

## Thousands pay

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and ministers attended the milad mahfil at the national Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city.

Talking to reporters, Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said rule of law has been established through this historic verdict. It has also been proved through the verdict that criminals have to face punishment.

Those who had created the chance for war criminals to raise the national flag on their vehicles would have to face trial, she told reporters after placing wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi 32 in the morning.

AL General Secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said their aim was to implement the verdict soon.

He also said the government is taking initiative to bring back the six absconding killers of Bangabandhu to the country.

Asked whether the government will try the masterminds of Bangabandhu murder, Ashrafur said, "Our main objective is to implement the verdict fast. We would think about this issue later."

Top AL leaders including

Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Abdul Latif Siddique, Sahara Khatun, Shatish Chandra and Ataur Rahman Khan placed wreath together.

They also placed wreaths at the graveyards of the relatives of Bangabandhu at Banani in the city. The relatives were also brutally murdered on August 15, 1975.

Besides, thousands of people paid their rich tribute to the Father of the Nation by placing wreaths and flowers at his portrait at Dhanmondi 32 at noon.

People also thronged the shrine of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj and paid rich tribute to him by placing wreaths and offering special prayers.

An AL delegation led by party organising secretary Bahauddin Nasim also placed wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu. A milad mahfil was held later at the party's district office in Gopalganj in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, different socio-political organisations also observed different programmes including rally and human chain demanding immediate execution of the verdict.

## Bombs seized in Satkhira

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

A Rapid Action Battalion team Thursday night found three homemade bombs, three pipe guns and a cartridge in Kamalkati village under Assassuni upazila of the district.

They also arrested Alam Shikari, 30, son of Dalil Uddin Shikari of the village.

Police said, on information the battalion members arrested Alam and upon his statement they recovered those from a shrimp enclosure in the village.

Sub-Inspector Tofazzel Hossain of Rab-6 filed a case with Assassuni Police Station in this connection.

Contacted Sadar Police Station OC Abdul Hai confirmed the incident.

## Salam Pintu

**FROM PAGE 1**  
CID took him on a fresh three-day remand yesterday.

Pintu admitted that he knew beforehand all details of the bomb attacks including the attacks on Narayanganj AL office on June 16 in 2001 and on Awami League rally on August 21 in 2004, the CID officials told the chief judicial magistrate seeking a fresh remand for Pintu.

Additional Superintendent of Police and in-charge of Narayanganj CID camp office Yusuf Ali Mollah had sought a seven-day remand for extracting more information from Pintu about the attacks and other persons behind the heinous acts.

Chief Judicial Magistrate of Narayanganj Arifur Rahman granted the three-day remand.

Earlier, defence counsel advocate Abdul Bari Bhuiyan prayed for Pintu's bail on ground of treatment but the court denied the bail prayer.

On October 10, Pintu was shown arrested by the CID in connection with the bomb attack on Narayanganj AL office. He was taken on the five-day remand on November 15.

In the meantime, Harkat-ul Jihad al Islami (Huji) leader Mufti Abdul Hannan and Svecchhasebak League leader Shahadat Ullah Jewel were remanded in connection with the Narayanganj bomb attack.

In a confessional statement, Jewel admitted his involvement in the attack on June 16 in 2001 that left 20 people dead and over 100 others injured.

Pintu's brother Moulana Tajuddin is a leader of Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit who supplied grenades used in the August 21 attacks that killed 24 people and injured 300 others.

## Train tickets

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Hundreds of others left the station without tickets while many others with the hope of getting room on train roofs or a chance to go home standing in the compartments.

Young garment worker Moshul Alam of Lalmonirhat who came to Kamalapur train station from Kanchpur in Narayanganj said, "I came here early in the morning. It is around 4:00pm and I am still standing in the queue hoping to reach the ticket counter. I am not sure whether there are anymore tickets left."

BR Director General (DG) Belayet Hossain told The Daily Star, "Since we have limited capacity we have to carry standing passengers considering the home rush."

He said, "We have arranged seven special trains -- three from Dhaka, one from Joydevpur and three from Chittagong -- and will allow 15 to 40 percent additional passengers without sitting arrangement."

