

BNP, Jamaat keep mum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the exception of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, different political parties expressed deep satisfaction over the execution of killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The implementation of the court verdict on Bangabandhu murder case had upheld the rule of law, they observed.

BNP, the main opposition in parliament, however, surprisingly did not give any reaction, even none of the party leaders agreed to make their personal comments over

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Three other Aug 15 cases await justice

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Three other August 15, 1975 killings, aside from the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, have been faded almost into oblivion.

On the day, Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, nephew of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founding chairman of Awami Jubo League, was killed with his wife Arzu

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Long road to justice

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Following is the chronology of the Bangabandhu murder case:

August 15, 1975: Then president of the country and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members are assassinated.

September 26, 1975: Then self-proclaimed president Khondker Mushtaque Ahmed promulgates infamous Indemnity Ordinance

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Tungipara still reels from that burial

RASHIDUL HASAN and SUBROTA SAHA

"I could not believe the news of Bangabandhu assassination on radio till I saw a helicopter hovering over Tungipara in the afternoon," said Abdul Hai Mollah, who along with five others placed Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to his eternal rest.

The helicopter brought

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What courts observed

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The Supreme Court (SC) on November 19 last year pronounced the verdict upholding the death sentence of 12 convicts in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

Three High Court (HC) judges had earlier delivered separate verdicts in the case.

On December 14, 2000, Senior Judge of an HC bench

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Nation rids itself of stigma

5 executed killers of Bangabandhu buried at their village homes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five executed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were buried yesterday following the hangings in Dhaka Central Jail in the first hour of the day.

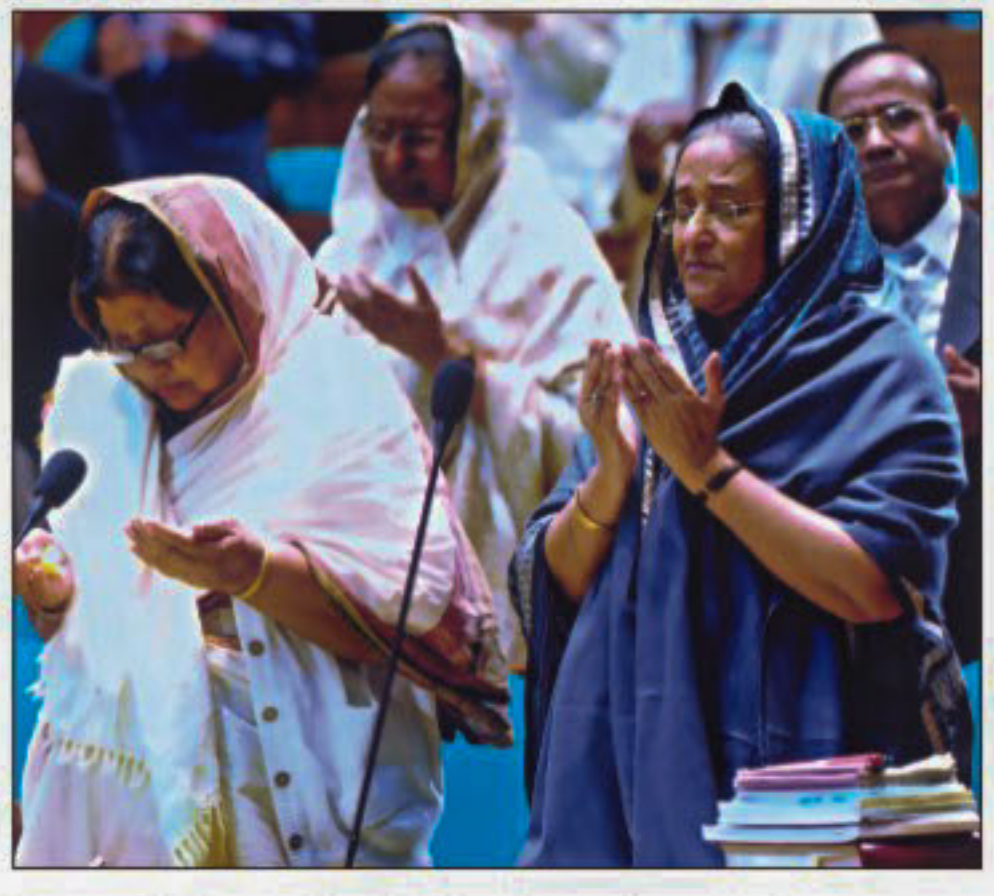
They were buried at their ancestral village homes. Five ambulances, escorted by Rapid Action Battalion and police, transported the bodies to the burial sites.

Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan was buried at Gopinathpur of Kashba upazila in Brahmanbaria, Syed Farooq Rahman at Marma Mallikpur village in Naogaon, Bazlul Huda at Hatboalia village of Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga, and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mohiuddin Ahmed at Neta and Nijkata villages respectively under Golachipa upazila in Patuakhali.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered shokrana namaz and recited from the holy Quran in her official residence Jamuna after the executions.

Hasina, one of the two surviving daughters of Bangabandhu, expressed deep satisfaction over the executions, and called upon the people as well as her party leaders and activists to resist any conspiracy with patience.

Awami League leaders and activists led by Deputy Leader of the Parliament Syeda Sajeda



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina takes part in a prayer in the House yesterday for Bangabandhu and his family members killed in the August 15, 1975 bloodbath.

Chowdhury placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi of the capital in the morning.

"The nation is now stigma free," said Sajeda

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Prayers at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House of the Nation yesterday expressed deep gratitude to the Almighty for the executions of five killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Speaker Abdul Hamid said the nation got rid of a stigma through the implementation of the court verdict in the murder case.

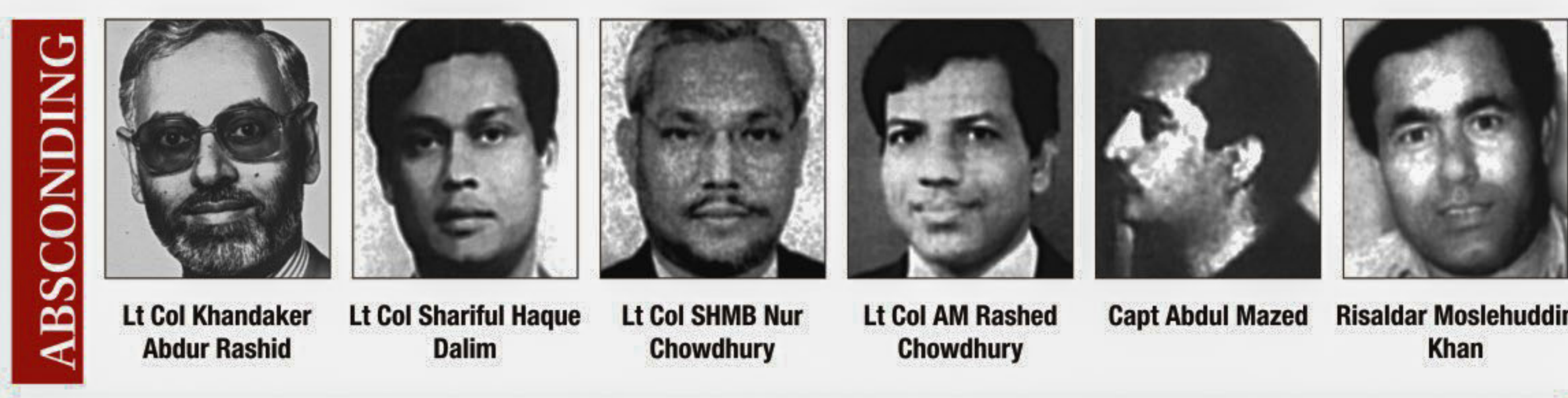
"We had to face repression, detention, disgrace, and some of our comrades were even killed for seeking justice. But we did not bother much about the sufferings. We have been carrying our agonies for the last 34 years, for not being able to try the killers," an emotion choked Hamid said.

"Now we are relieved. We will now be able to die in peace, without remorse," the speaker said in a brief speech at the beginning of yesterday's sitting of the parliament.

Lawmakers stood in silence for a minute to show respect to Bangabandhu and the others who had been killed along with him on August 15, 1975. They also offered a munajat, praying for salvation of the departed souls.

The written questions and answers for the

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ABSCONDING

Lt Col Khandaker Abdur Rashid
Lt Col Shariful Haque Dalim
Lt Col SHMB Nur Chowdhury
Lt Col AM Rashed Chowdhury
Capt Abdul Mazed
Risaldar Moslehuddin Khan

6 stay out of reach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

None of the remaining six convicted killers of Bangabandhu, now holed up in different countries, could be brought back yet despite the government's diplomatic manoeuvres.

The government even does not yet have specific information about the whereabouts of a number of the absconding killers because of their frequent change of location. It already sought assistance from the Interpol in

this regard, but for no result.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, however, yesterday claimed that the government has information about the fugitives and is working to bring them back to face justice.

