



A police vehicle set afire by Jamaat-Shibir cadres on Jubilee Road of Chittagong yesterday. **Top right**, a private car is burning while Jamaat-Shibir men attack an auto-rickshaw, **bottom right**, at Bijoynagar in the capital.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS/BANGLAR CHOKH/STAR

Gates tops

FROM PAGE 16
up from \$1.7 trillion, with an average net worth per individual of \$5 billion, up from \$4.2 billion in 2012.

It now takes \$1.3 billion in assets just to get on the list. Atop the list for another year was Bill Gates, who at 57 has a net worth of \$72 billion.

He was followed by Warren Buffett, who despite giving away about \$1 billion last year, was the biggest gainer, adding \$12.5 billion to bring his fortune to \$58.5 billion.

The average age was 66, according to Forbes senior editor Kerry Dolan.

Only 32 of those selected were 48 or younger, fitting them into Generation X or Generation Y, while the rest of the list was baby boomers.

Many of the younger billionaires are household names who made their fortunes in the tech industry -- Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg (20), Computer maker Michael Dell (25), Yahoo's Jerry Yang (327), Tesla Motor's Elon Musk (61) and Google's Larry Page and Sergey Brin (13 and 14).

Hartal today, tomorrow

FROM PAGE 1

In a press statement, Jamaat acting secretary general Rafiqul Islam Khan also demanded release of the party's leaders now facing trial on war crimes charges.

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) did not award the death penalty to Quader Mollah, the statement reads. It is unprecedented in Bangladesh's history that the Appellate Division enhanced the punishment given by the trial court.

"It is a violation of the rule of law," the statement says.

The two-day hartal has put the country virtually into a hiatus as there are no working days until next Sunday.

Since February this year,

the tribunal has delivered verdicts against five senior Jamaat leaders, including ex-chief Ghulam Azam, for their crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The Jamaat enforced hartals, responding to each verdict. It also enforced a daylong hartal to protest the tribunal's order to arrest its Nayabe-e-Ameer AKM Yusuf in May.

Jamaat central leaders have instructed the party's grassroots leaders to take all-out preparations to stage stormy demonstrations during the hartal hours today.

"We do not have any alternative but to intensify the movement to topple the government," Mahabur

Rahman Bhutto, acting chief of Dinajpur district Jamaat, told The Daily Star.

"This will be our final bid to oust the government as we have come up against a wall," he noted.

A number of central and grassroots leaders echoed the view.

They said they would stage similar demonstrations as they had done after the conviction of Nayebe-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

On February 28, after the ICT awarded Sayedee capital punishment, Jamaat-Shibir activists unleashed unprecedented violence in many parts of the country.

In the violent protests that continued for more

than a week, armed cadres of Jamaat-Shibir clashed with law enforcers, leaving more than 70 people, including eight policemen, dead.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker said the law enforcement agencies would take all measures needed to foil any anarchy and to save people's lives and properties.

JAMAAT, SHIBIR VIOLENCE

The Jamaat-Shibir went on the rampage in Dhaka, Chittagong, Bogra, Natore and Moulvibazar shortly after the apex court announced its ruling, enhancing Quader Mollah's life term imprisonment by

the ICT to the death penalty.

The Jamaat assistant secretary general was awarded the punishment in February for his offences during the then East Pakistan's struggle for independence.

The port city of Chittagong witnessed the worst of the protests. Jamaat-Shibir men set fire to two vehicles, including a police van, leaving two law enforcers injured on Jubilee Road. They also vandalised several crude bombs.

In Bogra, the Jamaat-Shibir blasted three home-made bombs targeting Bogra Sadar Police Station. Two policemen were injured at that time.

Police, meanwhile, rounded up 12 Jamaat-Shibir men -- eight from Chittagong and four from Dhaka -- in connection with the vandalism.

In Natore, at least 25 Jamaat-Shibir men were injured in clashes with law enforcers.

In the capital, activists of the Jamaat-Shibir brought out processions at several points and blasted home-made crude bombs.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Bangladesh Knit Manufacturers and Exporters Association have expressed concern over the shutdown beginning today.

Bill

FROM PAGE 16

While meeting with a media delegation from Bangladesh in the Indian capital yesterday, he said he was very optimistic of the collective voice of the Indian political parties being reflected on the adoption of the agreement.

Khurshid also hinted that the UPA government's gap with BJP on the issue has been bridged. He sounded confident about taking the Trinamool on board as well.

Explaining the change in the atmospherics, he pointed out that the confidence building measures were about to pay dividends.

During the meeting, the Indian minister discussed the current state of Bangladesh-India relations and said these are growing quietly and steadily.

Responding to a question on border casualties, he said greater sensitisation of border personnel, joint control, community level interactions with schools, bazaars and hospitals were getting underway.

He dreamt of a free border, adding that the fear of influx is misplaced, because people are attached to their hearths and homes.

On Teesta water sharing, he said although the treaty had not been signed, water is being shared anyway. He added that nothing at the upstream would be done to harm Bangladesh's interest.

India and Bangladesh need to work together to address silting, flooding and erosion problems, Salman Khurshid said, suggesting that Bangladesh should have equity in the projects.

