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Too scared to be elated

Hindus in Raozan retreat into their shell; 10 vehicles torched, 5 others vandalised in Ctg and Dhaka

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, with WASIM BIN HABIB

They lost their loved ones for him and so seeing the perpetrator being punished should have relieved their grief.

Instead, they were frightened.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury led the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971 in the mass killing of people in two villages -- Jagatmallapara and Unasattupara in Raozan.

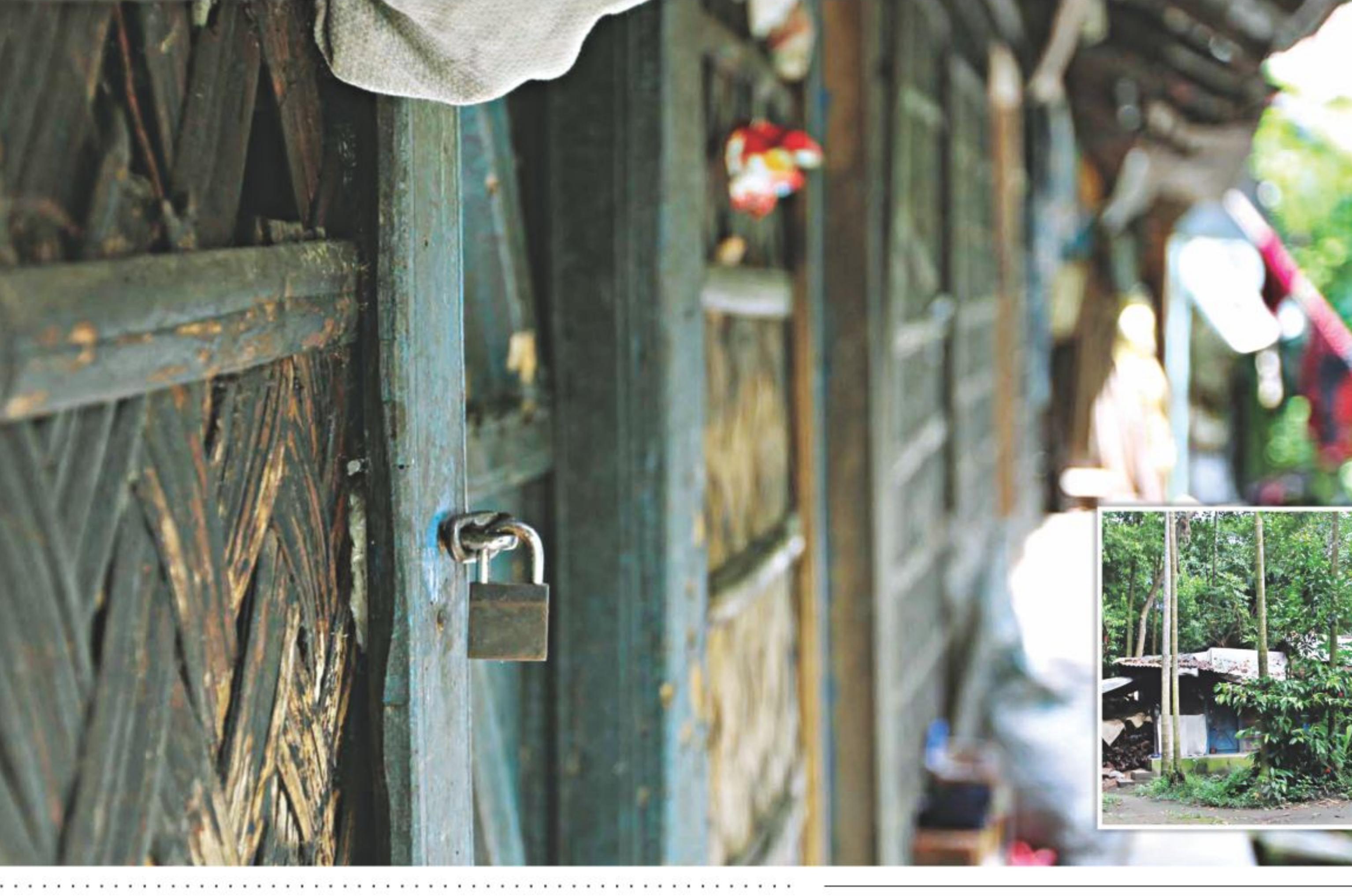
The man was sentenced to death yesterday. As the news spread, an eerie calm descended on these villages with the residents confining themselves to their houses in panic. There was no sign of celebration in the Hindu-dominant villages.