BR sources said a total of 22 trains leave Kamalapur station every day with around 17,000 passengers with sitting arrangement while some other trains from Cantonment and Joydevpur stations with 10,000 passengers.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kamalapur Station Manager MA Zinnah said, "Only a few tickets (November 25) for Sylhet are available while tickets for Chittagong, Noakhali, Chandpur, Comilla, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Khulna, Jessore and Mymensingh are sold out."

Sources said of the total tickets, 5 percent are reserved for BR staff while 5 percent for VIPs.

Sources said there are allegations that the BR staff often sell the reserved and VIP tickets in black market.

## Rental power

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Hosaf Group, which was awarded four rental power projects during the caretaker government's rule although it lacked experience.

The defaulter power projects of Energy Prima are: Shahjibazar 50MW, Bogra 20MW and Fenchuganj 50MW projects. The Ashuganj project launched commercial operation in November 13, 2008 missing its deadline of May 15, 2008. The two other projects could not launch operation to date.

The remaining projects are Ashuganj 50MW by Precision Energy and Bhola 34.5MW by Venture Energy. Venture launched its plant on July 12 this year missing its first deadline of May 15 last year and the second deadline of March 31 this year. Precision Energy was given a final deadline of December 31 this year.

As these companies have repeatedly failed to meet deadlines, the ministry in January this year gave a final deadline of March 31 without

saying anything about fresh liquefied damage in case the contractors fail again.

The 15-year rental project of Barakatullah Electro Dynamics Ltd in Fenchuganj was supposed to start operation on January 23. As it failed, the government gave it a new deadline of September 30, 2009. The company came into operation on September 24.

The biggest defaulter Energy Prima has obtained stay order against payment of penalty from all of its three failed contracts. And yet, this company had attempted to participate in the new tender of the PDB to award fresh rental power contracts recently.

"These companies have repeatedly demonstrated that they are incapable of setting up a power plant. They are making the nation suffer through their failures and yet the PDB is unable to punish them," said an official. "This is how the PDB is encouraging incompetent and over-ambitious business groups in the power sector."

## Eid cattle market

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Six Nepali cows were also brought to the Gabtoli cattle market and the prices of which were as high as Tk 3 lakh to 4.50 lakh.

Sobahan, a resident of Siddique Bazar who came to the market to see for himself the price of cow, said the price is little bit lower than the last year.

The price of camels, on the other hand, is higher compared to last year. A total of 10 camels were brought to the market from Rajasthan of India and one has already been sold at Tk 2.20 lakh.

The asking price of a goat weighing 30 kg is Tk 16,000. Mithu, the goat trader, has already received an offer of Tk 10,00 for the goat.

"I brought 24 goats from Bogra and sold 5 goats but the profit is almost zero," he said.

Manager of Gabtoli cattle market Sohail Hasan said they had taken different steps including appointing 600

volunteers to maintain the market.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police will also be deployed in the cattle market along with closed-circuit television (CCTV) and dogsquads.

The cows have started to arrive at different makeshift cattle markets including Agargaon.

Dhaka City Corporation allowed 10 makeshift cattle markets in the city this year. These markets will be set up at Armanitola (Nayabazar), Maradia Bazar playground, Jhigatola-Hajaribag ground, Rahmatganj playground, Dhupkhola ground, Balurmath adjacent to the Brothers Union Sporting Club in Kamalapur, Banarupa Housing Project at Khilkhet, the open space adjacent to the Talola (Khilgaon) Bus Stand, the open space at Agargaon (adjacent to the LGED Bhaban), the open space of DCC to the south of Outfall Staff Quarter.

## Maoists derail train

**FROM PAGE 16**  
secretary because these kinds of things are now on the rise," India's Railways Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters in New Delhi.

"Every day there are obstructions, kidnappings, bomb blasts and the lives of passengers are being endangered. This is unacceptable," the ministers said.

The rebels frequently target train tracks in the "red corridor" of Maoist activity stretching across north and eastern India, but usually without deadly consequences.

Last month, Maoist-backed activists hijacked an express train in the adjoining West Bengal state to demand the release of a tribal leader arrested in September, but there were no casualties.

Separately in Jharkhand on Friday, the insurgents were suspected of seizing 20 members of an anti-Maoist village volunteer force and of bombing one mine and attempting to bomb another.

"All this is part of a tactic to spread panic among the people before the polls (later this month)," a police officer from the area of the derailment, AB Homkar, told AFP.

