

HOMAGE TO LIBERATION WAR MARTYRS



Different socio-political organisations and individuals place wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar yesterday to pay homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War on the occasion of the Victory Day. (1) President Iajuddin Ahmed, (2) Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, (3) People from all walks of life, (4) Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, (5) BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, (6) Family members of Bir Shresthas, (7) War-maimed freedom fighters, (8) Gono Forum, (9) Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, (10) Ekkaturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, (11) Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, (12) Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and (13) Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

PHOTO: STAR

No quarters can foil elections

Says communications adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Allaying doubts about the national election, Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader has said it is not possible for any quarters to foil the elections scheduled for December 29.

"The election will be held on schedule... No quarters would be able to foil it," the adviser told reporters on Monday when asked about allegations that some quarters are trying to foil it.

He also said that now it is the responsibility of the voters to pick the honest and competent candidates in the election.

Education and Commerce

'Conspiracies still on against independence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conspiracies are still going on against the independence and sovereignty of the country, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

"Although we freed ourselves from the exploitation of Pakistani rulers in 1971, fresh conspiracies are on to make the country economically feeble and culturally poor by occupying our markets," they added.

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Sangskriti Kendra at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium in the city to mark the Victory Day.

While delivering his presidential speech, poet Al Mahmud said, "A vested quarter has been trying to derail us from our progressive stand and we have to work unitedly to move the nation forward."

On this day the nation should take fresh vow to save the country, said the speakers. Noted cultural activist Askar Ibne Shaikh was present as chief guest at the discussion.

Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman told reporters that the government has reached this point of the election due to concerted efforts made by all.

"We have kept an eye on the process and would continue to do so until the end of the election," he said.

The advisers told this to reporters after they came out from a meeting on urbanisation in Chittagong city at the secretariat in the capital. Law and LGRD advisers were also present at the meeting.

BIJOY SARANI-TEJGAON RD Affected people demand Rajuk plots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People who have lost their land and homesteads due to construction of Bijo Sarani-Tejgaon Link Road yesterday demanded plots from the ongoing projects of Rajuk.

In a press release, member-secretary of the union of affected house owners Mohammad Abdul Hai said although the government gave them Tk 8.04 lakh per katha, this amount was very meager.

"We had submitted a memorandum to the chief adviser (CA) demanding our rehabilitation and following that he instructed Rajuk chairman and housing secretary to take proper steps in this regard, but Rajuk has not taken any step so far," he said.

"We are also feeling helpless as no announcement came from the speech of CA during the inauguration of the road yesterday," he added.

Hai said although Rajuk has invited applications for its Purbachal and Uttara 3rd phase projects, it did not keep any special provision for them.

VICTORY DAY CELEBRATED

Pledge to reject war criminals in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday celebrated 37 years of liberation, saluting the valiant sons and daughters of the soil who made the supreme sacrifices in the Liberation War in 1971 for a modern and democratic state.

Thousands of people from all walks and ages across the country gathered at the memorials of the martyrs to pay tribute to the national heroes amid calls for trial of the war criminals and boycotting them in the national polls.

On this day in 1971, General AAK Niazi, chief of the Pakistani occupation forces, along with 93,000 Pakistani troops, surrendered to the joint forces of Mukti Bahini and Mitra Bahini in Dhaka following a miserable defeat.

Bangladesh proclaimed its independence on March 26, 1971 after 23 years of struggle for self-determination, bringing

down the erstwhile West Pakistani armed forces' genocidal wrath on its people the night before.

In a heinous genocide, the Pakistan army and their local collaborators Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams -- launched a barbarous crackdown killing innocent people in the erstwhile East Pakistan at midnight past March 25, 1971.

The nation, under the paramount leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, finally clinched independence on December 16 after the nine-month-long liberation war.

The day was a public holiday. The national flag was hoisted atop all government, semi-government and other important establishments. The day was heralded by a 31-gun salute at dawn.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed placed wreaths at the

National Memorial to pay homage to the Liberation War martyrs. They stood for a few moments in silence to pay respects to the gallant heroes of the soil.

Advisers, special assistants to the chief adviser, chiefs of three services of the armed forces, diplomats, freedom fighters, and senior civil and military officials were present on the occasion.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed inaugurated the Victory Day rally and parade of children and juveniles at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

AL Chief Sheikh Hasina and the party leaders and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other BNP leaders also placed wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar.

Later, Hasina placed wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu

Memorial Museum, while Khaleda Zia visited the mausoleum of late president Ziaur Rahman, one of the sector commanders during the liberation war.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jatiya Party, Liberal Democratic Party, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Gonatantrik Biblobi Party, Sonar Bangla Party, Jatiya Gonatantrik League and other organisations, including Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Bangabandhu Sangskriti Jote, Amra Muktojoddhar Santan, Kendriya Kochi-Kanchar Mela, Dhaka Reporters Unity, Garments Workers Unity Forum, Jatiya Samajtantrik Samik Jote, Chhatra Oikya Forum, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon, Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Moitree Parishad also placed wreaths at the National Memorial.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and his wife Prof Anwara Begum hosted a reception on

the occasion attended by Chief Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, advisers to the caretaker government, diplomats, senior government officials, judges, educationists and eminent citizens.

Meanwhile, Awami League and CPB leaders boycotted the reception at Bangabhaban protesting the Jamaat's move to invite Bangladesh President-e-Islami.

To mark the occasion, newspapers published special supplements and television channels broadcasted special discussion and cultural programmes. Special prayers were offered at the mosques, temples and churches.

Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and other socio-cultural bodies organised cultural programmes to mark the day.

DU ADMISSION Final hearing on writ today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) is likely to hold final hearing today on the writ petition challenging the legality of Dhaka University's new admission conditions that disqualify Aleem graduates for their admissions to seven departments at the university.

Upon a time prayer moved by Shaden Malik, a lawyer for Dhaka University authorities, an HC bench comprising Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hasnain on Sunday fixed the date for hearing the matter.

Following an application, the same bench on December 2 stayed for four weeks the operations of the university's additional admission conditions disqualifying the Aleem graduates for their admissions to the departments of Bangla, English, International Relations, Mass Communication and Journalism, Economics, Women and Gender Studies and Linguistics.

Earlier on October 26, upon a writ petition filed by five DU admission seekers including Ibrahim Khalkil, who secured GPA-5 in Madrasa Education Board Examinations, the HC bench of Justices Syed Mahmud Hossain and Quamrul Islam Siddiqui issued a rule upon the Dhaka University authorities to explain why the new admission conditions disqualifying Aleem graduates for admission to seven departments should not be declared illegal.

Barrister Belayet Hossain, a lawyer for the petitioners, yesterday told The Daily Star that hearing of the writ petition will be held on Wednesday (today), if the matter is enlisted at the top stage of the day's cause list of the HC bench.



Members of Upajatiya Cultural Academy of Netrakona take part in the Victory Day Parade at Bangabandhu National Stadium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR