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## BANGLA GANER UTSAB

The second day of the fest in Kolkata features Boithoki songs

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## RIP PING PONG HERO

The man behind the US-China ping pong diplomacy in 70s dies at 73

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# Thank you

*PM hails Shahbagh youths; vows to help keep their oath; hopes to see people's expectation met in war crimes verdict*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday thanked the youths for raising voice against the 1971 war criminals, and said her government would translate into action the oath thousands of protesters took at the Shahbagh grand rally on Friday.

Speaking in parliament, Hasina said the tribunals would deliver judgments according to the law, but they should consider the people's expectations while giving verdicts on war crimes cases.

"I am making this call to them [the judges] through parliament," said Hasina, also the leader of the House.

The prime minister expressed solidarity with the six-point demand that the Shahbagh protesters submitted to the Speaker yesterday afternoon.

Speaker Abdul Hamid said he forwarded the charter of demands to the premier, and the law and home ministers for taking necessary steps.

He said the House expressed solidarity with the demonstrations at Shahbagh and elsewhere demanding capital punishment to war criminals.

Participating in a nearly three-hour discussion, Hasina vowed to make sure that the war criminals are tried.

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Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon, *right*, and national team captain Mushfiqur Rahim, *second from right*, along with other current and former players and officials of the board render their solidarity with the nonstop mass movement at Shahbagh demanding death penalty for war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

# Youths submit do-list for JS

*Speaker to send it to PM, opposition leader*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahbagh protesters yesterday submitted a six-point charter to the Speaker, demanding death penalty for all war criminals, including Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, and revocation of the state's power to grant them amnesty.

A five-member delegation of Bloggers and Online Activist Network that initiated the protest met Speaker Abdul Hamid at his office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and placed their demands.

The other demands include an amendment to the International Crimes Tribunal Act, allowing appeals against inadequate punishment and disposal of appeals from both the defence and the prosecution within three months of their filing.

The collaborators, who had been either convicted or under trial but set free from jail after political changeover following the coup on August 15, 1975, must be brought to book, the protesters said.

Abdul Hamid said he would send copies of the charter to Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina, Leader of Opposition in Parliament

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# Change law to try Jamaat

*Demand gets louder as govt sits today on amending war crimes trial act*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government tables today a proposal for amending the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973 to provide for appeal against inadequate sentence in war crimes cases.

Finalised yesterday, the proposal also envisages hearing and disposal of an appeal within 60 days from the date of its filing with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

There is no mention of time limit in the law for disposing of the appeal

in the cases involving the crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Interpreting the proposed amendment, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that the Appellate Division will dispose of an appeal within 45 days from the date of its filing. If the apex court still cannot complete the disposal, it will get another 15 days.

He said any appeal against an ICT verdict has to be filed with the Supreme Court within 30 days from

the date of delivery of the verdict as per the existing provision.

Earlier in the day, Shafique Ahmed told reporters at his office in Bangladesh Secretariat that a bill will be placed before parliament within a week if the cabinet approves the proposed amendment.

He hoped the House will pass the bill in its current session.

The government, any aggrieved person or victim can file appeal against inadequate sentence or

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## Govt behind Shahbagh

*Claims Jamaat, plans to demonstrate tomorrow*

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday termed the countrywide demonstrations, including the Shahbagh one, a government plot to create anarchy in the country and force the tribunals to deliver verdicts as per its dictate.

The government was conspiring to create hatred against the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami

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## No 'secret deal'

*Matia bins perception of Quader verdict*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday outright rejected the allegation that the government had made a "secret deal" with Jamaat-e-Islami over the war crimes trial of Abdul Quader Mollah.

"There is nothing behind this," she said at the BBC Sanglap as a number of invitee spectators questioned her if

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# Rally enters day 6 with more vigour

*Tigers join Shahbagh protests*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the Shahbagh movement entered its sixth day yesterday, the arrival of the Tigers at the intersection added more vigour to the indomitable spirit of the protesters.

