



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stands in solemn silence showing respect to the martyrs of the War of Liberation at the National Memorial at Savar on the outskirts of the capital marking Victory Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders and activists place a wreath at the National Memorial in Savar on the outskirts of the capital marking Victory Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN *brief*

President leaves for London for medical check-up

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman left Dhaka for London yesterday on a nine-day visit for a medical check-up.

A regular Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight with the president onboard left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:30am.

Zillur will start his check-up at Bupa Cromwell Hospital in London today. The president is expected to return on December 24.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku, among others, saw him off at the

Crew of a ship dies in accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A crew of a ship died after falling from the upper deck in the outer anchorage of Chittagong port yesterday morning.

Mohammad Sahbur, 26, of Faridpur, was a cook in the ship, AKS Sahnewaj Zero.

Sahbur was standing on the upper deck holding the rope of a crane on the ship. The rope suddenly started rolling and he fell on the lower deck. Sahbur sustained head injuries, said police.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Man's body recovered from hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a man from a hotel in the capital's Kuril area yesterday.

The deceased was Amir Siddique, 46, son of Mostafizur Rahman Siddique of Chittagong. He rented a room of Sikder Hotel on Friday.

Ziauzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bhatara Police Station, said they recovered the body after breaking open the room's door.

Police recovered some sleeping pills from the room. They suspect the incident to be a suicide. Quoting family members, the OC said Amir had

3 fishermen rescued from Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard rescued three fishermen from Sandwip channel in the Bay of Bengal early yesterday.

The fishermen were Biplab Jaladas, 22, Bandilal Jaladas, 28 and Rabindra Jaladas, 20.

Lt Commander Atiqur Rahman Bhuiyan of the Coast Guard (east zone) said a patrol team of the coast guard found the fishermen floating, holding on to three empty drums around 12:30am.

Quoting the victims, he said the boat of the fishermen capsized when they were fishing in the channel.

They were handed over to their relatives after

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Lailunnahar Bhuiyan, mother of journalist Anis Alamgir, passed away due to old-age complications at her Chittagong residence on Saturday. She was 85.

She was buried beside her husband's grave yesterday after namaz-e-janaza on the premises of Taltala Mosque in Mirsarai.

Former minister Mosharraf Hossain and local Awami League leaders attended her janaza.

Dhaka Reporters Unity President Shahed Chowdhury, its General Secretary Elias Khan and other members expressed shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Dhaka-based Chittagong Journalists Forum President Anup Khastagir and General Secretary

Victory Day celebrated at home, abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a call to expedite the war crimes trial, different political and socio-cultural organisations and Bangladesh missions abroad observed the nation's 41st anniversary of victory yesterday amid much enthusiasm and gaiety.

The embassies and high commissions began the day with the hoisting of the Bangladesh flag followed by discussions, cultural programmes and special prayers seeking salvation of the souls of Liberation War martyrs, says press releases.

Messages of the day from the president, prime minister and foreign minister were read out before the Bangladesh expatriate community and high commission members.

The Bangladesh High Commission in Brunei Darussalam held the programmes involving the Bangladesh community

living there while speakers at a discussion in the Bangladesh embassy in Ankara, Turkey called upon the government to expedite the trial.

The organisations in Dhaka placed wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar and held discussions, rallies, photo exhibitions and cultural programmes and screened films on the Liberation War, says press releases.

The organisations are Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Awami Swechhasebak League, Bangladesh Jalaly Party, Bangladesh Jubo Moitree, Bangabandhu Society and Bangabandhu Gobeshona Parishad.

Dhaka University's disaster management department organised a photo exhibition, "War is a man-made disaster" in Teacher-Student Centre.



The Martyrs' Memorial in Khulna city's Gallamari area, built in memory of the freedom fighters and their family members who were brought here and killed by the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators -- the Razakar, Al-Badar and Al-Shams -- during the 1971 Liberation War.

PHOTO: STAR

Khulna was freed on this day

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

December 17 is a red letter day for Khulna dwellers as on this day in 1971 the Pakistani occupation forces surrendered to the allied forces of Bangladeshi freedom fighters and Indian forces in Khulna, a day after the rest of the country.

