



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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DELHI SUFI FEST
Musicians from around the globe spread the message of love
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THE GAZE OF OCCUPIER
Soldier posts photo of a Palestinian boy's head in sniper crosshairs
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QUADER MOLLAH VERDICT Focus shifts now to SC

Govt to appeal for death next week, defence plans to challenge life term

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Now all eyes are on the Supreme Court and the government as the latter prepares to appeal against the war crimes tribunal's verdict that sentenced Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah to a "lenient" life in prison.

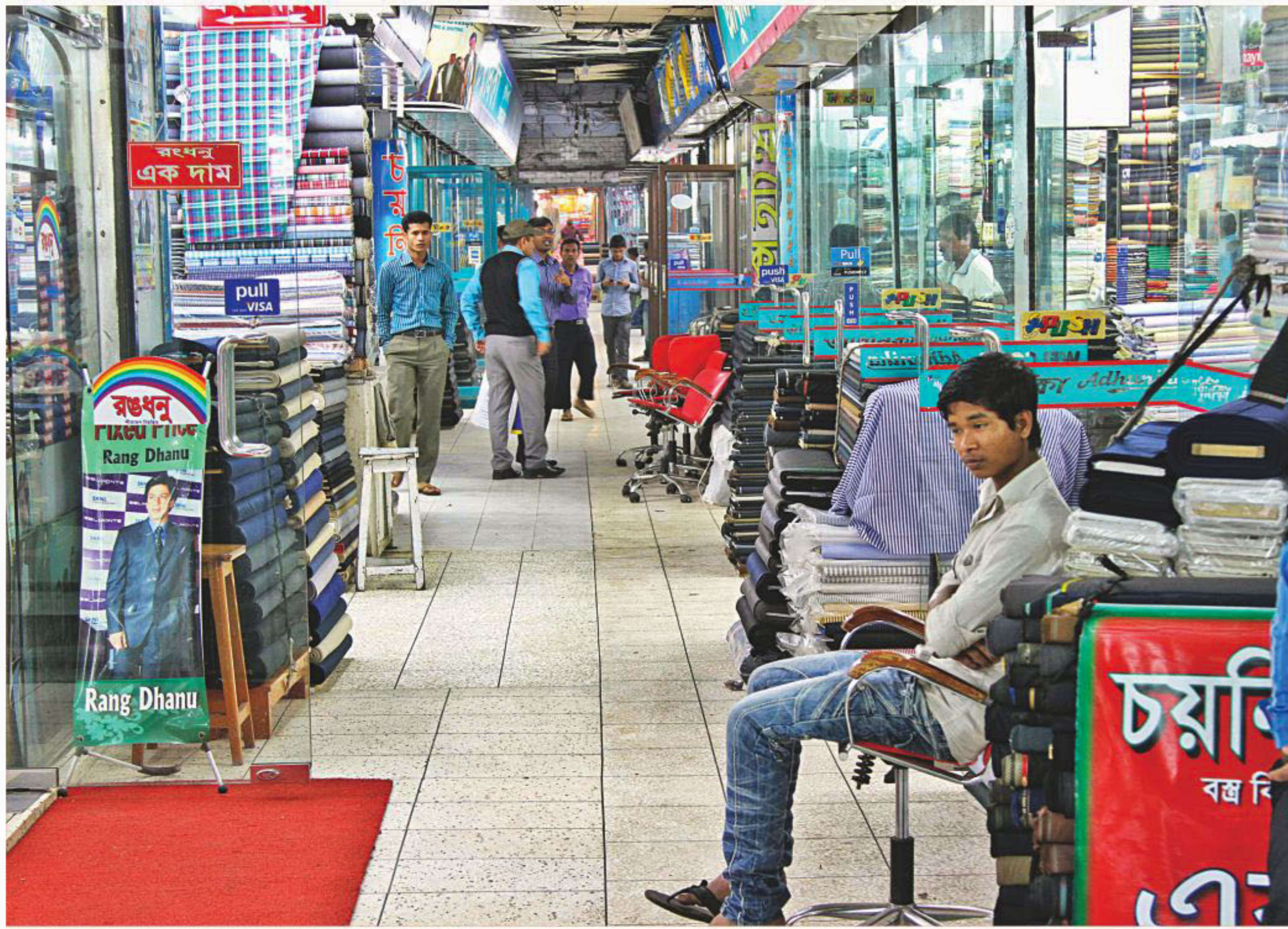
The appeal seeking the death sentence could be filed as soon as next week utilising the amended International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, which President Zillur Rahman signed yesterday.

