

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE



FedEx Federal Express

The World on Time



Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 5,000

Transcom Electronics Limited

Official license of Philips Electronics NV for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Backed by Guarantee

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

AL celebrates verdict

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling Awami League, its front organizations and various other socio-cultural organisations held rallies and brought out processions in the city yesterday, chanting full-throated slogans rejoicing at the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Most of the Cabinet members and AL frontliners, led by party general secretary Zillur Rahman, joined the procession that was the first to be brought out from Paltan Maidan immediately after pronouncement of verdict in the early afternoon. The procession terminated in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Before the procession started, Zillur Rahman read out extracts from the verdict to a crowd of several thousand people and AL leaders and workers who gathered there earlier to offer najaat in gratitude. Some emotion-charged senior AL leaders wiped away tears hearing the verdict while others advised the party rank and file to keep vigil till the verdict is executed. There may be more plays against the verdict in the days to come, they said.

Central AL leaders including Amir Hussain Amu, Abdur Razak, Tofiq Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Mohammad Selim, Motia Chowdhury, Abdul Jalil, Azizur Rahman addressed the

rally at Paltan Maidan, chaired by AL city unit president Mohammad Hanif. Earlier, from 10 in the morning, AL leaders and workers began to converge there to join the namaj-e-janaza of Waliur Rahman, a Jubo League activist who was killed during a clash between AL and BNP activists in the city the day before.

Mahila Awami League, women's front of AL, also brought out a procession in the city hailing the verdict and demanding its immediate execution. Mahila Muktiyoddha Sangsad (council of women freedom fighters) brought out a procession, led by its president Begum Sajeda Chowdhury and later held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

AL and its front organisations also brought out processions at different wards of the metropolis welcoming the verdict. Other organisations which brought out processions include Bangabandhu Parishad, Jubo League, Chharta League and Sramik League.

Legal experts

From Page 1 crime but that as the law has no such scope they should be hanged as is the normal procedure.

"It may be possible under the Special Powers Act to execute by firing squad but this law is not applicable here," he added.

He, however, said that this would not create any problem as the High Court Division will oversee the decision of Sessions Court. The verdict will not be carried out until the HC Division confirms it, he observed.

Another top lawyer gave similar opinion.

"In our CRPC, there is no provision for executing a sentence of death by a firing squad," said Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, talking to the Daily Star yesterday. "The usual and prescribed mode of the execution of that sentence is hanging by neck till the convict is dead."

"Under the Special Powers Act of 1974, an alternative mode of executing death sentence is provided—firing squad or hanging," he said.

PM: Verdict

From Page 1 She pointed out that the trial was held under the law of the land and not in any special tribunal.

"The trial was the need of the time," she said. "If the trial was not held, the killers would have been given indulgence... This would have increased injustice," she said.

Hasina said execution of the verdict will fulfil the demand of the people. The trial of the killers was a long-felt demand of the people, she said expressing gratitude to the people for their all-out support.

Judge's unique observation

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul in his judgement made a unique observation about the country's politicians who change their colours in every changed situation in absence of their leaders, reports UNB.

The Judge pointed his finger towards Taheruddin Thakur and sarcastically said "The politics here is leader based. If the leader is there, everything is there and I am there... if the leader is not there, nothing is there and I am no more here." Acquitting Taheruddin Thakur from charges on benefit of doubt, Judge Golam Rasul said, although there are no specific evidences about the involvement of Thakur in the conspiracy of the killing but his activities after the incident was mysterious.

"When the bullet-ridden body of Bangabandhu was lying at Dhanmondi, Thakur was busy preparing speeches and statements at the radio station," said the judge.

No third party

The judge, in his verdict, rejected that the August 15 killings were committed by any third party.

"Clear findings rejected any such possibility," he said referring to a defence version, specially by Col Faruq's lawyer that the murders were committed by a third party.

However, the Judge said in the verdict that there might be more people involved in the killings.

There was no bar to holding trial of the military offenders in a civil court on charges of killing Bangabandhu.

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul said the military authorities gave a 'no-objection' to the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court before holding the trial of the accused army personnel.

