

HC VERDICT IN JAIL KILLING CASE

Muslem to die; Farook, Shahriar, Huda, Mohiuddin acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

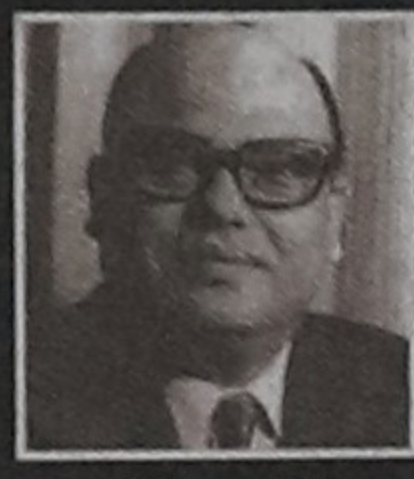
The High Court (HC) yesterday acquitted six former military men including Syed Farook Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed of charges in the Jail Killing Case.

It however upheld the death sentence to Risaldar (ret'd) Muslemuddin, still on the run.

Of those cleared, Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha had been sentenced to death by trial court and Lt Col (dismissed) Farook, Lt Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid, Major (ret'd) Huda and Major (ret'd) Mohiuddin to life for their role in killing four national leaders inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

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THE SLAIN LEADERS



Syed Nazrul Islam



Tajuddin Ahmed



AHM Qamaruzzaman



M Mansur Ali

The Killers



FROM TOP LEFT... Former army men Lt Col Khondakar Abdur Rashid, Lt Col Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt Col Noor Chowdhury, Lt Col Rashed Chowdhury, death-sentenced Resalder Muslemuddin, Maj Ahmed Sharul Hossain, Capt Abdul Majed. Capt Kismet Hashem and Capt Nazmul Hossain Ansar.

PHOTO: FILE

Mega transport project for greater Dhaka kicks off

\$5.52b STP aims to ease traffic congestion, attach top priority to pedestrians' movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday launched a long-term mega project to establish an integrated environment-friendly traffic management system in greater Dhaka to relieve people of the nagging traffic congestion.

The 20-year Strategic Transport Plan (STP) includes 17,400 square km of water and surface ways in Dhaka and neighbouring Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, Gazipur and Manikganj districts.

Metro train services, elevated motorways, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), construction of roads connecting the east of the capital to the west, flyovers, footbridges and new roads, and repair of damaged thoroughfares are the main features of the plan. It is aimed at a safe, reliable and affordable transport system in the city with pedestrians getting the highest priority.

Underground rail

Elevated motorway

Bus rapid transit

Mass rapid transit

East-west link in city

The total expenditure is estimated at \$5.52 billion excluding the cost of land acquisition.

Launching the STP at Osmani Memorial Hall, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said implementation of the plan would provide city dwellers safety and alleviate traffic congestion.

"Activities under the Strategic Transport Plan have already started to bring order in the city transport sector, remove traffic congestions

and curb the level of air pollution," he said at the launching ceremony, regretting the financial loss and the loss of valuable working hours of commuters due to congestions.

The STP is designed to be implemented in three phases. Six roads would be built to connect the east of the capital to the west and link the city to Dhaka bypass in the first phase. These roads are Zia Colony to Mirpur, Panthapath to Rampura, Tejgaon Airport Tunnel, Merul Badda to Golakandil, Tongi to Ghorashal and Malibagh to Janapath.

"It is essential to move forward immediately if the long-term plan is to succeed in a meaningful way in the first phase," said the STP report, adding that the planning, designing, financing and other preparatory work for the three motorways are done and awaits implementation in the first and

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Families of victims reject verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of the four slain national leaders yesterday rejected the High Court (HC) verdict.

"It is sad and unfortunate. Family members of the slain leaders as well as the people are frustrated at the verdict," Awami League (AL) leader Mohammad Nasim, who is receiving treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, told The Daily Star over the telephone last night.

