

Let new

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were killed in the name of civil-military revolution? The mystery is yet to be exposed."

Later, the minister placed wreaths at the graves of national leaders at Banani graveyard.

Talking to reporters, he said the conspiracy of anti-liberation and communal forces is still going on in the country.

In reply to a comment of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Quader said, "The BNP leader said there is lack of honest and able leaders [in AL]. I would like to say that you [Fakhrul] see your face in mirror at first. BNP is the party that gave an institutional shape of corruption to politics."

During the BNP's term, the country became world champion in corruption, so the talks of honest politics do not suit BNP, he added.

He said Bangabandhu was an honest and able leader in the country's history while in the post 1975-period, his daughter Sheikh Hasina is the most honest, able and world acclaimed leader.

JAIL KILLING DAY OBSERVED

Awami League, its associate bodies and social and cultural organisations yesterday paid tributes to Bangabandhu and four national leaders.

AL leaders and activists paid homage by laying wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi-32 and at the graves of the three national leaders in Banani following health guidelines due to coronavirus pandemic.

As the grave of AHM Kamaruzzaman among the four national leaders is in Kadirganj of Rajshahi, local AL leaders also paid homage there.

AL presidium members Begum Matia Chowdhury, Dr Abdur Razaque, Abdul Matin Khasru and Jahangir Kabir Nanak and other senior leaders were present.

Later, AL leaders and activists placed wreaths at the graves of August 15 martyrs and national leaders in the capital's Banani. Special prayers seeking eternal peace of the departed souls were held there.

Programme was also arranged at Kamruzzaman's grave in Rajshahi.

On November 3, 1975, heroes of the country's Liberation War four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Captain Mansur Ali, and AHM Kamaruzzaman -- were assassinated inside Dhaka Central Jail. The four national leaders played a key role in forming Bangladesh Provisional Government in exile that led the Liberation War in 1971, with Syed Nazrul Islam as the acting president, Tajuddin Ahmad as the prime minister, Captain Mansur Ali as the finance minister, and AHM Kamaruzzaman as the home, relief and rehabilitation minister.



While running overloaded vehicles is a violation of rules itself, this particular truck is not only doing that, but also have people sitting awkwardly with parts of their body sticking out of the vehicle. These flagrant violations of the law have become everyday scenes on the streets of Dhaka. This photo was taken from the capital's High Court area on Monday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DNC proposes

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like dog squad can be present during the security check then it can be easily detected.

Hamidur Rahman Khan, joint secretary (narcotics wing) of the home ministry, told The Daily Star that a decision has been taken to form a dog squad for DNC.

"We have now asked DNC to provide us a detailed report about their capacity and efficiency of dealing with a dog squad. We would take further decision upon receiving their report," he added.

Transnational syndicates are using Bangladesh as a route to smuggle banned amphetamine powder to other countries after smuggling it into the country from neighbouring India, revealed DNC recently.

They are investigating a case of 12.32kg amphetamine powder seizure from the cargo village area in last September.

DNC has so far arrested around 13 people in this connection.

Airport authorities also seized 38,900 yaba tablets at the export cargo village of the airport in mid-October, foiling an attempt to smuggle those to Saudi Arabia on a flight.

Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul Ahsan, director at Dhaka airport, told The Daily Star that there currently have six dual-view scanners and four EBS machines.

Before any shipment reached cargo shipments, there needs to be a customs verification, and if any other agency wants then they can work jointly with customs, he explained.

Besides, two dog squads -- one from Dhaka Metropolitan Police and one from Border Guard Bangladesh -- used to visit the airport regularly, he said.

"We have also asked them to come to the airport whenever we feel any necessity for it," Touhid added.

Asked about the DNC proposal, he categorically said it is a government decision but they are doing all necessary security check up as per regulation.

Regarding necessity of dog squad, Mosaddeque Hossain Reza, additional director (intelligence) of DNC, told this newspaper that Bangladesh is not narcotic producing country, but located in centre of Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand and Laos) and Golden Crescent (Afghanistan and Pakistan) which produces a huge amount of opium.

Transnational rackets are taking the opportunities to use Bangladesh airport as a route, he said.

Shamsul Haque Tuku, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the home ministry, said that they were aware of the DNC proposal and already taken necessary steps.

UGC expert

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professor Hafiz Md Hasan Babu; Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology's computer science and engineering professor Mostofa Akbar, and Bangladesh Open University's professor Mostofa Azad Kamal.

UGC reviewed the software as many VCs of public universities were hopeful that this year they would be able to hold the admission test for next academic session online using this software, instead of in-person exams due to the coronavirus situation.

On October 17, vice-chancellors of public universities from a virtual meeting of Bangladesh Bishwabidyalaya Parishad -- an association of public university vice-chancellors -- decided on principle that admission tests for freshers would be held.