There was no martial law in the country before the assassination of Bangabandhu on Aug 15, 1975.

"Whoever proclaimed the martial-law, it was announced after the killings," the Judge observed in his historic verdict.

He said: "In fact, the martial-law was proclaimed to save the killers."

Delayed ejahar acceptable

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul in his verdict said the delay in filing of ejahar was acceptable. "And the delay also didn't cause any harm to the principles of justice," he said adding that in criminal cases, ejahar can be filed at any time but it has to be justified.

The plaintiff's plea was true that filing of the case earlier was not safe for any relative or follower of Bangabandhu because of the relation of the killers with the governments prior to June 23, 1996," the judge said.

The only thing which the prosecution in the Bangabandhu murder case couldn't prove was the attempt by the accused to conceal the bodies of the victims.

"Burying the bodies hurriedly was not to hush up the incidents... rather, they made public announcement, broadcast the killings over radio and circulated by local and foreign media."

So, the allegation of concealing the bodies was rejected by the court, said Judge Kazi Golam Rasul in his verdict.

Ctg AL, BNP announce programmes at same venues

CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: The port city may turn into a battle field during the 48-hour hartal as Awami League and BNP announced programmes at the same venues tomorrow, reports UNB.

The city unit of ruling Awami League announced its programmes from a meeting at New Market crossing while BNP from another meeting at Nasim Bhaban today.

The venues are Nimitala, Dewanhat and Bahaddarhat crossings, and the outer-stadium.

48-hr hartal

From Page 1 In a statement on the eve of the two-day hartal last night, Khaleda Zia urged the countrymen to make the shutdown a success and rise against 'political repression' by the present 'fascist' government and its 'plot' to destroy democracy.

She blasted the government for trying to re-establish one-party system, saying, "We're waging movement against this government to protect the country's independence and sovereignty and re-establish democracy and rule of law."

Khaleda Zia condemned attack on her party's rally on Saturday and also the arrests of BNP workers. She demanded immediate release of the arrested.

Meanwhile, Dhaka city unit of Awami League held a meeting at its central office last night and decided to unite people of Dhaka against all 'anti-people' activities. It is learnt that AL would also bring out anti-hartal processions in the city today and tomorrow.



Police and paramilitary troops patrol the premises of the makeshift court in front of Dhaka Central Jail at the city's Najimuddin Road yesterday. — Star photo

Bangabandhu murder: 15 to die

From Page 1

The long hand of law finally caught up with the killers.

The judge ordered that the 15 found guilty be executed in an open firing squad. If that was not possible for some reason, he ordered execution by hanging.

"There is no reason for showing any sympathy and mercy for them. They are not fit to receive any such mercy," the judge said, sentencing the 15 to death.

Among the 19 accused in the case, four were acquitted on ground of "benefit of the doubt".

Initially, the court indicted 20 persons for the killing of the former President and the Father of the Nation and his family. Of them, Zobaida Rashid wife of absconding accused Lt Col (relieved) Abdur Rashid Khandaker was discharged by the High Court.

Of the 15 convicted, only three are now in custody, while 12 others, all army personnel, are absconding since the beginning of the case. A fourth convict - Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda, was flown in to Dhaka yesterday some two hours after the verdict yesterday.

When the judgement was delivered yesterday, Lt. Col (ret'd) Syed Faruq Rahman of the First Bengal Lancer, Lt. Col. (ret'd) Sultan Shahrir Rashid Khan of the Cavalry of the Bangladesh Army and Lt. Col (ret'd) Mahiuddin Ahmed of the Second Field Artillery were present.

Two others of the acquitted four, who were present in the

court yesterday, were Taheruddin Thakur and Capt (Hony) Abdur Wahab Joarder.

Five of the accused were filed into the court with handcuffs and on barefoot at 12.50 pm. Just after the Zohr prayer call from an adjacent mosque had ended, Judge Golam Rasul stepped into the packed chamber.

It was 1:10 pm. Before a jam-packed courtroom, the judge finished delivering his judgement at 2:20 pm.

To prove the case, the judge raised eight issues. Explaining them briefly, he read out the verdict portion from the 171-page judgement.

