

NATION REJOICES LIBERATION WAR VICTORY



Clockwise from top left, a child enjoys a day at National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar yesterday during a visit marking Victory Day. Members of the armed forces at National Parade Ground in the capital. Performers sing patriotic songs at a programme organised by Dhaka University and Chhayanaut at the gymnasium field on the campus intending to bring together voices of 4,000 people. A policeman check bags of visitors at Suhrawardy Udyan as a part of beefed up security measures. A procession brought out by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote from Central Shaheed Minar in the capital, bottom left.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The entire nation celebrated the country's Victory Day yesterday.

Several thousand ruling Awami League leaders, activists and supporters as well as common people brought out a colourful procession with a vow to punish all war criminals under trial and build a secular and democratic Bangladesh.

BNP also brought out a procession, the first in four years on Victory Day, from its Nayapaltna office.

The ruling Awami League activists gathered at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital around 2:00pm. They later marched towards Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi-32.

Before the procession, a rally chaired by Dhaka City unit AL acting president MA Aziz was held.

AL leaders Matia Chowdhury, Mahbul Alam Hanif, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Ahmad Hossain, and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, among others, addressed the rally.

Jubo League, Mahila League, Jubo Mahila League, Sramik League,

Swachhshasebak League and other front and like-minded organisations participated in the rally.

Different socio-cultural and educational institutions and organisations paid tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to liberate the country from the Pakistani occupation force in 1971.

At the Suhrawardy Udyan, thousands of people sang the national anthem on the occasion, reports our DU correspondent.

Elaborate programmes, including, rallies, processions, concerts, photo exhibitions, discussions and cultural events were also held at Dhaka University.

Bijoy 2015 Udjapan Jatiya Committee, Sector Commanders' Forum, Muktijuddher Chetona Bastabayan Committee and Gonojagoron Mancha jointly organised the Victory Day celebrations this year at the university.

Volunteer organisation "Dream Bangladesh" brought out a procession on the campus and was joined by hundreds of students and youths.

Dhaka University Journalists' Association organised a three-day photo exhibition titled "Road to Independence 1971".

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote brought out a colourful procession from Central Shaheed Minar.

Teachers, students and employees of DU led by Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique placed wreaths at National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar. Teachers, students and employees of North South University and officials and employees of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation and Janata Bank Limited also paid tributes to martyrs.

Several thousand BNP men gathered before their office and marched towards Malibagh. The party last brought out a rally on Victory Day in 2011, Shamimur Rahman, an assistant office secretary of BNP told The Daily Star.

BNP leaders claimed they could not organise programmes on Victory Day in the last four years as the government "did not permit them to do so".

Yesterday, BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir took part in the procession on a truck. No other senior leaders

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President Abdul Hamid cuts a cake at a presidential reception organised in Bangabhaban in the capital on the occasion of the country's Victory Day yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina next to him.

PHOTO: PID

India celebrates too

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Tripura yesterday celebrated Bangladesh's Victory Day commemorating the heroic Indian Army soldiers who laid down their lives in the 1971 Liberation War.

Tripura State Rifles and Indian Army in Agartala also paid tributes to the martyrs of 1971, say news reports from the northeastern state. Tripura Governor Tathagata Roy, accompanied by Tribal Welfare (Primitive Tribe, Plantation and Rehabilitation) and Jail Minister Manindra Reang, senior officials and other dignitaries laid a wreath at the War Memorial in the heart of Agartala.

Tathagata, who visited Bangladesh last

week, said, "Bangladeshi people and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina respectfully remembered the contribution and role of the Indian Army, government and people of India." He said Hasina was very grateful for India's role in the Liberation War.

"The brave Indian Army accompanied by people of then East Pakistan fought the war most successfully and protected the sovereignty of both present Bangladesh and India," he said.

India's Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh also exchanged greetings. A daylong programme at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in

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Switzerland gets first Bangladeshi lawmaker

CITY DESK

Iftikhar Ahmed, a former ILO official, has become the first ever Bangladeshi to become a Swiss lawmaker as he took oath of office in the Parliament (Conseil Communaux) of the prosperous, picturesque French-speaking Commune of Founex (Canton of Vaud) on the outskirts of Geneva on Tuesday.

Ahmed is a development economist having worked at the International Labour Office (ILO) in Geneva for

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