"News over the radio on December 16 that the Pakistani army had surrendered everywhere except Khulna made our blood boil. We were determined to free Khulna as soon as possible," said Sheikh Quamruzzaman Tuku, chief of Khulna unit Mujib Bahini.

Between December 11 and 16, freedom fighters had captured most of the camps of the Pakistani army and their local collaborators like the Razakars, Al-Badar and Al-Shams in the areas surrounding Khulna city.

The camps include Gallamari Radio Station, Khulna Lion's School, PMG Colony, Khulna Shipyard, Number 7 Jetty Ghat area, Tootpara and Boyra Fire Brigade Station, Wapda Building, Goalpara Power

Plant at Khalishpur and some places of Goalkhali and Daulatpur area.

On December 17, the freedom fighters started entering Khulna city through different points including Rupsha Ghat area via Senerbazar-Razapur, Crescent Jute Mill area, Kulutia area, Khulna Lion's School area, Mongla area and Batiaghata area.

Two major battles were won on this day -- one in Shiromony area and another in Khulna Shipyard area.

The Pakistani forces were fighting for the last two days, armed with several regiments of artillery, infantry and armoured divisions, including six tanks, in Shiromony area.

In the morning, the battle grew fierce, says freedom fighter SM Rezwan. The occupation forces used modern weapons, including anti-aircraft machine guns, mortars and rocket launchers.

laborators fled.

In the Khulna Shipyard area, the Pakistani forces ambushed a launch carrying freedom fighters along the Rupsha River. The liberation forces won but one freedom fighter had embraced martyrdom while 16 others were injured.

The freedom fighters marched to Khulna Circuit House grounds where the flag of an independent Bangladesh was raised around 10:30am by Major (Retd) Joynul Abedin and Gazi Rahmatulla Dadu.

Another flag was hoisted in Shaheed Hadis Park by freedom fighters.

Sector 9 Commander MA Jalil handed over several hundred prisoners of war, including their commander Brig Hayat Ali Khan, to General Dalbir Singh, chief of the Indian forces in the western region, in Khalishpur.

Hundreds of people of the newborn Bangladesh rushed out on to the streets at the end of the nine-month-long Liberation War chanting one slogan, "Joy Bangla".

Hasina, Khaleda pay tribute to Liberation War martyrs

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia yesterday paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of the War of Liberation by placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar marking the country's 42nd great Victory Day.

The prime minister placed a wreath at the memorial at 6:34am.

She stood there for some time in solemn silence as the last post was played on bugle showing respect to the land's great heroes.

Cabinet members, members of the parliament, chiefs of three services, and foreign diplomats, among others, were present.

Hasina also laid wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum

in the capital's Dhanmondi area around 7:50am.

Later, she stood-in for President Zillur Rahman during the Victory Day parade and took salute from the armed forces at the National Parade Ground. Zillur Rahman could not attend the programme due to his ill health.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders and activists placed wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar on the outskirts of the capital around 7:35am.

Later, she drove to the grave of BNP founder late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

Khaleda, flanked by the leaders and activists of BNP and its front and associate organisations, placed wreaths and offered fateha at Zia's grave around 9:00am.

BNP pledges to restore caretaker govt system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the country's Victory Day, the main opposition has pledged to strengthen democracy by restoring the non-party caretaker government system.

The country's democracy is at stake with law and order absent and the government is suppressing the opposition, senior BNP leader Tariqul Islam told journalists at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with party leaders and workers paid tribute to the party founder by placing wreath on his grave and offering fateha.

Tariqul also alleged that police barred Khaleda's motorcade for around 40 minutes in the morning while she was going to the National Memorial to pay homage to Liberation War martyrs.

Addressing a discussion at BNP's central office in Nayapaltan, Tariqul said, "The prime minister gifted a dead body to the nation in the month of victory by killing Bishwajit Das. Not only in Dhaka, Awami League killed many across the country this month."

Jasas, BNP's cultural wing, organised the discussion marking the Victory Day.



WEATHER
TODAY

Moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, MetOffice said.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35am.

Country's highest temperature 28.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.9 degrees at Srirangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.0	15.9	75	68
Chittagong	26.4	16.8	81	57
Rajshahi	25.3	13.2	100	85
Rangpur	25.4	13.0	78	78
Khulna	27.5	16.5	86	80
Barisal	26.6	14.6	84	87