The case for the assassination of the founder president and his family members was lodged belatedly after 21 years -- on October 02, 1996. The CID started investigating into the case began on October 3, 1996 and the trial began on April 8, 1997.

The verdict was pronounced after 149 days of hearing in the makeshift court at Nazimuddin Road in front of the Dhaka Central Jail.

Reading out the verdict, the judge said charges had been proved beyond any reasonable doubt against the 15 who were awarded death sentence under Section 302/34 of the Penal Code against.

Charges against the four acquitted could not be proved beyond reasonable doubt, the judge observed.

The judge said, "It has been proved beyond doubt a total of 15 accused killed the then

President Bangabandhu, along with his family members, relatives and some others at the 677 Dhanmondi residence of Bangabandhu in furtherance of a pre-planned conspiracy at about 5:00 am on August 15, 1975."

Examining, reviewing and scrutinising the oral, documentary, informative, circumstantial evidences and testifying the alams, the court has reached this final decision that the charges of murder/common intention under Section 302/34 and criminal conspiracy under section 120 A of the Penal Code have been proved beyond all reasonable doubts, the judge said.

The guilty were, however, not sentenced under Section 120-A of the Penal Code.

"After the incident, some of the accused also boasted identifying themselves as self-confessed killers at home and abroad," the judge said.

"The incident was not only brutal but also marked the ruthless shooting of two newly-married women and a 10-year-old child.

"The crime is such an act that is not only harmful to individuals but also to the society and the state. It is observed that despite being aware of the serious implications of these brutal killings, a well-planned conspiracy was hatched.

"Therefore, there is no reason for showing any sympathy and mercy for them. They are not fit to receive any such mercy."

Why Thakur, 3 others were acquitted

Former state minister Taheruddin Thakur and three non-commissioned army personnel were acquitted of the charge of conspiring and killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

In his verdict, Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul said they were acquitted on ground of benefit of doubt as the allegation against them was "not proved beyond doubt."

He said the prosecution could not categorically prove that Dafadar Marfat Ali Shah and Lance Dafadar Abul Hashem Miridha were involved in the incidents.

Regarding Hon Capt (ret'd) Abdur Wahab Joarder, the judge said it was not proved that he had taken ammunition from the security personnel deployed at the residence of the President.

"His superior officers, Captain Abul Bashar and Col Ali Ansar, also did not mention it in their statement as witnesses," he added.

About Taheruddin Thakur, the judge observed that there was no specific evidence that he (Thakur) had agreed with the conspiracy. The statement of witness Khorshed Alam was not supported by any other PWs.

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul said activities after the incidents indicated Thakur's involvement, but it was not specifically

proved and thus the benefit of doubt goes in his favour.

However, the judge questioned where was Thakur's respect for his undisputed political leader after the killing. "When the bullet-ridden body of Bangabandhu was lying at Dhanmondi, Thakur was busy preparing the radio speeches," he said.

Plaintiff of the Bangabandhu Murder Case Mohitul Islam said that he felt relieved of a great responsibility lying on him for a long time.

"I was one of the witnesses to the brutal killing but could not even file a case for long. It was painful for me," he said yesterday after the verdict.

"I tried to perform my responsibility by filing the case. And today the judgement came for which I was waiting for long time," he added.

Violent reaction CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: A group of people went on the rampage at Wireless Colony in Paharali thana of the port city soon after the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case, according to UNB.

The angry mob opened fire, attacked a number of houses, and damaged 25 shops and ransacked some 30 vehicles on Dhaka-Chittagong and some other roads nearby the colony.

Indo-US talks hit snags

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: India's dialogue with the United States has slowed because Washington wants to know the secret site of Indian nuclear weapons, Premier Atal Behari Vajpayee said in remarks published today, reports AFP.

"But we have clearly told them that this information cannot be given," the prime minister was quoted as telling the Times of India.

"In any case, India's security compulsions will determine the deployment of fissile material," Vajpayee said on a flight from Bombay to New Delhi on Saturday.