Earlier, an interactive session moderated by Syed Akbaruddin, joint secretary, was attended by four former Indian high commissioners to Bangladesh -- Deb Mukherjee, Pinak Chakravarty, Rajit Mitter and Animesh Tripathi.

Media representatives from some major newspapers also participated. All of them laid emphasis on closer ties with Bangladesh by meeting Dhaka's expectations.

Gallows now for Mollah

FROM PAGE 1

Mollah's counsels, however, said, "It was a wrong verdict."

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and many legal experts told journalists yesterday that Mollah would not be able to file a review petition against the judgment as he had been tried under the special law, the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973, which did not have such provisions.

According to them, the government could proceed with the process of executing Mollah after receipt of the certified copy of the Supreme Court judgment.

However, Mollah's chief counsel Abdur Razzaq yesterday said the defence would file a review petition as they could do it within 30 days of receiving the copy of the full verdict.

The Daily Star reached out to legal experts last night asking whether Mollah had the right to file a review petition.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star that the review provision was not a right of any party. He said the provision was for correcting any clerical or legal mistakes in the copy of the judgment or in any legal issue.

However, criminal law expert Anisul Huq, who was the chief prosecutor in the historic Bangabandhu

murder case, said there was indeed scope for the defence to file a review petition.

He said the government also had the authority to begin the process of implementing the death sentence, as long as the apex court's verdict was not stayed.

He said the jail authorities and the district magistrate of Dhaka would start proceedings for executing Mollah as per Section-991(V1) of the Jail Code soon after receiving the certified copy of the judgment.

The authorities would execute Mollah after 21 days and before 28 days after initiating the procedure, he said.

He said Mollah's counsel could also file an application with the chamber judge's court seeking a stay on the operation of the verdict.

Anisul said the jail authorities would halt their proceedings, if the chamber judge of the Supreme Court stayed the operation of the verdict following a review petition.

Otherwise, there would be nothing to prevent the government from executing Mollah by October, said Anisul.

A few experts said if everything went against Mollah, he could be executed within eight weeks.

Mollah, however, could also seek presidential

mercy.

According to the Jail Code, the jail authorities are supposed to fix a date for execution between day-21 and day-28 after getting the copy of the Supreme Court order rejecting a convict's appeal. The execution date would be mentioned in the mercy petition sent to the home ministry for the president's consideration.

In line with the code, the prison authorities will inform Mollah of his death sentence as soon as it gets the judgment copy and ask him to appeal to the president for mercy through the prison authorities within seven days.

The jail authorities will wait 15 days for the president to decide. If the president rejects the prayer, the authorities will reset the clock and start counting again from day-1 to his execution day, which will be between day-21 and day-28.

VERDICT COPY YET TO REACH JAIL

Mollah is in Kashimpur Jail. Kashimpur-2 Senior Jail Superintendent Jahangir Kabir told The Daily Star that the jail authorities were yet to get the copy of the verdict.

"Now, he is alone in a cell. Once we receive the official order of the Supreme Court, we will inform him [Mollah] officially and send him to the condemned cell [death row], changing his clothes,"

he said.

However, he said Mollah had learnt about the death sentence from TV in his neighbouring prison cells.

"We have not seen any perceivable change in him, but he looked a little down in the afternoon," he added.

THE CHARGES

The first of the six charges against Mollah was related to the killing of Mirpur Bangla College student Pallab in Mirpur on April 5, 1971. Tribunal-2 and the Supreme Court found Mollah guilty and the Supreme Court upheld the tribunal's sentence of 15 years in jail.

The second charge related to the killing of the poet Meherunesa, her mother and two brothers on March 27, 1971, in Mirpur. Tribunal-2 and the Supreme Court found Mollah guilty and the Supreme Court upheld the tribunal's sentence of 15 years in jail.

The third charge involved the killing of journalist Khandker Abu Taleb on March 29, 1971, in Mirpur. Both the courts found Mollah guilty and the apex court upheld the tribunal's sentence of 15 years in jail.

The fourth charge was about a mass killing in Ghatarchar of Keraniganj on November 25, 1971, where hundreds had been murdered. The tribunal had

acquitted him on this charge but yesterday the Supreme Court pronounced him guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

The fifth charge was related to Mollah's involvement in the killing of 344 people in Alubdi village in Mirpur on April 24, 1971. Both the courts found him guilty and the apex court upheld the tribunal's life imprisonment awarded to him.

The sixth and final charge was related to the killing of Hazrat Ali Laskar, his wife, three daughters and his two-year-old son on March 26, in Mirpur. One of the three daughters was raped.

His eldest daughter was raped too but she survived and testified against Mollah. The tribunal had found him guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment but yesterday the apex court changed the sentence to capital punishment.

Headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, the bench also included Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Justice MA Wahhab Miah, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik.

On August 2, 2010, Quader Mollah was shown arrested in the war crimes case and on May 28, 2012, he was indicted on six charges.

JUSTICE, AT LAST



MA HASAN

MA Hasan, a freedom fighter and war crimes researcher, said, "This [death penalty] should have been the punishment in the first verdict."

