

Homage to Liberation War martyrs



Different socio-political organisations and individuals place wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar yesterday marking the Victory Day. (1) Sector commanders of the War of Liberation (2) Family members of the Bir Shreshthas (3) People from all walks of life (4) Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui (5) Injured freedom fighters (6) Awami League leaders (7) BNP leaders led by Khandakar Delwar Hossain (8) BNP leaders led by Maj (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed (9) Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (10) Workers' Party of Bangladesh (11) Dhaka University Vice Chancellor SMA Faiz (12) Communist Party of Bangladesh and (13) Visiting delegation of Australian Bar Association.

One burnt alive at Demra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was burnt to death while another one injured critically in a fire at Demra in the city early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Tariqul Islam while the injured as Mohammad Farid, both aged around 16.

They lived in a house on Shahjalal Road. Police and locals said the fire broke out in their room on the first floor of a two-storey building from a candle that they lit at night during Saturday's black out.

They fell in deep sleep keeping

the candle on a carton of papers. At around 12:30am, other inmates of the house noticed the fire inside the room and informed the firefighters who rushed to the spot.

They doused the fire, but by the time Tariqul was burnt alive and Farid received severe burn injuries. The firefighters retrieved Tariqul's body and rescued Farid in a critical condition.

He was under going treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Witnesses said the fire could not spread as the windows of the room were shut from inside.

Human chains in 17 cities worldwide for trial of war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human chains were formed in 17 cities across the globe on Saturday demanding trial of war criminals in Bangladesh through formation of an international tribunal.

Federation of Organisations Against Bangladesh War Criminals, a US-based organisation, organised the programme, reported News World.

Freedom fighter Dr Nurunnabi, convenor of the organisation, told news agency Ana that human chains were formed simultaneously in Britain, Australia, Austria, Canada, Italy, New Zealand, Paris, Tokyo, Washington DC, Florida, California, Boston, Atlanta, Toronto and Montreal.

The participants demanded arrest of the war criminals and a ban on religion-based political parties. They also urged people to boycott the companies and NGOs run by the war criminals.

The main programme was held at Athens Park in New York where the progress of the mass signature collection campaign was discussed.

A memorandum with the signatures will be presented to the UN general secretary, UN Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, US Congress, State Department, European Union, European Commission, Canadian Parliament and other international bodies.

Syed Muhammadullah, another convenor of the organisation, read out a written paper to press their eight-point demand.

Writer Belal Beg, Awami League US chapter Adviser Dr Siddikur Rahman, Publicity Secretary Hakikul Islam Khokon, Oikya Parishad President Ratan Barua and US Bangabandhu Parishad General Secretary Shitangshu Guha, among others, were present.



Sammilita Sanskritik Jote forms a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding trial of the war criminals.

Next elected govt to lead country to new path

Hopes Justice Habibur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief adviser Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman has hoped that an elected government would be formed next year to lead the country to a new path.

"The country is passing through a transition period which I hope will end next year," he said while addressing a Victory Day Memorial Lecture organised by Bangla Academy on its premises in the city yesterday.

Justice Rahman presided over the programme where Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui delivered the memorial lecture and Bangla Academy Director General Syed Mohammad Shahed gave the welcome speech.

Tolerance to other's opinion is a must in democracy, the former chief adviser said, adding that the ruling party will have to consider the opinion of the opposition parties.

"Trial of the war criminals could not be held due to our idiotic attitude," he said.

Prof Zillur said, "We cannot deny two contributions of Pakistani military rulers in our politics, one is that they made their chosen persons as ministers and the other is that they arranged blue-print elections. In fact there are no fundamental differences between the army rules in Pakistan and Bangladesh."

He however said a qualitative change in political process is coming as an atmosphere has been created

to reform the political culture.

"Unproductive practices in politics could end if the political parties can utilise this chance properly," he said, adding that regular election conducted by a free election commission can create a new trend in political culture.