At the train crash site, two bodies were found in an overturned carriage, and 48 people were injured, Jharkhand police chief V.D. Ram said from state capital Ranchi.

"Maoists attacked and blew up the tracks between stations late Thursday night," said Ram. The train was travelling from the eastern state of Chhattisgarh to Jharkhand when eight of its 10 coaches derailed in the southeastern district of West Singhbhum after guerrillas detonated bombs in front of the engine, said Ram.

The Maoist insurgency started as a peasant uprising in 1967 but has now spread to 20 of India's 29 states. The rebels claim to be fighting for the rights

of India's poor and tribal populations.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has labelled the leftist rebels the greatest threat to India's internal security, and a massive security operation planned by the federal government to wipe them out is tipped to start this month.

The rebels also bombed a mine owned by the state-run Steel Authority of India Ltd. on Friday in Jharkhand near its border with the state of Orissa, police said.

"Maoists detonated a low-intensity bomb in Meghatpur but there were no injuries," a police official who asked not to be named told AFP from Orissa's state capital Bhubaneswar.

Another bomb in a mine on the border between Jharkhand and Orissa was defused, he said.

## Sangma wants

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Agatha is a federal minister.

Sangma said there is scope for both West Bengal and the north-eastern region to trade with Bangladesh and that is why her visit is "very important".

Such a high-profile visit would give a major boost to trade ties between Bangladesh and the north-eastern region of India, Sangma mentioned.

He also referred to issues like the proposed Shillong-Sylhet bus service and the transit route of vehicles from north-eastern India through Bangladesh that would be discussed with Hasina.

## AL leader

**FROM PAGE 16**  
mosque in the village. The gang chopped him to death and left the scene firing blank shots to create panic.

On information police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

SM Faruk Hossain, officer-in-charge of Santhia Police Station, yesterday said victim's family, accusing outlaws of the area, had filed a case with the police station.

The body was sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy Friday morning.

"Following a primary investigation, we became clear that outlawed operatives are involved in the incident," said SM Faruk Hossain.

Meanwhile, the leaders and activists of Santhia unit Awami League condemned the murder. "We demand immediate arrest of the killers," said Mojammel Haque, president of the AL unit.

Additional police have been deployed in the area.

## Turkey scraps N-power plant tender

**AFP, Ankara**

Turkey yesterday scrapped a 2008 tender won by a Russian-led consortium to build the country's first nuclear power plant -- a process that had been under threat of being invalidated by a court decision.

In a brief statement, the state-run electricity wholesaler TETAS said its board of directors decided "unanimously" to cancel the tender, citing an article in the bid specification that gave it the authority to scrap the process without any liability.

A consortium led by Atomstroyexport, Russia's state nuclear giant, had been the only bidder in the tender to build four nuclear reactors with a total capacity of 4,800-megawatts at Akkuyu, in the Mediterranean province of Mersin.

TETAS's decision comes ten days after a top administrative court suspended parts of the regulation governing the tender before moving on to review a demand by a civil society of engineers to cancel the process.

## Rare animals

**FROM PAGE 1**  
But the government agencies concerned generally never try to implement the wildlife laws as open trade goes on in Kataban, Tongi pet markets on large scale and elsewhere on limited scale.

A pair of pond herons is available in Tongi only at Tk 250 and cattle egret at Tk 300.

Bilkis Hizra was found there buying three pond herons. "Heron meat is very tasty. I often buy herons from here if I have money," said Bilkis, who bought three birds and had them slaughtered in front of this correspondent.

Minhaz, a juvenile from Cherag Ali, Gazipur, came to the market to sell a captured mongoose. "I will sell it for Tk 800," he said, initially asking Tk 1,200 for the animal.

Besides selling wild birds and animals, some traders were also selling bird traps and trained birds.

One of them, Moqbul Mia demanded Tk 1,500 for his bird trap and a trained dove.

The traders say they never face any problems selling the forbidden wildlife at this Sunday market.

## Tarique

**FROM PAGE 1**  
does not repeat.

Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) organised the meeting with its president Sultan Salauddin Tuku in chair. Leaders of BNP and its associate bodies also spoke at the meeting.

Earlier in the afternoon, a motorcade of over a hundred vehicles carrying party leaders, including BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar and former minister Moudud Ahmed, reached Bogra.

