



THE MOMENT OF VICTORY

Recalling the day the Pakistan occupation force surrendered

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GUERRILLA 1971

Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul goes back to Liberation War days

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'BEAUTIFUL LITTLE KIDS'

In tears, Obama mourns the children killed in school shooting

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BISHWAJIT MURDER

Stabber captured

Father who wanted son to be punished dies an hour after his arrest

RASHIDUL HASAN

Ansar Ali Khalifa, father of Rafiqul Islam Shakil who hacked Bishwajit Das with a machete, died of cardiac arrest yesterday morning, an hour after Shakil was nabbed by police.

On hearing about his son's arrest, Ansar felt serious chest pain around 6:00am and was taken to Barisal Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, family sources said.

Ansar, 65, fell ill on December 9 at his village home in Barisal as he watched on TV his son indiscriminately hacking Bishwajit, a 24-year-old tailor, during the early hours of the opposition blockade.

Two days after the ghastly incident in Old Dhaka, Ansar told The Daily Star that he wanted his son to get punished for the brutal act. "I couldn't believe what I saw on

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After arrest



Rafiqul Islam Shakil with a machete in the attack on Bishwajit on December 9.

STAR FILE PHOTO

4 victims of 'cover-up'

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

In an apparent bid to back the home minister's December 11 claim of arrests in Biswajit murder case, police detained 14 persons. Ten were released hours after, but the rest are still languishing in prison despite having no criminal records.

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Shri Jagdish C Sharma, left, receives Friends of Liberation War Honour from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Jagdish trained freedom fighters during the Liberation War and actively took part in battles as a member of the Indian Mitra Bahini. Another photo on page 19 and the list of those honoured on page 2.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Thank you all

PM tells 62 friends of Bangladesh during War of Liberation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday honoured 60 more foreigners and two organisations for their outstanding contributions to the country's War of Independence 41 years ago.

Honouring the foreign friends, whose support came when the Bangalees stood up against the atrocities and genocide and contributed to the eventful emergence of sovereign Bangladesh through a nine-month war, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

said: "Your help had accelerated the defeat of the occupational forces in 1971."

"The country is celebrating its 41st anniversary of victory tomorrow [Sunday]. It marks the victory for our foreign friends,

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V-DAY Today

Our epic victory

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Freedom, a many-splendoured thing, illuminated our lives on this day, on a declining winter afternoon, forty one years ago. It came suddenly and yet it had

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Friend among foes

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Forty one years ago, Pakistani national Syed Asif Shahkar was branded as a traitor in his country for protesting the genocide in Bangladesh by the then Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War in 1971.

Yesterday, he was honoured as a friend of Bangladesh. Syed Asif now considers Bangladesh as his other home country. He wants to have a home and live here. He urged the

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Syed Asif Shahkar



Ten-month twins William, left, and Ellenita practise their swimming skills in the pool.

PHOTO: DAILYMAIL

Water babies

10-month-olds can swim the length of a pool
DAILYMAIL ONLINE

William and Ellenita are the gorgeous little babies who can swim a full 25-metre length of their local pool unaided. That's without armbands, life jackets or any supporting hands.

Charley, their mother, was passionate about water and had worked as a children's swimming instructor in her early 20s. She married Victor in 2008 and the following year became pregnant. Their delight was doubled when a scan revealed they were

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TOP TERROR FREED SECRETLY Criminal Bikash out with a mission?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top listed criminal Bikash was hurriedly and secretly freed from Kashimpur Jail-2 early Friday allegedly to suppress political rivals ahead of upcoming parliamentary election, claimed sources.

The sources on condition of anonymity also said a relative of a minister played the key role in having Bikash freed and in the process no law enforcement or intelligence agencies were notified.

The said relative with a few others were waiting at the jail gate with a car. They left with Bikash as soon as he was out.



A file photo of Bikash

Everything was hushed up as the minister is very influential and the minister was instrumental in Bikash getting released. The convicted criminal is considered to be useful by him for regaining control in city areas where the ruling party appears vulnerable, said some unverifiable sources.

Bikash had been in jail since 1997 in connection with several murder cases mostly committed in the capital's Agargaon and Mirpur areas where he is from.

While the home ministry claims that

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40 YEARS OF CONSTITUTION

Ailing democracy lets people down

SHAKHAWAT LITON

A constitution constantly keeps evolving, but Bangladesh's constitution, which came into force on December 16, 1972, has largely been on a slide. Many cruel attacks on it by successive political and military regimes have by and large distorted its original vision and values.

It has been a glaring example of how a severe deficiency in democracy in a country betrays people's aspirations and undermines their rights as enshrined in the constitution at its commencement.

The growing confrontational culture in politics, moreover, is continuously mak-

ing the situation complicated, sparking crucial questions on whether and how it will be possible to bring back the spirit of the original constitution, let alone its further improvement.

Forty years ago, the day the constitution became operative was considered a fruit of the historic liberation war and was thus very meaningful to the people of the new-born Bangladesh. When they were celebrating the first anniversary of Victory Day on December 16, 1972, the constitution came into force with an emphatic recognition of their sovereignty, declaring

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বিজয়ের এই গৌরবময় দিনে
মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের বীর শহীদদের প্রতি
গভীর শ্রদ্ধা ও সালাম, দেশবাসীর প্রতি অভিনন্দন

ইসলামী ব্যাংক
বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড
ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত

ইসলামী ব্যাংক আমার ব্যাংক