

**Govt won't ban religion based parties**  
Cabinet decides in principle

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Despite having the mandate from the Supreme Court, the government yesterday decided in principle that it would not ban any religion-based political party.  
The SC in its landmark verdict gave the government the mandate to ban religion-based political parties. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, however, categorically told her cabinet colleagues that her government would not ban any such party since banning them could make

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**Goyeshwar seeks to quit BNP standing body**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy in a dramatic move late last night asked the party chairperson that he be relieved of BNP standing committee duties.  
The move came following alleged conflict between him and a joint secretary general of BNP.

In a letter faxed to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Goyeshwar said he was unable to continue activities

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## 4 Jamaat leaders in war trial dock

**Tribunal orders keeping them in jail; order sought to arrest Sayedee**

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK with ASHUTOSH SARKAR

They are no stranger to court. They stood in the dock before. But their appearance at the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday marks a watershed. For it was the first time the four top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders were in court as accused in the long-awaited war crimes trial.

Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, Senior Assistant Secretaries General Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla were brought to the courtroom around 10:30am.

During brief proceedings, the tribunal directed the prison authorities to keep them in custody until further orders in the first complaint case filed with it.

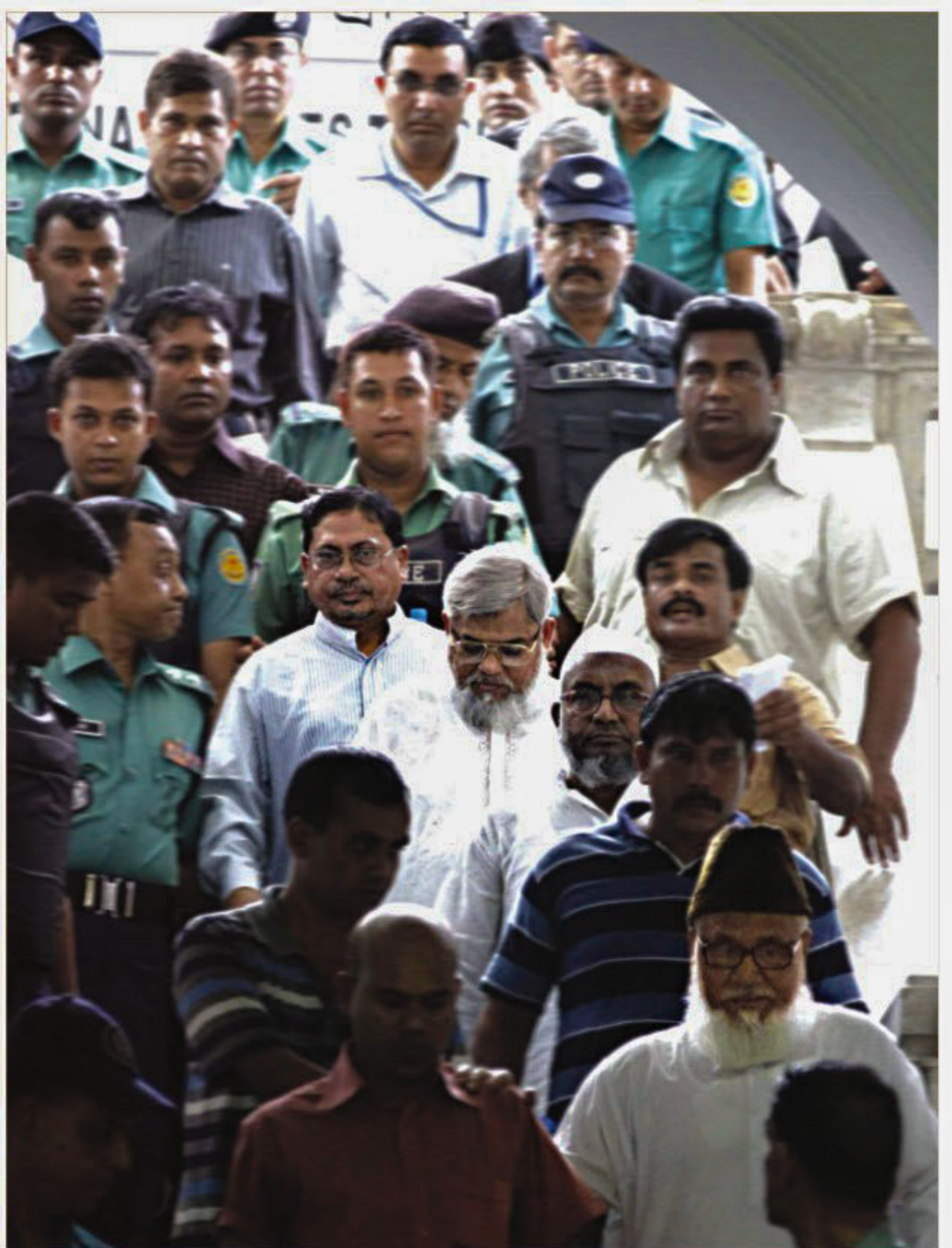
The war crimes prosecution filed the case on July 25 under the International Crimes Tribunal Act, and prayed for arrest warrants against the four.

In the case, they charged the Jamaat leaders with committing genocide and crimes against humanity and peace during the Liberation War in 1971.

Some 25 lawyers led by Zainul Abedin, BNP leader and former secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association, were at the tribunal to defend the four.

Ghulam Arief Tipoo led the seven-member prosecution panel.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Detained top brass of Jamaat – Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla – being brought into the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday. The tribunal in its first ruling ordered keeping the four in jail in connection with war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Slow lanes for highways

**Govt also plans to oust drivers with fake licence**

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Concerned at more than 10,000 deaths a year on roads and prompted by the deaths of two top government officials Saturday, the government yesterday decided to construct separate lanes for slow-moving vehicles along all highways.

It also decided to get all drivers with fake licences off the roads.

The cabinet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair made the decisions, highly-placed sources in the cabinet told The Daily Star.

According to a communications ministry official, the ministry has already planned to construct separate lanes for slow-moving vehicles along the busy highways to ensure smooth movement on the fast lane.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



## Noman wins Magsaysay Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AHM Noman Khan, founder and executive director of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), has won

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## RMG sector still in grip of violence

**80 injured in clashes in Ashulia, Narayanganj, Chittagong a day after 'understanding'**

STAR REPORT

RMG workers continued demonstrations in Ashulia and Narayanganj yesterday even though labour representatives agreed to the new pay scale the previous day with a pledge to help maintain normal work environment in industrial areas.

At least 80 people were injured as labourers clashed with police in Ashulia and Narayanganj for the third consecutive day.

Production in several factories was suspended after the workers resorted to violent

protests demanding a minimum wage of Tk 5,000 with effect from August 1.

Meanwhile, workers of two garment units of Azim Group in Kalurghat BSCIC Industrial Area in Chittagong went on the rampage on Sunday night and yesterday bringing production to a halt, reports our staff correspondent from Chittagong.

The labour representatives at a meeting with ministers, chamber leaders and garment owners on Sunday agreed to the new pay structure for garment sector and promised to

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