

Call for building country on Bangabandhu's ideology

UNB, Dhaka Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on all to build up the country as a prosperous one based on the ideology of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the spirit of the liberation war.

night in execution of the verdict on the Bangabandhu Murder Case. AL advisory council members Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Abdur Razzak, former general secretary of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, Jatiya Party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh MP came to Jamuna.

Hussain Mohammad Ershad phoned Hasina at noon and expressed satisfaction over the execution of the killers of Bangabandhu. Jalil told journalists that Hasina called on them and people of all walks of life to get united and work hard to build up a prosperous Bangladesh to fulfil the dream of Bangabandhu.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Mahbub Ali former administrator of the daily New Age, will be held at his own residence at 281 Kathalbagan Dhal in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Nightmare for AL men

FROM PAGE 1 political party, which was formed to bring about a "second revolution" in the country. Moshtaque, known for his conservative and pro-Islamic mindset, included some of his old colleagues in his cabinet. He received backing from all rightists, including those that had been banned for long.

Hamid, who was probably the youngest lawmaker of the first parliament constituted through the 1973 national election, was also detained and kept in prison for a long time. "I was confined in a condemned cell of Rajshahi prison for 20 days. I had to have lunch after lighting a lamp," Hamid recalled the days in prison while talking to The Daily Star.

Hamid was kept in Rajshahi jail for six months and then shifted to Dhaka Central Jail. He was released in 1978 after winning a legal battle. In efforts to create a vacuum in AL leadership and prevent any possible resistance, the killers arrested AL leaders at random and murdered the four national leaders, who successfully led the Liberation War in absence of Bangabandhu.

Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, who was a student leader at that time, said he, Obaidul Quader, KM Jahangir Hussain and Bahalul Majnu Chunnun secretly communicated with some leaders and tried to stage agitations. But it could not be possible as most student leaders went into hiding to escape detention and torture.

Three other Aug 15 cases

FROM PAGE 1 Moni in their Dhanmondi residence. The same day, Abdur Rab Serniabat, former water resources minister and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's brother-in-law, was killed in his Minto Road residence.

Moni's younger brother, Arzu was crying to Selim for help and asking to save them and their two sons--Sheikh Fazle Shams Porosh and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh. Shahabuddin, Selim and Maruf took Sheikh Moni and Arzu to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared them dead.

Huda again fired shots and left the scene. Abdur Rab Serniabat, his nephew advocate Shaheed Serniabat, daughter Baby Serniabat, son Arif Serniabat, grand son 4-year-old Babu Serniabat, and domestic helps Potka and a woman called Laxmir Ma (mother of Laxmi), and Abdur Naim Khan alias Rintu died on the spot.

Sher Shah Suri Road 8 area at Mohammadpur, woke up receiving wounds in his left thigh and hearing tremendous sounds of mortar fire around 5:30am. Hearing cries, he went to a nearby residence on Road 9 and found Rezia Begum, wife of Musa the house owner, and their daughter Nasima dead.

SHEIKH MONI KILLING

On August 15, 1975 around 1:30am, several gunshots interrupted the silence of the night and woke up the people in areas adjacent to Road 13/1 at Dhanmondi.

After a long 21 years of the incident, Shahabuddin filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station accusing 16 people including former deputy minister Taheruddin Thakur. Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on August 22, 2002 gave final report in this case and had it dismissed in secrecy, ignoring the legal bindings.

Shahan Ara Begum, her mother-in-law Amena Begum, and brother-in-law Abul Khair Serniabat alias Khokan, sisters-in-law Beauty Serniabat and Rina Serniabat, and domestic helps Rana, Rafiqul Islam, Lalit Das and Golam Mahmud were seriously injured. Her husband Abul Hasnat Abdullah, son of Abdur Rab Serniabat, survived luckily hiding behind the door.

He then went to House 196 and 197 on Shahjahan Road in the same area where he found bodies of Habibur Rahman, Anwara Begum-1, Anwara Begum-2, Moyful Bibi, Sabera Begum, Abdullah, Rafiqul, Safia Khatun, Shahabuddin, Kasheda, Aminuddin and Honufa Bibi, all killed in mortar fire. Later he came to know that 14 people had been killed in Mohammadpur by mortar shells fired by a group of military personnel.