Hundreds of enthusiasts bearing banners, posters and placards welcomed the former premier at different points chanting slogans.

At least five hundred gates were built in Bogra to welcome the BNP chairperson. She left the capital yesterday morning to attend the celebration of Tarique's 45th birthday. It was the last day of seven-day celebration programme organised by JCD.

Around 50 gates have been erected in Sherpur while another 40 in and around Bogra town. Besides, five gates have been built after every 500 metres on Dhaka-Bogra highway from Hatikumul to Matidhali.

More than three thousand leaders and workers of the party and its associate bodies accompanied their party chief from the capital while about six thousand joined from different northern districts to mark the day.

Bogra town was illuminated and decorated with portraits of Tarique Rahman and his parents -- former president Ziaur Rahman and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia.

Khaleda addressed a few street meetings on her way to Bogra and alleged that the present government is trying to harass her son so that he cannot return to the country. She said, "Tarique worked for the development of the country, but a lot of cases were filed only to destroy him."

Besides, the handing over of Tk1,000 each to 100 talented students, Khaleda distributed cattle, goats, sewing machine and winter clothing among destitute people on the birthday occasion of her elder son.

## World powers plot

**FROM PAGE 16**  
ElBaradei, held out little hope for the talks, or the carrot and stick approach of incentives backed by the threat of sanctions currently being used.

"I think the Group of Six are partly meeting in an environment of desperation," he said in Berlin. "I haven't really talked to them but again, they talk about the dual track, but to me the second track is a dead-end street."

Many in the West suspect that the Islamic republic is covertly trying to build a nuclear weapon. Tehran insists it is only developing a civil energy programme, and has rejected attempts to force it to stop uranium enrichment.

In an attempt to draw Iran into talks and guarantee that its nuclear ambitions are peaceful, the six have offered to reprocess some of its low-enriched uranium abroad.

But on Wednesday, Iran rejected those plans, involving more than 70 percent of its stock of low-enriched uranium (LEU) abroad, brokered by the UN atomic watchdog the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The LEU would have been converted into nuclear fuel and returned to Iran to power a research reactor in Tehran. Very highly refined uranium can be used to fuel an atomic bomb.

However, ElBaradei said he did not consider that to be the Islamic republic's final word.

"I do not consider that I have received a final answer," he said.

"We have not received any written response from Iran. What I got of course is an oral response, which basically said 'we need to keep all the material in Iran until we get the fuel,'" he

said. He said: "I believe that frankly the ball is very much in the Iranian court. I hope that they will not miss this unique and fleeting opportunity."

US President Barack Obama has warned that Washington has "begun discussions with its international partners about the importance of having consequences."

"Our expectations are that over the next several weeks we will be developing a package of potential steps that we could take that will indicate our seriousness to Iran."

Russia played down the prospect of sanctions, but

France has ruled out further talks sought by Iran on technical aspects of the deal.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, meanwhile, again went on the offensive against Washington.

"If our nation sees they have changed their behaviour, dropped their arrogant attitude ... and return Iranian nation's rights and assets, the nation will accept that," he said in a televised speech.

Iran has refused to halt enrichment despite three sets of UN sanctions and it drew outrage in the West by disclosing in September a new enrichment plant, Fordo, which is being built inside a mountain near the holy city of Qom.

Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Tehran wants more talks and is prepared to consider a simultaneous exchange of uranium for fuel for its Tehran reactor.

But that is unpalatable to the Western powers, who have tired of Iran's brinkmanship and alleged lack of good faith.

## Bombers kill 23

**FROM PAGE 16**  
main square near my working office in my home," provincial governor Rohul Amin Amin told AFP.

"Fifteen people have been killed," the governor said. Apart from a police officer, all the dead were civilians, Amin added.

About 38 other people were wounded, officials said. More than a dozen were in a "critical condition".

Karzai condemned the "brutal and unforgivable attack on civilians", said a statement from his office.

In the capital Kabul, a roadside bomb ripped through the convoy of Abdul Rab Rasul Sayaf, a pro-Karzai warlord-turned-lawmaker who survived. Five of his bodyguards were killed, police said.

A bomb planted on the side of the road was detonated as his (Sayaf's) convoy passed by," district police Chief Abdul Razaq Quraishi told AFP.

"Five of his bodyguards were killed," he said.

