

President, PM pay rich tribute to martyred intellectuals

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Online Desk: President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday paid deep respect and rich tributes to the best sons of the soil on the occasion of the Martyred Intellectuals Day to be observed Thursday.

In separate messages on the eve of the day, the President and the Prime Minister urged the people to come forward being imbued with the ideology of the martyred intellectuals and the spirit of the Liberation War to build a non-communal, happy and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The President, in his message, said the intellectuals, as the conscience of the nation, had played a very significant role with their sharp writings and intellect-based spirit to create public opinion in favour of the Liberation War, provide suggestions to the war-time Mujibnagar government in advancing the war towards its successful end.

But it is unfortunate that the occupation forces and their local collaborators had brutally killed the country's eminent intellectuals, including academics, physicians, litterateurs, journalists and artistes just on the eve of the victory, causing an irreparable loss to the nation, he added.

The President called upon all to be imbued with the ideology of the martyred intellectuals and build a non-communal society based on the spirit of the Liberation War.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Martyred Intellectual Day is a shameful chapter in the history of Bangladesh as the Pakistani occupation forces, the anti-liberation forces and their local collaborators killed eminent intellectuals at the fag-end of the Liberation War to turn the nation into a brain-empty state.

She said when the country was close to the final victory under the leadership of the greatest Bengalis of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the intellectuals were killed by the occupation forces and their local cohorts like Al-Badars, Al-Shams and Razakars.

The premier said Professor Mofazzal Haidar Chowdhury, Munier Choudhury, Anwar Pasha, Shahidullah Kaiser, Gias Uddin, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Abdul Alim Chowdhury, Siraj Uddin Hossain, Selina Parveen and Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta were among those who were killed by the occupation forces and their collaborators.

Sheikh Hasina also said the anti-liberation defeated forces assassinated Bangabandhu and most of his family members on August 15, 1975 and through this heinous killing; the anti-liberation forces started the politics of killing, coup and conspiracy in the country.

The killers carried out repression and tortures on free thinkers, teachers, writers, journalists and politicians, she added.

The premier said the terrorist and militant groups also carried out a reign of terror in the country from 2001 to 2006. After coming to power in 2009, Awami League government brought the killers of intellectuals, war criminals and those who committed crimes against humanity under trial.

The AL-led government has brought the killers of the martyred intellectuals under trial and have been executing many of the verdicts, she said, adding that those who wanted to save the heinous war criminals will

also be brought to justice one day.

The nation will remember forever the sacrifice of the martyred intellectuals, she said and called upon the people to be united against the conspiracies of the killers of 1971 and war criminals and Jamaat-clique for continuation of development.