The defence of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Quader Mollah, convicted of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, is also preparing to appeal against the tribunal verdict and to have him acquitted.

The defence and the prosecution have time until March 6 to file the appeals and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court would have to dispose of the appeals within 60 days of their filing.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star yesterday that the government, which moves for the

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Like many others in the city, traders on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka keep their shops open for business disregarding the Jamaat-called hartal yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Hartal for war criminals fails

Say Shahbagh youths, wear black badges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Shahbagh demonstrators thanked and congratulated the people of the country for responding to their call to defy yesterday's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the Jamaat-e-Islami.

As the nonstop movement entered its 14th day yesterday, protesters hoisted a black flag in the memory of the three people "killed in Jamaat-Shibir's recent attack across the country".

They also wore black badges in protest against Friday's murder of blogger and Shahbagh movement activist Rajib Haidar. Family members and protesters allege Jamaat-Shibir men killed the 33-year-old architect for being vocal about war crimes trial.

Of the other two victims, Zafar Munshi, 47, a liftman at Agrani Bank, was attacked in the capital on February 13 by Shibir activists. He died the following day. In Chittagong, Bahadur Hossain, 55, died on February 14 after being beaten by Jamaat-Shibir men

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Business almost as usual during hartal

3 killed in Jamaat's stray attacks; Shibir fires at AL office in Rajshahi, 2 bullet-hit

STAR REPORT

The countrywide hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami got little response from the masses yesterday as almost all businesses, offices and educational institutions went on with regular routine.

Responding to the call of Shahbagh protesters, Dhaka city residents defied the hartal as they went to their offices in the morning. Buses operated on roads; number of private cars was, however, thin.

The Jamaat-Shibir activists failed to carry out large-scale or frequent attacks yesterday unlike the past four hartal days.

Banks and shipping malls also remained open.

However, the party along with its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir tried to show off some strength in a few districts.

Their pickets attacked an ambulance carrying Hafiz Abdul Rahman, a sexagenarian heart patient, to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital from Teknaf. Hafiz died of cardiac arrest on board as rioters started vandalising the vehicle after barricading road.

A man was killed in Comilla as police, under attack by Jamaat-Shibir rioters, opened fire.

And in the capital, a bus overturned while speeding away with wild cadres in pursuit at

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For a cause till his last breath

DU CORRESPONDENT

He was chanting slogans for capital punishment to the war criminals even minutes before death silenced him forever.

Cartoonist and blogger Tariqul Islam Shanto, a staunch supporter of the Shahbagh movement, joined the protests at Shahbagh along with a group of television artists, directors and producers at around 3:00pm. While staging demonstrations, the 39-year-old man suffered a cardiac arrest. He was whisked off to the



Tariqul Islam Shanto

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PADMA BRIDGE

Govt to build it with 3 countries

Special Malaysian envoy arrives today

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

A consortium comprised of Malaysia, China, India and Bangladesh would finance and construct the much-talked-about Padma bridge, according to the latest government stance.

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) would also contribute to the construction of approach roads and the protection of river banks under the supervision of the communications ministry, according to government plans.

Besides options would be kept open for other countries and donor agencies to take part in the consortium to finance and build the largest infrastructure project for Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday held a marathon meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, her adviser Gowher Rizvi and a few secretaries to discuss the Padma bridge project.

Most of the participants in the meeting

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 20

NEWS ANALYSIS

The moment of resistance

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The murder of Ahmed Rajib Haidar is once more a sign of the darkness that is yet to lift in its totality in this free country.

It sends out a message, loud and clear and necessary, of what needs to be done to overpower the descendants of the local collaborators and quislings who once killed and helped to kill three million Bangalees in 1971.

To suggest that the war criminals of 42 years ago, ageing and perhaps physically weakening, have



Ahmed Rajib Haidar

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GB set up firms beyond mandate

Says a govt-formed commission on the microcredit lender

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Grameen Bank helped set up about 54 legally independent associated organisations beyond its specific mandate, said a government-sponsored commission on the microcredit organisation.

The four-member Grameen Bank Commission held the bank's board, the senior management, the finance ministry, Bangladesh Bank, auditors and the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms

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