Sayaf supported Karzai during Afghanistan's fraudulent August 20 election and the subsequent withdrawal of his main challenger from a run-off, which has seen many Afghans view the president's second mandate as illegitimate.

Afghan and international rights groups accuse Sayaf and his private militia of atrocities during Afghanistan's civil war, killed tens of thousands of civilians from 1992 until the Taliban took power in 1996.

In the eastern province of Khost, a roadside bomb tore through a civilian car, killing three non-combatants, local police said.

Four attacks have hit Afghanistan since Karzai was inaugurated. Two US soldiers and 10 civilians were killed in two separate bombings on Thursday.

The violence underscores the challenge Karzai faces if he is to make good on his inauguration hope that Afghan troops will soon take the lead on security, allowing the more than 100,000 Nato and US troops to scale back.

"We are determined that within the next five years the Afghan forces are capable of

## Sahara pledges

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Sahara said they have already requested the Interpol authorities attending its 78th annual general meeting in Singapore last month to track down the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu in different countries.

She said the existing 'security blanket' would remain active in the country until the execution of the Supreme Court verdict against the killers.

The nation has got rid of a stigma through the verdict, she added.

Sahara also sought assistance from the people to keep the law and order situation under control across the country.

taking the lead in ensuring security and stability," he told an audience that included US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

However US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said it was too soon to set a timeline for troop drawdowns.

"I think I would rather have those on the ground in Afghanistan make the judgment call about when a province or a district was ready to be turned over, rather than specific dates," Gates told reporters.

As Karzai turns his attention to forming a cabinet, the international community and disillusioned Afghans wait to see if he can deliver on his pledges to end corruption and bring peace to the nation.

Karzai won plaudits for his inauguration speech on Thursday from Western officials including Clinton, who said it was an "important new starting point".

The nature of Karzai's election win -- with almost a million fake votes cast in his favour -- highlighted astounding levels of graft in Afghanistan, now billed by Transparency International the world's second most corrupt country.

## Manpower

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the jobs and addressing labour problems aggravated the troubles.

Labour troubles in Malaysia deteriorated in 2007 and 2008 because of such negligence. The then labour councillor of Bangladesh in Malaysia, Talat Mahmud Khan, however, had said that it was difficult for him alone to visit all the workplaces and check the authenticity.

Asked if the government is considering these issues, Elias Ahmed said they were aware and taking care of such issues. The labour attaché appointed would surely have to go through comprehensive briefings, he noted.

Meanwhile, early October an Iraqi Labour Minister Mahmoud al-Sheikh Radhi declared resisting recruitment of foreign workers citing their own unemployment problems.

The minister said many foreign workers including Bangladeshis and Indonesians had already arrived in Iraq as security situation improved there despite 16 percent unemployment rate among the Iraqis, reported the Al Jeeran, an Iraqi online newspaper on October 7.

Following such a news item, the expatriates' welfare ministry on October 12 sent a letter to the Bangladesh mission in Jordan to check the genuineness of the information but until yesterday there was no response.

"We hope things will become clear when the Bangladesh ambassador goes there and starts functioning," said another official at the expatriates' welfare ministry.

## Jail killing case

**FROM PAGE 1**  
case cancelled since the verdict was not correct.

"The nation wants the killers of the four national leaders to be punished. My office will approach the Supreme Court in the first week of December for holding hearing on the appeals in the case," he said.

He said the appeals pointed out many grounds upon which the SC can rescind the HC verdict. There is evidence that the acquitted army men had plotted the killing of the four leaders in jail, he added.

The HC delivered its verdict disbelieving the statements of almost all the witnesses who said the accused persons were directly involved in the killing of the four national leaders inside Dhaka Central Jail, Mahbubey Alam explained.

The HC judgment accepted the allegations against only one accused--Risaldar (ret'd) Muslemuddin, who is still on the run--and upheld his death sentence, he said.

"We have confidence in the apex court, and we believe we will get justice there," he added.

The acquitted army men include Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahrir

## 20 lakh

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The Awami League government introduced the new public exam in place of primary scholarship examination with a view to imparting equal education to all students.

From now on, there will be no separate scholarship examination, said ministry sources.

The students must pass the terminal exam to get enrolled in class VI. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of their results in two categories -- talent-pool and general -- half to boys and half to girls.