They, however, said date and mode of exams would be announced later. This year, confusion about admission tests emerged after the government decided to award grades to candidates of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent exams without holding public exams amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead of exams, candidates' evaluation would be based on results in the Junior School Certificate, Secondary School Certificate and equivalent tests.

HSC and equivalent exams were cancelled out of fear that they would increase risk of coronavirus transmission. More than 13.65 lakh students were expected to sit for the exams.

The government postponed the exams following the closure of all educational institutions on March 17. They are to stay closed until at November 14.

Power plant

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"However, at the time of the procurement of motors, the board did not ask Sinohydro, Siemens or Parker Hannifin -- who were involved in the construction of the power plant -- to supply motors, rather local supplier Powertech International was awarded the tender," reads the statement.

Records show that on June 27, 2016 the BPDB opened bid for international tender for GT Main Lube Oil Pump, Emergency Lube Oil, Rotor Lifting Pump and Oil Centrifuge Machine. Only two companies showed interest.

There was legal binding to cancel the offer as there was not enough competitors, yet the accused gave contract to Powertech International, the case statement says.

Powertech offered US\$ 365,000 for the machine. It was given US\$ 255,000 by May 20, 2018 and US\$ 109,500 on May 30, 2019.

Analysing documents, investigators found that the pumps were bought at US\$ 30,017 but Powertech International was paid US\$ 365,000.

"According to the commercial invoice and LC of importers, the price of the products were only US\$30,017. After including 20 percent profit of the supplier the price would be US\$36,021. Which means, they misappropriated the rest US\$ 3,28,979," reads the FIR.

According to ACC, after the deduction of custom duty, surcharge, Vat and other import charges, the amount of embezzlement stood at Tk 2.59 crore.

The engineers misused their power and through forgery and fraudulent misappropriated the money.

No one

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He further said that after analysing the documents, they came to know that Hasan married Merina in 2014, but he created a false document, which showed that they married in 2004.

Rashed alias Rahmat Ali alias Raja, one of Hasan's associates who gave confessional statement before a Dhaka court on Monday, said he was working with Hasan for the last four years, for a salary of Tk 10,000.

Promising jobs at a hospital in Singapore, Hasan would ask for Tk 70,000 from each person, and his associates collected money from 113 people. They also collected Tk 8,500 from each, telling them that additional money is required for medical tests at a diagnostic centre in Dhaka, a source told this newspaper, quoting Raja's statement.

ADC Towhidul said Hasan used to hire eight to 10 security guard for Tk 2,000 each per day. "We got complaints that Hasan has taken around Tk 6 crore from different victims so far, but we are yet to detect any of his vaults and financial accounts."

"We are planning to write to Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit regarding Hasan's transaction details," he added.

A look at

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approve or reject the petition within 14 days. If deemed necessary by the Court, the accused may be ordered to be detained too.

The punishment for custodial torture is severe. Convicted persons for custodial deaths will be punished with imprisonment for life, or a fine of minimum one hundred thousand taka, or both. The harmed/aggrieved person is also, in the context of death caused by torture, shall be entitled to compensation of two hundred thousand taka. The Act also provides for punishments for those who play a complicit role in the act of torture: those who attempt to commit or assist or provoke torture, or conspire in inflicting torture, face punishment of two years' imprisonment, or fine of a minimum of twenty thousand taka, or both.

Auto-pass

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Speaking at the programme, GM Quader again called upon the government to reopen educational institutions, considering their future.

He said that no action should be taken against students, who do not want to come to the educational institution during the ongoing Covid-19 period.

He also said there might be auto-pass system for those who do not want to appear before the examination in line with the existing system.

"But educational institutions should reopen for those students who want to go to their institutions and take part in the examination in the existing system," he added.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu called upon the government to ensure the rights of teachers in the interest of nation-building.

He said non-government teachers are living in inhuman conditions during the hard time of Covid-19 pandemic.

He urged the government to materialise all logical demands of teachers.

SARATHI RESEARCH GRANT
Applications are invited from scholars for Sarathi Research Grant 2020. The research grant will be offered to a scholar for pursuing original research. The duration of the research work will be one or two years. For one-year duration the value of the research grant will be Tk. 2,00,000/- and for two-year the value of the research grant will be Tk. 4,00,000-5,00,000/-.

KHAN BAHADUR AHSANULLAH RESEARCH GRANT
Applications are invited from scholars for Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Research Grant 2020. The research grant will be offered to a scholar for pursuing original research. The duration of the research work will be one or two years. For one-year duration the value of the research grant will be Tk. 2,00,000-3,00,000/- and for two-year the value of the research grant will be Tk. 3,00,000-5,00,000/-.

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