

None can

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opposition BNP, has been threatening to resist any bid to hold a "one-sided election without restoring the non-party caretaker government system".

Hasina, who is president of the Awami League, said, "The people of Bangladesh want elections and will bring the Awami League back to power by voting for the boat [the electoral symbol of the party]." She said the prophet Noah's Ark had saved believers, and similarly the boat of the Awami League saved the people of the country from terrorism, militancy and poverty.

On Khaleda's criticism of the Election Commission, she said a neutral EC had been formed through a search committee. This EC had held many free, fair and neutral elections, including the five city corporation polls where the BNP-backed candidates won.

Hasina also censured Khaleda for not appearing in court to face the Zia Orphanage graft charge against her.

"If you [Khaleda] did not steal the orphanage money, then face the court," she said, adding that Khaleda did not have the courage to do so.

On Khaleda Zia's pledge to initiate a different form of government system if voted to power, the prime minister said the opposition leader would only introduce a style of corruption, terrorism and militancy in the country.

Hasina also alleged Khaleda of being involved in the border guard mutiny of February 25-26, 2009, that killed 74 people, including 57 army officers.

She asked, "Why did you [Khaleda] flee from your cantonment home so early in the morning on that day and remain untraced for three days?"

Addressing the rally, senior AL leader Suranjit Sengupta said the opposition leader should be brought to book for her threats to foil the next elections.

He said threatening to resist constitutionally guaranteed elections was tantamount to sedition.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, among others, addressed the rally.

Meanwhile, arriving in Sylhet, the prime minister went straight to the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hazrat Shah Paran (RA) to pray for the country and eternal peace for Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the martyrs of 1971 and 1975.

The premier also inaugurated a number of development projects including Sylhet Heart Foundation Hospital, victim support centre, Kotwali Model Police Station building, regional director's office of Sylhet polytechnic institute, 31-bed Dakkhin Surma upazila health complex and 294-metre bridge on the Surma river.

She also laid the foundation stones of various projects, including the marine academy, transformation of Sylhet Shaheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital into a paediatric hospital, 360-metre PC Guarder bridge over the Piyaeen river, and digging of No-7 Kailashtila gas field.

Defence sector

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defence, was unable to hold the armed forces accountable for their income and expenditure, then who else would be able to do that?" questioned the TIB executive.

In the study, Australia, Germany, Norway and the UK were the top performers with scores between 83.3 and 100, which is indicative of a very low-level corruption risk. Twelve countries scored in the range of 67.7 to 83.2 indicating a low risk of corruption due to better performance by their parliaments.

The countries that scored 50 to 66.6 have been categorised as medium risk countries, while scores between 33.3 and 49.9 of 16 countries showed a high risk of corruption.

Fourteen countries were

School kids

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The authorities concerned issued verbal directives to the headmasters, asking them to join the rally along with their students, sources at the district education office said.

Besides, several schools at Golapganj upazila had been kept shut for the last six days to arrange accommodation of different law enforcement agencies ahead of the rally, sources told The Daily Star.

School students guided by their teachers were seen standing at the rally venue

Deprived of justice

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Sanowar Jahan expressed deep concern over the verdict, claiming it was against justice.

"We are frustrated and aggrieved by this verdict," she said, adding the government had tried her husband "to settle a political score".

The government and its counsels, on the other hand, have expressed satisfaction that Mollah was condemned to death for committing crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told reporters at his secretariat office that the verdict had fulfilled the expectations of the nation.

The verdict would remain a milestone since it had established justice and the rule of law in the country, he said, adding that the war-crimes victims had received justice.

Shafique observed that the apex court had passed the verdict after examining the documents and evidence, and there was no scope for questioning the judgment.

However, he said, Quader Mollah could confess his crimes to the president and ask him for mercy. "I don't feel there is any scope for pardoning a criminal in any country."

At a press briefing in his office on the SC premises, Attorney General Mahbub Alam said the nation's demands had been met and the stains washed away through the verdict.

If those who killed Bangladeshis in association with the Pakistani army during the war were not tried and punished, the nation's independence would remain unfulfilled, he added.

Reply to V sign

FROM PAGE 1
enhanced his life sentence to the death penalty, Mollah's brazen act was rightfully answered.

