

**FUEL SALES RESUME**

Petrol pump, tank-lorry owners call off strike as govt meets demands

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MOB VIOLENCE

People kill a man and a woman suspecting them kidnappers

PAGE 2

'CONTENT OF CHARACTER'

What the most famous quote of Martin Luther King really means

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CHARGES	1. Abduction, torture (Ranjit Kumar Nath)	2. Abduction, torture (Abu Yusuf Pakhi)	3. Murder (Sudhangshu Mohan Roy)	4. Murder (Madhab Chandra Biswas)	5. Rape (Two Hindu women)	6. Murder (Chitta Ranjan Das)	7. Genocide (Hindu majority Hasamdia village)	8. Abduction, torture (Hindu girl)
VERDICT	Guilty	Not guilty (Acquittal)	Guilty (Death)	Guilty (Death)	Guilty	Guilty (Death)	Guilty (Death)	Guilty

DEATH for Bachchu Razakar

Declares war crimes tribunal in its first verdict; fugitive convict gets 30 days for appeal with SC

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The international crimes tribunal made history yesterday by sentencing Abul Kalam Azad to death, in its maiden judgment, for genocide and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The 65-year-old fugitive, also known as Bachchu Razakar, was found guilty of killing 14 Hindus, raping two women, torturing two other persons and setting homes ablaze in Faridpur, his birthplace.

The judgment turns the spotlight on the nine-month war in which the Pakistani army along with its collaborators had killed three million Bangalees and violated more than a quarter of a million women.

The nation yesterday saw the first sentencing of a war criminal through a trial, a demand that had remained pending since the country was liberated in 1971.

"We should not forget the millions of victims who deserve that their tormentors are held accountable," Justice Obaidul Hassan and two fellow judges said in written summary of the judgment. "The passage of time does not diminish the guilt. Justice delayed is no longer justice denied."

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SUMMARY VERDICT ON PAGE 15, FULL VERDICT & CHARGES ON STAR ONLINE

He is now in Pakistan
Say police; homes under lock and key; govt to seek Interpol help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Kalam Azad, the first war crimes accused convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal-2, has fled to Karachi in Pakistan, detectives say.

Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, left his Uttarkhan house in the capital just hours before the tribunal ordered his arrest on April 3 last year. He crossed over to India through the border in Dinajpur, and then set off for Pakistan via another country, said Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of detective branch.

He remains absconding since.

He was born on March 5, 1947, to Abdus Salam Mia and Magfura Khatun in Faridpur.

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We've kept our Spotlight on Jamaat promise

Reacts PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the nation got rid of a stigma and started a new journey through the first verdict in war crimes trial.

"We pledged to try the war criminals and now we can say that we have

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Tribunal observes the party behind creation of auxiliary forces of Pakistan army, laments how lack of justice left deep wound on political psyche, nation

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

BNP wants trial but fair one
Jamaat says trial process illegal; 14-party happy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after the delivery of the first verdict in a war-crimes case, BNP Coordinator Tariqul Islam said the main opposition completely supported the ongoing trial at the international crimes tribunals.

Claiming that the party is a "pro-liberation war" force, he said, "We hope the trial would be neutral and would conform to international standards."

Tariqul was addressing a discussion marking party founder Ziaur Rahman's 77th birth anniversary in the capital.

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CHEERS Still a long way to go

As the International Crimes Tribunal-2 pronounced its first verdict yesterday, Wasim Bin Habib and Mahbubur Rahman Khan talked to eminent citizens for their comments.



AK KHANDAKER

Air Vice-Marshall (retd) AK Khandaker, planning minister and chairman of Sector Commanders Forum, said, "We are very happy. We got the verdict as a result of our long



SHAHRIAR KABIR

War crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir said the verdict can be termed the first step to victory for which they campaigned under the leadership of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam

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MIZANUR RAHMAN

"I am glad and upset over the verdict at the same time," National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman said yesterday.

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FERDOUSY PRIYABHASHINI

"To me it is another victory day after December 16," said Ferdousy Priyabhashini. "I'm very happy to see the trial of those who stained our map with blood by killing 30 lakh

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Verdict answers some questions

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In its verdict, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 gave its views on some debates and arguments over the issue of trying war criminals of 1971 more than four decades after the country's independence.

Many of these arguments were

presented by the defence in the tribunals and have also been used

in the political arena to oppose the ongoing trial of war criminals. And one of those involves the 40-year delay in holding the trial.

Abdus Shukur Khan, the state-appointed defence counsel for Abul Kalam Azad, raised similar

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Trial ends in 10 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad is the last of all the nine people who have been brought under trial at the war crimes tribunals but his case is the first to have been completed.

Ending the trial proceedings against him in just 10 months, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced fugitive Azad to death.

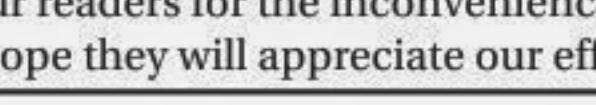
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NOTICE

We did not bring out national pages today so that we could extensively cover the first war crimes trial verdict. We apologise to our readers for the inconvenience and hope they will appreciate our efforts.

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