

Shab-e-barat
tonight

Holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, will be observed tonight with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports UNB.

Muslims in the country as elsewhere in the world, will observe the graceful night through night-long prayers at all mosques and homes seeking divine blessings for them as well as the nation.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia issued separate messages on the occasion.

Different socio-cultural, political and religious organisations will arrange milad mahfil, Qurankhwan and discussions to observe the holy Shab-e-Barat.

Bangladesh Betar and
See Page 12 Col 5

Rice price up,
vegetables'
down

By Staff Correspondent
Prices of rice have increased in the city markets while those of vegetables decreased slightly compared to last week's, retailers said.

Nazirshah, one of the fine varieties of rice, is now being sold at Tk 16.50 to Tk 17 per kg against its previous price of Tk 15.50 to Tk 16. Prices of varieties like IRRI have also increased by Tk 0.50 to Tk 1.00 per kg. One kg of IRRI rice is be-

See Page 12 Col 8

HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today and tomorrow on the occasion of Holy Shab-e-Barat and Victory Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow and day after tomorrow.

Inside Today

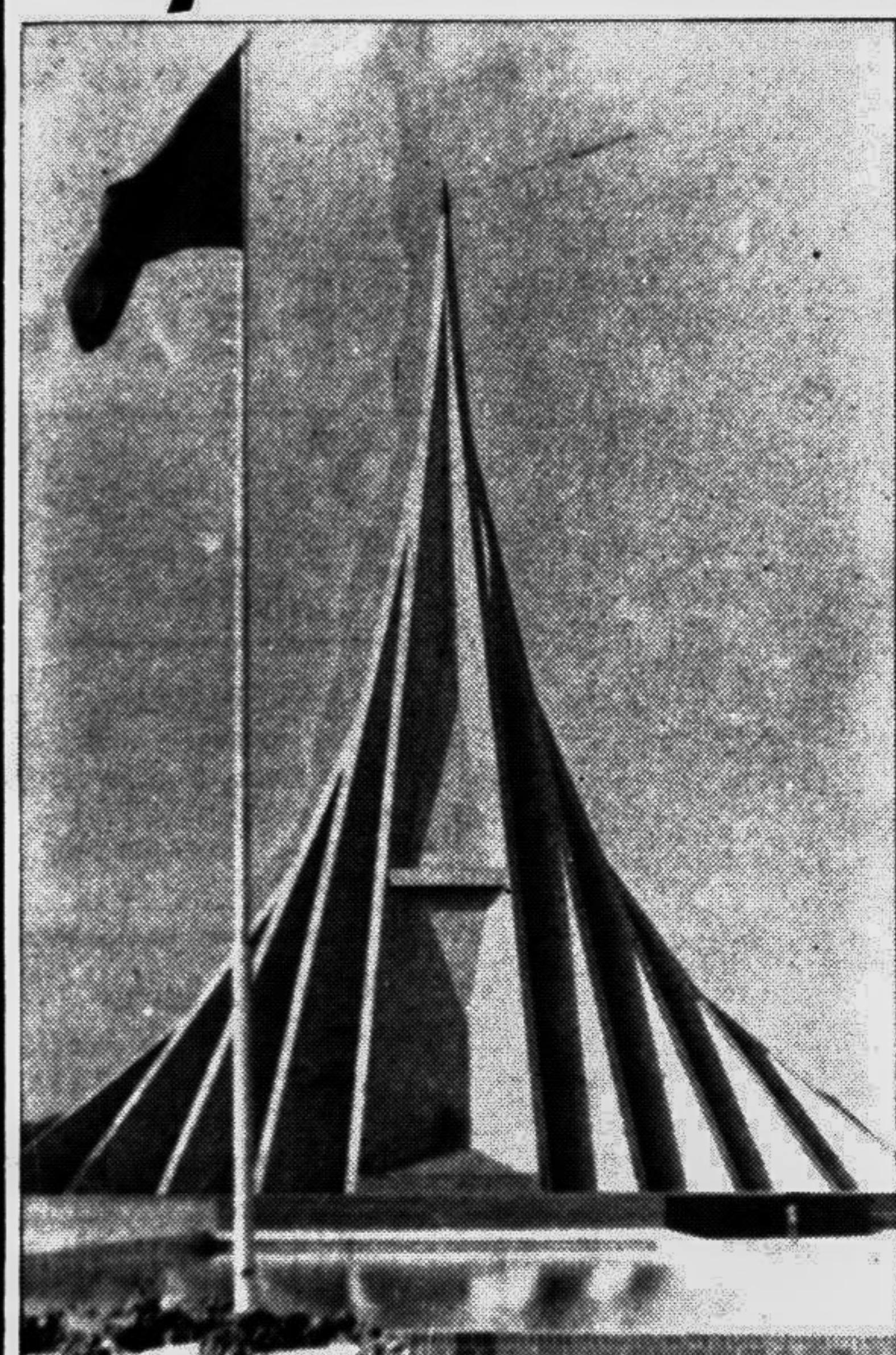
Article

What Have We
Done with Our
Victory?
by Mahfuz Anam
Page 4

Supplements

Today's 20-page issue
of The Daily Star
contains an 8-page
supplement on
Victory Day
Pages 13-20