"Today's verdict is a reply to the audacity he had shown by flashing a V sign that day," Imran H Sarker, convener of Gonojagoron Mancha, said, pointing to the victory sign that Mollah flashed on February 5.

The Gonojagoron Mancha, formed after the February 5 verdict, saw its dream come true as the apex court awarded the death penalty to the Jamaat-e-Islami leader.

A group of pro-liberation youths formed the platform demanding capital punishment for all war criminals.

Initiated by Bloggers and Online Activists Network, the anti-war criminal protest soon turned into a mass, non-violent creative movement that spread like fire throughout the country.

"Following this verdict, it is now proved that one's demand can be met in a non-violent way and without violating any law," said

defying scorching midday heat.

Many were forced to take shelter in the shade of trees. But those who sat at the front of the gathering at the venue, had felt the heat most, witnesses said.

The students, however, seemed pleased when Sheikh Hasina reached the venue. They waved their hands to greet the premier.

"We have been forced to attend the rally," said a student of Vekapul Muslimabad Ideal High School in Balaganj upazila, which is 20

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz expressed happiness with the judgment, saying the prosecution had been able to prove the war crimes charges against Mollah.

Bangladesh has set a rare example through this verdict, she remarked.

Investigation Officer Abdul Hannan Khan said the verdict had been given following all legal procedures. "Nobody can say the defence has not been given legal facilities during the trial."

Meanwhile, the defence has described the judgment as "wrong", "against justice and the rule of law" and "a sad chapter in the history of justice".

Abdur Razzaq, chief of defence counsels for Mollah, said at a press conference at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium that they were aggrieved and astonished at the verdict.

It was unprecedented in the history of Bangladesh that the Supreme Court had given death penalty to Quader Mollah although the trial court had sentenced him to life, he said.

He, however, added they were bound to accept the verdict.

Giving the capital punishment to a man who had been convicted and sentenced to life by a tribunal even after the "Skepe scandal" was against the rule of law, Razzaq opined.

He mentioned that his client would file a review petition with the SC against his death penalty.

The death sentence cannot be executed until the review petition is disposed of, the counsels said.

Khandker Mahbub

km off the venue.

Students of Jointapur Govt High School, which is more than 70 km away from the venue, were taken to the rally by bus.

Contacted, District Primary Education Officer Hazrat Ali said: "I don't know anything. The primary school students were not supposed to go to the rally."

Asked if he had gone to Golapganj to join the rally, the officer said he had gone to Golapganj but had not taken part in the rally.

Hossain, a lawyer for Mollah and an adviser to the BNP chairperson, said the government had appealed for Mollah's death penalty in response to the demand of the Shahbagh youths.

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed was present at the press conference but declined to comment.

AMNESTY

The Amnesty International has said "imposing a death sentence without the right of judicial appeal defies human rights law" and that Bangladesh should immediately commute the death sentence of Abdul Quader Mollah.

"We are very concerned about the Supreme Court's ruling and the apparent relentless effort by the government to ensure that Mollah could be put to death. We urge Bangladeshi authorities to commute his death sentence, and to impose a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolishing the death penalty," said Abbas Faiz, Amnesty International's Bangladesh researcher.

The statement was available yesterday on the website of the rights organisation.

"There is no question that the victims of Bangladesh's independence war deserve justice, but one human rights violation does not cancel out another. Executions are a symptom of a culture of violence rather than a solution to it," said Faiz.

"This is the first known case of a prisoner sentenced to death directly by the highest court in Bangladesh. It is also the first known death sentence in Bangladesh with no right of appeal."

Sangeeta Imam, who has been involved with the movement from the beginning.

As with every other verdict, youths as well as freedom fighters yesterday gathered in front of the National Museum and waited with bated breath for the verdict since early morning.

"Taking inspiration from this verdict, we will continue our movement until all war criminals are hanged," said Abul Kalam Azad, a freedom fighter who came to Shahbagh on hearing of the Supreme Court (SC) judgment.

As news of the judgement reached the crowd, they danced and screamed themselves hoarse chanting "Joy Bangla". They hugged each other and some even cried out of joy.

The demonstrators also brought out a procession from the capital's Shahbagh intersection, now popularly known as 'Projonmo Chatter' where they had started the movement 222 days ago.

