



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon places a wreath at the National Mausoleum at Savar yesterday to pay his respects to the liberation war martyrs.

Ban Ki-moon pays homage to '71 martyrs

BSS, Savar

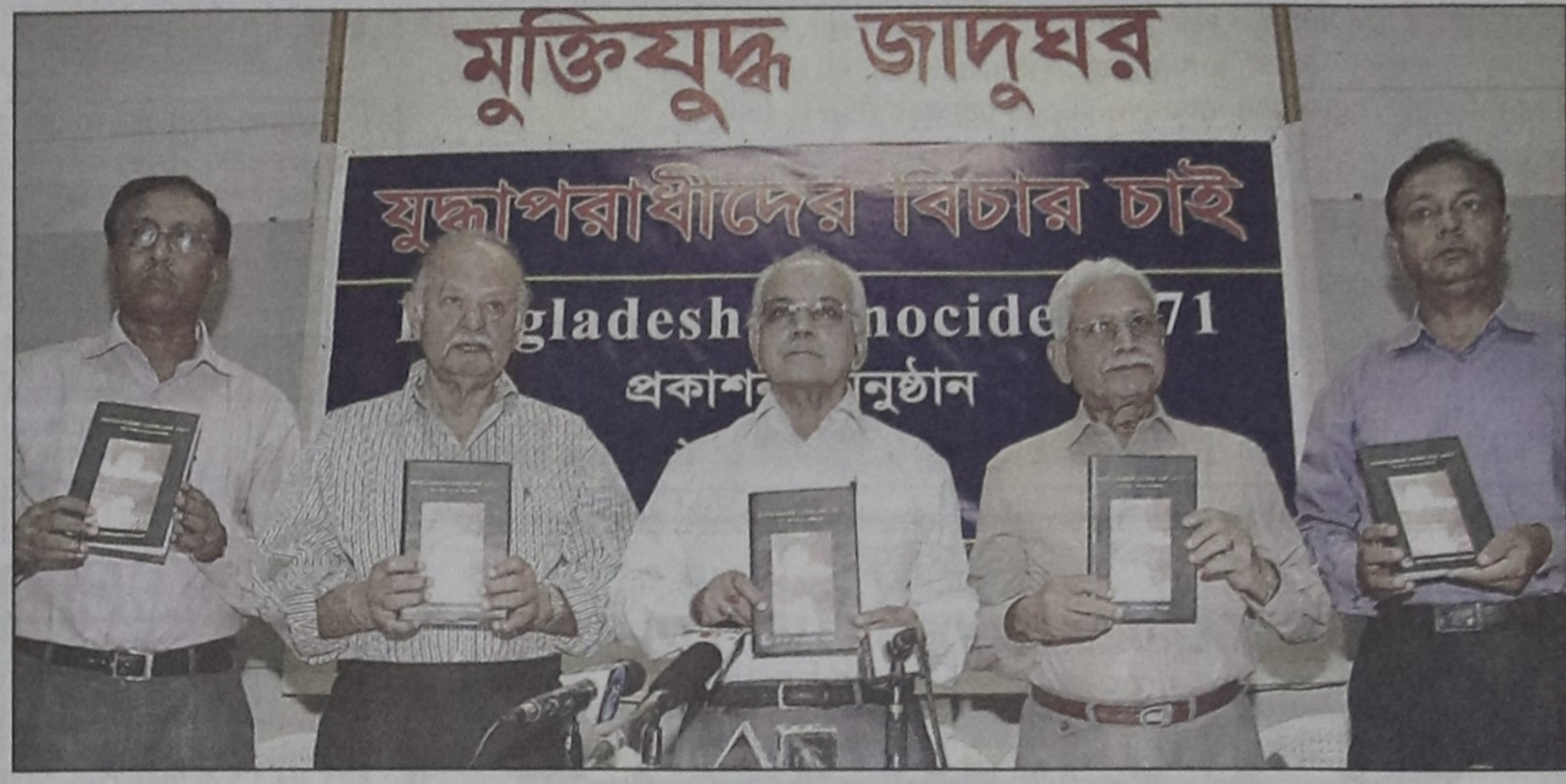
Army bugle played the last post as visiting United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday paid homage to the 1971 liberation war martyrs at the National Mausoleum.

