

Thousands pay

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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 Ashraful 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, Ashraful said, "Our main objective is to implement the verdict fast. We would think about this issue later."

Top AL leaders including

Jail killing case

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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 (retd) Musleminuddin, 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 (retd) Sultan Shahriar

20 lakh

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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.

Earlier, only 40 percent of primary school students across the country used to sit for the scholarship exam. Teachers had to remain busy with an exam that was for selected pupils.

The ministry issued a circular on September 13 saying examinations of six subjects -- Bangla, English, Paribesh Parichiti Somaj (social science), Paribesh Parichiti Bigyan (science) and Religion will be held in three days.

Students will sit for two exams every day. Today they will start with Bangla around 10:00am and then Science around 2:00pm. The time limit for each exam is two hours.

According to the ministry sources, the highest number of examinees is from Dhaka Division where the number of participants is about six lakh.

The result of the examination will be announced on December 25 and the list of scholarship recipients will be published on January 25.

The telephone number of ministry's control room is 7160292 while directorate's control room can be reached through 8018123 and 9012920.

However, many grassroots level officials and teachers say sitting for two subjects each day is a big challenge for the children who had limited amount of time to get prepared.

Bombs seized in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira

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 organiser 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.

Contacted Sadar Police Station OC Abdul Hai confirmed the incident.

Salam Pintu

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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 Svechchhasebok 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

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Hundreds 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 Moshilul 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 arrangements."

Both sides have agreed to cooperate in the fields of shipbuilding, heavy machinery industries, electronic appliances, textiles, pharmaceuticals, RMG, jute and petrochemical products.

The two sides agreed to explore the possibilities of joint venture in the fields of shipbuilding, heavy machinery industries, electronic appliances, textiles, pharmaceuticals, RMG, jute and petrochemical products.

Both sides stressed the need for reciprocal visits of business delegations to promote bilateral trade, economic and technical cooperation, and also the need for holding trade fairs in each other's country.

Bangladesh expressed interest to export medicines and pharmaceutical products. The country invited Turkish investors to relocate their labour-intensive industries like textile and construction to Bangladesh to utilise cheapest labour and other fiscal incentives.

Both sides agreed to examine the investment possibilities from Turkey in the oil, gas, refinery and power plant sectors in Bangladesh.

The two countries decided to hold the next meeting of the JEC in Bangladesh at a time to be mutually agreed upon.

Rental power

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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 date.

The remaining projects are Ashuganj 50MW by Precision Energy and Bhaba 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 had 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."

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

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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.

Dhaka City Corporation allowed 10 makeshift cattle markets in the city this year. These markets will be set up at Armanitola (Nayabazar), Maridia Bazar playground, Jhigatola-Hajaribag ground, Rahmatganj playground, Dhupkhola ground, Balurmath adjacent to the Brothers Union Sporting Club in Kamalapur, Banarupura Housing Project at Khilkhet, the open space adjacent to the Taltola (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.

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 dog squads.

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

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 10,000 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 Sohel Hasan said they had taken different steps including appointing 600

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.

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

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 said they never face any problems selling the forbidden wildlife at this Sunday market.

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.

"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.

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

Sangma wants

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does not repeat.

Jatiyatabdhi 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.

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

About 38 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 Razak Quraishi told AFP.

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

Sayaf supported Karzai during Afghanistan's controversial August 20 election and the subsequent withdrawal of his main challenger from a runoff, 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.