Vow to uphold spirit of Liberation War



By Staff Correspondent

The nation celebrates the Victory Day tomorrow with a renewed pledge to build the country with the spirit of Liberation War.

The people of Bangladesh achieved a victory on December 16, 1971 after a nine-month bloody war against the Pakistani occupation forces for liberating the motherland. Millions sacrificed their lives in the war for the long cherished independence.

Ninety-three thousand Pakistani soldiers surrendered to the joint forces of Bangladeshi's freedom fighters — Mukti Bahini — and the Eastern Command of Indian Army that day at the historic Race Course Maidan (now Suhrawardy Uddyan) in the city.

This year the Victory Day coincides with the Silver Jubilee of the country's Constitution that came into force in 1972. Celebration of the Day will begin in a novel way this time, with the blowing of whistles by all train engines across the country at midnight tonight.

On the eve of the Day, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages paying rich tributes to martyrs of Liberation War.

In his message, the President stressed the need for concerted efforts of the patriotic people irrespective of party and opinion to resolve national crisis and lead the country towards prosperity.

He said the people now expect integrity and understanding as the guideline for national politics instead of clash and

See Page 12 Col 2

PM calls upon freedom fighters Resist conspirators

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the freedom fighters to resist those trying to destroy the spirit and values of independence and liberation war, reported UNB.

There is no room for conspirators in the country. Freedom fighters will resist whoever will try to divide the nation and undermine the spirit of liberation war, she said while addressing a grand rally of the freedom fighters at Palta Maidan in the afternoon.

Hasina said, "The people of the country will no longer allow anyone to plot any conspiracy against independence and libe-

ration war. Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave the nation political freedom and now the only objective of the ruling party is to ensure economic freedom of the common man, she said.

Freedom fighters from all over the country gathered at the Palta Maidan and the whole area was swamped with banners, posters and festoons.

Veteran freedom fighters, youths and a large number of women also joined the rally organised by Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad Kendriya Command Council ahead of the Victory Day.

The Prime Minister said her government wants to build up a poverty, hunger and exploitation-free 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib and is taking steps to attain the objective.

Once you fought at the call of Bangabandhu to free the nation, now you'll have to fight again to free the nation from the curse of poverty and hunger, she told the freedom fighters.

The Prime Minister said the freedom fighters remained neglected for last 21 years, they were denied their due rights and respect. Now the pro-liberation forces have come to power and taken a number of steps for the welfare of the freedom fighters.

About the success of her government, Hasina said it has succeeded in solving the long-standing problems and signed the Ganges water sharing treaty with India and an accord with the tribal leaders to restore

See Page 12 Col 4

Oct 14 abortive flight to NY 13 Biman, Civil Aviation staff held responsible

By Masud Arif

Negligence to duty by 13 staff members of the Biman and the Civil Aviation Authority was responsible for the return of Biman's October 14 New York flight about three hours after its take-off from Dhaka, a probe report says.

Biman's BG-011 flight (Dhaka-Delhi-Brussels-New York) came back because of an ongoing exercise of Indian Air Force in Delhi.

There is no well-defined guideline on responsibilities of the staff at Biman's operations control, the probe report of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism says.

Operation of the abortive flight ignoring a 'very urgent' NOTAM (notice to airman) mes-

Over 100 hurt: Army on alert: Sec 144 imposed BDR firing kills 2 in Khagrachhari

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: At least two persons were killed when BDR opened fire on agitating supporters of Parbattya Sarbadala Ollyka Parishad (PSOP) at Matiranga in Khagrachhari today.

Police and local sources said the trouble began at around 10 am when several thousand of supporters of PSOP demonstrated at Matiranga Bazar protesting the arrest of two BNP activists — Abu Yusuf and Md Faruk.

The dead were identified as Zakir Hossain (15) and Abdur Rasul (40).

Among the injured, most of

activities against the CHT peace accord.

At about 11 am, the demonstrators marched to gherao the Matiranga thana office demanding release of the arrested activists. When police intercepted, the clash erupted, police and local people said.