SERNIABAT MURDER

At about 5:00am, the murder took place at 27 Minto Road residence of Abdur Rab Serniabat. A group of army men led by Major Shahriar Rashid, Major Aziz Pasha, Captain Majed and Captain Nurul Huda went up to the first floor and broke the door. Confused, Serniabat made a phone call to the residence of Bangabandhu.

The officials gathered the residents together at the drawing room on the ground floor where Shahriar and Majed fired shots at them. Scared, Beauty Serniabat caught hold of her father Abdur Rab Serniabat. Shahriar Rashid, Aziz Pasha and Nurul

Shahan Ara Begum filed a case with Ramna Police Station in this connection on October 21, 1996, accusing 18 persons. But proceedings of the case were stayed by the High Court in November 1999 following a criminal revision filed by Bazlul Huda, one of the accused, against the order of charge framing. The stay order has been remaining in force till date.

On November 29, 1996, Ali filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station accusing Syed Farooq Rahman and 10 others. The case is now pending with the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka. Talking to The Daily Star on January 14, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said he would take initiative to move these cases after disposal of the Bangabandhu murder case.

What courts observed

FROM PAGE 1 Justice Md Ruhul Amin upheld the death sentence of 10 convicts, and Junior Judge Justice ABM Khairul Haque upheld the sentence for all the 15 convicts.

The accused brutally killed such a leader who is none but the father of the nation. "They even did not spare the child son of the president who was below 10 years old. They killed him in such a brutal manner the nation was shocked and dumbfounded," the SC observed.

Asked about the then foreign minister Dr Kamal Hossain, Razzaq said Dr Kamal was abroad at that time and did not return to the country for a long time. Student leaders were also on the run to escape torture and repression by the army. Present AL lawmaker

declared martial law on August 20 with effect from August 15 and banned all political activities. Amid a volatile situation fuelled by coup and counter coup, Ziaur Rahman became the Chief Martial Law Administrator on 19 November 1976, when Justice Sayem relinquished his position. Ziaur Rahman ultimately became the country's president on 21 April 1977, when President Sayem stepped down.

Long road to justice

FROM PAGE 1 protect the killers from justice and subsequent BNP government later ratified it as Indemnity Act in 1979. August 14, 1996: Three killers Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and former state minister Taheruddin Thakur are arrested.

rejects the petition challenging the changing of venue of the trial court. May 4, 1997: The HC suspends trial for one month on a time petition filed by Zobaidda Rashid saying she needed more time to settle an appeal to overturn her indictment. June 19, 1997: The trial resumes but is immediately postponed again for the third time as Zobaidda moves a petition against her indictment at the HC.

the 15, and Justice ABM Khairul Haque (then junior judge) confirmed capital punishment for all 15. February 12, 2001: The concurrent death reference and appeal hearing begins with another HC bench as the split judgment required the case to be referred to a third judge in a second bench. April 30, 2001: Third judge Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim confirmed death sentences of 12 of the accused after 25 days of hearing. June 18, 2007: The United States returned absconding convict AKM Mohiuddin to be brought to justice. September 23, 2007: Condoning the delay in filing the petitions by AKM Mohiuddin, a three-member Appellate Division bench granted the leave to appeal prayers filed by five detained convicts and asked them to file regular appeal.

Ahmed files review petitions with the SC against the verdict. January 12, 2010: Convict Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan files similar review petition. January 13, 2010: The chamber judge of the Appellate Division fixes January 24, 2010, for hearing the review petitions. January 24, 2010: A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Tafazzul Islam starts hearing the review petitions. January 27, 2010: The SC dismisses the review petitions, clearing the way for executing the five detained killers. January 28, 2010: The five death inmates on death row are executed.

Earlier on November 8, 1998, District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka Kazi Golam Rasul delivered the judgement convicting and sentencing 15 ex-army officers for killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members. The judge ordered that the 15 found guilty be executed in an open firing squad. If that was not possible for some reason, he ordered execution by hanging. The three courts delivered the verdicts with some landmark observations. THE SUPREME COURT The killing of then president of the country Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members was a great crime against humanity, mankind and civilisation. A murderer is always a murderer and a terrorist is always a terrorist and is enemy to mankind and humanity and an offender in the eye of the law. To protect and shelter such killers is a great crime, a

