

# Fight the reactionary forces



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Quader Mollah is happy to have his way while the people gathered at Shahbag are furious seeing him showing 'V' sign after the verdict that gave him a new lease of life by sentencing to life imprisonment. I think the government and the anti- Jamaat secular forces should be as adamant as Jamaat in pressing home their demand. Let us die once again to liberate the country from the reactionary forces. The long oppressed people here have been calling for a revolution. Will we not listen to them this time?

**Abdus Subhan**  
*On e-mail*

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Shahbag has turned into a human sea as people regardless of age or class are continuing to throng there demanding capital punishment for Abdul Quader Mollah as well as all war crimes convicts after the ICT-2 has awarded life term imprisonment to Quader Mollah.

Let's go to Shahbag. It is our sacred duty to be united with this uprising of thousands of people.

**Md Sairul Islam**  
*Lecturer in English*  
*Jahangirpur Girls' School and College*  
*Mohadevpur, Naogaon*

## Ensure security of people

Every day I ask myself what have we got from our incumbent government and what will we gain if we vote the other party to power? Will it bring any change in our life? Are there any political parties which are dedicated to the welfare of the people and the country? The arson acts by Jamaat activists have severely burned one person to death in Uttara. These criminals in political garb committed this gruesome act only to execute their mission and save the war criminals. Why have the innocent people to suffer? At the same time, the BCL cadres are not lagging behind. They also created anarchy in our educational institutions and ruined the peaceful environment of the campuses. The government must ensure security of the people and non-violent atmosphere in the country at any cost.

**Rifat Darina Kamal**  
*Chittagong Cantonment*  
*Chittagong*

## Vision for the blind!

Your fantastic last page news and sketch published on 7th February based on AFP, Washington, is indeed an eye-opener! This electro-medical breakthrough has opened a new horizon for the blind. Now the rich, if blind, can buy sight! It is the first 'bionic eye' to go the market!

Europe has taken the lead; and it is already available there, if the price of over 76,000 euro can be given! In US, the Food and Drug Administration will soon approve it. It can well be the most exciting medical news of the year. I am sure WHO and other international bodies will recognise the scientists and experts involved in this epoch-making discovery.

