



DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 325

POUSH 2, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

JAMADIUS SANI 25, 1447 HIJRI

16 PAGES: TK 15.00

No one can stop our democratic progress

Yunus addresses nation on Victory Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday reiterated his government's pledge to hold a credible national election, warning that defeated fascist forces are plotting a return ahead of the polls through various destabilising tactics.

"They will do this in various ways. This attempt at covert killing is one such way. They have preparations for even harsher plans," he said in a televised Victory Day address to the nation, referring to the recent assassination attempt on Sharif Osman Hadi, spokesperson for the Inqilab Moncho.

However, he reassured the nation that the country would continue to progress, defying all conspiracies.

"I want to state clearly that the defeated fascist terrorists' attempts will be foiled. No one will be able to halt the country's democratic progress through fear, terror or bloodshed," he said, urging people to remain calm and not be misled by misinformation or rumours.

"The defeated fascist forces will never return to the sacred soil of this country," he added.

Beginning his address, the chief adviser extended greetings to Bangladeshis at home and abroad and paid tribute to the brave fighters and martyrs of the nine-month Liberation War of 1971.

"After a blood-soaked nine-month-long Liberation War in 1971, on this day, we tasted our desired victory. Through immense sacrifice and endurance, and in exchange for the blood of lakhs of martyrs, we gained an independent country and a red-and-green flag," he said.

Yunus also expressed profound sorrow over the attack on Hadi, also an aspirant from Dhaka 8 and a frontline fighter of the July uprising.

"This is not merely an attack on an individual; it is an attack on the very existence of Bangladesh and on our democratic journey," he said.

He said Hadi is undergoing treatment in critical condition and that the government has taken all necessary measures to ensure his treatment and security.

"The government is viewing this incident with utmost seriousness. Those involved have been identified at the preliminary stage. I assure the people that whoever is involved in this conspiracy, wherever they may be, none will be spared," he said.

Emphasising the need to protect the youth, Yunus said those who fled the country know that the "unarmed, fearless young fighters" pose a formidable challenge to them.

"The objective of the defeated fascist forces is to remove these obstacles from the streets before the election to reestablish their rule," he said.

Without naming anyone or any country, the chief adviser said the

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- ➊ Defeated forces plotting return thru violence
- ➋ No conspirator will be spared
- ➌ Polls, referendum to be held on time
- ➍ Parties should compete, not act as enemies

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A new system must replace old political order
Says Shafiqur Rahman

STAR REPORT



Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said the politics of future Bangladesh would follow a new system, discarding the old political order.

"The politics of the new system will oppose terrorism, extortion, murder, rape, false cases, corruption, injustice and all forms of oppression," he said at a youth marathon organised by Jamaat on the occasion of Victory Day at Suhrawardy Uddyan.

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Enemies of independence plotting anew
Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said those who opposed Bangladesh's independence in 1971 are once again trying to raise their heads.

"Today, the enemies of independence, those who stood against independence in 1971, are trying to rise again. The freedom-loving people of Bangladesh, who believe in independence and democracy, will foil all their conspiracies and will surely protect the country's independence and sovereignty and establish democracy," Fakhrul told reporters.

He made the remarks after placing wreaths at the grave of BNP founder and martyred president Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, marking Victory Day.

The BNP leader said the Liberation War began with the declaration of independence by martyred President Ziaur Rahman and reached its final victory on December 16.



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SUBODH RETURNS

Anonymous graffiti artist, known only by the tag "Hobeki?", revived the iconic Subodh series yesterday on the nation's 54th Victory Day. In the new mural on the Air Force wall in the capital's Agargaon, a man whose waist belt holds a paintbrush and spray can embraces a little girl wearing a helmet and carrying the national flag. The Subodh series first appeared at this very spot in 2017, with its last mural seen on August 5, 2024.