great sin and sin spares none. The accused brutally killed such a leader who is none but the father of the nation. "They even did not spare the child son of the president who was below 10 years old. They killed him in such a brutal manner the nation was shocked and dumbfounded," the SC observed. There was no explanation why they killed the three women. "They committed the crime against humanity by killing a child and three innocent women who were unarmed. They eliminated almost the entire family who were found in the house. "Murder of innocent unarmed men and women and children is the greatest sin in Islam and also in all other religions and a great crime against civilisation and mankind." THE HIGH COURT Justice ABM Khairul Haque observed the intention of the accused was not only to kill president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his entire family but also to overthrow the government successfully and maintain the success by capturing the state power. Eleven innocent people including three women and a little boy were brutally and diabolically murdered in the incident of August 15, 1975. "Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the then president of Bangladesh, became a target

of a vicious intrigue and was murdered by a handful of disgruntled army officers." The manner, in which they were so brutally and mercilessly murdered, repels any consideration of reduction of death sentence. As such the accused deserve no leniency in the matter of sentence. The manner of execution of sentence by firing squad is found to be difficult on the part of the authorities and the accused may be hanged to death. The purpose of deployment of tanks was to show the strength of the conspirators and also to terrorise the people. Both the objects were successfully achieved. They even terrorised the 46 Brigade not to speak of the common people. The charges against the accused were conspiracy and killing president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, most of his family members and relatives and have got no relevance to the concept of a mutiny. "Since persons in authority of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, BDR and Rakkhibahini readily owned their allegiance to the new government and no chain of command was disturbed, there was no mutinous situation as contemplated in the laws." LOWER COURT The incident of August 15, 1975 was not only brutal but

also marked ruthless shooting of two newly married women and a ten-year old child. The crime is such an act that is not only harmful to individuals but also to the society and the state. Despite being aware of the serious implications of these brutal killings, well-planned conspiracy was hatched. Therefore, there is no reason for showing any sympathy and mercy for them. They are not fit to receive any such mercy. The country's politicians changed their colours in every changed situation in absence of their leaders. "The politics here is leader based. If the leader is there, everything is there and I am there... If the leader is not there, nothing is there and I am no more there." Although there is no specific evidence about the involvement of Taheruddin Thakur in the conspiracy of the killing, his activities after the incident was mysterious. "When the bullet-ridden body of Bangabandhu was lying in Dhanmondi, Thakur was busy preparing speeches and statements at the radio station." There might be more people involved in the killings. "There was no bar to holding trial of the military offenders in a civil court on charges of killing Bangabandhu."

October 3, 1996: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) takes up the case and launches investigation into the Bangabandhu murder case. November 14, 1996: The parliament scraps the Indemnity Act paving the way to bring the killers to justice. January 15, 1997: The CID submits the charge sheet, accusing 20 people, before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. March 1, 1997: The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka sends the case to Dhaka District and Sessions' Judge's Court for trial on completion of legal formalities. March 12, 1997: Trial of the case starts as six arrested accused appear in court. March 20, 1997: The government appoints 14 lawyers to defend 14 accused who went into hiding abroad after the Awami League in 1996. April 6, 1997: The trial court hears charges against the accused. April 7, 1997: The trial court frames charges indicting the 20 accused. April 21, 1997: The trial adjourns on the first day of hearing as fugitive Khandaker Abdur Rashid's wife Zobaidda Rashid moved a "no-confidence" motion at the High Court against the trial judge. April 29, 1997: Trial resumes after the HC rejects Zobaidda's petition. April 29, 1997: Trial adjourns immediately after resumption as a defence counsel challenges at the HC the setting up of the trial court near Dhaka Central Jail. April 30, 1997: The HC

Released on bail, Taheruddin Thakur dies. August 23, 2009: Chief state counsel of the case Anisul Huq submitted "concise statement" to the Supreme Court as required for the final appeal hearing. August 24, 2009: The Appellate Division fixed October 5, 2009, for the start of the appeal hearing. October 4, 2009: Then chief justice MM Ruhul Amin constitutes a five-member bench at the apex court comprised of Justice Md Tafazzul Islam, Justice Md Abdull Aziz, Justice BK Das, Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice SK Sinha for the appeal hearing. October 5, 2009: The bench headed by Justice Tafazzul Islam starts the hearing on the appeals. November 12, 2009: Appeal hearing ends after 29 days of hearing. November 19, 2009: The apex court pronounce the verdict confirming death sentence of 12 convicts handed down by the trial court and upheld by the HC. January 9, 2010: Three detained convicts--Bazlul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mohiuddin--seek presidential mercy through jail authorities. January 10, 2010: Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin

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