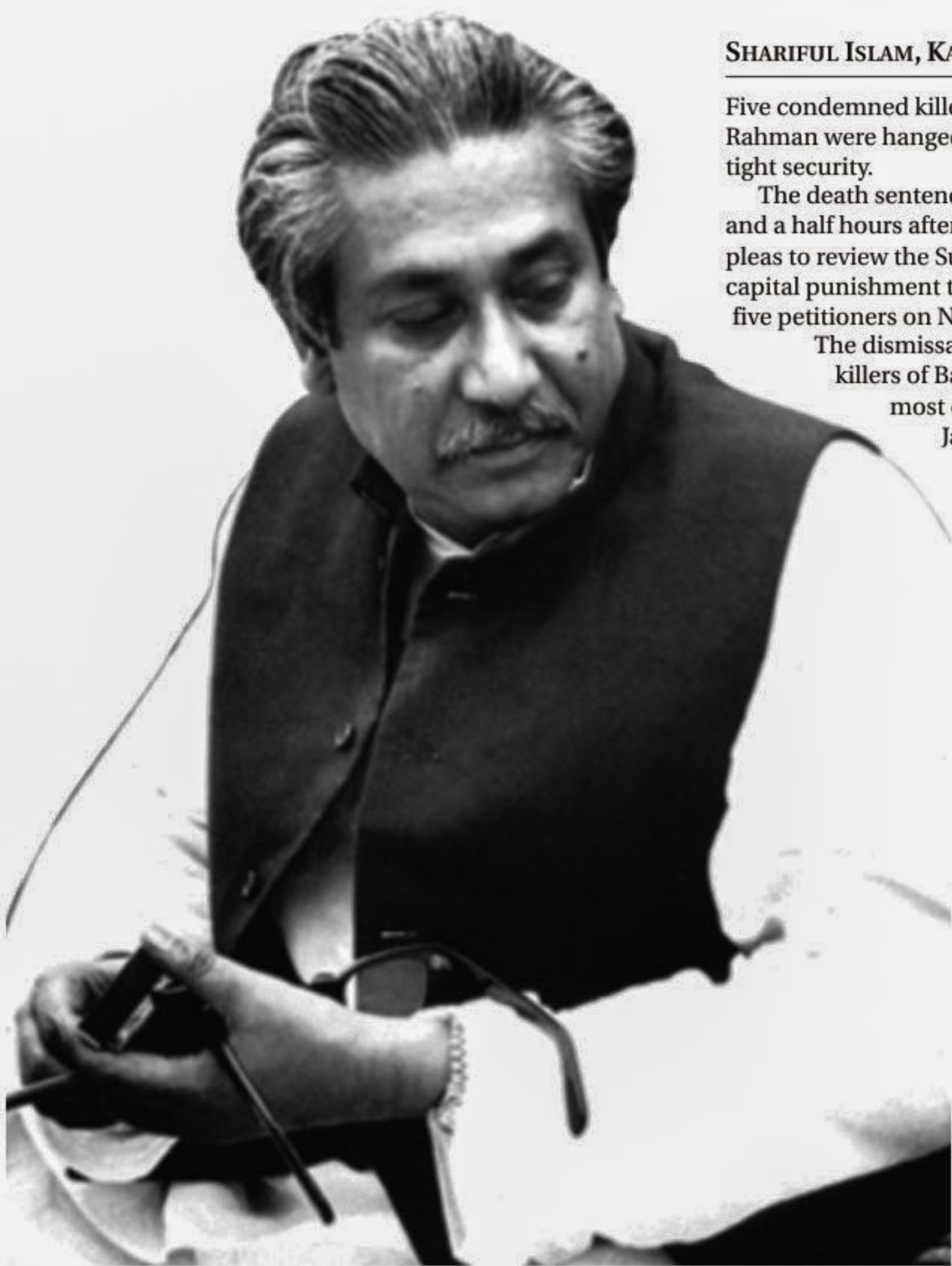


5 Bangabandhu killers hanged

Govt goes for execution 14 hours after review petition rejected; bodies sent to their village homes with police escort



SHARIFUL ISLAM, KAILASH SARKAR and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Five condemned killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were hanged early today at Dhaka Central Jail amid tight security.

The death sentences of the five were executed around 14 and a half hours after the Appellate Division dismissed their pleas to review the Supreme Court verdict that confirmed capital punishment to 12 former army officers including the five petitioners on November 19 last year.

The dismissal paved the way for executing the five killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members any time within January 31.

"Sultan Shahriar Rashid and Syed Farooq Rahman were the first to walk the gallows at 12:05am. They were handcuffed and their heads were covered in black hoods in the final minutes to midnight," Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Zillar Rahman told The Daily Star soon after he walked out of the jail premises around 1:45am.

Two hangmen put two nooses around the necks of the two condemned killers. Two other hangmen-

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His life, struggle

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born on 17 March 1920 to Sheikh Lutfur Rahman and Shahara Khatun in village Tungipara under the then Gopalganj subdivision. Affectionately called Khoka by

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THE KILLERS

5 hanged: Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Mohiuddin Ahmed

6 on the run: Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, Nur Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury, Abdul Mazed and Moslehuddin Khan

1 passed away: Aziz Pasha died in Zimbabwe in 2001

It's quiet execution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dark alleys to the Dhaka Central Jail looked empty with a few policemen standing at regular gaps. At the jail gate, media men had just started crowding.

A little later, security men started pouring in. By now, the road to the jail was made off-limits to most people.

As the clock neared midnight, five ambulances pulled in to carry the bodies of the five Bangabandhu killers.

The whole place was now teeming with Rapid Action Battalion and police personnel.

The waiting now seemed

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34 yrs for justice Bloodbath on Road 32

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

It has taken over 34 years to ensure justice since August 15, 1975 heinous killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

A dark cloud that has been looming over the nation since that day was partially removed early this morning with the executions of five of the 12 condemned killers.

The incidents of August 15, 1975 constitute the darkest part in the history of Bangladesh's politics, as the episode introduced bloodbath as a means of regime change in the country.

Completion of the trial of Bangabandhu killing case and implementation of the verdict will remain in the history of the judiciary as an example of how many hurdles justice might have to cross before being served.

The looming darkness deepened further in the form of the Indemnity Ordinance, which was introduced by Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed and then given constitutional legitimacy by Lt Gen Ziaur Rahman, to protect the killers of Bangabandhu and obstruct justice.

No government took initiatives to ensure justice for the killing of the country's first president until Sheikh Mujib's own party Awami League came to power in 1996 under the leadership

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INAM AHMED and

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

It was not dawn yet. A false dawn spread its pale light across the sky. At House 677 of Road 32 in Dhanmondi, it was time to change guards while everybody was still in deep sleep: President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, wife Begum Mujib, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russell, daughters-in-law, and brother Sheikh Naser.

Bangabandhu's personal assistant AFM Mohitul Islam was on night duty, but he hit the bed around one in the morning. Suddenly the phone rang and he sleepily picked up

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Syed Farooq Rahman

Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan

Bazlul Huda

AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed

Mohiuddin Ahmed



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