PHOTO: UNB

July fighters' safety can't depend on govt, police
Says Nahid



OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Savar

National Citizens Party Convener Md. Nahid Islam yesterday said the safety of July fighters cannot be ensured by relying on the government or police, stressing the need for self-reliance in safeguarding

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VICTORY IN THE SKIES... Marking the country's 54th Victory Day yesterday, the Bangladesh Air Force painted the skies with streams of colour, staging a spectacular display honouring the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War. The photo was taken from the capital's Bijoy Sarani area.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt backtracking on surveillance reforms?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government appears to be backtracking on its plan to introduce sweeping reforms curbing state-led surveillance, just over a month since an ordinance was drafted.

The latest draft of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Ordinance 2025 reintroduces broad surveillance powers and removes several of the safeguards proposed earlier, The Daily Star has learnt from officials with knowledge of the matter.

The changes will alter how interception authority is defined, approved and overseen. Oversight mechanisms have also been revised.

The latest proposals say the council will be headed by the home secretary, with the secretary of the law ministry's legislative and parliamentary affairs division and the principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division serving as members. They do not include judicial members, leaving the approval and execution of surveillance within the same administrative hierarchy.

The original draft, which was uploaded on the Posts and Telecommunications Division website for public feedback last month,

proposed a council with quasi-judicial characteristics, including retired judges and representatives linked to constitutional bodies, to review interception requests.

It said members of the council would serve a four-year term and could be reappointed or replaced at the discretion of the council.

The council would be required to meet at least twice a week, during which it would review

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interception applications and decide whether to approve, amend or reject them, it added.

All decisions must be formally recorded and open to audit and could be challenged through an appeal process.

In addition, individuals would be allowed to submit complaints to the council alleging unlawful interception.

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A renewed pledge for national unity
Country celebrates Victory Day

STAR REPORT

With a call for a renewed commitment to national unity, Bangladesh yesterday celebrated its 54th Victory Day, marking the nation's liberation from Pakistani occupation after a nine-month war.

On this day in 1971, Bangladesh was born as an independent state at the cost of the supreme sacrifices of 30 lakh martyrs.



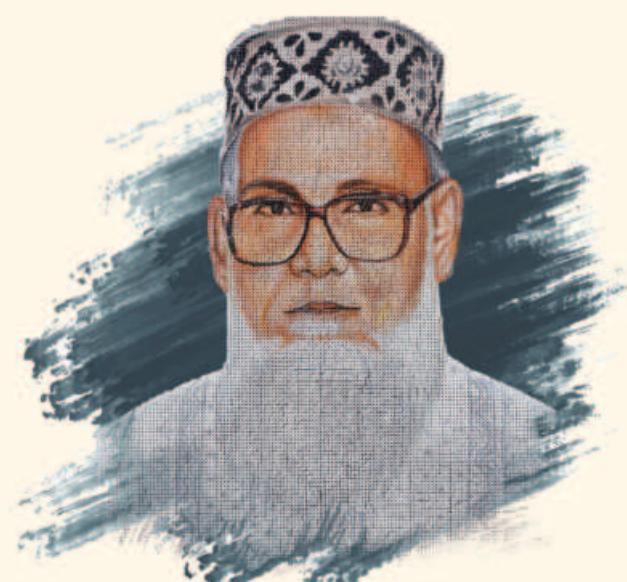
The day's programmes in the capital began with a 31 gun salute, followed by solemn tributes at the National Memorial in Savar, where President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus laid wreaths in honour of the fallen heroes.

People from all walks of life, including freedom fighters and their families, foreign diplomats stationed in Bangladesh, and members of various political and social organisations, also paid tributes to the martyrs at the monument.

To mark the country's 54 years of independence, 54 paratroopers from the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air

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IMMORTAL IN LOVE & RESPECT



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

Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam, Founder Chairman, Walton Group and Pioneer of Electrical & Electronics Industry in Bangladesh inspired us with his ethics, values and morals. May Allah grant Jannah to his departed soul, Ameen.

