



JAMAAT, SHIBIR STRIKE TERROR AGAIN



Clockwise from left, Islami Chhatra Shibir activists riot with police in Muradnagar of Chittagong city after International Crimes Tribunal-2 passed a life sentence on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah yesterday. A gun-wielding Shibir cadre during the violence. One of the Shibir men, in red circle, carrying a sharp object when Jamaat's hartal was under way in Binodpur in Rajshahi city. A bus burned by hartal supporters in the capital's Rayerbag. A horde of Shibir attackers violently chasing police in Chittagong city. One of the motorcycles set alight along with three-wheelers and rickshaw-vans, not in picture, by protesters in the port city. People who arrived at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital get stuck there due to scarcity of vehicles amid hartal. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) patrols Dhanmondi area as part of additional security measures last evening.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH



Appeal for help

METRO DESK
Lutfun Nahar Beethi, who passed her MSS in political science last year, has been suffering from acute kidney disease. Both of her kidneys are damaged and she is on dialysis at Islami Bank Hospital. Doctors have advised Beethi to go for kidney transplant which will cost about Tk 16 lakh. Her poor family is unable to bear such a huge cost and is appealing to the well-off and kind-hearted individuals of society for financial assistance. Financial assistance can be sent to Kamrun Nahar, savings account No 101-101-200029, Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd, Dilkusha, Dhaka. Beethi's family can be contacted over mobile phone number 01190-802055 or 01922-191523.

Defence to appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the International Crimes Tribunal-2 verdict against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah "a perverse judgment", the defence counsels yesterday said they will appeal against the conviction to the Supreme Court.

"We believe that the judgment...will be completely reversed by the Supreme Court," Abdur Razzaq, chief of the defence team, told a press briefing at his Nayapaltan chamber.

Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced Mollah to life imprisonment for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

Razzaq said, "There is not an iota of evidence on record to warrant a conviction of Abdul Quader Mollah, let alone a life imprisonment." The prosecution has failed completely to establish the six charges against Mollah, he claimed.

The chief defence lawyer said the tribunal passed the judgement relying upon the depositions of only 12 prosecution witnesses, the majority of whom were "hearsay witnesses" and beneficiaries of the present regime.

"We believe that the credibility of each and every single prosecution witness has been successfully destroyed by rigorous cross examination by the defence."

Although the defence was allowed to produce only six witnesses, it is clear from their depositions that Mollah was not in Dhaka but in Faridpur in 1971, he said, but the tribunal ignored the evidence of the defence witnesses and convicted Mollah for atrocities committed by the Bihari community in Mirpur in 1971.

He also said, "It is difficult to see how Abdul Quader Mollah can be convicted of commission of atrocities as an Al Badr member in April 1971 when it is the Prosecution case that the Al-Badr force was raised in May 1971."

As the verdict was pronounced, Quader Mollah rose to his feet and shouted Allahu Akbar. "It is injustice to me," he said.

Mollah's eldest son Hasan Jamil, who was present during the verdict's pronouncement, said, "We are frustrated. We expected that my father would be acquitted, as the prosecution failed to prove the charges through documents."

QUADER MOLLAH VERDICT

Death penalty sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of organisations yesterday expressed disappointment and resentment at the International Crimes Tribunal's passing a life sentence on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah and demanded that he be given the death penalty.

Mollah was convicted for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

They said most charges against Quader Mollah were proved in court "beyond reasonable doubt", but International Crimes Tribunal-2 gave him "light punishment".

Sector Commanders Forum thinks that the verdict is not acceptable to the

families of martyrs, freedom fighters, and the common people. The government should appeal against it.

Shamprodayikota-Jongibad Birodhi Mancha said, "The nation expected that the tribunal would deliver a verdict with due respect to the memories of the martyrs but they did not do that."

Similar reactions came from Workers Party of Bangladesh, Mahila Muktijoddha Sangsad, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Sammilito Samajik Andolon, Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, Bangladesh Jubo Maitri Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, Bangladesh Islami Jote, Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, Jatiya Ganatantrik League, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon, and Joybangla Sangskritik Jote.

Obituary

METRO DESK



AKM Nurul Amin Khan, former member of T&T Board and the third son of Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly late Abdul Wahab Khan, passed away at his Dhanmondi residence in the capital yesterday morning. He was 71. He left behind a son and daughter. He will be buried at Banani graveyard tomorrow.

RISING Stars

Ibrahim is back for another week on cover, tackling the serious issue of violence against women and what our roles are in preventing it, expert opinions and the voice of the youth included. Windows 8 review and Osama's tips on preparing your (non-existent) love life for Valentines Day also make an appearance. SEE THIS WEEK'S RS FOR MORE.

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