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## Freedom fighters on Razakars' list!

At least 7 including a martyr, chief prosecutor of war crimes tribunal are cited as collaborators

"... We are outraged, we are humiliated. We strongly condemn this."  
SUBHABRATA DUTT, SON OF FREEDOM FIGHTER MIHIR LAL DUTT AND GRANDSON OF MARTYR JITENDRA LAL DUTT, BOTH ON RAZAKARS LIST

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and RASHIDUL HASAN

They bravely fought in the Liberation War and one of them laid down his life to free the motherland from the clutches of the Pakistan army. They have been honoured by all as heroes since then.

Forty-eight years later, on this Victory Day, the families of the freedom fighters got the shocking news that the government of Bangladesh has put their names on the list of Razakars who collaborated with the Pakistan army in carrying out mass killings and atrocities against the Bangalees during the war.

The names of at least seven freedom fighters are on the list. One of them was tortured to death by the Pakistan army and four of them have passed away.

Even more astonishing is the fact that one of the seven freedom fighters is Ghulam Arief Tipoo, the chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, whose job is to prosecute war criminals of 1971.

The tribunals have so far delivered 41 verdicts against 95 people. Of them, 69 have been sentenced to death. None had been acquitted.

This year, Tipoo, a language movement activist, was conferred with the Ekushey Padak, a highly prestigious civilian award of the state.

"I'm astonished to see my name on the Razakar list," Tipoo said, adding, "It's a humiliation and I will take measures in this regard."

Apart from Tipoo, freedom fighters Abdus Salam and Mohsin Ali of

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath as President Abdul Hamid stands in silence at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar, paying tribute to the war heroes on the Victory Day yesterday.



## A glorious day for all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national flag was fluttering atop almost all buildings. People in red and green flooded many streets. Patriotic songs, played over loudspeakers, reverberated through narrow alleys and beside thoroughfares.

As light began to spread over the horizon in the foggy morning, thousands of people, irrespective of age and gender, headed towards memorials built in the memory of Liberation War martyrs across the country.

This is how the nation yesterday celebrated the 49th Victory Day, marking the moment the country was liberated from the

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PHOTO: BSS

## Protests spread all over India

DIVISIVE CITIZENSHIP LAW

Clashes with police, demos in Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Lucknow, Kerala; Mamata vows not to allow NRC, CAA in West Bengal

STAR REPORT

Protests against the amended citizenship legislation slammed as anti-Muslim spread to new areas of India and escalated in several other regions, with about 120 reported injured in New Delhi and Aligarh.

Police clashed with protesters in Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore and Lucknow, where hundreds of students tried to storm a police station, hurling volleys of stones at officers cowering behind a wall.

The scaled-up protests saw West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee leading a four-km street march in Kolkata in the east and arch political rivals CPI(M) and the Congress sharing the dais in Kerala capital Thiruvananthapuram in the south, another state whose government has opposed the citizenship law.

Speaking at the joint protest meeting, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said India "is facing a severe crisis. This has been deliberately created by the central government."

Kerala's finance minister Thomas Isaac tweeted: "United action of all secular force is the need of the hour."

In Kolkata, thousands gathered for a major demonstration called by Mamata Banerjee, a firebrand opponent of Modi.

"We will never allow NRC and CAA in Bengal.



No one will be ousted from the state. The CAA and the NRC will happen over my dead body. We believe in coexistence of all religions, caste and creed," Mamata said and vowed to continue the agitation against CAA and NRC till they are withdrawn.

She appealed to protesters to shun violence and read out an 'oath' for her party workers during the mega rally at Jorashanko, five days after arson and violent protests were witnessed in several parts of the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described as "deeply distressing" the violence on Sunday

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## Trapped in flames; help never came

The Gazipur factory ran without permission, had no fire exit

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND and RAFIUL ISLAM

"We are trapped by the flames. We can't go downstairs. Please help!" These were the words of Uttam Kumar Das as he called his cousin Ranajit after the fire broke out at an electric fan factory in Gazipur Sunday afternoon.

A few minutes later, Uttam's mother and other family members frantically tried to call him, but his phone was unreachable.

"My son was charred to death while being trapped by the fire. He could have saved his life if there was a way to escape," Uttam's mother Meena Rani Das wailed at her home in Keshorita area of the city yesterday.

Firefighters recovered the charred bodies of Uttam and nine others after they doused the fire on the top floor of the three-storey Luxury Smart Energy Saving Fan factory. The building was not meant for industrial use.

Twenty-six-year-old Uttam fed his parents with his meagre salary. He was the breadwinner of the family as his father was

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## Tk 100cr swindled

ACC probe finds 2 top officials transferred the money to three firms where they hold shares

NURUL HAYAT CHOWDHURY and MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Two top officials of the partner company of state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation have allegedly embezzled over Tk 100 crore by transferring the money to three companies they have shares in.

The findings of an ongoing investigation suggest that the actual amount embezzled from Standard Asiatic Oil Company Ltd (SAOCL) could be much higher, officials say.

Mainuddin Ahmed and Mohammed Shahed, director and general manager of SAOCL, allegedly embezzled the money between 2011 and 2018.

Mainuddin represents the shareholders who own 50 percent of SAOCL. BPC owns the other half represented by Shahed.

They allegedly transferred the funds to the accounts of Asiatic Oil Company Ltd, Pyramid Exim Ltd, and Goodwin Power Ltd.