Giving accounts of Mollah's roles as a collaborator during the 1971 war and his link with the Pakistan Army, he expressed his astonishment as to why these did not properly come up during the investigation.

"This verdict is not to punish any single individual. This will rather put an end to a wrong philosophy, a philosophy that supports killing of innocent people in the name of religion."

SHAFIUDDIN MOLLAH

Shafiuddin Mollah from the Alubdi village in Mirpur's Pallabi, where Quader Mollah facilitated and participated in the killing of 360-370 Bangalees on April 24, 1971, thanked the SC judges for the verdict on behalf of the people of Alubdi.

"Now we want the quick implementation of the verdict as a different government might overturn the judgment," said Shafiuddin, a witness in the case.

"The government must also ensure security of all the witnesses who testified in the International Crimes Tribunal. This is our demand to the prime minister."

NASIRUDDIN YOUSUFF

FROM PAGE 1
no criminal who violates human rights can get away with such heinous crimes."

Terming it a historic verdict, he said justice had been done through the cancellation of the war crimes tribunal's judgment.



AMIRUL HOSSAIN MOLLAH

"I am overjoyed," said Amirul Hossain Mollah, another villager of Alubdi. "It is a victory for the liberation forces."

He added: "It is true that the Appellate Division took time, but the verdict must be executed as soon as possible."

A group of youth in Alubdi brought out a celebratory procession and distributed sweetmeats among people after hearing the verdict, said the prosecution witness.

SHAHIDUL HAQUE

FROM PAGE 1
"I think that this verdict will unite the nation," he told this newspaper at the Supreme Court.

QUAZI ROSY

FROM PAGE 1
balloons and pigeons are flying in the sky with news of peace, and a stream of tranquillity is flowing through my heart."

"As witnesses", she said, "we have waited for 42 years to be able to speak for justice, then the wait began for a trial, then it was for a verdict and now we look forward to see its implementation."

MOFIDUL HAQ

FROM PAGE 1
amend the International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973 to provide equal opportunity for the accused and the victim to appeal.

"This is a historic role played by the youth of Bangladesh," he said, referring to the Shahbagh movement that began on February 5 after the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Quader Mollah to life.

Power import

FROM PAGE 16

To give the process a kick start and review the preparedness of both the countries, a technical team from India would tomorrow hold a meeting with the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) and the PDB.

The tariff along with the transmission wheeling charge of the power imported will be between a little less than Tk 6 and Tk 6.35 per kilowatt-hour or unit.

The rate is cheaper than that of the rental power plants which ranges between Tk 7.5 and Tk 22 per unit, but higher than that of the large local gas-fired power plants that is between Tk 2.5 and Tk 4.8 per unit.

A 125-kilometre transmission line has been constructed between Baharampur of India and Bheramara in Bangladesh. Of this line,

40km fell inside Bangladesh.

The transmission systems, which are based on 400 kV alternate current (AC) and 230 kV AC, have been proposed to be synchronised by installing a back-to-back high voltage direct current (HVDC) link.

The line will have an initial transfer capacity of 500 MW, which will later be upgraded to 1,000 MW. The Asian Development Bank assisted Bangladesh in building this infrastructure.

Half of this power will be coming from Indian central government electricity quota and the rest from its open market.

The deal is the culmination of a memorandum of understanding signed in January 2010 with India during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi.

Dozens of hostages freed in Philippine

AFP, Zamboanga

More than a hundred people who were held hostage by Muslim rebels waging deadly street battles with Philippine troops escaped yesterday amid a military offensive in which dozens of guerrillas were killed.

Ninety-nine people have died and 90,000 residents displaced since the standoff in the southern city of Zamboanga began on Monday last week, when

hundreds of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) gunmen invaded in a bid to derail peace talks.

Hundreds of other civilians had remained trapped as the rebels sought shelter from a military assault in Muslim neighbourhoods of the city, with some of the residents used as hostages or human shields.

After a relentless military offensive, 49 people escaped on Monday night and Tuesday morning.

BNP mum on verdict

FROM PAGE 16

verdict, MK Anwar, a member of the BNP standing committee, said, "The court delivered the verdict. I have nothing to say about it. I would have made comments on it had I been the chief justice."

Contacted, two other members of the highest policymaking body of the BNP -- Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and Tariqul Islam -- also kept mum on the verdict.

They advised contacting acting BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who is also the

party's spokesperson.

When asked, Fakhrul just said, "We never give any reaction to court verdicts."

Earlier on Sunday, BNP chief Khaleda Zia at a public meeting in Rangpur accused the government of inhumanly torturing Jamaat leaders by labelling them as war criminals.

AL HAPPY

The ruling Awami League expressed satisfaction over the SC verdict awarding capital punishment to Quader Mollah.

"A long-held expectation

has been fulfilled through this verdict," AL Spokesperson Mahbul Alam Hanif said.

"We hope that execution of this verdict would be possible within the tenure of the present government," he told journalists.

The verdict could be implemented after completion of all legal procedures within 45 days, he added.

"We [AL] along with the whole nation are happy over the verdict," said Hanif, also a joint general secretary of the AL.