কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

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The country yesterday celebrated its 53rd Victory Day, with elaborate programmes commemorating Bangladesh's unwavering bravery in the 1971 Liberation War. President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to the martyrs at the National Memorial in Savar in the morning. Later on, people from all walks of life thronged the memorial to pay homage. Different social and cultural organisations organised various events, marking the day. A colourful programme was held at a Dhaka University ground in the afternoon. Meanwhile, the Jatiya Sangsad building remained illuminated with green and red lights. PHOTO: PID, RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN





Nation celebrates Victory Day

STAR REPORT

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 53rd Victory Day, marking the moment the country was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month bloodstained war for liberation.

Bangladesh became an independent country on December 16, 1971, under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, after the supreme sacrifice of three million people.

The Pakistani occupation forces had launched barbarous crackdown killing innocent people in the erstwhile East Pakistan at midnight past March 25, 1971.

The nation, under the paramount leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, finally clinched victory on December 16, after the sacrifice of the lives of three million people and the rape of nearly half a million women.

Different socio-political, educational and cultural institutions and organisations arranged a series of programmes to celebrate the nation's glorious victory.

The government also celebrated the day with different programmes at national level.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to the Liberation War martyrs by placing floral wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar in the morning.

Later on, people from all walks of life thronged the SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Victory arrived a day later in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KHULNA

Khulna was freed on December 17, 1971, a day after rest of the country.

After freedom fighters had captured most of the Pakistani army and their local collaborators' camps in the district, by December 16, it was only a matter of time before their last bastion Khulna city was freed.

Many of the collaborators' camps, including Forest Ghat, Pakistani forces were giving it their Gallamari Radio Station, Khulna Lion's School, PMG Colony, Khulna Shipyard, Tootpara, Boyra Fire Brigade Station, Wapda Building, and more were still active. They served not only as the collaborators' bases, but also places for killing and torturing Bangladeshis.

"Khulna was like a capital of the razakar. Jamaat leader AKM Yusuf was their founder and head of the peace committee in Khulna," said SM Babar Ali, second-in-command of Mujib Bahini in Khulna.

On this day in 1971, the freedom city following different routes, including Gallamary, Rupsha Ghat via Senerbazar-Razapur, Crescent Jute Mill, Mongla, Batiaghata, and Phultala areas.

"We got news from our sources that most areas of the country had December 16. Then, on the day, while the collaborators fled.

we heard over the radio that the Pakistani army had surrendered everywhere, except for Khulna," said the 74-year-old.

"This made our blood boil. We were determined to free our city as soon as possible." Two battles that took place on the day. "One was in Shiromani area, the other at Khulna Shipyard area," he said.

"For the prior two days, the all," he said. "They were armed

Shipyard area. It began with the Pakistani forces ambushing a launch that was carrying freedom fighters along the Rupsha river. The liberation forces won, but at the cost of one freedom fighter who embraced martyrdom. Sixteen others were also injured.

Finally at 10:30 in the morning, the freedom fighters marched towards Khulna Circuit House grounds where the flag of an with several regiments of artillery, independent Bangladesh was raised

Finally at 10:30 in the morning, the freedom fighters marched towards Khulna Circuit House grounds where the flag of an independent Bangladesh was raised by Major (Retd) Joynul Abedin and Gazi Rahmatulla Dadu. Another flag was hoisted in Shaheed Hadis Park by the freedom fighters.

infantry and armoured divisions, including six tanks, in Shiromani."

"There used to be a cantonment fighters started entering Khulna at Shiromani. Our battle grew fiercer there," he continued. "The occupation forces used modern weapons, including anti-aircraft machine guns, mortars and rocket launchers."

The freedom fighters eventually came out on top of the skirmish. A total of 200 Pakistani soldiers already achieved freedom before surrendered with their weapons,

by Maj (retd) Joynul Abedin and Gazi Rahmatulla Dadu. Another flag was hoisted in Shaheed Hadis Park by the freedom fighters.

