

Thousands pay tributes to Bangabandhu
Special prayers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of people yesterday gathered at Dhanmondi Road-32 in the city to pay tributes to Father of the Nation, a day after the final verdict in Bangabandhu murder case was pronounced.

People from all walks of life including political leaders and activists placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also visited the museum in the evening and offered magrib prayer there.

Bangabandhu was assassinated along with his family members on August 15 in 1975 in this house, which was later turned into a museum.

People also placed wreaths and offered special prayers at the grave of Bangabandhu in Tungipara.

Meanwhile, leaders and workers of Awami League (AL) and its associate bodies yesterday offered special prayers at all mosques and other houses of worship across the country. Senior party leaders

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A day after the historic verdict in the Father of the Nation murder case was pronounced, people visit Bangabandhu's residence at Dhanmondi Road-32 in the city where the bloodbath took place in August 15, 1975.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Yunus happy with verdict

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has expressed his satisfaction over the verdict of Bangabandhu killing case and said the rule of law and the principles of justice must be adhered to for any nation to move forward.

"I am happy to know that the verdict has finally come and those who committed these heinous crimes will be punished," he said in a message yesterday.

The founder of Grameen Bank also said, "The rule of law and the principles of justice must be adhered to for any nation to move forward. This process must continue."

RENTAL POWER PROJECTS

PDB's bid to protect defaulter companies

SHARIER KHAN

Instead of cancelling contracts for failing to commercially launch power plants even after more than a year, the Power Development Board is seeking the power ministry's nod for an "amicable solution" for six rental power projects of four local companies.

In a letter to the ministry, the PDB sought this nod as all of these companies have resorted to the court to obtain stay order on payment of penalties for their failure to launch their plants even after

the PDB had grossly extended the deadlines as a favour.

Of these six contracts, five deal with three-year rental power agreements while the other deals with a 15-year agreement.

The three-year contracts dictated that they would pay penalty of \$500 per megawatt capacity for up to two months of delay.

Other terms of the contracts dictate when and how these contracts should be cancelled in case of failure. The PDB had served these defaulter companies with the intent of notice for cancellation of

their contracts. But it never actually cancelled them.

The PDB now feels that these companies' resorting to legal courses is a delay tactic to do away with the three-year contract period without paying any liquefied damage.

Of the five three-year projects, only two have finally managed to begin commercial operation beyond their deadlines.

Three of the five projects are being implemented by Energy Prima of the

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Sahara pledges all-out steps to bring back fugitive killers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the government would take all possible measures to bring back the six absconding killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We will issue the red alert notice immediately through the Interpol like before and bring the absconding killers back in the country to execute the court verdict against them," Sahara told the reporters at a programme in the city.

The minister was inaugurating the council ceremony of Mujib Sena Parishad, a national organisation of children and teenagers, as the chief guest at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the afternoon.

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Train tickets for Eid trips sold out

7 special trains not enough for home-bound people

KALASH SARKAR

Train tickets for the homebound people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha have already been sold out only leaving scopes for travelling standing in the compartments or on the roofs risking lives and limbs.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) and other sources said the short vacation of Eid-ul-Azha caused the ticket crisis as a large portion of people choose government-run railway for cheaper travel and lesser risk.

The BR authorities started selling tickets in advance from November 18. They sold tickets for November 23 on November 17 while November 24 on 18th, November 25 on 19th and November 25 yesterday.

Tickets for November 26 will be available today while November 27 tomorrow.

Though the BR authorities have arranged seven special trains and added a number of compartments with almost all the trains, hundreds of people were found standing in long queues for hours yesterday.

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20 lakh sit today for primary final exams

Question papers prepared centrally

WASIM BIN HABIB

Primary Education Terminal Examination, the newly introduced public exam, begins today for the first time in the country with the participation of around 20 lakh students of class V.

The examination, which is considered the largest public examination, will start around 10:00am at 5,343 centres across the country and another five overseas.

Examinations of six subjects will be held in three days on November 21, 22 and 24. A total of 1,98,01,80 students -- 9,09,984 boys and 10,70,196 girls -- will take the examination.

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The steering committee headed by the Primary and Mass Education Minister Asfarul Amin is monitoring all activities related to the examination. Question papers prepared centrally have already been sent to the upazilas.

The Primary and Mass Education Ministry and Directorate of Primary Education set up two separate control rooms yesterday, which will remain open till November 24.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) imposed restriction on public access within 200 yards of the exam centres. It will remain in force till November 24, said a DMP announcement.

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These wild birds and animals, trade of which is forbidden by law, are sold at random in the market just beside the Tongi bridge, Gazipur.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Rare animals on sale

Endangered birds also sold illegally at a weekly market in Tongi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is a weekly pet market. Bird lovers gather here to buy pigeons and other species of birds and animals on Sundays.

Except traders of pigeon and poultry, hunters also gather here to make a profit with birds held from different villages. Some of those birds are sold as pet, while others are meant for meat.

Even wild birds and animals, trade of which is forbidden by the law, are available in this market located just beside the Tongi Bridge.

Endangered hilly myna, Alexandrian parakeet, blossom headed parakeet, rhesus monkey, pond heron, cattle egret, spotted dove, mongoose and many other species of birds were found during a recent visit.

According to the Wildlife (Preserva-

tion) Act, 1974, it is prohibited to kill, trap, capture and trade wild birds and animal and the act is a punishable offence.

The Department of Forest is now working on formulating even a stricter law to conserve the country's wildlife. According to the law, anyone will face a fine of Tk 1,000 and six months in prison for capturing, killing, possessing and trading of wildlife.

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INDIA TOUR

Sangma wants Hasina to visit Meghalaya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Former speaker of Indian parliament Purno A Sangma said he would arrange a tour for Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the north-eastern state of Meghalaya during her official visit to India next month.

Sangma, a senior leader of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), believes that her visit to the north-eastern state would help boost trade between the two countries.

"I am having discussions with External Affairs Ministry about Hasina's visit to India next month and trying to fix a tour to Shillong and Tura on her itinerary," he told reporters in Shillong on Thursday.

NCP is a constituent of the Congress' party-led government and Sangma's daughter

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2 traders shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two traders were shot dead yesterday by criminals in separate incidents in the city's Mirpur and Boubazar of Fatullah.

Motor parts trader Abul Kalam Azad Raju, 40, of Magura, was found dead with bullet wounds around 8:00am at Mirpur-1.

The victim's nephew Abu Bakr said, "Raju came to Dhaka on Thursday to buy goods for his shop."

The officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station told The Daily Star that police recovered the body with bullet wounds after being informed

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