Nasim, son of Captain M Mansur Ali, one of the slain national leaders, said it is surprising that no court could punish the murderers who are known as killers of the four national leaders.

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Punishment of killers still a big question

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The long wait for the High Court verdict in the Jail Killing Case finally ended yesterday, but the hope to see the perpetrators being punished is feared to remain unfulfilled.

The HC cleared all the four accused, who are behind bars, and two absconding ones, of the charges, while upheld the death sentence against another now on the run.

Though the trial court sentence of life term against eight absconding convict remains, they did not feel to turn up to appeal against it and stay fugitive.

Of those charge-sheeted for the grisly assassination of the four

national leaders on November 3, 1975, the trial court acquitted five in its October 20, 2004 verdict and sentenced to death three and life imprisonment to 12.

Of the 12 facing life term, the HC yesterday acquitted four, who are in jail and appealed against the verdict. The punishment against the rest remains valid as they did not appeal.

"Implementation of the verdict remains impossible unless the absconding convicts surrender or are caught," chief state counsel Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday.

If any of the absconding convicts even surrenders and wants to appeal against the HC verdict, the

Major parties disappointed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing disappointment over the High Court (HC) verdict in the jail killing case, major political parties yesterday said justice has not been meted out.

"We wanted justice but it has not been done. The verdict has utterly frustrated us," Awami League (AL) acting President Zillur Rahman told reporters at his Gulshan residence in the capital.

The AL leader said the people would not accept the verdict, which would be considered as a 'bad example'.

He said with the acquittal of those convicted by lower court, the murderers would be encouraged to continue their 'evil deed'.

Zillur said the country's greatest leaders were murdered inside jail

Tarique secures bail in all 13 cases against him

Khaleda gets bail in Barapukuria graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman has secured bail in all the 13 cases filed against him as the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday granted his bail prayer in the Tk 21 crore bribery case.

The three-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin granted Tarique two months' ad interim bail yesterday in connection with the case involving the murder of Bashundhara Group Director Humayun Kabir Sabbir.

The same bench of the apex court also upheld the High Court (HC) stay order on the proceedings against Tarique in a tax evasion case filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Tarique's counsels said now there is no legal bar to Tarique's getting released from jail.

Meanwhile, the HC yesterday granted four months' ad interim bail to detained former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Barapukuria coal mine corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The court also extended for

three months its earlier orders that stayed the proceedings against Khaleda in the Gato and Niko graft cases filed by the anti-graft body.

CASES AGAINST TARIQUE
On October 4 last year, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem filed the bribery case with Ramna Police Station against six persons including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar.

Tarique and former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal were later included in the case as investigation found their involvement in the bribery to save Shafiat

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ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH ACC okays charge sheet against Justice Fazlul Haque

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has decided to press charges in the case against former law adviser to a caretaker government Justice Fazlul Haque for amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about it.

The commission has also decided to file a graft case against Nazim Ullah Chowdhury, former Bangladesh ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told the regular briefing yesterday the commission has approved the submission of

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Govt asked to explain why Tac ordinance not illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) issued a rule on the government yesterday to explain in two weeks why the Truth and Accountability Commission Ordinance 2008 should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The HC bench of justices Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Mashuque Hossain Ahmed issued the rule after a two-day hearing on a writ petition filed on August 25.

The government formed the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) under the ordinance promulgated by the president on June 8, paving the way for the corrupt to walk free after voluntarily confessing to their corruption and handing the ill-gotten wealth back to the state exchequer.

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PHOTO: STAR

Rickshaws clog Dhanmondi Road-2 in the capital yesterday as a large number of unauthorised rickshaws enter the city ahead of the Ramadan.

Militant kingpin Galib freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS, Rajshahi, Bogra

Asadullah Al Galib, chief of Islamist militant outfit Ahle Hadith Andolan Bangladesh (Ahab), was freed on bail yesterday from Bogra Jail.

The High Court (HC) granted him bail in two cases as the trials could not be held within the time set by the HC six months ago.

