

FREEDOM IN THE AIR



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, PRABIR DAS, COLLECTED, PTSD

The nation donned red and green with pride yesterday. Since morning, people started queuing up at National Memorial in Savar to pay homage to the bravest souls who made supreme sacrifice for the country's liberation. *Clockwise from top left*, wearing a smile and flag themed headbands, students wait in line at the memorial. Braving early winter chills, youths with disabilities from CRP pay tributes. Like elsewhere, Dhaka University wore a festive look; a child with victory day inscribed on her cheek gives a glimpse of that near Shaheed Minar. A man decorates his rickshaw with flags at TSC. IGP Mohammad Javed Patwary places a wreath at a memorial in Rajarbagh Police Lines to commemorate martyred police members. On the occasion, President Abdul Hamid hosted a reception at Bangabhaban in the afternoon and exchanged greetings with wounded freedom fighters and dignitaries from home and abroad.

President, prime minister attend Victory Day parade

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday attended the Victory Day parade, marking the Victory Day.

Different contingents of Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force as well as freedom fighters, para-military force, law enforcement agencies and ministries participated in the parade.

The event, marking the moment the country was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month-long bloodstained war for liberation, was held at National Parade Square in the capital.

On this day in 1971, Bangladesh was born as an independent country under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, after the sacrifice of the lives of three million people and the honour of nearly half a million women.

The president took salute at the parade as chief guest, which was held under auspices of the 9th Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army, at the directives of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and supervision of the armed forces.

During the time, the president was

accompanied by Parade Commander and General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the division Maj Gen Mohammad Akbar Hossain.

The prime minister also enjoyed the march-past, fly-past and armoury acquisitions of different regiments and contingents on the parade ground.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Chief of Army Staff Gen Aziz Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat, Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Md Mahfuzur Rahman and Secretary-in-Charge of Liberation War Affairs Ministry M Arifur Rahman were present on the occasion.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, cabinet members, PM's advisers, parliament members, senior civil and military officials and their family members were also present.

People from all strata of life witnessed the over two-hour parade.

The parade displayed the continuous development of different civil and military organisations as well as socio-economic progress of the country. The spectacular fly past and aerobatic display of the MIG 29

and other aircraft of army aviation, navy aviation and Rab helicopter and parachute landing by army paratroopers enthralled spectators.

Modern and latest military hardware of the armed forces such as self-propelled guns, state-of-the-art ammunition plant, fourth generation tanks MBT-2000, armed personnel carrier, armoured recovery vehicles, multiple launch rocket system, air defence gun, air defence missile system, weapon locating rudder SLC-2, petrol craft and defender class boat were also displayed during the parade. Vehicles of various ministries also displayed their development activities.

In addition, a contingent of the Indian Army took part in the parade for the first time.

Later, the president and prime minister exchanged greetings with senior military officials and commanders of various units. The parade ended with a fireworks display.

On the occasion, the National Parade Ground was decorated with the images of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

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'How will she survive?'

Sister claims Khaleda not receiving proper treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's sister Selima Islam yesterday voiced concern over the well-being of the former prime minister, saying her sister is being denied proper treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

"Khaleda Zia is gravely ill. She is suffering from stomach ache. She cannot walk or eat, and doctors are not providing her with proper medication. How will she survive?" - Selima told journalists after meeting Khaleda at BSMMU.

The BSMMU medical board sent a report on the BNP chairperson to the Supreme Court on December 11, a day before the scheduled hearing on her bail prayer in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

During the hearing on December 12, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court rejected Khaleda's petition for bail and asked the BSMMU authorities to provide the BNP chief with advanced treatment immediately.

"Khaleda Zia's diabetes is out of control and her blood sugar level never comes below 12... today [yesterday] it went up to 15," Selima said.

She said Khaleda deserves bail considering her age, as she will not escape from the country.

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List of Razakars made with 'malicious intent' towards BNP: Fakhrul

Demands publishing of 'actual list'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the list of Razakars was published with a "malicious intent" towards BNP.

The party demanded publishing of the "actual" list of Razakars. "The list was prepared with political purpose. Our demand is to prepare a real list of Razakars and this can only be done by freedom fighters. The party of Ziaur Rahman can prepare such list," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, said.

Fakhrul came up with the remark after placing a wreath at the party founder Ziaur Rahman's grave in the capital.

In response to a query, the BNP leader said, "The list was prepared with malice towards BNP and without proper scrutiny. But it is too early to comment on how accurate it is."

Paying tribute to freedom fighters and martyrs, Fakhrul said the Liberation War was fought to establish a democratic state and society, but that dream has been shattered.

He alleged that the government was using the state machinery to establish a one-party rule in the country.

Earlier, Fakhrul along with party leaders and activists paid tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War at the National Martyrs' Memorial, marking Victory Day.

The BNP leader also alleged that people do not have the right to vote in the country.

"Democracy has completely disappeared from the country," he said. Fakhrul vowed to restore democracy by uniting people through the spirit of Liberation War and free BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail.

BNP standing committee members Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain and Abdul Moyeen Khan and party joint secretary general Khairul Kabir Khokon, among others, were present at that time.

DHAKA TODAY

FESTIVAL
Winterfest 2019
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Time: 3pm-8:30pm

TALK
Remembering the Liberation War
Venue: University of Asia Pacific
Time: 3:30pm

COMMEMORATION PROGRAMME
In Memories of Artist Qayyum Chowdhury
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Time: 5:30pm

FESTIVAL
Sangit Utshab 2019
Venue: TSC, Dhaka University
Time: 5:30pm

EXHIBITION
The Linking Web by Javed Jalil
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
Time: 4pm-8pm

THE LINKING WEB
Javed Jalil

Exhibition Opening: 06:30pm, Saturday, 30 Nov. 2019
Guest Speaker: Professor Niser Hossain
On View: 30 Nov. - 22 Dec. 2019, 04-08 pm
Curated by: Walter Rössler
Kakabadui, 1/11, Sibal Road (2nd Floor), Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. Facebook: KalaKendrad

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