Meaningful democracy will have to be established by creating new leadership, he said, adding that democracy will not flourish if the process of changing the leadership in the party as well as in the government is not transparent.

Prof Zillur said the process of electing leaders in different political parties is faulty as it is tough to remove any leader even after his/her extreme failure.

Election gives a government legitimacy, but cannot ensure accountability, he observed, adding that autocracy is still in force under the camouflage of democracy.

"We saw that an elected government lost its confidence to hold a free and fair election, and following the army rulers they completed all the processes to win a blue-print election," Prof Zillur added.

He said there was no lack of sincerity in the top leaders of two main political parties, but they could not deny their failure to make parliament effective.

"They made democracy ineffective by making parliament ineffective," he opined.

CA arrives in Jeddah

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed arrived in Jeddah yesterday afternoon on his way to Makkah to perform holy Hajj.

The VIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Air Ltd that carried the chief adviser (CA) and his entourage landed at the King Abdul Aziz International Airport at 2:15pm (local time and BDT 5:15pm) in Jeddah.

A royal reception was accorded to the CA on behalf of the Saudi government at the Royal Terminal of the Airport. Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia SM Ikramul Huq, Consul General in Jeddah M Ali Akbar and the embassy officials were present on the occasion, according to a message received here last night.

After performing Umrah prior to Hajj yesterday, he will stay at the Royal Palace in Makkah Al Mukarrama.

CA's wife Neena Ahmed, Chief of Army Staff Gen Moeen U Ahmed and his wife Begum Naznin Moeen, among others, are accompanying the chief adviser.

Fakhruddin and his entourage members will go to Mina today and will stay until Tuesday for prayers.

Earlier, the VIP flight, carrying the chief adviser and his entourage, took off at 10:15am from the Zia International Airport.

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Food and Disaster Management Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah M Al Obaid Al Namla, Quarter Master General (QMG) of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and senior civil and military officials saw off the chief adviser at the VVIP tarmac of the airport.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over the southern part in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degrees Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 28.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 10.7 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.8	16.5	60	58
Chittagong	28.1	19.8	75	54
Rajshahi	25.0	12.0	70	68
Khulna	26.0	15.8	67	80
Barisal	26.8	14.5	73	67
Sylhet	26.8	15.5	79	50
Cox's Bazar	28.4	19.8	57	50

DHAKA TODAY

Venue: LGED Auditorium.

Seminar

ASA-International Marketing and United States Department of Agriculture will jointly organise a seminar on 'Feed based fish farming-basics and opportunities for Bangladesh'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Conference

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) will jointly organise a two-day conference on indigenous population and environment of Bangladesh beginning from today. Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Time: 9:30am.

Buet seminar

Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) organises a seminar on postgraduate research in integrated water resources to mark the 60 years of engineering education in Bangladesh. Venue: Council Building, Buet. Time: 10:00am.

Textile exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of textile exhibition organised by Southeast University will be held. Venue: Southeast University seminar hall. Time: 10:00am.

Media award

Unipa organises prize-giving ceremony for the winners of the Unipa Media Award. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:15pm.

Report launching

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) organises the launching ceremony of the education watch 2006 report 'Financing primary and secondary education in Bangladesh'.

Workshop

Brac and IUCN Bangladesh will jointly organise a workshop on 'Ecosystem services and poverty alleviation study in South Asia'. Venue: Brac Centre. Time: 9:00am.

BEI seminar

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a seminar on 'Meaning of minority in politics'. Venue: BEI. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Nationalist Party organises a discussion to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers. Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop

Dhansiri media production house organises a workshop on capacity building for safe migration. Venue: Rafflesia (House-2, Road-22, Gulshan-1). Time: 9:30am.

View exchange

Unnayan Shamunnay organises a view exchange meeting on review of Shamunnay on trends of Bangladesh economy. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

CDL workshop

Community Development Library (CDL) organises a workshop on 'The role of teachers to encourage students for using library'. Venue: CDL auditorium (House-67/B, Road-9/A, Dhanmondi). Time: 3:00pm.