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People's Right to Know

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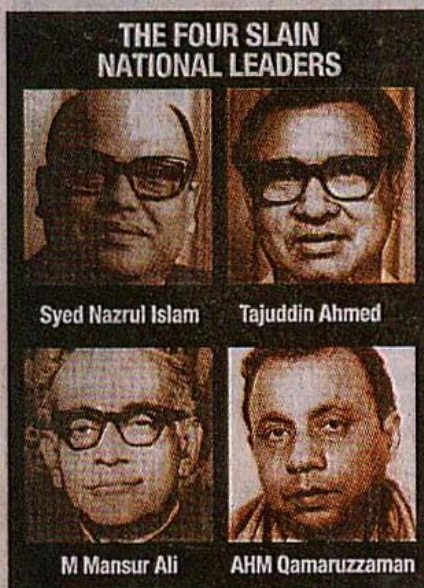
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## 3 to die, 12 awarded life in Jail Killing Case

Obaid, Shah Moazzem, Nurul Islam, Taheruddin Thakur, Khairuzzaman acquitted



THE FOUR SLAIN NATIONAL LEADERS

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHAMIM ASHRAF

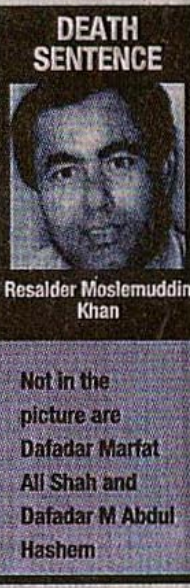
A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three to death, awarded life imprisonment to 12 and acquitted five in the long-awaited verdict of historic Jail Killing Case.

Ruling BNP lawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Nurul Islam Monzoor, Taheruddin Thakur and Additional Secretary to foreign ministry Khairuzzaman, who were freed on bail soon after the ruling coalition came to power, were relieved of the charges.

All the convicts are former army personnel. Of the total 21 charge-sheeted accused, three are in custody, five on bail, 12 have been evading arrest, and one died.

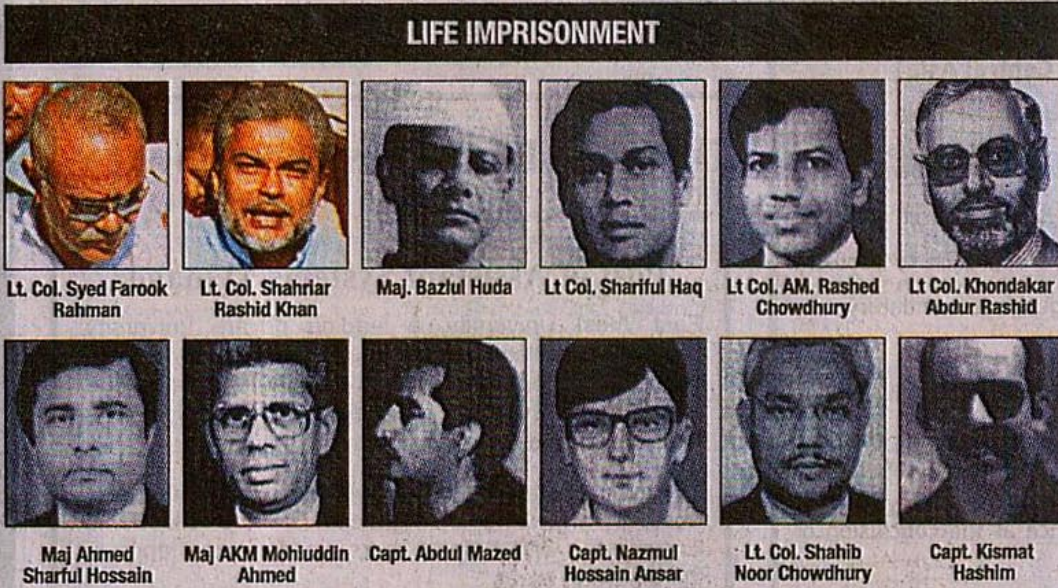
While delivering the verdict in a

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DEATH SENTENCE

Not in the picture are Dafadar Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar M Abdul Hashem



LIFE IMPRISONMENT

### Top lawyers term it politically manoeuvred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent lawyers yesterday termed the judgment in the historic Jail Killing Case politically manoeuvred and said the judgment virtually amounts to maintaining the status quo regarding the accused.