**Engr. S.A. Mansoor**  
*Dhaka*

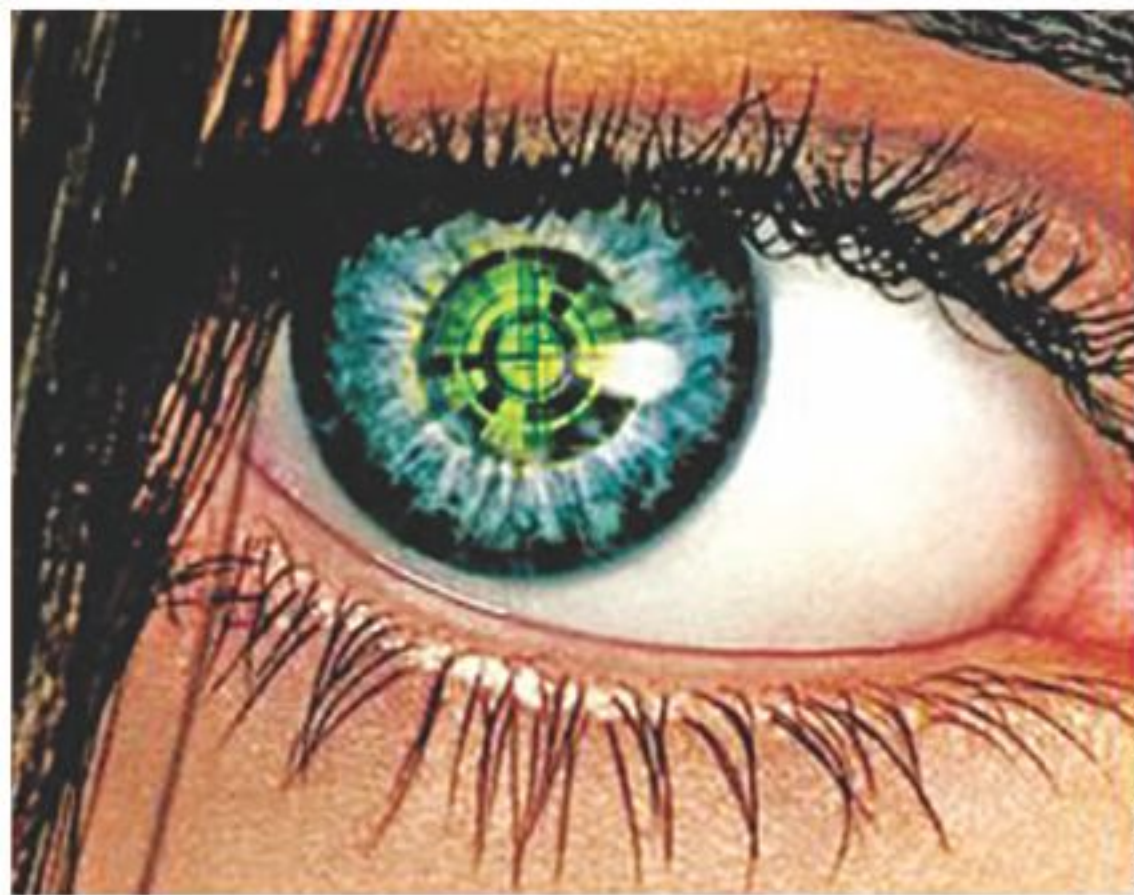


PHOTO: AFP

## Women must rise up against their tormentors

Only in the recent past, the death of a young Indian girl, resulting from gang rape and torture, in a moving bus, in Delhi made headlines throughout the world including Houston. People from all walks of life poured in large numbers to protest the gruesome act of the gang rape on the streets of the Indian capital. Bangladesh is in no way different than India in this respect. Every now and then, a woman is raped in some part of the world. In most of the cases, the victim is an innocent woman or a girl and at times even a minor child, who are often killed by the savage beasts.

Perhaps, thousands of suggestions were put forward to the Indian government by the demonstrating people to stop these anti-social elements from committing such gruesome acts of rape and murder of innocent women. No law, however harsh or cruel, can stop these criminals unless and until women all over the world rise to fight against these crimes and stop thinking themselves as mere objects.

**Saleh Mohammad Ayub**  
*Houston, Texas*  
*USA*

## Return Jamaat-Shibir back to Pakistan

I fully endorse the letter of Munna Rana published in your esteemed daily on 8th February 2013. People must raise their voice against Jamaat-Shibir. It is unacceptable that Shibir men often assault police, vandalize vehicles and create chaos. They are trying to make the country unstable. On February 3, a Pakistani religious cleric named Hanif Zalondhari and some others delivered an incendiary speech after which a tense atmosphere was created in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila. The recent demonstrations against the war criminals have made us proud because we united against the enemies of our beloved motherland. I request the authorities concerned to immediately send these Pakistanis back to their country because they are creating anarchy in our country. God bless Bangladesh. A citizen

## Respecting our own language

February is a glorious month for all Bangla-speaking people. We are the only nation in this world that fought for their mother language. We need to take the challenge to popularise our mother tongue among the youngsters of today. And to do this, we don't need to hate other languages. We must have respect for other languages. It is not a fault to speak other languages but at the same time we have to speak our own language too. We should know and respect the glorious history of our mother tongue. We should arrange frequent seminars to highlight the activities of our forefathers who took great pride in speaking Bangla. That's how today's youth will learn to respect their own language.

**Pradip Das**  
*On e-mail*



PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

## Jamaat changing ideology?

We are noticing that the Jamaat activists are neither putting on traditional mufti clothing, nor have they beard. It seems that they love western attire. Moreover, the Jamaat- supported TV channels are showing dance, music and drama like the other channels. Don't these changes in Jamaat prove that their original ideology was wrong?

**Munir Alim**  
*On e-mail*

## Islamic extremists proselytising children of other faiths by inducements?

At last, The Daily Star has told us what some of us already know from human rights' sources - that poor, non-Muslim children in Bangladesh are being trafficked to madrasas, far from their homes, their parents having been promised that their children will receive a good education, free of charge- sometimes (as in your report of Feb 5th of the arrest of Binoy Tripura) a 'Christian' education. Instead, the children are subjected to force conversions and ill-treatment, without, of course, their parents being informed of their welfare or whereabouts. One such child, a Christian, managed to escape and get a neighbour to send a message to his father who came

and rescued him.