As some former and present cricketers took to the stage and chanted slogans to support their cause, the crowd burst into cheers stronger than the applause the team receives after winning a crucial match.

The presence of Abdur Razzak, Anamul Haque Bijoy, Md Ashraful, Elias Sunny, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mominul Haque, Nasir Hossain, Nazmul Hossain and Shohag Gazi from the national cricket team accompanied by some former cricketers made the agitating youths even more determined to continue their movement.

The national cricketers apart, all the team members of Duronto Rajshahi led by its owner Mushfiqur Rahman Mohan joined the protesters at Shahbagh, much to the demonstrators' enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, a group of young journalists continued with their hunger strike for a second consecutive day yesterday before the Dhaka Reporters Unity, demanding cancellation of Jamaat leaders' membership in the Jatiya Press Club.

The young generation has been accused of being apathetic and apolitical. But the Shahbagh movement has proved that they are not ignorant about or indifferent to the current state of the country.

Protestors said they were already angered by the recent countrywide violence by Jamaat-Shibir activists against the trial. Then, the verdict against Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah clearly went

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## BPC report rejected

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The next significant step on the language question came in the aftermath of the report submitted by the Basic Principles Committee to the constituent assembly on 28 September 1950.

The report was unequivocal in stating that Urdu would be the

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## DNA test of guard allowed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Enam Ahmed alias Humayun Kabir on an eight-day remand in connection with the journalist couple Sagar-Runi murder case.

Though one year has elapsed since Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi was brutally killed at their apartment on February 11, 2012, law enforcers are still in the dark about the case.

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## Lonely he goes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A blank Megh stares at the family portraits in the gallery.

They are all typical family photos. In some, his mother Meherun Runi cuddles him while in others he plays with his father Sagar

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# \$200m Indian grant for Padma

*Says Muhith, expects to meet WB boss*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will use the \$200 million grant from India's \$1billion credit for the Padma bridge project if it decides to build the bridge with its own resources, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

Following a meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, Muhith told reporters, "I just told them that most likely we are going to use it for the Padma bridge."

The government can use the \$200 million grant for whatever purpose it wants and the first instalment of \$50 million of the grant will be released soon, Muhith said after the meeting at his secretariat office.

Referring to the proposals from China and Malaysia for constructing the bridge, Muhith said those are other options that the government has for implementing the project.

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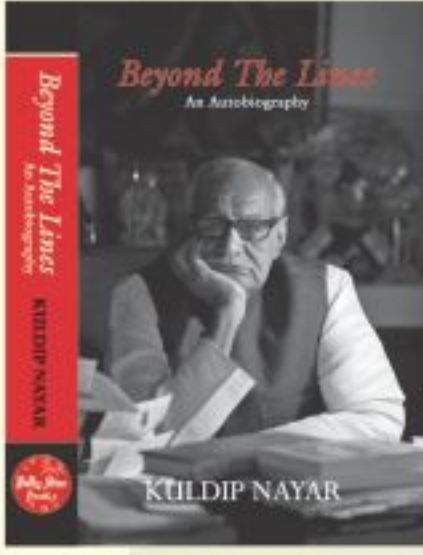
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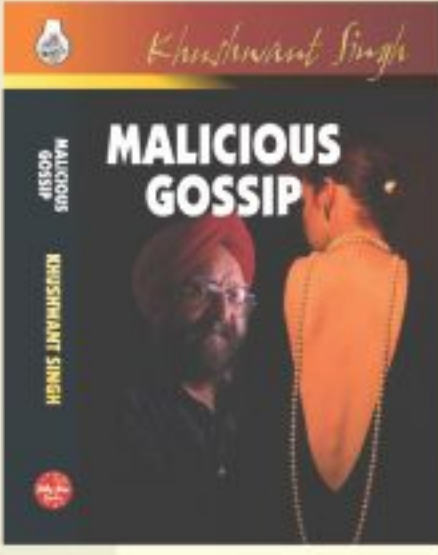


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