The six absconding killers are Lt Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haque Dalim, Lt Col (ret'd) Nur Chowdhury, Lt Col (ret'd) AM Rashed Chowdhury, Capt Abdul Mazed and Risaldar Moslehuddin.

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Move on to bring them back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Effective measures have been taken to bring the six fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman back to the country soon for trial.

"The home and foreign ministries are working to bring the fugitives back. Interpol has already issued red

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Green light to explore onshore

HC vacates 9-year injunction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a verdict yesterday cleared the way for exploration of oil and gas from the country's onshore blocks by vacating its nine-year old injunction on such exploration.

The court also discharged a 12-year old writ petition that challenged the government move to sign production-sharing contract (PSC) with foreign gas and oil exploration companies.

The HC judgment paves the way for the government to sign PSC for oil and gas exploration.

The injunction prevented opening any onshore blocks to international companies for oil and gas exploration under any PSC since 2001.

The country had signed several PSCs with some foreign oil companies in the 90s through two rounds of block biddings. These oil companies now meet more than half of country's gas requirements.

Former secretary Shah Abdul Hannan, columnist Sadek Khan, journalist Amanullah Kabir, and Prof Abdur Rob jointly filed the writ petition with the HC as public interest litigation in 1998.

The petition sought HC directive on the government to formulate a National Strategy Policy through parliament before leasing out gas blocks to protect the country's interests.

Following the petition, the HC in 2001 issued an injunction on oil and gas exploration from the country's onshore blocks.

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SEA BOUNDARY WITH INDIA

Three arbitrators' hiring discussed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India and Bangladesh yesterday discussed the appointment of three arbitrators to a five-member tribunal, which would deal with the issue of maritime boundary dispute between the two countries.

The over-an-hour-long meeting held at the South Block here also discussed the disputes and issues relating to Bangladesh's approaching the UN Convention of the Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS).

The meeting was held as a "fulfilment" of the declaration by the two countries in the Joint Communiqué, issued after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Delhi from January 10 to 13, with both sides pledging to sort out the maritime boundary issue amicably.

Both India and Bangladesh have nominated one arbitrator each and the meeting discussed the issue of three other arbitrators, sources here said.

However, the meeting did not discuss the more complex issue of criteria like "equity" or "equal distance" or a combination of both in demarcating the territorial waters in energy-rich Bay of Bengal, which had given rise to the dispute.

Bangladesh's Additional Foreign Secretary Khurshid Alam led a four-member delegation while S Thirumurthy, joint

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Nightmare for AL men after bloodbath

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975 came as a severe blow to Awami League that led the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Following the cataclysmic event, many top and mid-level AL leaders either fled the country or went into hiding. Some were detained and tortured or forced to back the new regime installed by the killers of Bangabandhu and his family members.

"You are walking over your grave. If you get killed, nobody will take responsibility," Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed, who assumed office as president immediately after the killings, told Tofail Ahmed at Bangabhaban, putting pressure on him to lend support to the new government.

Incumbent President Zillur Rahman, who was brought along with Tofail to Bangabhaban, also had to endure tremendous pressure.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, Tofail Ahmed, who was special assistant to President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, recalled the post-August 15 days when AL leaders were gripped by horror of Bangabandhu's killing and the killers, who murdered four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail.

Tofail said he was tortured several times. The killers repeatedly threatened to kill him if he doesn't back the Moshtaque government.

"The killers took me to a radio station several times. They mounted pressure on me to make statements on the radio in support of the new government. They tortured me as I refused to do their bidding every time," said Tofail.

He was also a member of the central committee of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League (BAKSAL), a national

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আপন ঘর

হোম লোন তো থাকছেই
পাশে পাবেন পছন্দের ডেভেলপার

পছন্দমত ফ্ল্যাট খোঁজার জন্য আর কোথাও যাবার প্রয়োজন নেই - চলে আসুন ব্র্যাক ব্যাংকে, আপন ঘর সেবায়। আপনাকে নিশ্চিত রাখতেই দেশের স্বনামধন্য বিশ্বের এটেন্ট কোম্পানির সাথে আমরা গড়ে তুলেছি বন্ধুত্বের সম্পর্ক। আমাদের কাছ থেকেই সমস্ত ডেভেলপারদের ফ্ল্যাটের তালিকা থেকে খুঁজে নিন আপনার কাঙ্ক্ষিত বাড়ির ঠিকানা। শুধু এই নয়, ব্র্যাক ব্যাংকের আপন ঘর আপনাকে দেবে আরো অনেক কিছু - আর হোম লোন তো থাকছেই।

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