

No celebration till war criminals punished

Say families of Birshreshthas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The families of the seven Birshreshthas yesterday said they would never be able to celebrate the victory wholeheartedly until the war criminals are punished.

"The wounds inflicted on us 36 years ago get stimulated again

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Form tribunal or face public wrath

Sector commanders ask govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sector commanders of the Liberation War yesterday strongly demanded that the caretaker government form a special tribunal for trying the war criminals before facing the wrath of the people.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Human chain demands trial

STAR REPORT

Hundreds of people from all walks of life formed a human chain on Dhaka University campus yesterday, the Victory Day, demanding trial of the war criminals.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

PATEL ON GOVT'S PERFORMANCE

Some concerns matched by major achievements

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

World Bank Vice-president Praful C Patel said the results of the caretaker government's performance over the past year are mixed, with some concerns matched by major achievements in anti-corruption and institutional reforms.

In an interview with The Daily Star he also said Bangladesh is still on course to become a middle-



Mokidunnesa, mother of Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rob, places wreath at National Memorial at Savar yesterday in tribute to the countless martyrs on the occasion of Victory Day. This was her first visit there.

V-Day celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrated 36 years of independence yesterday, saluting the gallant sons and daughters of the soil who had unflinchingly sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War of 1971 to translate the national dream of an independent motherland into a reality.

Imbued with the spirit of independence, thousands of people congregated at the National Memorial in Savar to pay their

homage to the liberation war martyrs amid growing demands for trial of the war criminals.

Because of the prevailing state of emergency, the celebration was on a rather limited scale this year, which began with 31 gun salutes at dawn in the capital.

President Iajuddin Ahmed set off the official commemoration by placing a wreath at the National Memorial in the morning, followed by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

They stood in solemn silence for a few minutes there showing respect to the liberation war martyrs while the last post was being played through bugles.

A contingent drawn from the three armed forces performed a guard of honour as a mark of respect to the martyred freedom fighters.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar along with Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, Chief Justice Md

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

8 still missing as relatives wait outside Rangs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although it was the eighth day into the collapse of the upper floors of Rangs Bhaban in the capital, relatives of the remaining trapped demolition workers who are surely dead by now according to experts, were seen waiting still for the bodies of their loved ones yesterday.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), the government agency which is in charge of the rescue operation, could not recover any body from the building yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Praful C Patel

income country by 2016 despite multiple floods, Cyclone Sidr, and the various economic shocks from the anti-corruption drive and wide-ranging institutional reforms.

But, he said a number of constraints have held back the government's performance, such as a lack of a clear constitutional mandate making the government rather

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

INVITATION TO ANTI-LIBERATION FORCES

War heroes, most political parties skip president's party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The major political parties, socio-cultural organisations and war heroes yesterday boycotted the Victory Day reception at the Bangabhaban to protest invitation to the anti-liberation forces.

None from Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party (JP), Liberal Democratic party (LDP), Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB), Workers Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and newly formed Bangladesh Kalyan Party leaders showed up at

the party hosted by President Iajuddin Ahmed and his wife Anwara Begum.

Besides, the sector commanders and freedom fighters stayed away from the gathering as part of their earlier announcement that they would not participate in any state programme having anti-liberation elements including leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, the party that had opposed the Liberation War and worked as the auxiliary force of the occupying Pakistan army.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Eid tickets vanished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unavailability of tickets of buses, trains and launches has as usual caused suffering to many city dwellers ahead of Eid-ul-Azha as almost all tickets for three days before the vacation starts have already been sold out.

Many people, who wish to spend their Eid holidays with near ones, were looking for advance tickets on December 19 and 20 at the Kamalapur Railway Station, major bus terminals including Gabtoli, and Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday but failed to get tickets.

"I was fortunate! I got four tickets on December 14 after standing in the queue for 12 hours. But today I have not got any as they said all tickets have been sold," Brac staff Khalilur Rahman said yesterday at Kamalapur Railway Station. He still

needs one ticket to ensure that all his family members can go to their Syedpur home.

There are allegations that a section of staff at the railway stations, bus and launch terminals has kept a good number of advance tickets, especially of luxurious buses and launch cabins, to earn quick bucks on the eve of the Eid vacation starting on December 20.

Station and terminal authorities said the advance tickets had exhausted around seven days ago.

The homebound people also alleged that they had to pay extra Tk 50-100 for each bus ticket and almost double for each launch cabin from December 11 to December 20.

Launch passengers said they usually pay Tk 60-100 for a seat on the deck depending on the quality of the launch on Dhaka-Barisal

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

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