Shahed, despite being on government payroll, is a director at Goodwin Power while Mainuddin has shares in Pyramid Exim and Asiatic Oil Company Ltd.

BPC Chairman Shamsur Rahman told The Daily Star that officials have been able to thoroughly review transactions of only the last two years.

"We are yet to get records of previous six years as the SAOCL authorities are not

properly cooperating," he said, adding that his office had decided to write to the ministry recommending punitive measures against the officials responsible.

The Anti-Corruption Commission started an investigation into allegations of irregularities at SAOCL in January this year.

The ACC found that Tk 43 crore was transferred illegally from an SAOCL account to Pyramid Exim between 2015 and 2018 and another Tk 14 crore to Goodwin Power between 2015 and 2016.

Of the three private companies, Asiatic Oil Company was established before 1971, Pyramid Exim in August 2014, and Goodwin Power in May 2015.

ACC officials said Tk 43 crore of SAOCL was transferred via 121 cheques to four accounts of Pyramid Exim and over Tk 14 crore was withdrawn from SAOCL account with 17 cheques and deposited to the account of Goodwin.

Investigators of the anti-graft watchdog Mahamudur Rahman and SM Sahidur Rahman submitted a report in February and seized passports of the suspects. The ACC on March 12 issued letters to every land and airport to restrict the two officials from leaving the country.

ACC Deputy Director Mahamudur Rahman told The Daily Star that Tk 57 crore was transferred to the accounts of two

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Meena Rani Das holds a photo of her son Uttam Kumar Das as she grieves for him at her home in Keshorita area yesterday. Uttam was burned to death in Sunday's fire at an electric fan factory in Gazipur.



PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

## Accused killed in 'shootout' with police

He was booked for rape, murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man, accused of rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl, was killed in a "shootout" with law enforcers at Faridpur town early yesterday.

Police arrested Yasin Mia, 25, in Wireless-para area of the town on Sunday, on charges of raping and murdering Fatema Begum, mentally challenged daughter of Elahi Sharif of Rajendrapur College area, on December 12.

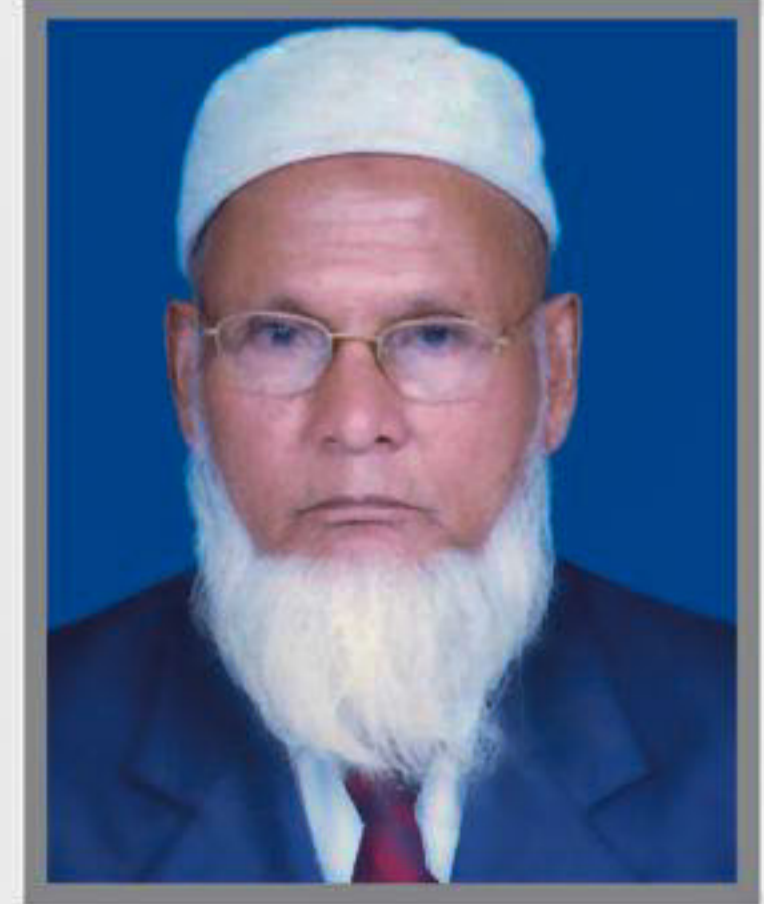
Zamal Pasha, additional superintendent of police in Faridpur, said they recovered the girl's body with stab wounds in several areas, from the boundaries of BTCL office around 6:00pm on December 13, a day after she had gone missing.

Following a case filed by the victim's father with Kotwali Police Station,

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## REMEMBERING WITH CRORES OF TRIBUTE

Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam (1928-2017)



Founder Chairman, Walton Group

We still can't accept that you are no more with us. Honor comes eventually in mind with the name S M Nazrul Islam, Founder Chairman, Walton Group, the pioneer of Electrical, Electronics, Automobiles and Home Appliance product manufacturing industry in Bangladesh, who breathed his last leaving us in a deep sorrow on this day of 2017. With his demise we have lost an Inventor, Founder and Earnest Guardian of this industry. But he will be remembered ever through what he did for the people and the country's economy. His strong leadership and enlightenment will continue to guide us in every path he walked with optimistic dreams. His passing away is really an irreparable loss for us. We wish from the bottom of our heart the departed soul be granted Jannah and stay in eternal peace.

In reverence & remembrance-  
Walton Family

