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22 to walk gallows for killing Ahsanullah

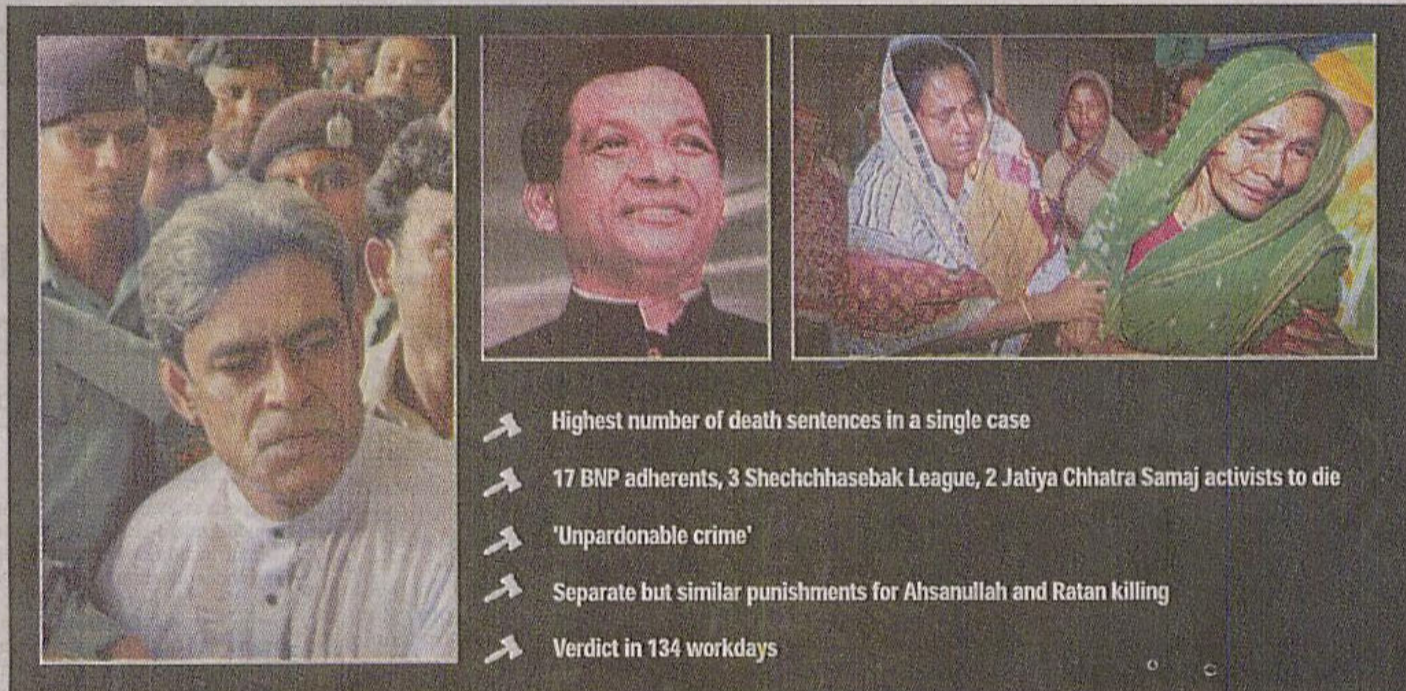
6 get life, family demands quick execution of verdict

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, SHAMIM ASHRAF and SHAMEEM MAHMUD

A Dhaka court yesterday handed down death sentences to 22 people and life terms to six others for assassinating Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master in Tongi in May last year, the highest number of capital punishments ever awarded in a single criminal case in Bangladesh.

The court also handed down similar punishments to the same convicts for gunning down Omar Faruq Ratan, a young man, in the same incident. The life imprisonment sentences will run concurrently. The court imposed separate death sentences for the murders of Ahsanullah and Ratan. "One of the

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- ➔ Highest number of death sentences in a single case
- ➔ 17 BNP adherents, 3 Shechchhasebak League, 2 Jatiya Chhatra Samaj activists to die
- ➔ 'Unpardonable crime'
- ➔ Separate but similar punishments for Ahsanullah and Ratan killing
- ➔ Verdict in 134 workdays

PHOTO: STAR

Prime accused Nurul Islam Sarker, left, ponders his future on way to the jail, file photo of slain lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, middle, and the sister and mother of the frontline opposition leader break down in tears at their house in Tongi on hearing the verdict yesterday.

BSF goes back on zero-line fencing

Border talks end inconclusively

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The director general-level border talks between BDR and BSF ended yesterday in the city inconclusively with the Indian side dismissing most of the major border concerns of Bangladesh including push-in and presence of anti-Bangladesh terrorists and their camps in its territory.

Shifting from its stance on April 13, the first day of the conference, the Indian side also expressed its determination to continue with barbed-wire border fencing, meeting sources said. India will just inform the Bangladesh Rifles about fence construction in areas of compulsion -- within 150 yards of the zero-line, they added.

Border Security Force DG RS Mooshahary after the first day's talks at the BDR Headquarters at

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Three Bangladeshis killed in border clash

BSE, BDR agree to ceasefire after fierce gunfight on Akhaura frontier

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'aria

At least three Bangladeshis including a girl were killed in a fierce encounter between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Akhaura border yesterday.

The girl was identified as Nahid Akter, 10, of Anwarpur village but identities of the two others could not be known as the BSF took away their bodies.

Unconfirmed reports however put the death toll to five. Thousands of locals have fled their homes fearing further gunfight.

BDR sources said BSF men entered Fakirmura village of Akhaura upazila at about 5:00pm and opened fire on the BDR, who had resisted the intruders.

The BDR returned fire. Both the

border guards of the two neighbouring countries used sophisticated firearms during the shootout, sources said.

Villagers said Nahid was bullet-hit during the shootout and died at Akhaura Upazila Health Complex. The BSF took away the bodies of two Bangladeshis died in the shootout while two other bodies were lying on the zero-line, they claimed.

Thousands of locals of Fakirmura, Anwarpur, Kuripaika, Hirapur and Kalyanpur villages took refuge in Akhaura sadar, said officials of upazila administration and police.

Both sides have reinforced their positions following the clash.

Commanding Officer (CO) of 7 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Syed Quamruzzaman was on the frontline during the shootout.

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Widows queue for dead men's pay

Death toll rises to 62 as rescue efforts enter Day 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday was rumoured to be a pay day at the Spectrum Sweaters Factory Limited at Savar and so Shaera was waiting at the office entrance to draw last month's wage of her husband.

Only the day before she had buried her man, Nazrul, a knitting machine operator perished in the country's deadliest building collapse on Monday. His body was retrieved two days later, on Wednesday.

Outside, rescuers were still digging into the rubbles, from which they pulled out six more badly

decomposed bodies yesterday, six days into the disaster. The day also saw an injured garment worker die at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), pushing the official death toll in the collapse to 62.

"Yesterday I buried my husband. And today I am standing here, as I have no money to buy food for my daughter," Shaera said.

Holding her seven-year-old daughter Nadia in her lap, Shaera was sitting beside several other women widowed in the Monday's nine-storey building collapse.

"I don't care for myself, but I

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একাউন্ট এক সুবিধা অনেক
আনলাইন ব্যাংকিং
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