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Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971) takes out a candlelit procession from the Central Shaheed Minar in the city that ended in front of the mass grave at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University yesterday demanding war crimes trial immediately.

BLACK NIGHT OF MARCH 25

One-minute blackout in memory of martyrs

DU CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF), a platform of sector commanders in the Liberation War, put off lights for a minute from 11:59pm to 12:00am in front of Shikha Chirantan in memory of millions of unarmed Bangalees who were killed by Pakistani invasion forces on this black night in 1971.

Earlier, leaders of the forum called on the countrymen to switch off all the lights across the country for a minute to participate in the programme at Shikha Chirantan at Suhrawardy Udyan in the city.

Later, sector commanders, freedom fighters, cultural activists and other audience came to light by lighting torches.

Twelve freedom fighters, including sector commanders, handed over torches of hope to the representatives of new generation. Hundreds of people present at the programme lit candles taking fire from the torches.

SCF leader Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khondaker called on the young generation to play an important role in materialising the dreams of freedom fighters by building a prosperous Bangladesh.

He hoped that the government would be able to punish war criminals through the trial by next year.

Different organisations observed the black night by holding various programmes, including torch and candlelit processions and staging dramas, on the Dhaka University (DU) campus and at Central Shaheed Minar in early hours of yesterday.

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971) brought out a torch procession following a discussion at the Shaheed Minar around 8:00pm that ended in front of the mass grave at Jagannath Hall DU.

"I feel a bit proud today that we have been able to begin the war crimes trial process, which was halted for long," said Finance Minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhith at the discussion.

Welcoming the government for beginning with the process of trial of war criminals, speakers at the discussion urged the government to remain alert so that the war criminals cannot stop the process.

Bangladesh Chhatra League DU unit

brought out a candlelit procession that paraded through the street connecting Shaheed Minar and Jagannath Hall.

The students of theatre department staged a drama on the hall premises on how hundreds of innocent teachers and students were slaughtered on the campus while fine art the students displayed artworks depicting the black night.

Slogan Ekattur, a platform of DU students, staged a mime depicting the mass killings on this night in 1971 on the TSC premises.

Meanwhile, speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded re-evaluation of the role of police during the liberation war claiming that it was police who took up arms against the Pakistani forces.

They placed the demand at the discussion held in front of the memorial to martyred police personnel at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

State Minister Shamsul Haque Tuku, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad and DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque attended the programme.

Programmes to celebrate Independence Day

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural and political organisations will observe the Independence Day 2010 in the city today by holding a series of programmes throughout the day.

On the occasion, President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia in separate messages congratulated the countrymen and paid their rich tributes to the martyred freedom fighters of the Liberation War in 1971.

The president in his message urged the countrymen to get united based on the spirit of the liberation war to speed up the march of democratic advancement and development of the country.

Terming the historic Independence Day a glorious day in the national life, he said one of the prime objectives of the hard-earned Independence was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

In her message, the premier said the gov-

ernment is working to build hunger, poverty and illiteracy-free Bangladesh by 2021, the golden jubilee year of the independence.

She called on all to assist the government being imbued with patriotism.

The opposition leader in a statement said a conspiracy is going on to make Bangladesh a dependent country.

She urged all to get united to foil the conspiracy against the country.

The celebration of the day will start from the National Memorial at Savar with the president and the PM placing wreaths at 5:57am. Khaleda will also place a wreath.

Hasina will also address a children's rally as the chief guest at Bangabandhu National Stadium at 8:30am today.

An Independence Day Parade will be held at the stadium at 8:30am. The PM will inspect the parade as the chief guest.

Awami League will hoist the national and party flags atop the offices of the party across the country. The AL leaders will place wreaths at the memorial in the morning and at the

portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi and at his grave at Tungipara.

The opposition BNP will hold a rally at its central office at 3:00pm.

Communists Party of Bangladesh will hoist the national flag as well as and the party flag atop all the offices of the party. The party leaders will also place wreaths at the memorial in the morning.

Liberation War Museum will hoist the national flag on the museum premises and hold a cultural function in the morning while Kendriya Kochi Kanchar Mela will hold a discussion at its auditorium at 11:00am.

The National Shishu Park at city's Shahbagh will remain open for all children without any tickets from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.

Shaheed Paribar Kalyan Samity of DU will hold a discussion and a milad mahfil at the university. A daylong screening of films on liberation war will be held at Star Cineplex at Basundhara City today.

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Stephan Smith in a message greeted Bangladesh on its Independence and National Day. The message was conveyed to Bangladesh high commission in Canberra.

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion and a cultural programme on the academy premises at 4:30pm today.

BDR Director General Maj Gen Moinul Islam will pay respects to the martyred BDR members, who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the independence, at Rifles' Shaheed Minar at Pilkhana in the city at 9:30pm.

The organisations, which will place wreaths at the mausoleum, include Bangladesh Krishak League, Bangladesh Mohajir Welfare and Development Committee, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Christian Association and Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University.

Mahbub, Badruddoza SCBA president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF) ruled this year's Supreme Court Bar Association election bagging seven posts, including president and secretary, while Awami League-backed Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) won seven, including treasurer.

JAF candidates Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and Badruddoza Badal were elected president and general secretary respectively for one year.

Election Commissioner Advocate Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque declared the result in the early hours of yesterday. The two-day

polling started on on the association premises on Wednesday.

The office bearers elected from JAF include Vice President Golam Mostafa, Assistant Secretary AJM Morshed Al Mamun and Executive Members Shahidul Islam, Ziaul Haque Zia and Nasreen Akhter.

SASP candidates who won the election are Vice President AKM Fazlul Haque Khan Farid, Treasurer Nuruzzaman Khan Hiru, Assistant Secretary Mushfaqur Rahman Sabuj and Executive Members Afroza Chowdhury, MA Kamal Khan Daut, Afroza Nazneen and Bilkis Fatema.

