representatives from different political organisations, student and youth bodies, socio-cultural organisations attended the meeting at the NAP office in Segun Bagicha to discuss holding of the trial scheduled for 10 am today.

Briefing newsmen, Abdur Razzak MP said that all preparations had been made to hold

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## Govt warns of 'stern legal action' against trial body

The Government has decided to take 'stern legal action' against those planning to try Golam Azam at the people's court today.

According to authoritative sources, the Government may also go for widespread arrests if the trial body goes ahead with its programme at Suhrawardy Uddyan or anywhere else.

According to sources, the decision was taken at a special cabinet meeting last night.

The National Coordination Committee for Realisation of the Ideals of Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 has arranged trial of Golam Azam as a war criminal at 'people's court' this morning.

Earlier, government issued notice on 20 persons involved in the trial move asking them to show cause why legal action would not be taken against them for 'taking law in their hands.'

In another move, the government arrested Golam Azam on charge of violating constitutional provision by taking over leadership of a political party of Bangladesh.

According to sources, Convener of the Trial Committee Jahanara Imam and her colleagues gave reply to the government notice yesterday.

Trial Committee sources said they, in their reply, denied that they were taking law in their hands by trying Golam Azam as war criminal at the people's court.

The Trial Committee, at a press briefing yesterday afternoon, reiterated its earlier stand and said that it would try Golam Azam at the people's court at 10 am today.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Sangsd body on Indemnity (Repeal) Bill meet Mar 27

The eleventh meeting of the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance Repeal Bill will be held on March 27 at 10 am in Standing Committee Room No-1 of the Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz will preside over the meeting.

All members of the committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

## Bush lauds transition to democracy

US President George Bush Wednesday congratulated Bangladesh on its successful transition to democracy and a new parliamentary system of government in the past few years, reports BSS.

In a message to President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of Independence of Bangladesh President Bush said the two countries had built a firm friendship on the solid foundation of mutual respect and cooperation.

He said, "I am certain that the growth and strengthening of Bangladesh's democratic institutions together with its ongoing economic reforms would produce great benefits for all citizens of Bangladesh."

In another message to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Bush renewed his country's support to the efforts of Bangladesh to find a diplomatic solution to the Rohingya refugee crisis.

President Bush said, "We share an interest in a peaceful, stable and democratic South Asia, and we both hope and expect that we can act in concert toward these noble objectives."



Pak captain Imran Khan (right) strikes the ball on his way to a total of 70 runs as English wicket-keeper Alec Stewart (left) guards the stumps in yesterday's World Cup final at Melbourne, Australia. —AFP photo.

### NEWS BRIEFS

**PM takes iftar with policemen**  
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had iftar with the officers and members of Bangladesh Police at the Rajarbag Police Line in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

**List of Rohingyas handed over**  
 Bangladesh government Wednesday handed over a list of 11,080 Myanmar Muslim refugees to the Myanmar government. Bangladesh has so far provided list of 39,007 refugees to the Myanmar authorities in seven instalments. Foreign Office sources said, reports BSS.

**Abbas made Jamaat acting Ameer**  
 The Central Working of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, at an emergency meeting in Dhaka yesterday made its senior Nayeab Ameer Abbas Ali Khan acting Ameer of the party after reviewing the situation arising out of the arrest of party chief Prof Golam Azam, a Jamaat press release said, reports BSS.

## Fight poverty to make independence meaningful: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handed over the "Swadhinata Dibash Purashkar-1991", the highest national award, to the recipients at a formal ceremony held in Osmany Memorial Hall Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

Those who received the award for their outstanding contribution to different fields of activities are late Nayeab Subedar Shah Alam (posthumous) for sports, poet Shamsur Rahman for literature and Prof Md Innas Ali for science and technology. The award comprise one gold medal, Taka 25,000 cash and a citation.

Speaking on the occasion the Prime Minister called upon the nation to forge a movement against hunger, poverty, illiteracy and deprivation for making country's independence meaningful to its every citizen.

"Independence is a commitment and determination which never die," she said adding "it means freedom from poverty and removal of darkness of ignorance which brings continued peace, happiness, progress and prosperity."

The Prime Minister said ours is a valiant nation which never bowed to anyone and we have proved it again by making the spirit of our independence free from the grip of autocracy.

She expressed her firm hope that the nation would become successful in its struggle for consolidating the independence.

Begum Zia said efforts to give democracy a permanent shape was going on for consolidating the independence because independence and democracy are inseparable.

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## 'Independence is a commitment that never dies'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday called upon the people to put in their best for building a happy, prosperous and democratic Bangladesh rejuvenated with the spirit of the War of Independence.

In a message on the occasion of the Independence and National Day, Begum Zia said "Let us remain above all divisive tendencies, malices, wa-

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## Imran's men world champs

MELBOURNE, Mar 25: Veterans Imran Khan and Javed Miandad combined to lift Pakistan to a 22-run victory over England in Wednesday's World Cup final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, reports AP.

The duo -- the only players to have played in all five World Cup tournaments -- picked up Pakistan's run-rate and combined in a brilliant third-wicket stand of 139.

Pakistan made 249 for six wickets in 50 overs and dismissed England for 227 with four balls remaining to win the cup for the first time.

England were the beaten finalist for the third time in front of a record limited-overs crowd of 87,182.

"I feel very proud that in the twilight of my career I've finally managed to win a World Cup," said Imran, who was plagued by a painful shoulder injury throughout the nine-day, five-week tournament.

Imran topscored for Pakistan with 72, while Javed scored 58 despite struggling with stomach virus that forced him to use a runner.

The inspiration of the veteran pair was picked up by a batch of outstanding younger teammates, who bowled and fielded impeccably under pressure.

Left-arm paceman Wasim Akram took three for 49 and Imran took the last wicket to fall, that of Richard Illingworth for 14, and stood centre pitch with arms raised as his teammates knelt and offered prayers.

Pakistan scored their fifth successive win in the tournament after winning only one of their first five matches.

The Cup has been a personal crusade for Imran. He is building a cancer clinic in Lahore in honour of his late mother.

He was presented with the crystal trophy by International Cricket Council chairman Sir Colin Cowdrey and said, "The greatest goal for me is to build the clinic and this will go a long way to its completion."

Imran hopes Pakistan's triumph will help him raise funds for the hospital.

The champions' purse was worth 50,000 dollars while for England, who lost their third final, there was a 25,000 dollar consolation. Pakistan's man-of-the-match Wasim Akram received 3,000 dollars.

(Detailed report on Page 10).



### Agreed minutes with DPRK

Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Wednesday signed an agreed minutes following the four-day talks between the delegations of the two countries, reports BSS.

### Supplement

Today's issue of the Daily Star includes a 4-page special supplement on the occasion of Independence Day.

### Holiday notice

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Thursday) on the occasion of Independence Day. There will, therefore, be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Friday). — Management

### Sheri, Iftar timings

Ramzan	March	Sheri	Iftar
20	26	4:36 am	6:20 pm
21	27	4:36 am	6:20 pm



Shibir attack on CPB office at Purana Paltan yesterday. — Star photo

## Shibir attacks CPB office

A group of Shibir activists Wednesday attacked the office of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and hurled several hand-made bombs which left about a dozen people injured.

They damaged the main gate and windowpanes of the office and pull out the sign-board of the party at around 2 pm. The agitated Shibirites also damaged a car (Chatta Metro-5090) crossing the Purana Paltan area, during the attack, eyewitness and police sources said.

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the attackers.

The Shibir workers ransacked some book and fruit shops on the footpath in front of CPB office.

Earlier, the Shibir activists held a rally in front of the North gate of Baitul Mukarram demanding immediate release of Jamaat Chief Golam Azam which was addressed by ICS

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## Over 100 injured in clashes over Azam

KHULNA, Mar 25: Over 100 persons were injured when clashes broke out in the city tonight between activists of Jamaat and their opponents.

The clashes started at Shantidham crossing at around 8-30 pm when a torch procession brought out by Freedom Fighters in support of Golam Azam's public trial was attacked by a group of Jamaat and Shibir workers. The clash continued for about an hour in which 15 policemen were also injured.

Police arrested a total of 41 persons in this connection.

UNB adds: Thirty-six people were injured, seven seriously, in two separate clashes between supporters of the committee for public trial of Golam Azam and Indian agents resistance committee here Wednesday.

Police arrested 47 people from the scene.

Witnesses said supporters of the two committees clashed at Khalishpur near the city leaving 20 people injured.

Two of the injured were admitted to Khulna 250-bed hospital with serious injury.

Witnesses and hospital sources said 16 people were injured in a clash between the two groups in the city.

Five seriously injured, including two journalists, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Sources said supporters of public trial committee also ransacked office of the pro-Jamaat divisional Sramik Kalyan Federation in the city at about 8 pm.

In retaliation, Jamaat and Shibir activists also ransacked the city office of the public trial committee.

Police were deployed in all the political party offices amid mounting tension in and around the city.

## AL leader stabbed in Sylhet town area

SYLHET, Mar 25: District administration has imposed section 144 at court point area in the city from 8 am to 5 pm tomorrow (Thursday) to prevent any untoward incident as two rival groups are scheduled to hold rallies at the same venue.

The committee for public trial of Golam Azam and Indian agents resistance committee have planned rallies in the area at 2 pm tomorrow.

An earlier report says, a district Awami League leader was seriously injured being attacked by Jamaat-Shibir activists in the town today.

Witnesses said Ohtul Islam, Organising Secretary of the district Awami League, was stabbed by Jamaat-Shibir men while he was travelling by a rickshaw.