Around 4:30 pm, the anti-war criminal cam-

paigners crossed Bangla Motor and gathered at the TSC in Dhaka University campus, chanting victory slogans and waving national flags.

Maruf Rosul, one of the organisers of the movement, said: "Since the pro-liberation platform came into being, seven activists have sacrificed their lives for their vision to build a nation free of war criminals."

"Their dreams must be fulfilled at any cost. We will ensure it through our movement," he added.

In Chittagong, activists of the Mancha brought out a victory procession in front of the Chittagong Press Club and paraded different areas, including the Central Shaheed Minar.

The Gonojagoron Mancha will hold a public rally at Shahbagh at 4:00pm on Friday demanding execution of the SC verdict, said Imran H Sarker.

The platform will also bring out an anti-hartal procession from Shahbagh at 11:00am today and tomorrow, he added.

The suggestions include providing parliament with a full set of documents of a detailed and comprehensive defence budget and making proposals of the budget subject to parliamentary debate, approval and scrutiny.

The study proposed establishing an external audit office and ensuring audits of the defence budget and submitting reports to parliament with auditors' inputs about them. Senior audit officials should appear before the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of defence to answer queries by legislators.

It also recommended making the defence budget easily available for civil society and other citizens with technical and non-technical details.

The crime that gets him death

FROM PAGE 1
supporter of the Awami League and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

More than 42 years after the killings, justice has been done finally, and Mollah has got his due punishment.

The Supreme Court yesterday sentenced the Jamaat-e-Islami leader to death, overruling the verdict of International Crimes Tribunal-2 that had awarded him a life sentence.

On the basis of the testimony of the lone survivor of the family, ICT-2 on February 5 handed Mollah a life sentence, which was later challenged by the government.

The six charges that were framed against Mollah include the one relating to the murder of Laskar and his family members.

Laskar's daughter, who was a newly-wed girl of 13 at the time of the incident, testified before the tribunal

as the third prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Mollah.

In its verdict in the case, ICT-2 made mention of the testimony she gave in camera last year.

She said her father Laskar hurriedly returned to their house on Kalapani Lane in Mirpur-12 at dusk on March 26, 1971, and said Quader Mollah would kill him.

Laskar then closed the door, and said Mollah, Akhtar Gunda, his Bihari accomplices and the Pakistan army had been chasing him.

At the time, her mother, two-year-old brother and sisters were inside the house, said the witness, who is now 55.

She and her sister Amena hid themselves under the bed as asked by their father.

She then heard Mollah and the Biharis approaching the door. They shouted, "Son

of a b****, open the door, otherwise we will throw bombs."

As her father refused to open the door, they threw a bomb. When her mother, holding a kitchen knife, opened the door, they shot her, said the witness.

When Laskar tried to hold his wife, Mollah grabbed him by the collar, and said, "Son of a p**, will you not support the Awami League now? Will you not follow Bangabandhu? Will you not utter the slogan 'Joy Bangla'?"

Her father then begged Mollah and Akhtar Gunda to spare him, but Mollah dragged her father out of the room. Mollah's accomplices slit the throats of her mother and two sisters - Khodeja and Taslima - with a machete.

When her two-year-old brother Babu started crying, they killed the boy hitting him against the ground, she said.

Hearing Babu's cry, her

sister Amena began wailing. They then dragged Amena from under the bed and tortured her to death, she said.

They also dragged her (the witness) from under the bed. She lost consciousness as they hit her with a sharp object.

When she regained consciousness, she felt severe pain in the abdomen, and found her clothes torn.

She somehow managed to walk to a house at Fakirbari, where she was given treatment. Her father-in-law went there the following day and took her to his house, said the witness.

She later identified Quader Mollah in the court said ICT-2 in its judgment.

In yesterday's verdict, the Supreme Court said, "He [Mollah] is sentenced to death by a majority of 4:1 in respect of charge no 6. He [will] be hanged till death."

Review or no review?

FROM PAGE 1
Jamaat leader.

Quader Mollah can file the review petition with the SC within 30 days after the pronouncement of the verdict. The review application will have to be accompanied by a certified copy of the judg-

ment, he said, citing SC rules.

The top court, the counsel added, may hear the review petition in the first week of November, as it will have been on vacation from October 11 to November 2.

The counsel said if the review petition was rejected,

Mollah would seek presidential mercy and if the mercy prayer was turned down, the jail authorities would be able to execute him by mid-November.