Ban Ki-moon stood in solemn silence as the national flag was lowered and reviled after he placed wreath at the alter of the mausoleum.

Liberation War Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin received the UN secretary general on his arrival at the mausoleum.

Later, Ban Ki-moon planted a sapling of 'Bichitra Bakul' on the mausoleum premises and signed the visitor's book.

GOC of 9 Division, Major General Mohammad Ahsabuddin was present.



(From right) Lt Gen (ret'd) M Harun-ur-Rashid, Lt Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiullah, Air Vice Marshall (ret'd) AK Khandker, Lt Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta and Harun Habib hold copies of a book titled 'Bangladesh Genocide 1971: The Trial of War Criminals' at its publication ceremony at the National Museum in the city yesterday.

BAN KI-MOON CALLS ON PRESIDENT, CHIEF ADVISER Next polls to be a turning point in Bangladesh's history

Says UN secretary general

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday said the next election would be a turning point in the history of Bangladesh and the country would set a new standard on democratic transition for other developing countries.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed informed the UN chief that his government remained committed to holding a free, fair and credible general election on December 18 and to handing over power to a democratically elected government.

The head of the caretaker government and the chief executive of the United Nations expressed their optimistic views during talks when the latter called on the chief adviser at the CA's office, before wrapping up his Dhaka mission at a critical time when there had long been a standoff over national elections.

Ban Ki-moon, who had consultation with government and political as well as military leaders during his two-day tour, expressed his confidence that the election would be fully fair and acceptable to all this time around.

"The world's attention would be on Bangladesh and it would set a new standard on democratic transition for other developing countries," the UN Secretary General was quoted as telling Fakhruddin, whose interim government has carried out massive restructuring and purge on the political arena since the military-backed January 11, 2007 changeover following a crisis over the abortive January 22 polls.

Ki-moon, however, struck a note of caution so the government



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon meets Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

should take into consideration post-electoral scenarios and continue to hold dialogues with political parties to ensure a smooth transition.

He told the CA that the UN would soon send an assessment mission to assist in the electoral process.

Fakhruddin briefed Ban Ki-moon on various institutional reforms implemented by the caretaker government during the last

two years. He thanked the United Nations, particularly UNDP for technical and financial support for preparation of the voter roll with photographs and fingerprints.

The UN Secretary General termed the voters' roll a remarkable achievement.

BAN KI-MOON MEETS PRESIDENT
Meanwhile, President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said the care-

taker government is fully committed to holding the general election on December 18.

The president reaffirmed the government position during discussion with Ban Ki-moon when the latter called on him at Bangabhaban.

He praised UN development agency UNDP for its technical support for preparing the national ID cards and photo voter list for the upcoming elections.

The president said, "Bangladesh is committed to working with the UN for ensuring global peace, security and development."

He informed Ban Ki-moon that presently nearly 10,000 members of Bangladesh Armed Forces and police are participating in different UN peacekeeping missions.

He also praised Moon's personal initiative in addressing the climate-change issue globally.

The president mentioned different reform steps of the UN, which were taken after Ban Ki-moon assumed the office of Secretary General.

Ban Ki-moon assured the president of providing all out UN technical support for holding a free, fair and credible election next month.

"Despite being a Least Developed Country (LDC)," the UN SG said, "Bangladesh has achieved different socio-economic and infrastructural developments in various fields."

Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury, UN Resident Coordinator for Bangladesh Reneta Lok-Dessallien, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Ismat Jahan and high officials of Bangabhaban were present on the occasion.

BCL demands Hasina's release

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, yesterday formed a human chain in the city demanding unconditional release of Sheikh Hasina and withdrawal of cases filed against Swechhasebok League President AFM Baha Uddin Nasim.

Under the banner of 'Present and former student leaders of Madaripur district' several hundred BCL men formed the human chain stretching from the National Public Library to Bangla Academy at around 12:00 noon.

Top BCL leaders including Mahmud Hasan Ripon, Mahfujul Haider Chowdhury Roton, Sohel Rana Tipu and Sajjad Saqib Badsha took part in the programme.

After the human chain programme, they held a brief rally at the Teacher-Student Centre intersection to press home their demands.

Speakers at the rally demanded immediate lifting of the state of emergency for the sake of holding a free, fair and credible general election.

