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DRIVE AGAINST HEFAJAT PM bins 2,500 death figure

Accuses Khaleda of instigating Hefajat mayhem in capital

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday dismissed the BNP's allegations that 2,500 Hefajat men had been killed and their bodies stashed away during the drive to flush out the Islamists from Motijheel early Monday.

She asked, "As an army officer's wife, could she [BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia] say how much of arms and ammunition are needed to kill 2,500 people just in 10 minutes and how many people would have been injured in that case?"

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BNP leaflets seized

Police yesterday seized a huge number of leaflets published by the BNP describing the law enforcers' Sunday night action to flush out the Hefajat men from Shapla Chattar as the "most heinous genocide of the century".

The leaflets come apparently as part of the main opposition party's continued campaign to exaggerate the

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Police chase some fleeing Jamaat-Shibir activists (not seen in the photo) after they set a bus ablaze in Natun Bridge area of Chittagong city yesterday evening. The activists run amok following a court's verdict that sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman to death for war crimes.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Jamaat calls hartal Sunday

Hefajat calls off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday called a countrywide daylong hartal for Sunday, nearly an hour after Hefajat-e-Islam withdrew its hartal declared earlier for the same day.

A key component in the BNP-led 18-party alliance, Jamaat called the hartal in protest at the verdict that sentenced its leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman to death for involvement in war crimes.

Jamaat announced the hartal in a statement at 6:30pm, rejecting the verdict delivered by an international crimes tribunal.

Ashraf Ali Nizampuri, Hefajat's literature and cultural affairs secretary, told The Daily Star at about 5:30pm that they had withdrawn the hartal

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Key man of Al-Badr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Son of Insan Ali Sarkar of Kumri Mudipara in Sherpur, Kamaruzzaman was born on July 4, 1952. He got involved in Islami Chhatra Sangha when he was a student of class-X.

He passed the Secondary School Certificate examination from GKM Institute in Sherpur in 1967.

Soon he became the general secretary of Chhatra Sangha of a dormitory unit at Jamalpur Ashke Mahmud College and then the president of Chhatra Sangha of greater Mymensingh district (Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Sherpur) in 1971.

According to prosecution documents, Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the

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KAMARUZZAMAN

Jailed once but escaped trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immediately after independence, Kamaruzzaman was sued for an act of atrocity he had committed during the Liberation War. He was arrested in Dhaka and was put into jail for several months, but he escaped trial due to unknown reasons.

Kamaruzzaman was a leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, during the war.

Forty-two years later, now a top leader of Jamaat, the parent political organisation, he has been found guilty and convicted by the International Crimes

Tribunal-2 for committing wartime crimes against humanity in 1971.

This time, the state filed a case against him on behalf of the victims of 1971. A special investigation agency to probe wartime crimes submitted its findings on Kamaruzzaman's offences to the prosecution, who submitted formal charges before the tribunal to initiate the trial.

Md Hasanuzzaman, a resident of Gridda Narayanpur under Nalitabari upazila, filed a murder case with Nalitabari police accusing Kamaruzzaman and 17 others in

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Dakhil pass rate rises sharply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pass rates in Dakhil and SSC (vocational) examinations have increased sharply this year compared to those in the previous year.

The pass rate of Dakhil stood at 89.13 percent from last year's 88.47, while the pass rate in SSC (vocational) rose to 81.13 percent from last year's 80.69.

A total of 4,172 students -- 2,780 male and 1,392 female -- achieved GPA-5 under Bangladesh

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SSC DHAKA BOARD Ideal, Viqarunnisa students excel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ideal School and College has emerged as the best school in Dhaka board achieving the highest scores in this year's SSC examinations.

Out of its 1,196 examinees, 1,195 became successful. Of them, 1,079 secured the top grade GPA-5.

In the second position is Viqarunnisa Noon School, with 1,165 of its students obtaining GPA-5 out of 1,314 examinees.

Rajuk Uttara Model School and College grabbed the third place as 392 out of its 430 students passed with the highest grade.

With regards to the pass rate, Rajshahi education board topped the list of the eight education boards. Bogra Zilla School, Joypurhat Girls Cadet College and Bogra Govt Girls High School secured the top three positions under this board.

The top three institutions from each of the six other education boards are:

Jessore: Khulna Zilla School, Military Collegiate School Khulna and

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Village of widows sees justice, finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For more than 40 years, they shed tears praying for only one thing. They wanted to see the killers of their husbands and children face justice.

"It seems Allah has finally heard us."

This is how the widows of once-known-as Sohagpur village in Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur district reacted to the verdict in the

crimes against humanity case against Jamaat-e-Islami assistant secretary Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

On July 25, 1971, during the Liberation War of Bangladesh, then greater Mymensingh Al-Badr chief and leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha Kamaruzzaman and his accomplices led the Pakistani army to Sohagpur village.

That day they killed 164 men and raped many women of the village.

Only 57 women survived the atrocities, only to live out life as widows.

Fortunately, 34 widows are still alive to see the leader of the local collaborators receive the capital punishment.

After that fateful day, Sohagpur (village of love) was renamed as Bidhoba Palli (village of widows).

While expressing their feelings to The Daily Star about yesterday's

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Some of the widows of Sohagpur village in Nalitabari of Sherpur. During the Liberation War, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman was involved in an atrocity that left all the men of this village killed. Sohagpur became better known as Bidhoba Palli (village of the widows) later on.

PHOTO: COURTESY

BEST VERDICT SO FAR

Eminent citizens heaved a sigh of relief after the international crimes tribunal sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman to death yesterday for war crimes. This verdict paves the way for trying the Jamaat as an organisation that had an active role against the 1971 Liberation War, they say. Mahbubur Rahman Khan and Prabir Barua Chowdhury took the interview.



Shahriar Kabir

"Among the four verdicts [passed so far by the tribunal], this is the best. It is well written," war crimes researcher

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Anwar Hossain

Expressing his satisfaction over the verdict, Jahangirnagar University Vice-chancellor Prof Anwar

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Muntassir Mamoon

"The victims' descendants can now sleep in peace," historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon told journalists.

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Nasiruddin Yousuff

As a freedom fighter, he was happy with the verdict, cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu said.

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CARETAKER DEMAND Opposition comes with fresh action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance will hold a rally in the capital on Monday to press for the restoration of the caretaker government system.

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PRAYER TIMING			May 10
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-15	4-50	
Juma	12-30	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-34	6-38	
Esha	8-00	8-30	

Source: Islamic Foundation

Mirpur fire not an accident

Believe investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have not ruled out the possibility of sabotage in the fire incident at Mirpur's Tung Hai Group building that killed eight people, including the factory owner and a police official, on Wednesday night.

"We are not investigating it as a mere accident," said Intiaz Hossain, deputy commissioner of Mirpur Division of Police.

Fire Service and Civil Defence yesterday formed a separate committee, headed by its Dhaka Division Director Zohurul Amin Mia, to probe the incident.

All the victims suffocated to death after the fire broke out around 11:00pm. Fire-fighters recovered the bodies from the sixth, eighth and ninth floors of the building in

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think that all political parties in Bangladesh will respond to the call of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to stop violence?

Yes (14%)

No (86%)

TOTAL VOTES: 388

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with the European Union delegation that a politically acceptable mechanism can be agreed about the form of government during the next general election?

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YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)