The clash marked by gunfire and pelting of brickbats continued for three hours, police said.

Police initially fired rubber bullets to disperse the demonstrators who attacked the Matiranga Bazar.

See Page 12 Col 7



People of all walks of life thronged the memorial at Mirpur yesterday to pay homage to the martyred intellectuals.

— Star photo

BNP to stage demonstration Wednesday

By Staff Correspondent

BNP will demonstrate across the country on Wednesday to protest yesterday's killings in BDR firing in Khagrachhari.

Besides, the party will hold a 'goyebana janaza' for the dead at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Zohr prayers today.

Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP an-

See Page 12 Col 5

2 more Naogaon BDR firing victims die

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 14: Two more persons who were injured in BDR firing yesterday afternoon at Sreerampur village near Sutirhar in Manda thana of Naogaon district succumbed to injuries on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital last night.

They were identified as Mozam and Sushil.

The incident occurred when a BDR vehicle was attacked at Sreerampur on Naogaon-Rajshahi Highway by the angry villagers who blocked vehicular traffic following a road accident that left a 9-year-old girl killed in the morning.

At one stage, the BDR personnel opened fire to disperse the villagers killing a man on the spot. He was later identified as Harun.

Meanwhile, road communication between Naogaon and

See Page 12 Col 1

Opposition calls day-long hartal at Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Dec 14: A half-day hartal, called by BNP, was observed peacefully in the district town today protesting the Thursday's incident in which seven people were killed in police firing, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, the opposition political parties jointly called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town tomorrow demanding a judicial inquiry committee, headed by a judge of the High Court, and compensation for the dead and the injured.

The ruling Awami League today organised a meeting at the Poi Govt Primary School premises with Syed Ahmedul Huq in the chair and called upon the opposition parties to withdraw the Monday's hartal.

See Page 12 Col 1

Tributes to martyred intellectuals

By Staff Correspondent

The nation yesterday paid glowing tributes to the intellectuals who were martyred only two days ahead of the victory in the War of Liberation.

On December 14, 1971, many of the country's most gifted sons were picked up from their residences by local collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces and butchered with the evil motive of turning the emerging nation intellectually bankrupt.

In the city yesterday, all roads led to the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur and Rayerbazar mass grave. Grief-stricken people in their thousands blocked there to pay their respect to the martyrs. They placed wreaths by lining

up in long queues.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the city.

Later at around 7 am, the Prime Minister placed wreaths at the Memorial, at Mirpur in homage to the martyred intellectuals. Bugle played the last post and a smartly turned out contingent of the army gave a gun salute as the premier laid wreaths and stood in solemn silence there for a few minutes.

From Mirpur, Hasina went

See Page 12 Col 5

— Star photo

up in long queues.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the city.

Later at around 7 am, the Prime Minister placed wreaths at the Memorial, at Mirpur in homage to the martyred intellectuals. Bugle played the last post and a smartly turned out contingent of the army gave a gun salute as the premier laid wreaths and stood in solemn silence there for a few minutes.

From Mirpur, Hasina went

See Page 12 Col 5

— Star photo

up in long queues.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the city.

Later at around 7 am, the Prime Minister placed wreaths at the Memorial, at Mirpur in homage to the martyred intellectuals. Bugle played the last post and a smartly turned out contingent of the army gave a gun salute as the premier laid wreaths and stood in solemn silence there for a few minutes.

From Mirpur, Hasina went

See Page 12 Col 5

— Star photo

up in long queues.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the city.

Later at around 7 am, the Prime Minister placed wreaths at the Memorial, at Mirpur in homage to the martyred intellectuals. Bugle played the last post and a smartly turned out contingent of the army gave a gun salute as the premier laid wreaths and stood in solemn silence there for a few minutes.

From Mirpur, Hasina went

See Page 12 Col 5

— Star photo

up in long queues.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the city.

Later at around 7 am, the Prime Minister placed wreaths at the Memorial, at Mirpur in homage to the martyred intellectuals. Bugle played the last post and a smartly turned out contingent of the army gave a gun salute as the premier laid wreaths and stood in solemn silence there for a few minutes.

From Mirpur, Hasina went

See Page 12 Col 5

— Star photo

up in long queues.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the city.

Later at around 7 am, the Prime Minister placed wreaths at the Memorial, at Mirpur in homage to the martyred intellectuals. Bugle played the last post and a smartly turned out contingent of the army gave a gun salute as the premier laid wreaths and stood in solemn silence there for a few minutes.

From Mirpur, Hasina went

See Page 12 Col 5

— Star photo

up in long queues.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party colleagues,