Sector-9 Commander MA Jalil later handed over several hundred prisoners of war, including commander of the Pakistani forces Brig Hayat Ali Khan, to General Dalbir Singh, chief of the Indian forces in the western region.

The handover took place in Khalishpur.

President hosts reception at Bangabhaban

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and his wife Dr Rebecca Sultana yesterday hosted a reception programme at Bangabhaban, marking the 53rd Victory Day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana joined the reception on the green lawn of the Bangabhaban, presidential palace, in the afternoon.

Several guests, including Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, attended the event.

GM Quader files GD over death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday lodged a general diary with Uttara West Police Station over an alleged death threat he received on the phone.

The JP chief's personal assistant Abdul Hannan filed the GD on his behalf, said duty officer and ASI

Moniruzzaman of the police station. An investigation has been launched, he said. According to the GD, GM Quader, on December 13 at 4:30pm, received a call from an unknown person who threatened to kill him and his family.

The person also threatened him and told him not to participate in the national election.

Police are yet to identify the person behind the phone call, said Mahmud Alam, joint office secretary of JP.

Resist all evil forces: Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday



Bangladesh marching forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said this after paying homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar on the occasion of Victory

Day.
"Today, we are working to develop a Smart Bangladesh after Digital Bangladesh. This progress will continue in the coming days," he said. "The evil forces that are opposing the election have become an obstacle to democratic politics. Their aim is to destroy the democratic political culture of the country.

"The promise of the day is to resist these evil forces. We will resist and defeat forces," added

US to resettle more Rohingyas from Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

The United States has recognised the Rohingya situation as a "priority" and pledged to continue to increase the number of Rohingyas, including those from Bangladesh, resettled through the USRAP in fiscal

The US also encouraged third countries to expand Rohingya resettlement, said the US Department of State yesterday.

New pledges from the United States were announced at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

The country pledged to continue through calendar year 2024 to use its experience with resettling Rohingya refugees and its positions as chair of the Resettlement Diplomacy Network and a co-chair of the Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG) to encourage other countries to expand or create new third-country solutions for Rohingya refugees.

The US pledged through its Welcome Corps at Work, the new labour mobility programme for refugees within Welcome Corps, to focus on Rohingya refugees gaining access to employment in the United States.

It also pledged to support efforts to expand programmes that offer numeracy, literacy, and vocational training as well as formal skills certification to Rohingya refugees and host communities. This includes engaging with private sector actors.

The US will work with the donor community and host governments to support the efforts of international financial institutions to develop effective means of supporting Rohingya refugees and surrounding host communities.

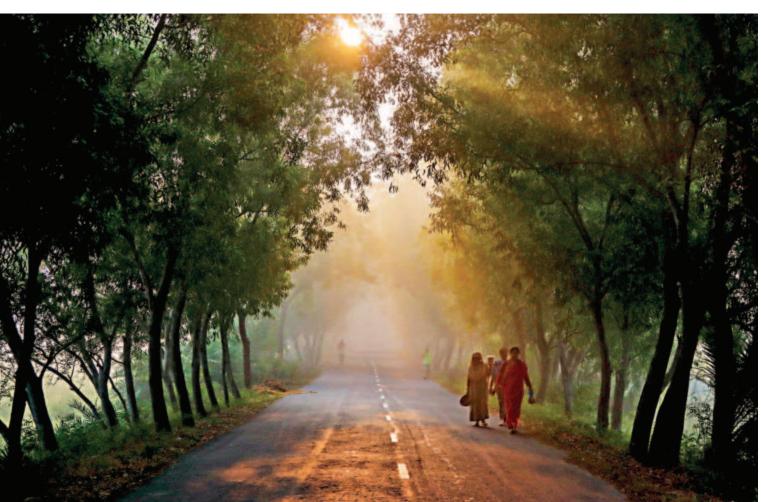


PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

WINTER CHRONICLES... As the sun peeks through the tree tops, its beams, piercing through the morning mist, leads the way for early birds. Donning shawls, sweaters and jackets, locals gradually step outdoors as the rays brighten the gloomy road in Khulna's Dumuria upazila.