



# FLOREAL TRIBUTE *to war martyrs*



President Zillur Rahman takes salute at the Victory Day parade of the armed forces at the National Parade Square in the city yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina present on the occasion. Earlier, President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid, Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Gono Forum Warid Dr Kamal Hossain and different socio-political organisations pay their respect to the War of Liberation martyrs by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## Pak textbooks still see '71 war as conspiracy

PTI, Islamabad

Nearly four decades after the 1971 war, Pakistani school textbooks continue to focus on conspiracy theories involving India, Russia and the US regarding the creation of Bangladesh while glossing over the Pakistan Army's atrocities in the erstwhile East Pakistan.

While the findings of Pakistan's Hamood-ur-Rehman Commission on the 1971 Indo-Pak war were never made public, students at the Metric and Intermediate levels of school (Classes nine to 12) "are being taught conspiracy theories and a factually incorrect version of history", according to an article on the website of the Dawn newspaper.

The Pakistan Studies textbook for classes nine and 10 fail to mention the role of late premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto or the Pakistan People's Party in its section on the 1971 war and lists the "role of Hindu teachers" and "international conspiracies" among the reasons for the "fall of East Pakistan".

"A large number of Hindu teachers were teaching in the educational institutions in East Pakistan. They produced such literature which created negative thinking in the minds of Bangalees against the people of West Pakistan," the textbook states.

The section on "international conspiracies" states, "About 10 million Hindus were living in East Pakistan. India stood at the back of these Hindus to protect their interests. India wanted to separate East Pakistan to strengthen the economic position of the Hindus."

"Many Hindus acted as spies for India. Russia was against Pakistan because Pakistan had allowed America to establish military bases in Pakistan."

"On the other hand, America also wanted separation of East Pakistan. Under the circumstances Russia openly supported India's aggression against Pakistan."

"appalling" that the government is "yet to make changes in the syllabi being taught to Pakistan's future generation".

While the Pakistan Studies textbooks for classes 10 and 11 mention the role of the Mukti Bahini and India's support for the group, they are an "incorrect version of the story behind the creation of Bangladesh", the report said.

Both textbooks make no mention "of the documented atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army - which includes rapes, targeted killings - against the Mukti Bahini and the genocide of the Bangalee population".

The textbooks fail to mention the number of civilian deaths in East Pakistan in the period leading up to the creation of Bangladesh.

Nor do they "mention Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's inflexible stand on sharing power with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League", the report said.

Abbas Hussain, director of the Teachers Development Centre, described this version of history "a farce".

"We give our children hocus pocus in textbooks."

Asked how teachers feel about teaching students such material, Hussain replied, "Most teachers have classroom schizophrenia, where the children and teachers are in a sort of conspiracy that there is a real world outside the classroom and there is a fictitious world in the classroom and you jolly well obey that!"

Noted academic Pervez Hoodbhoy said, "Forty years later, Bangladesh has many disputes with India but it shows not the slightest inclination to reintegrate with Pakistan."

"If Pakistan's school books actually taught honest history, they would be explaining why East Pakistanis felt exploited and fought for their independence. Instead, our children are taught cock-and-bull conspiracy nonsense."

### DHAKA

T O D A Y

<p><b>Conference</b> Society of Nuclear Medicine Bangladesh will organise a national conference. Venue: Radisson hotel, Time: 10:00am.</p> <p><b>Book fair</b> Swadhinata Academy will arrange a Bangabandhu book fair. Venue: Public library auditorium, Time: 5:20pm.</p> <p><b>Photography exhibition</b> A solo photography exhibition by Masuma Pia will be inaugurated. Venue: Drik gallery,</p>	<p>Time: 4:00pm.</p> <p><b>Blood donation programme</b> Quantum Foundation will arrange a blood donation programme. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.</p> <p><b>Meeting</b> Bangladesh Jubo Union will arrange a meeting. Venue: 21/1 Purana Paltan, Time: 4:00pm.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b> Jatiya Party-JP will arrange a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 3:30pm.</p>
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### T O M O R R O W

<p><b>Rally</b> Gonotantri Party will hold a commemorative rally. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Central Shaheed Minar.</p> <p><b>Conference</b> Bangladesh Glaucoma Society will organise a conference. Venue: Sheraton hotel, Time: 9:00am.</p> <p><b>Classical songs programme</b> Srijan will arrange a classical songs programme. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Time: 6:30pm.</p> <p><b>Conference</b> An international conference on electrical and computer</p>	<p>engineering will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel, Time: 10:30am.</p> <p><b>Cultural programme</b> Shanto-Mariam Foundation will arrange a cultural programme. Venue: House no-20, Road no-1, Sector no-3, Uttara, Time: 6:30pm.</p> <p><b>Debate</b> Debate for Democracy will organise a debate and discussion on the occasion of International Migrants Day. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 3:00pm.</p> <p><b>Conference</b> BRAC university will arrange a conference. Venue: BRAC centre, 75, Mohakhali, Time: 10:00am.</p>
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## COUNTRY CELEBRATES 40TH VICTORY DAY Call to try war criminals, uphold democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and socio-cultural organisations yesterday observed the nation's 40th victory day amid much enthusiasm with a call to accelerate the trial of war criminals and uphold country's democracy and sovereignty.

Marking the day, main opposition BNP brought out a colourful procession starting from Naya Paltan and ending at Moghbazar after marching through different city streets, vowing to protect democracy and country's independence.

Inaugurating the procession, party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said ruling government is strangling independence, sovereignty and spirit of liberation war.

"Government is pushing the nation into a chaotic situation by killing and torturing the opposition leaders and workers."

Delwar said government has made independence vulnerable by serving others instead of protecting country's interest and urged the people to stand against it.

A number of senior leaders led the procession while several thousand party men participated in the procession bearing colourful banners, placards and posters. They also bore portraits of late president Ziaur Rahman, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman.

They carried national and party flags and chanted anti government slogans while many were seen dancing.

Talking to reporters in the morning after placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar and at late president Ziaur Rahman's grave in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Delwar alleged that democracy is now at stake as there has been a one-party rule in the country in guise of democracy.

He warned that his party, along with the people, would wage a tough movement to

protect democracy and independence.

Meanwhile thousands of Dhaka University (DU) students came down on the campus streets to celebrate the victory moment early yesterday.

Different organisations including Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA), Slogan-71, Dhaka University Film Society (DUPS), Dhaka University Tourists Society (DUTS), Dhaka University Photographic Society (DUPS) jointly launched 3-day programmes including flying of fanush (colourful balloons), firecracker display and concert of patriotic songs at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) area to mark the day.

Boys and girls wearing red and green dresses and flying the national flags participated in the victory procession while singing and dancing. They also threw dirt yesterday afternoon at the cartoons of war criminals and demanded start of the trial soon.

Officials and doctors of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) placed wreath at the National Memorial at Savar and at Bangabandhu's mural at BSMMU premises.

Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) Jatiya Dibosh Ujapan Committee organised a march past at BAU stadium to mark the day.

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts organised a 3-day art camp titled 'Bijoy Dibosh Chitromela-2010' at Bengal Centre in the city to mark the day.

Besides, Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), Zaker Party, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan, Samajtrantik Chhatra Front, Samajtrantik Mahila Front, Bangladesh University, Mohammadpur Preparatory High School, Government Laboratory High School, Garments Sramik Oikya Forum placed wreath at the national memorial and organised different programmes to mark the day.

Different programmes to mark the day were also organised at Khulna.