Many of the lawyers even reacted sharply to the judgment. It is not at all acceptable, they observed.

Some, however, viewed it as at least a step forward when the trial had been stalled for decades by political interventions and judicial tangles.

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### Some killers escaped death penalty for flawed probe: Judge

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The judge of the jail killing case blamed the investigation officer (IO) of faulty investigation and said all the killers of the four national leaders could not be awarded capital punishment due to negligence of the IO. The Judge Mohammad Motiur Rahman presented details of flaws in the probe by the IO Abdul Kahar Akand.

"Faulty investigation is the reason behind damaging the merit of the case," the judge said, adding, "The IO did not investigate many

important aspects, failed to prove many things including the conspiracy behind the assassinations and presented faulty documents."

"The IO did not conduct any investigation into the role played by two or three accomplices of captain Moslemuddin who led the killing squad," said the judge.

"The identity of all the killers could be learnt and the court might award them capital punishment had the IO conducted a proper investigation after consulting necessary

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### AL rejects judgement, calls hartal for Nov 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday rejected the verdict of the Jail Killing Case and announced a half-day hartal across the country on November 3 in protest against what it called a 'government-directed judgement'.

The main opposition also decided at an emergency meeting of its Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) to challenge the verdict, date of which was deferred twice, at the High Court.

"The meeting has rejected the verdict as justice was denied here

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### Convicts term it 'politically influenced'

PINAKI ROY

The convicts in the Jail Killing Case termed the judgement "politically influenced" while the acquitted said they were falsely implicated in the case.

The acquitted and their relatives embraced each other in the courtroom as the judge passed the verdict

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### Slain leaders' families bin verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The families of the four national leaders assassinated in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975 rejected the verdict yesterday and called it a farce of justice.

The verdict was politically motivated and the government's interference in the case denied them justice, they said.

"We along with the public are totally disappointed at the verdict as all the main perpetrators have got off scot-free because of the unprecedented influencing by the

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Awami League MP Sohel Taj, left, son of slain prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed, bursts into tears at a press briefing held at the residence of AL leader Mohammad Nasim (C) yesterday soon after the verdict in the Jail Killing Case.

### AL decides to join JS session on Oct 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League yesterday in a significant political move decided to join the Jatiya Sangsad session starting on October 28.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) with Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The party high-ups gave in to the

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### It was an attack on democracy

B Chy, Dr Kamal talk on foiling of Rangpur dialogue, say BNP's popularity to wane

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) yesterday said the attack on their mass dialogue at Rangpur on Tuesday was an attack on the people, democracy and people's right to express their views.

They also blasted the local administration and police for 'not taking any step' to resist the hoodlums and save the BDB and Oikya Mancha leaders from the attack.

A section of local leaders of the ruling BNP were directly involved in the attack, they alleged at a press conference at the Gono Forum office in the capital.

BDB President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Oikya Mancha Convenor and Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain spoke at the press conference while Mahi B

Chowdhury MP and other leaders were present.

"For the first time in the history of Bangladesh, an elected government has taken a stand against the people," Badruddoza said. "Popularity of the ruling BNP will go down to a critical level if it does not stop such activities as at Rangpur."

The former president said that in the past many attacks on political leaders were made but this time they (BNP men) resorted to attack on people who gathered there (mass dialogue venue) to express their opinion on the prevailing situation in the country.

"We were not the speakers there, we went there just to hear people coming from all sections of the society. But the ruling party did not allow this," he said.

"Such activities amount to a

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