



**AFGHAN WAR**  
US sets up  
commission to  
assess failures  
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Your Right to Know

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President Abdul Hamid attends the Victory Day Parade-2021 held at the National Parade Square in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

# We'll continue to move ahead

Says PM at V-Day celebration, administers oath to the nation to build a non-communal Bangladesh



UNB, BSS, Dhaka

Citizens joined Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in taking an oath to build the country as a developed, prosperous and non-communal "Sonar Bangla" imbued with the ideology of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee [of Independence] and the Victory Day in the Mujib Year, I take oath in glowing voice that I will not let the blood of the martyrs go in vain, I will love the country, I will use all my strength for the overall welfare of the people of the country," she said in the oath words, urging the people to join her vow afresh.

Hasina conducted the nationwide oath at 4:30pm from the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad, which was broadcast



live by Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and private TV channels.

The PM said, "We will build our beloved motherland as Sonar Bangla, we will continue to move ahead, raising our heads as a prosperous and victorious nation in the world."

People from the country's eight divisional cities and also from the grassroots took the oath together with the premier. Bangabandhu's younger daughter, Sheikh Rehana, was present.

The National Implementation Committee of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Birth Centenary Celebration organised the event titled "The Greatest Hero of the Great Victory" as part of the birth centenary and Bangladesh's Independence Golden Jubilee celebrations.

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# Cruel to the core

Pakistani forces, Bihari collaborators massacred 177 employees of Saidpur Railway Workshop during the war in 1971; most victims burned alive in boilers and furnaces

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and EAM ASADUZZAMAN

The words "Nazi forces" bring back memories of the horror unleashed at their concentration camps. What the Pakistani forces and their Bihari cohorts did at the Saidpur Railway Workshop in 1971 was as grisly as those events of World War II.

The marauding Pakistani forces and their collaborators massacred at least 177 Bangalees -- all employees of the workshop. Most of the victims were thrown into large boilers and furnaces used for melting iron. Some were knifed to death while some killed by shooting.

"The atrocity at the Saidpur Railway Workshop was one of the worst of its kind," said renowned Liberation War researcher Bir Pratik Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir.

While recalling the barbarity at the workshop, one of the survivors said Biharis outnumbered Bangalees in Saidpur during the time of the war.

On April 15 in 1971, he saw some Biharis tied some of their Bangalee colleagues with rope and dragged them on the ground for several feet.

"I heard their screams; they were in agonising



One of the Saidpur Railway Workshop boilers in which Bangalees were burned alive during the 1971 Liberation War.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

pain. Later, I learnt that all of them were burnt alive. They were put into a furnace while they were still alive," said 69-year-old Siyam Dostogir, a former employee of the workshop.

During the first week of April, several Biharis had abducted Siyam's father Ayub Hossain, who also used to work at the workshop. "I've not seen my father since then," Siyam told The Daily Star recently.

The struggle for liberation began earlier in

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## MITU MURDER

# Musa used to visit Babul Akter's house

Ex-security guard tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mahmuda Khanam Mitu murder accused Kamrul Islam Musa used to carry grocery items to her home when her husband Babul Akter, former superintendent of police, was on a foreign mission.

Abdur Sattar Mollah, a security guard of Mitu's residence in Chattogram city's GEC area, testified this before a court yesterday, confirmed Inspector Abu Zafar Mohammad Omar Faruq, investigation officer of the case.

According to Sattar's statement, a policeman named Saddam used to accompany Babul's son to school and there was a separate registry book for his flat.

Sattar saw Musa talking with Babul several times outside the building. He recognised Musa later when police showed

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# Terrorist activities dropped in 2020

Says new US report on Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh experienced a decrease in terrorist activity last year, accompanied by an increase in terrorism-related investigations and arrests, the US in a new report said yesterday.

The report released by the US Bureau of Counterterrorism says in 2020 there were three specific terrorist incidents, but no deaths.

As in prior years, the Bangladesh government denied Bangladesh-based terrorists have meaningful ties to transnational terror groups, including ISIS or AQIS, said the report. It added that the ongoing deficits in Bangladesh's judicial system, magnified by the constraints of operating during a global pandemic, contribute to a decade-long backlog of terrorism cases and a conviction rate estimated at less than 15 percent.

Bangladesh continued to articulate a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and the use of its territory as a terrorist safe haven.

The report also said in 2020, Bangladesh's criminal justice system was still working to fully implement the Antiterrorism Act of 2009 as amended in 2012 and 2013.

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জয় বাংলা

জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী ও বিজয়ের সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী উদযাপনে জাতীয় সংসদ ভবনের দক্ষিণ প্রাঙ্গণ দুই দিনব্যাপী বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠানমালার দ্বিতীয় দিন

২রা পৌষ ১৪২৮/১৭ই ডিসেম্বর ২০২১

বিকাল ০৫:৩০টা থেকে শুরু হবে বর্ণাঢ্য সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান

অনুষ্ঠানটি বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন ও বাংলাদেশ বেতারের মাধ্যমে সকল টেলিভিশন, বেতার, অনলাইন ও সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যমে সরাসরি সম্প্রচারিত হবে

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# IMMORTAL IN THE MEMORY OF PROFOUND RESPECT

Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam (1928-2017)  
Founder Chairman, Walton Group



Honor comes inevitably in mind with the name Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam, Founder Chairman, Walton Group, Pioneer in Electrical, Electronics, Home, Kitchen and Electrical Appliances & Automobiles manufacturing industry in Bangladesh, who breathed his last leaving us in deep sorrow on 17 December 2017. With his demise, we have lost a Visionary Leader, an Inventor, a Pioneer and an Earnest Guardian of this industry. Inspired by his ethics, values and morals, Walton is going ahead in its own glory at both home and abroad. We always feel his presence following the footsteps he has left for us to follow. His demise is something we can never recover from but we wish from the bottom of our hearts that his departed soul be granted Jannah where it finds eternal peace, Ameen.