Mollah's chief defence counsel Abdur Razzaq said his client would file a review

petition against the death penalty awarded to him by the Supreme Court.

The death sentence will not be executed until the review petition is disposed of, the counsel said in his immediate reaction over the verdict.

Man shoots 3 in Austria

AP, Vienna

A man killed two police officers and the driver of an emergency rescue vehicle yesterday before barricading himself inside a farm building in a lower Austrian town, the DPA news agency said, citing an unidentified police

spokesman.

Interior Minister spokesman Karl-Heinz Grundboeck said a third police officer was apparently being held by the shooter.


Mr. Grundboeck confirmed that three people were shot but refused to say

whether their injuries were fatal, explaining that officials did not want to give the gunman information through news reports he was likely monitoring.

A police officer in Annaberg, about 115 kilometres southwest of Vienna, told The Associated Press

that SWAT teams had blocked off the perimeter of the building. He refused to identify himself on the telephone.

With an interior ministry news blackout in force, no further official information was immediately available.



PRIME UNIVERSITY

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Invitation for Pre-qualification (IFP)

1	Agency	Prime University
2	Procuring Entity Name	Registrar
3	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Invitation For	Pre-qualification of Construction firm in association with Pre-fabricated Steel Structure firm for Construction of 1-basement+10-storied Steel Structure Administrative building (Main Campus) for Prime University at 114/116, Mazar Road, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering method
7	Budget & Source of Funds	Own Source
8	Project Name	Construction of 1-basement+10-storied Steel Structure Administrative building (Main Campus) for Prime University at 114/116, Mazar Road, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.
9	IFP Publication Date	18-09-2013
10	Pre-qualification Document Last Selling Date	23-10-2013 during office hours
11	Application Submission Closing Date and Time	24-10-2013 at 12.00 Noon
12	Application Opening Date and Time	24-10-2013 at 12.15 PM
13	Name & Address of the office (s) -Selling Pre-qualification Document -Receiving Pre-qualification Document -Opening Pre-qualification Document	Registrar, Prime University 2A/1, North East of Darussalam Road, Section-1, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216 2A/1, North East of Darussalam Road, Section-1, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216 2A/1, North East of Darussalam Road, Section-1, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
14	Place/ Date/ Time of Pre-qualification Meeting	Not Applicable
15	Eligibility of Applicant	A) Reputed Contractors/Construction firms in association with Pre-fabricated Steel Structure firm who have minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience in building construction works. B) Having experience in successfully completion of at least 1(one) number of minimum 8-Storied Steel Structure building work with Basement (Civil work, Steel Structure work, Sanitary & Electrification) in a single work order and as a single contractor in Government/ Semi-government/Autonomous body or other well reputed organization of Bangladesh during last 5 (five) years. The work certificate for successful completion of a similar nature building work shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of executive Engineer/Managing Director/Chairman of concerned department/ organization. C) The tenderer must have financial solvency and minimum liquid assets or must enjoy credit limit facilities of Tk. 40 (forty) crore and above. Bankers Certificate from relevant authority to be enclosed. D) The Steel Structure construction firm shall have to completed minimum 1000 ton steel consume in a single project. E) Others Terms & conditions as per Pre-qualification documents.
16	Brief Description of Works	Construction of 1-basement + 10-storied Steel Structure Administrative building (Main Campus) for Prime University at 114/116, Mazar Road, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.
17	Brief Description of Related services	Civil work, Steel Structure work, Sanitary, Electrification & other related works.
18	Brief Description of Related services	5,000 (Five thousand) only (Non-refundable).
19	Name of official Inviting Application	Mohammad Liaquat Ali
20	Designation of official Inviting Application	Registrar
21	Address of official Inviting Application	Prime University 2A/1, North East of Darussalam Road, Section-1, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
22	Contact details of official Inviting Application	Registrar, Prime University 2A/1, North East of Darussalam Road, Section-1, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
23	a) The tender document will be issued to the short listed applicants only. In this regard pre-qualified bidders shall be informed in due time. b) If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect certificate, the tender security shall be forfeited and tender shall be declared Non-responsive. c) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the Applications or annul the Application proceedings.	

Registrar, Prime University: 2A/1, North East of Darussalam Road, Section-1, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216