There have been times in history when religious extremists - of many religions actually - have tried to purge their countries of those of another faith who, they claim, are 'contaminating' them. It is sad that this too is one of the practices of Muslim extremists here, who, as this newspaper constantly informs us, spread a different version of Islam than most Muslims, whom they then define as 'bad Muslims' - so they can target them also with violence.

They assume that because they are obeying the laws of God and not man (i.e. the laws of the country), they do not need to restrain their behaviour or respect the police who try to enforce such laws. From where do they get the idea that, if they abuse and crush those who disagree with them that prove they are right about either religion or politics? Such behaviour also brings into disrepute the very God they claim to obey and merits the comment by one head of state that good Muslims should deal with these guys as it was not his job....!

Let us treasure the words of Mughal Emperor Babar in his will to Humayun:

Do not demolish or damage places of worship of any faith and dispense full justice to all to ensure peace in the country. Look at the various natures of your people just as colours of various seasons.

Is that not the real Bangladesh?

**Angela Robinson**

## Why frequent fires at slums?

Devastating fire accidents are taking place frequently in the slums where the ultra poor live, without any civic amenities. Last year, we witnessed several dreadful fire incidents at Begunbari, Rayerbazar, Mohammadpur and Agargaon slums. We came to know from the comments of the victims in newspapers that some influential persons were behind these fire incidents. These accidents are a part of conspiracy to evict the unfortunate slum dwellers and grab the lands. We urge the government as well as the rich of the country to build some permanent shelters for the slum dwellers so that they do not have to live in miserable condition.

**Badsha Solaiman**  
*Zahurul Haq Hall*  
*University of Dhaka*



PHOTO: STAR

## READERS respond

*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "BNP baffled by youth factor"*

**Mehdi, Canada**

BNP should support the youth movement for the exemplary punishment of war criminals and also guide the youth to ensure that they also protest against the current government's corruption e.g. Padma bridge scandal, Hall-Mark scandal, stock market corruption, Bishwajit murder, etc. Protest against corruption must be comprehensive and the youth needs to understand that. Suppose all the war criminals are hanged, then what? The corrupt practices of the political parties will not change. A lot of things need to be changed in Bangladesh and the youth need to be aware that their strength must be channelled in the right direction.

**Talat Islam**

Of course they are baffled. They are forgetting that the new electorates are young and much well-informed. They know the truth and can't be controlled with lies.

**Nobayon Parvez**

It's time BNP got rid of Jamaat.

**AKM Momin**

No doubt it's a moment of litmus test for BNP that requires a clear vision of the future. I would urge their party leadership to take the side of the youth because their goal is apolitical and very powerful. Majority of the voters are young. BNP certainly doesn't want to go against its voters!

**Brig. Gen. A. Azeem Mallik**

The movement is serving a great cause. It is teaching the new generation about our history and identifying the Mirjafars. Time has come for our leaders to understand that public can not be fooled any more to serve their narrow political interest.

**ShamimH**

BNP is about to become as irrelevant as the Muslim League before 1971. If they want to be a significant party, they need to have a rethink of Jamaat on their shoulder.

**Ahsan Kabir**

BNP should give an official statement distancing Jamaat as an ally and supporting the sentiment of our youth. I think it will enrich the vote banks of BNP.

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*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Govt mulls change in appeal scope"*

**Roni Rahman**

Why did not the government go for UN accredited International Crimes Tribunal which is compatible with international standard?

**Abdul Quader Chowdhury, Canada**

All famous families, political parties, and business entities must expel their own members who are publicly recognised as Razakars. Now it's time to intensify the social process of ousting old dishonest leaders to accommodate talented progressive leaders of the new generation. The political devils must get their message from Shahbag.

We are proud of you because you are fighting for national dignity and social justice. Keep up the spirit and always be careful about the conspirators.

**Luminiferous**

This gathering is nothing but a call to a long overdue justice which Bangladesh must deliver to honour her martyred souls and uphold her pride and dignity. But the processes to be followed in the deliverance of justice must be in complete in conformity with the international standard of jurisprudence and with utmost transparency. After all in a legal proceeding nobody wins, except the laws.

**Litton**

I would like to join my brethren at Shahbagh and other places around the country who are protesting against the verdict of the ICT-2. I would like to see the government along with the people of this country take necessary steps to solve this issue.

**Fida Likhon**

Asking for death penalty will not resolve the core of the problem. Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh is a branch of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan. So this party should be banned forever in