Vajpayee said this was holding up progress on ongoing talks between US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Jaswant Singh, a special envoy of the Indian Prime Minister. The two are to next meet on November 19.

It was the first admission by any Indian leader that the Jaswant Singh-Talbott dialogue launched after New Delhi's string of nuclear tests in May had stalled.

India has not given details of the secret talks.

Vajpayee said the United States first wanted "a complete moratorium on the use of fissile materials."

"Then other objections were raised," he said. "But there is increasing appreciation of India's stand now."

India. "Our prestige and position have improved."

Vajpayee's comments came after the United States said it had decided to lift some sanctions imposed on New Delhi and neighbouring rival Pakistan following nuclear weapons tests in May.

New Delhi gave a cautious welcome to the announcement, saying the US decision was an outcome of India's "intensive dialogue on a range of issues relating to disarmament and non-proliferation" with Washington.

The sanctions were in line with a law passed by the US Congress that mandates sanctions on nations testing nuclear weapons.

What was the motive?

What was the motive behind the killing of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975?

Delivering his verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case yesterday, Judge Kazi Golam Rasul said the prosecution is not bound to unearth the motive, but it's the duty of the court to mention if the motives come out (in course of trial).

In this regard, he mentioned several reasons that might be the motives behind the brutal killings. Those are:

— There was speculation that Khandaker Mushtaque will be dropped from the cabinet.

— There was resentment in army as some officers were dismissed.

Some army officers had bad relations with Awami League leaders over the recovery of arms and Bangabandhu didn't take any action in this regard.

— Introduction of BKSAL may be another motive as there was also resentment over it.

However, the District and Sessions Judge mentioned that he didn't want to go for elaboration about the BKSAL as it was a big political issue and the court is a political issue.

Evidences

In his judgement, Judge Golam Rasul observed that certain information came in support of the involvement of the accused in the killing of Bangabandhu:

1) Some of the accused used to reside at Bangabhaban along with their family members after the incident that strongly

Condemned cell

From Page 1 court, jail officials said.

The other convicted person, Maj(Ret'd) Bazul Huda, was sent to the condemned cell after he was extradited from Thailand earlier in the day. He was absconding but was arrested in Bangkok for shoplifting and jailed.

Of the four acquitted, two were at the dock during delivery of the judgement. They were Taheruddin Thakur and Abdur Wahab Joarder. Joarder was released from jail in the evening by Thakur was not freed because he is a chargesheeted accused in the Jail Killing Case.

Serajul Haq

From Page 1 the hearing of the case, alleged that Serajul Haq would not be have impartially in the case as he was an Awami League MP in early 1970s and boyhood friend of Bangabandhu.

The court while announcing observations just before the pronouncement of the verdict said the accusation was totally baseless as Serajul Haq was all along a neutral person in the case.

He did not influence the case, said Judge. Rather, on many occasions, he volunteered to help meet the demands of the defence side and accused persons.

BB governor

From Page 1 posed for the post. MR Khan's name was dropped from the list in the early stage. A strong lobby allegedly backed by a known group of defaulters successfully managed to get Ibrahim Khalid's name dropped as he always had a tough stand against loan defaulters, the sources said.

Dr Mashiur Rahman declined the job as he was more interested in a World Bank job, the sources said. He also showed the ground that the BB was dictated by the finance ministry and demanded full autonomy for the Bank.

They waited

From Page 1 bandhu, members of his family and my father were punished," said Tanu, the eldest daughter of slain Col Jamil.

She said: "We believe that no such tragic incident will take place in future, nor any one will dare to patronise such killings."

Anjumanaara Jamil MP, the widow of Col Jamil, said: "I have spent last 23 years with pain and uncertainty. I couldn't think that I would be able to see the killers punished."

"Today, my dream which I cherished for long 23 years has come true," she said.

supported their involvement in the killing.

2) Jobs of some accused in foreign missions proved their involvement.

3) Joining of some dismissed and retired officers without the permission of the authority

4) Similarity in the statements and information provided by accused Lt Col Syed Farooq, Lt Col Sultan Shahriyar Rashid Khan, Lt Col Muhiuddin and Taheruddin Thakur...

