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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES

Roundtable discusses ways to tackle the problem

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Hazare breaks his nine-day fast as India passes historic Lokpal Bill

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BISHWAJIT MURDER



## 8 BCL men to hang

13 others get life term for brutal daylight murder during blockade

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced eight BCL activists to death and 13 others to life imprisonment for killing tailor Bishwajit Das in Old Dhaka a year ago.

Sentencing the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, a pro-Awami League student body, the judge observed that the Bishwajit murder case was quite sensitive and different from other lawsuits.

The crime was committed in broad daylight, not in the dead of night. It was a heinous and deplorable killing, said the court about the incident that happened during the opposition's blockade on December 9 last year.

Of the eight condemned killers, two are absconding, while 11 of the 13 convicts, who got life term, are also on the run.

The court observed that footage of the murder that had been broadcast on 5-MINUTE HORROR -- PAGE 16

national and international media shocked all. The brutality of the offence had tarnished the country's image before the entire world.

"Considering the gravity of the



Bishwajit as he tries to escape his murderers on December 9, 2012.

offence, the tribunal decided to hand down the maximum punishment to the accused in order to uphold justice," said Judge ABM Nizamul Haque of Speedy Trial Tribunal-4.

Some of the convicts broke down in tears as the judge pronounced the verdict in a packed courtroom at 12:25pm amid tight security.

Talking to reporters in the courtroom, Bishwajit's elder brother Uttam Kumar Das expressed satisfaction at the judgment in the sensational murder case.

"We want immediate execution of the verdict. We urge the government to arrest the remaining convicts, who are on the run", he added.

Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam said he was happy with the verdict.

However, the defence lawyers rejected the verdict, and said they would appeal to the higher court against the convictions.

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The accused in the sensational Bishwajit Das murder case being taken to court for verdict delivery yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



As all candidates of the 10th parliamentary polls have submitted their wealth statements and those of their family members to the EC, The Daily Star has scrutinised the statements of some Awami League contestants and found that all of them have become richer over the last five years, some rather astonishingly. We compared these statements with those submitted by them before the ninth parliamentary polls. We've tried to contact the following candidates to know how they've made so much money. Most of them didn't respond. The reporting was done by Pinaki Roy, Hasan Jahid Tusher, Partha Pratim Bhattacharjee, Pankaj Karmakar and Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary.

Abdul Mannan Khan	Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury	Hasan Mahmud	Aslamul Haque	Nazrul Islam Babu	Jahangir Kabir Nanak	Abdus Shahid	Sheikh Selim
<b>107 times richer!</b>	<b>67 times richer</b>	<b>40 times richer</b>	<b>The landlord</b>	<b>25 times richer</b>	<b>8 times richer</b>	<b>3 times richer</b>	<b>2 times richer</b>
had <b>Tk 10.33 lakh</b> in 2008; now has <b>Tk 11.32 crore</b>	<b>Tk 62.63 lakh</b> in 2008; now has <b>Tk 41.64 crore</b>	<b>Tk 38.17 lakh</b> in 2008; now has <b>Tk 15.46 crore</b>	<b>Tk 1.44 crore</b> in 2008 (incl <b>5.5 acres land</b> ); now has <b>Tk 4.94 crore</b> (with <b>145.6 acres land</b> )	<b>Tk 21.67 lakh</b> in 2008; now has <b>Tk 5.67 crore</b>	<b>Tk 97.84 lakh</b> in 2008; now has <b>Tk 8.28 crore</b>	<b>Tk 86.89 lakh</b> in 2008; now has <b>Tk 2.63 crore</b>	<b>Tk 2.09 crore</b> in 2008; now has <b>Tk 4.31 crore</b>
STAFF CORRESPONDENT	STAFF CORRESPONDENT	STAFF CORRESPONDENT	STAFF CORRESPONDENT	STAFF CORRESPONDENT	STAFF CORRESPONDENT	STAFF CORRESPONDENT	STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Former state minister for housing and public works Abdul Mannan Khan and his wife have had their wealth increased by 107 times in the last five years. The couple had wealth and property worth about Tk 10.33 lakh ahead of the ninth parliamentary	Awami League lawmaker Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton and his wife have increased their property by 66.49 times in last five years of grand alliance rule. According to an affidavit submitted before the ninth parliamentary election in 2008, the value of their	Five years ago, Nuran Fatema, wife of Environment Minister Hasan Mahmud, was a mere homemaker having assets worth Tk 60,000, as per the minister's wealth statement before the 9th parliamentary polls. But since, she had some	He was just a person who had studied up to class-VIII with five acres of land in Dhaka five years ago. Now aged 52, he claims to have enrolled in a BBA programme and owns 145 acres in a country where land is so scarce. What changed the	The wealth and property of Awami League lawmaker Nazrul Islam Babu and his wife increased by 24.78 times in last five years. According to a wealth statement submitted to the Election Commission before the ninth parliamentary election in 2008,	Awami League leader and former state minister for LGSD and cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak and his wife have earned Tk 7.3 crore in last five years, according to his wealth statement placed to the Election Commission (EC) this month.	Property of Awami League lawmaker and Chief Whip in Parliament Abdus Shahid and his wife has increased 3.02 times in last five years. Shahid in 2008 said he along with his wife had owned moveable and immoveable property	Awami League leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim has become wealthier in last five years as his property doubled during his party-led grand alliance rule. According to a statement he submitted to the Election Commission in 2008, Selim had moveable
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MOLLAH EXECUTION

## Protests pour in against Pak resolution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday led an aggrieved nation in denouncing Pakistan for meddling in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

The PM strongly condemned Pakistan for its reaction to the execution of war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah. People irrespective of their age and political belief held rallies, processions and marched towards the Pakistan High Commission and issued statements criticising the Pakistani stand.

"By passing the resolution in its national assembly, Pakistan has proved that it never accepted the victory of Bangladesh in the Liberation War in 1971, and it still has allies in Bangladesh," the premier told a meeting of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance at Gono Bhaban.

Gonojagoron Mancha, known for spearheading a youth movement for trying suspected war criminals, yesterday issued a 20-hour ultimatum to the government to suspend diplomatic ties with Pakistan until the country sought Bangladesh's pardon for its stance over the execution of Jamaat leader Mollah.

Imran H Sarker, spokesman of Gonojagoron Mancha, MORE ON PAGE 3



Police stop Gonojagoron Mancha activists in Gulshan-2 as they marched towards the Pakistan High Commission to protest against Pakistan parliament's resolution criticising the execution of war criminal Quader Mollah.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS ANALYSIS

## Mollah hanging, an irate Erdogan

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The government of Turkey, led by its Islamist prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has been spewing venom against Bangladesh over the execution of the war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah. Hours before the hanging of the convicted collaborator of the 1971 Pakistan occupation army, Erdogan called Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to ask her that Mollah's execution be stopped. The Bangladesh leader refused to entertain his request.

That snub, followed by the execution of the Jamaat politician, had the Turkish authorities hit the ceiling. Speaking at a rally in Izmir province last Friday, Erdogan served the warning that history would not forgive Bangladesh for committing what he called a mistake. In similar vein, deputy prime minister Bekir Bozdogan had this to say: "Justice, human rights and the law have been trampled."

Soon after the execution of the war criminal in Dhaka, the Turkish government issued a statement severely condemning the action. In its words, "the execution of the death penalty sentence given to one of the leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Abdul Quader Mollah, despite all concerns and suggestions voiced by the international community, including our prime minister, has led to a grave sadness