

SPECIAL FEATURE

## LOOKING BACK TO MOVE AHEAD



As a nation we have yet to reach our full potential. The war of 1971 hangs over our heads like a dark cloud. We are at a crossroads in history; the outcome relies heavily on the ICT trials. They are a monumental chapter in our history. The current generation was born post war. Unlike the survivors of the war they did not experience the terror first hand.

**C**HOMPA, a domestic worker is 18 years old. She dropped out of school in class six to provide for her family of seven. Her knowledge of the war is limited but she is adamant about the guilt of the war criminals.

She has heard first hand accounts of the horrors inflicted on the Bangladeshis from her parents and relatives in her home village. She says that justice must be served to repair the damage done to our country. But she does not think the world cares for her opinion. "The country goes on without us, they don't want us, but they need us."

Munib is 13 and currently studying in class five. His father is working as a guard

and his mother is a domestic worker. Like Chompa, his knowledge comes from first-hand accounts and history books taught in his school. He first heard of the trials during the Shahbagh protests. Munib says the protests helped him learn more about the crimes committed by the razakars during the war.

He was horrified to learn about the dark foundations our nation was built on. Their guilt, he feels is clear as day. But he does not understand why it took so long for justice to be served. "The trials must continue and the death penalty must be served to all criminals," he says.

Jannatul is currently giving her A' levels

and is 19. She says her knowledge of the war is adequate but she did not know all the names of the razakars nor did she have an extensive knowledge of the crimes committed. She was aware that they were horrific in nature but did not know the full details. The Shahbagh protests she says, raised a fire in her soul. Her love for Bangladesh took a passionate turn. She was indifferent and frustrated with the direction the country was going in.

"Throughout our history, it was the youth who first fought for our freedom. It was the students who willingly spilled their blood so we could speak freely in our mother tongue. It was the youth who rose

### ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

Include friends and relatives in your activities. Get back to the comforts of home. Make sure that you make reservations early. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

### TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)

Wait and get all the information. Calm down; listen to your partner's complaints. Compromise may be necessary. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

### GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Do something that will be stimulating and creative. Look into career choices. Pay attention to small but important details. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Get together with people in powerful positions. You could find yourself left with someone's dirty laundry. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Double-check the house on your way out. Be diplomatic but stern. Talk to peers who you trust in order to get sound advice. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23 -SEPT. 23)

Learn little more about the person who's coming on to you. Take advantage of moneymaking ventures. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. You need to challenge yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Be honest with yourself. Someone is likely to lead you on. You can convince anyone of anything. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Your intellectual charm will entice new love interests. Make alternate plans just in case you need to make a career shift. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 -JAN. 20)

Problems with large corporations are apparent. You may find that your boss is not delighted with your work lately. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 -FEB. 19)

Your determination and sheer desire to do your own thing will be successful. Lending and borrowing may be a problem. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### PISCES (FEB. 20 -MARCH. 20)

Take positive action. Use your quick wit to win points and friends. You are best to put in some overtime. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.