5) Interviews given by Lt Col Khandaker Abdur Rashid and Lt Col Syed Farooqur Rahman to Sunday Times and another with Grenada Television (in a video cassette) identified them as self-confessed killers.

6) Finally it has been proved from different confessional statements and witnesses that a section of army officers along with a few politicians for their personal vengeance, resentment and for lust for power killed Bangabandhu and his family members, according to UNB.

Quake rocks Tokyo

TOKYO, Nov 8: A fairly strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.9 shook Yokohama, Tokyo and nearby areas tonight, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, reports AP.

India beat Zimbabwe by 7 wkts

SHARJAH, Nov 8: India beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets in their Sharjah Champions' trophy match today.

Scores: Zimbabwe 196 all out in 49.5 overs, India 197 for three in 40.4 overs, reports Reuters.

Ershad's reaction

Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad has said the nation has to accept the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

"Those found guilty were convicted," he said in his initial reaction to UNB.

Gen Ershad, a former army chief, said the trial was held as per law of the land and the judge has given his verdict according to his findings.

"The judgement has to be accepted by all," he said.

The JP leader said trial of all killings should be held. He, however, did not elaborate.

Bazlul Huda

From Page 1 comprising Special Superintendent of the Bangabandhu Murder Case Abdul Hannan Khan and Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Abdul Kahhar Akand had left Dhaka for Thailand to bring back Huda last week.

He was directly brought to CID headquarters at Malibagh from the Old Airport and later sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after completion of the formalities through the judge of the trial court.

Four CID inspectors escorted Major Huda from Tejgaon airport to the jail.

Huda was jailed in Bangkok reportedly for shoplifting. He was handed over to Bangladesh following signing of an extradition treaty with Thailand.

Meanwhile, the security measures in and around Thai Embassy in the city was tightened further as an anonymous group had threatened a bomb attack if Huda was extradited to Bangladesh.

BNP mum

From Page 1 for the countrywide 48-hour hartal starting this morning.

BNP activists were found at the Naya Paltan central office and its city office at Nawab Yusuf Market to inquire if there was any programme for the day. The usual practice on such occasions is that public rallies are held in front of the BNP city office from where party workers parade the city thoroughfares.

According to insiders, BNP policymakers preferred to avoid confrontation yesterday as the ruling party dominated the city streets and also "not to lose strength" by confronting the opponents the day before the 48-hour strike.

DR. KABIR CHOWDHURY SKIN SPECIALIST CHAMBER : SKIN CARE 118/2, MALIBAGH (MOUCHAK RAIL GATE) DHAKA-1217. PHONE : 837033. CONSULTATION HOURS : 4 p.m TO 7 p.m. FRIDAY-SATURDAY & GOVT. HOLIDAYS CLOSED.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

সুবর্ণ জয়ন্তী বেগম বদরুন্নেসা সরকারী মহিলা কলেজ (আদি ইডেন/গভঃ ইন্টারমিডিয়েট/নঃ মহিলা কলেজ) আগামী ১১ই ডিসেম্বর অনুষ্ঠিতব্য কলেজের সুবর্ণ জয়ন্তী উৎসবে প্রধান অতিথি হিসাবে উপস্থিত থাকবেন গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা। অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য প্রাক্তন ছাত্রীদের নাম রেজিস্ট্রেশন চলছে। রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি ০০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা এবং সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১০ই নভেম্বর ১৯৯৮। রেজিস্ট্রেশনকৃত প্রাক্তন ছাত্রীদের আগামী ৮-১০ই ডিসেম্বর সময় সকাল ১০.০০ টা-কোলা ০.০০ টা) আমন্ত্রণপত্র সন্মত করে আসতে হবে। রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুনঃ শিক্ষক মিলনায়তন বেগম বদরুন্নেসা সরকারী মহিলা কলেজ, ঢাকা। ফোনঃ ৫০৪৪৫১। সুবর্ণ জয়ন্তী আহ্বায়ক স্বর্ণ জয়ন্তী উৎসব কমিটি সুবর্ণ জয়ন্তী উৎসব কমিটি C-820