Since his arrest on February 23, 2005, a total of ten cases were filed against the militant kingpin and a close ally of executed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Shayekh Abdur Rahman.

However, during the then BNP-Jamaat alliance government, Galib was relieved of charges in six of the cases and was granted bail in another case.

On July 26, during the term of the present government, a Gaibandha court declared him not

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PARTY REGISTRATION EC now invites Delwar to talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday back-pedalled on its previous decision, inviting BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain to talks beginning from September 6 with political parties on registration issue.

Ignoring objections of Delwar-led faction of BNP, the commission on November 5 last year invited Saifur-Hafizuddin-led group to the electoral reform talks 'recognising' them as the mainstream BNP.

The EC has now refrained from

inviting the same faction and invited Delwar to the talks in efforts to ensure the party's participation in the next parliamentary elections planned in December.

In the face of increasing differences between the political parties and the commission on registration, EC yesterday decided to open talks to resolve the differences. The commission has also sent invitation letters to 16 parties asking them to send delegation to the talks, EC sources say.

According to the schedule, EC

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HC RULE Govt ordered to explain 3 rules of RPO ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule on the government and the Election Commission (EC) to explain within two weeks why three sections of the Representation of the People Ordinance (RPO) 2008 --including rules restricting religion based political parties to register their names in the EC's list -- should not be declared illegal.

An HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Farid Ahmed issued the rule upon a writ petition filed by Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid.

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Delwar, Jamaat's Mojahid meet Khaleda in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid yesterday met detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia for the first time at the sub-jail on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

The two leaders of BNP-led four-party alliance had a nearly three-hour meeting with the BNP chairperson, which political observers viewed as a significant

development.

Delwar and Mojahid were allowed to meet Khaleda a day after Home Affairs Adviser MA Matin said there is no legal bar to releasing the BNP chairperson and her elder son Tarique Rahman from jail to facilitate their treatment abroad.

And Communication Adviser Ghulam Quader yesterday said the government is trying its best to narrow the gap with political parties.

There is no reason for the increasing gap, he told reporters at

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শিশুদের বিনামূল্যে জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সুযোগ নিন

৩ জুলাই ২০০৮ থেকে ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত ১৮ বছরের নিচে শিশু-কিশোরদের জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের জন্য কোন ফি দিতে হবে না। ১৮ বছরের উপরে সকল ব্যক্তির জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের জন্য সরকার ৫০ টাকা হারে ফি ধার্য করেছে।

জন্ম ও মৃত্যু নিবন্ধন ফি-এর হার:

বিষয়	১ জানুয়ারী ২০০৯ হতে কার্যকর ফি-এর হার	৩ জুলাই ২০০৮ হতে ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত ফি-এর হার
জন্ম বা মৃত্যু সনদের ইংরেজী কপি জন্য	৫০ টাকা	১০০ টাকা
জন্ম বা মৃত্যু সনদের বাংলা কপি জন্য	২০ টাকা	৪০ টাকা
তথ্য সংশোধনের জন্য	১০ টাকা	২০ টাকা
জন্ম বা মৃত্যু তারিখ হতে ২ বছরের মধ্যে জন্ম বা মৃত্যু নিবন্ধনের ক্ষেত্রে	বিনা মূল্যে	বিনা মূল্যে
জন্ম বা মৃত্যু তারিখ হতে ২ বছর পর জন্ম বা মৃত্যু নিবন্ধনের ক্ষেত্রে	প্রতি বছরের জন্য ৫ টাকা	প্রতি বছরের জন্য ১০ টাকা
জন্ম নিবন্ধনের ক্ষেত্রে ১৮ বছরের উপরে ব্যক্তির জন্য ৫০ টাকা। অনূর্ধ্ব ১৮ বছর বয়সীদের জন্ম নিবন্ধন এবং যে কোন মৃত্যু নিবন্ধন বিনা ফি-তে।		

অধিকতর ফি প্রদান এড়াতে ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ এর মধ্যে জন্ম নিবন্ধন করুন।



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