They alleged that a conspiracy is going on to declare Hasina ineligible for upcoming polls.

They vowed to resist any such conspiracy against Hasina and Awami League.

4th nat'l debate festival ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day fourth national debate festival organised by National Debate Federation Bangladesh concluded yesterday.

The participants in the festivals participated in various model debates.

A cultural programme was also held at the concluding day of the festival.

Around 1000 debaters from different educational institutions across the country participated in the debate festival held at the National Museum in the city.

Businessmen robbed of Tk 10 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some armed muggers snatched Tk 10 lakh from two businessmen leaving one of them bullet injured on way to their shops from a bank at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

The victims were identified as Saifuddin Tipu, 40, owner of New Rafin Corner at Rafin Plaza market in Nilkhet area, and Omar Faruq Khan, 46, owner of Khan Enterprise in the same market.

Dhanmondi police said six muggers riding on three motor-bikes waylaid the rickshaw carrying the businessmen on Road 5 at Dhanmondi and snatched Tk 10 lakh from their possession firing two bullets on both the thighs of Faruq.

Police said Tipu accompanied by Faruq went to the Dhaka Bank branch in Dhanmondi area to draw Tk 10 lakh.

Local people rushed Faruq to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Change attitude to ensure women's rights

Justice Fazlul Karim urges judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, a senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, on Saturday said the judges will have to apply their mindset within the legal framework while discharging their functions in order to remove gender inequality and establish the rights of women.

"There are discriminations against women in the society. We will have to come out of this situation by changing our attitudes. The judges dealing with the cases regarding women will have to think how to give relief to the victims," he said.

Justice Fazlul Karim was speaking as chief guest at a seminar titled 'Justice System Education Initiative on Gender Equality Issues' organised by Khan Foundation at Democracy Auditorium in the city.

He said the personal or state life cannot be self-reliant without the women folk.

"The women folk relentlessly perform their duties in all stages of the society but we don't value their works. We should be aware of their contributions," he added.

Justice Fazlul Karim said the judges will have to be careful so that the women and children are not victimised in any false case.

He hoped that the situation will improve day by day.

Justice Md Joynul Abdin, a judge of the Appellate Division, said the judges will have to be equipped with laws, knowledge and information in order to deal with the cases smoothly.

He said the judges, lawyers and police concerned should work collectively to ensure fair justice.

He urged the rights groups to play proactive role in creating awareness about discrimination against the women.

Justice MA Matin, another judge of the Apex court, said the women must be empowered in order to fight the legal battle against the discrimination against them.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Mahbul Alam said

the situation that the women folk are facing in the courts for justice is not desirable at all.

They will have to be empowered from the grassroots level in order to establish justice in the society, he added.

Presided over by Executive Director of Khan Foundation Advocate Rokhsana Khandaker, the seminar was also addressed by High Court Judge Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Dhaka District Judge AKM Ishfaq Hossain.

Cardiology summit Nov 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to creating awareness among physicians about the advancements in the pharmacological sector and implantable device therapies in cardiology, a summit will be held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Friday.

The programme titled, 'Dhaka Heart Rhythm Summit' will focus on three major heart conditions - Sick Sinus Syndrome, Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Heart Failure.

National Professor Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdul Malik will attend the programme as the director and Associate Professor Dr Afzalur Rahman as the scientific director.

More than 200 physicians are expected to attend the summit. "Significant advances in the medical management of cardiac ailments have seen in the past few years.

Conventionally drugs used to be the only treatment options for most of these cardiac disorders," said Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdul Malik adding that it is good that advances in the field of electronics and computers have made it possible to implant small therapeutic devices in the patient, including Biventricular Pacemaker.

"The main objective of the summit is to create awareness on different rhythm problems and thus help physicians to make timely diagnosis thereby offering optimum medical treatment," said Dr Rahman, the scientific director.

According to the experts, three out of every 10,000 people across the world get affected with Sick Sinus Syndrome while the rate of heart failure has been increasing day by day and more than 550,000 new cases of heart failure is diagnosed in the United States each year.



Guardians stand in long queues on the Vigarunnisa Noon School and College premises in the city yesterday to collect the admission test forms of class one (Bangla medium) for their wards.

SONGS FROM THE STRINGS

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