



ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES 'Hasina herself was involved'

Says commission's preliminary report to CA

ZYMA ISLAM

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her defence adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre Maj Gen Ziaul Ahsan, and senior police officers Monirul Islam and Md Harun-Or-Rashid were all involved in enforced disappearances.

Commission for inquiry into enforced disappearances found prima facie evidence of their involvement, said a preliminary report submitted to the chief adviser yesterday.

The commission recommends disbanding Rab because of its inalienable involvement in enforced disappearances.

It found a "systematic design" that facilitated incidents of enforced disappearances go undetected, chairman of the commission Justice (ret'd) Mainul Islam Chowdhury said while submitting the report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.



A homeless individual, wrapped in a hoodie and light quilts, spent his night at the foot of the Raju sculpture (not in picture) on the Dhaka University premises amid a cold spell that has gripped the country since Friday. The photo was taken around 7:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Remembering the dark day in solemnity

JCD, BSU hold exhibitions at DU

MASHFIQ MIZAN

"Sonar Banglay Manob Itihaser Nrishongshotomo Hottakando" (The most brutal massacre in human history of Bengal), read the lead headline in an issue of The Daily Ittefaq published in December 1971.



The article's intro roughly translates to: "The Daily Ittefaq announces with profound grief that almost all of the intellectuals, journalists, professors, writers, and doctors who were abducted by the local collaborators of the Pakistani army, far right Jamaat-e-Islami's militia forces -- Razakars, Al Badr, and Al Shams -- just days before their fall, have been killed at the hands of these murderers."

A clipping of this chilling news piece was one of several on display at one of two exhibitions that were launched yesterday at Dhaka University's TSC area.

Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Students' Union (BSU) organised the two exhibitions, marking the Martyred Intellectuals' Day.

The three-day programme features relics from one of the nation's darkest chapters.

There was another newspaper clipping with the headline "Intellectuals murdered in cold blood" that also recounted the targeted killing of Bangladesh's brightest minds on December 14, 1971.

A clipping from an article in the Daily Sangram from 1971 titled "Momen Shahhi,"

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For our extended coverage of Martyred Intellectuals' Day SEE PAGE 3

- 27pc victims in 758 complaints scrutinised never returned
Commission for amending or repealing Anti-Terrorism Act 2009
It urges dropping death penalty from act
Calls for new law criminalising enforced disappearances
Finds another secret detention centre, bringing total to 9

ACC, NBR, CID teams to probe 10 corporate giants

BB-led taskforce aims to bring back money they siphoned off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government taskforce will investigate the country's 10 major business groups' alleged money laundering and other misdeeds.

For the probe, 10 separate inter-agency teams will be formed within this week and necessary directives have already been issued to the offices concerned, officials said.

The teams will comprise members of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Criminal Investigation Department of Police (CID), they said.

The move comes as the

interim government intensifies its efforts to recover money allegedly laundered by the corporate giants that thrived under the Awami League rule.

A government-commissioned white paper committee on the economy estimated that \$234 billion was siphoned off from Bangladesh between 2009 and 2023.

The 10 business groups are: S Alam Group, Beximco Group, Summit Group, Bashundhara Group, Gemcon Group, Orion Group, Nabil Group, Nassa Group, Sikder Group, and Aramit Group.

Last month, the government formed an

MARTIAL LAW FIASCO South Korea's President Yoon impeached

AFP, Seoul

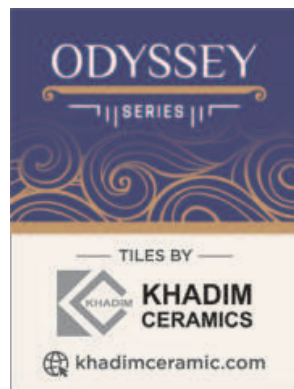
South Korean lawmakers yesterday impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol over his failed martial law bid, with the opposition declaring a "victory of the people".

The vote capped more than a week of intense political drama in the democratic South following Yoon's failed attempt to impose martial law on December 3.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of the capital Seoul in rival rallies for and against Yoon yesterday.



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PHOTO: AHMAD ISTIAK

Recent photo of Hemanandakathi in Jhalakathi. Here, 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed as freedom fighters of the Purbo Banglar Jatiya Mukti Bahini, led by Siraj Sikder, attacked an enemy vessel on May 7, 1971.

REGIONAL RESISTANCE

PART 10 (LAST PART)

During the 1971 Liberation War, a number of regional forces emerged across Bangladesh. Research suggests that dozens of such forces actively participated in the war. Just as the freedom fighters trained under the sub-sectors and the Bengal Regiment fought valiantly, these regional forces also displayed immense courage in battles against the Pakistani forces. In this month of victory, we bring you the stories of some of these heroic forces.

PURBO BANGLAR JATIYA MUKTI BAHINI

AHMAD ISTIAK

The floating guava markets in the southern districts of Jhalakathi, Barishal and Pirojpur are so picturesque that they have in recent years started drawing tourists, along with the traders. During the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, however, the densely planted trees in the guava orchards on both sides of the roads and canals in the region became an impenetrable base for Purbo Banglar Jatiya Mukti Bahini, a local force of freedom fighters.

Under the leadership of revolutionary communist leader Sirajul Huq Sikder, better known as Siraj Sikder, the freedom fighters of the force liberated



the vast region in the early phase of the war, terrorising the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators.

In October this year, The Daily Star spoke to over 10 freedom fighters of the force during a visit to Jhalakathi, Barishal, and Pirojpur.

Siraj, then a leftist student leader, built the Purbo Bangla Sramik Andolan, a workers' movement, in 1968, according to the books "Lal Santras" by Mohiuddin Ahmed, and "Siraj Sikder O Purbo Banglar Sorbohara Party" by Munir Morshed.

The Siraj-led group published a pamphlet titled "Swadhin Purbo Bangla Kayem Korun" on January 8, 1971. After the war had begun, Siraj left Dhaka for the Barishal region and took shelter at Runsi village in Jhalakathi's Kirtipasha on April 18, considering

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WE MOURN Mr. Mohammad Hanif (1948-2024)



We express our deepest compassion on the passing of Mr. Mohammad Hanif, Vice Chairman of Dhaka Bank PLC.

Mr. Mohammad Hanif made remarkable contributions towards business and banking in Bangladesh. A seasoned industrialist, his illustrious career spanned over 54 years. He was the Managing Director of Hanif Steels Ltd., Hanif Spinning Mills Ltd., and National Foundry & Engineering Works (Pvt.) Ltd.

Mr. Hanif served as a Sponsor Director and one of the longest-serving Board Members of Dhaka Bank.

Dhaka Bank Family extends heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family & prays for strength to endure this irreparable loss.

May Almighty Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaus and keep his departed soul in eternal peace.

