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THE MARITIME VERDICT

Analysis on why it went in favour of Bangladesh

PAGE 15

COUP TRIAL IN TURKEY

Ex-army chief Ilker Basbug went on trial yesterday

PAGE 7

BACK ON TOP

Asia Cup blast makes Shakib the best ODI all-rounder

PAGE 16



Fresh vow to speed up war trial

Nation salutes war heroes on Independence Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's 41st independence day was observed yesterday with the nation taking a vow to expedite the war crimes trial, and consolidate democracy in line with the spirit of the War of Liberation.

As the day broke, people from all walks of life began crowding into the Liberation War memorials across the country to honour those who had laid down their lives to liberate the country.

Amid the celebrations of independence commemorating war heroes, it was clear that the spirit of the Liberation War had permeated the country.

This year the Independence Day celebrations took on a greater dimension as the government is conferring awards on some

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



The fluttering reds and greens in the hands of people at the National Memorial in Savar hail the independence achieved through the supreme sacrifices of millions and a nine-month long armed struggle.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The Daily Star stands corrected

The Daily Star and several other newspapers recently carried reports based on stories published in The Khaleej Times and Daily Mail Online about the admission by Pakistani military officials in court that the ISI paid money to BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia for the general election in 1991.

This newspaper tried to establish the veracity of the story but has failed, so far, to find any independent corroboration of the published reports. Thus, on the basis of information available at the moment, we stand corrected.

It needs to be asserted here that it is widely

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

The Daily Star on Sunday talked to four of the foreigners who are in the city now to receive state accolades for their role in the Liberation War. Of them, Biman Mullick designed postage stamps for the Bangladesh government in exile; ex-Labour MP Michael Barnes made the British people aware of what was going on here in 1971; photographer Takayoshi Suzuki campaigned across Japan and raised funds for the refugees; and Bibhu Kumari Devi of Tripura worked for around 50,000 Bangladeshi families that her husband late Maharaja Kirit Bikram Kishore had sheltered on his palace premises.

Selfless acts they did for a nation bound for freedom



BIMAN MULICK

Biman Mullick, a Bangla-speaking Indian citizen now living in the United Kingdom, designed some postal stamps in 1971 at the request of Bangladesh government-in-exile

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



MICHAEL BARNES

Former British MP Michael Barnes sees the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a terrible tragedy for Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



TAKAYOSHI SUZUKI

Takayoshi Suzuki took photos of Bangladeshi refugees and campaigned across Japan to raise fund for them in 1971.

Now a computer expert, Suzuki is one of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



BIBHU KUMARI DEVI

Rajmata Bibhu Kumari Devi of India's state of Tripura is happy to see the progress Bangladesh has made since attaining independence 41 years ago.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

INTERVIEW WITH BBC Durrani denies funding BNP for '91 polls

STAR REPORT

General Asad Durrani, former chief of Pakistani intelligence agency ISI, has outright denied funding BNP before the 1991 parliamentary polls of Bangladesh.

In an exclusive interview with BBC Bangla Service on Saturday, the former ISI boss termed the allegation totally baseless and fabricated.

Durrani also told the BBC that he never spoke about ISI's providing money to BNP, the main opposition party in Bangladesh, in his statement to the Pakistan Supreme Court.

"To my knowledge there was no reference to Bangladesh during the Supreme Court hearing and whatever I had said before the court is available there," he said. "I, therefore, can say that nobody in the court spoke on providing such money [to BNP]."

Some local newspaper reports recently quoted the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Indian army chief offered Rs 14cr bribe

His claim under CBI probe

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Both

Houses of

Indian

parliament

were

rocked

yesterday

as opposition

members created

uproar over Army Chief

General VK Singh's allegation

that he was offered Rs

14 crore bribe by an

equipment lobbyist.

Terming the allegation

'serious', Defence

Minister AK Antony

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



30 hurt as AL, BNP activists clash at National Memorial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 people were injured and 15 vehicles vandalised yesterday during a clash between activists of the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP over who would be at the National Memorial first.

Spurred by an earlier clash between two factions of the BNP, the half-an-hour-long incident also caused damage

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Khaleda obstructed
Alleges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP alleged that its Chairperson Khaleda Zia was yesterday obstructed on her way to the National Memorial in Savar.

BNP acting secretary

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Foreign friends get honours for war role today

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh will present awards to its foreign friends today for their outstanding contributions to the country's Liberation War 41 years ago.

The foreign friends' support came at a juncture when the Bangladeshis stood up against barbaric atrocities and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

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