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Burning bright

Standing tall, the *Aporajyo Bangla* captures the essence of independence.
—Courtesy Photo: Ahmedul Aman

Independent Bangladesh turns 28

By Staff Correspondent

The nation celebrates the 29th Independence and National Day today with fresh pledges to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War and build a society free of exploitation.

A grateful nation will pay homage to the brave sons of the soil who embraced martyrdom to liberate their motherland from the clutches of Pakistani military junta.

This day in 1971, people of the country took up arms to fight the Pakistani occupation forces at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The declaration of independence by the great leader came after the Pakistanis had

launched the most barbaric crackdown on unarmed civilians in the history of humankind on the dark night of March 25, leading to the emergence of an independent Bangladesh on December 16, 1971.

A 31-gun salute will herald the day, a public holiday. National flags will fly atop all government and important private buildings. Main roads and in the capital will be decorated elegantly with flags while important buildings will be illuminated.

All roads will lead to Savar where people, irrespective of age, sex and faith, will throng

in their thousands to place wreaths at the National Memorial in tribute to the memory of the martyrs.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed is expected to lead the nation in paying homage by placing wreath at the Memorial at dawn. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will follow the President.

Wreaths will also be placed at the portrait of the founding father at Bangabandhu Museum at 7:30 am.

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia along with party leaders and activists will pay homage at Savar at 8 am. Later, she and her partymen will also

lay wreath and offer *fateha* at the mazar of former President Ziaur Rahman.

Different political parties, students and socio-cultural organisations, professional groups and others have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes include hoisting national and party flags, placing wreaths, discussion meeting, *destitute feeding*, *milad mahfil* and musical soiree.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will host a reception for elite and important personalities at Bangabhaban at 4:45 pm today.

In separate messages on the

eve of the 29th Independence and National Day, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina felicitated the nation.

Meanwhile, the prime minister distributed the Independence Day Award 1998 at a ceremony at Osmany Memorial Hall yesterday morning in the city.

Addressing the ceremony, she called upon the pro-liberation forces to build up resistance against evil designs to foil the democratic process and disturb peace and stability in the country. (The list of recipients on Back Page and pictures on Page 11)

Try tax dodgers

By Staff Correspondent

Tax evasion should be treated as a criminal offence, said Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday. FBCCI President Abdul Awal

Mintoo however suggested that the tax officials be stripped of their discretionary powers, which often breed corruption, to save the taxpayers from harassment.

Tax-evaders should be tried and sent to jail, the FBCCI chief said.

They were speaking at a roundtable on *Tax evasion: Its Impact on the National Economy* -- jointly sponsored by The Star and FICCI.

Government, business agree at Star Roundtable on terms to tackle massive evasion



The Daily Star roundtable in progress.

—Star photo: A K M Mohsin

Decomposed dead body discovered at Dhaka DB office

City police chief says it appears to be 'a case of murder', finds it 'mysterious'

A decomposed corpse was found in the roof-top water tank at the Detective Branch office in the city at around 4:30 yesterday afternoon.

The identity of the man, in his 40s, could not be known till filing of this report at 11 pm.

At the DB office, Police Commissioner AKM Shamsuddin told reporters that the incident was 'mysterious'.

'It appears to be a case of murder,' he said.

He also said that it was not

possible for any outsider without the help of the police to dump the body inside the water tank. However, he said, on completion of the investigation it will be possible to determine the actual cause of death.

According to witnesses, the body bore some injury marks below the abdomen. The corpse was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy at about 8:30 pm. Hospital sources said autopsy of the body is likely to be conducted

today.

CID was immediately assigned to investigate the case. Headed by ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman, the team is learnt to have seized record registers, and relevant books of the DB office. Munshi Atiqur Rahman is also the investigating officer of the Shamim Reza Rubel murder case.

A number of senior DB officials said that they suspected the victim was alive when he was taken to the rooftop.

They said that this was more likely, considering the narrow access and the iron ladder approach to the rooftop of the building which is visible from surrounding areas.

The dead person was discovered after DB men launched a search to find out why their water supply had a 'foul odour' and the area smelt so badly for the last 'two days'.

Using the fixed iron ladder, a constable checking all the wa-

ter tanks saw the corpse at around 7 am lying inside one of the overhead reservoirs of the two storied building at 36 Mintoo Road. The iron ladder is placed on top of the car shed and the access to it is a small window from the staircase.

When Mosharraf, the constable, opened the cover of the concrete tank, he found the body floating upside down. The alarm was immediately raised and in the presence of Metropolitan Magistrate Abdus

Slama Mia at around 4:30 pm, armed sentries guard the only entrance of the office complex using ropes, the body was pulled out of the tank.

The victim had half-an-inch-long beard, and had a pair of black trousers, full-sleeve check shirt and a pair of sandal shoes on.

The building houses the offices of the Detective Branch and the DC of DMP Southern Zone. Scores

of police personnel both in uniform and plain clothes use the offices round the clock. Two

armed sentries guard the only entrance of the office complex using ropes, the body was pulled out of the tank.

The victim had half-an-inch-long beard, and had a pair of black trousers, full-sleeve check shirt and a pair of sandal shoes on.

A DB official said that only five to six days ago they launched special teams for the eid. He said 14 detective teams each comprising seven men had been assigned special duties.

Constables and other police personnel said there was no way of having any suspect inside the DB building without

first entering his details with the duty officer. Even when the DB personnel make a sortie they have to get details entered into the books.

According sources, some DB officials were seen drinking bottled water for the last two days, avoiding WASA water.

Ramna police said last night Havilder Jafar Ahmed of DB, DMP, Dhaka lodged an unnatural death case with the Ramna Police Station in this regard.

(Picture on Back Page)

we score... while others watch

Standard Chartered

Zimbabwe made to sweat

Mehrab Hossain scores first ODI century

By Al-Amin and Hasan Masood

Experience prevailed over exuberance as favourites Zimbabwe squeezed past a spirited Bangladesh side in the final round robin match of the Merit International Cricket Tournament at the Bagabandhu National Stadium last night.

The visitors recorded a thrilling three-wicket win with just three balls to spare.

In a nail-biting finish, Zimbabwe needed four runs from the final six deliveries to defeat Bangladesh who were looking for their first ODI win against a

Test playing nation.

Left-handed Viljoen stymied

soaring local spirits when he

lofted the third delivery of

close-in circle for the winning

runs. The shot resulted in a

boundary over mid-on much to

the relief of the foreign side.

Zimbabwe, chasing a challenging Bangladesh total of 257

in the stipulated 50 overs,

reached 261 for seven to keep

their slate clean in the three-

nation tourney, which also in-

cluded a win over India.

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