The Daily Star approached at least 20 families in Jagatmallapara village but most of them were unwilling to speak on the verdict -- in fear. Those who agreed to talk about the verdict asked not to be named.

"We are scared," said one of the villagers.

Hindu voters could never exercise their franchise during the Pakistan era, due to Fazlul Quader Chowdhury. His son Salauddin continued his legacy and unleashed a reign of

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Witness Ashish Chowdhury's home is under lock and key. Many residents of Jagatmallapara in Raozan of Chittagong have left their homes fearing violence and backlash after the verdict delivery in Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's case yesterday. Salauddin was found guilty of killing at least 32 people of the neighbourhood which is also his home village.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Like father like son

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and
TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, who claims to have been a Bangalee by choice, filled his father's shoes and committed crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War in 1971.

His father Fazlul Quader Chowdhury was the president of Convention Muslim League, which had actively opposed the country's struggle for liberation. The political party was subsequently banned after independence for its wartime roles.

According to the prosecution, Fazlul Quader formed Al-Shams, an auxiliary

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Judgment 'farcical'

Claims BNP; calls hartal in Ctg, Rangamati for today; Khaleda's adviser threatens to try all involved in war crimes trial; Jamaat mum this time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP now plans to make the most of the alleged leak of the verdict against its leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to prove the war crimes trials a "farcical".

The party chairperson's adviser Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday said if voted to power, the BNP would try those involved in the war crimes trials.

Speaking at a press briefing after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced BNP lawmaker SQ Chowdhury to death for crimes against humanity, Mahbub also said, "The verdict against Salauddin is politically motivated and farcical."

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a pro-BNP lawyers' platform, arranged the briefing at the Supreme Court auditorium.

Also vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, Mahbub is a counsel for Delawar Hossain Sayeede and Abdul Quader Mollah, Jamaat leaders convicted of war crimes. He was one of the prosecutors at the Special Tribunal that in the early 70s conducted the trial of collaborators of the Pakistan army under the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunal) Order, 1972.

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President Abdul Hamid, standing beside Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, hands famous Indian actress Waheeda Rehman, right, the "Friends of Liberation War Honour" for her outstanding contribution to the Liberation War efforts in 1971. Waheeda led an aid committee in Maharashtra to raise funds for Bangladeshi refugees. The photo was taken at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

EDUCATION SECTOR GRAFT

Tk 70cr bribery a year: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 12 percent of people had to pay bribes for receiving education or other services from primary to higher education levels in Bangladesh last year, a TIB report said yesterday.

The amount of bribery or undue payment can be estimated at around Tk 70.3 crore annually, according to the report titled "Global Corruption Report: Education".

Transparency International (TI) prepared the report after analysing data of Global

Corruption Barometer-2012 of 107 countries and research papers of other countries.

The TI headquarters and its different chapters across the world yesterday launched the report simultaneously.

As part of this, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) revealed the report at a press conference at the Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.

Among the South Asian countries, 48 percent of people in India, 16 percent in

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LIBERATION WAR 60 foreign friends honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday honoured 60 more foreign friends at a ceremony for their invaluable contributions to the country's Liberation War in 1971.

This was the seventh and the last such function organised by the present government during its tenure.

Bangladesh has honoured a total of 338 foreign nationals and organisations for their role in favour of the country's independence.

Yesterday, two categories

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Sued in 1972, but he prevailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six cases were filed against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury soon after independence for his involvement in murders, arson, looting, robbery and atrocities, but no legal headway was seen after 1975.

One of the six cases, all filed with Raozan police, was in connection with the killing of Nutan Chandra Singh. Salauddin was the second prime accused in the case filed on January 29, 1972.

On March 3, 1972, leader of Gohira union unit Awami League Mossabeb Ahmed Chowdhury filed another case under the Bangladesh Collaborators Order for the atrocities and killings of unarmed people. In the charge sheet, Salauddin, who fled from Bangladesh in September 1971, was shown as an absconding accused.

The other four cases were filed against the war crimes convict between March and April in 1972 in connection with murders, confinement, arson and looting.

Salauddin went to Pakistan during the war and returned to Bangladesh in 1974.

He became active in politics in 1978. Everything was going on in his favour until the incumbent government decided to try the war criminals and formed two international crimes tribunals to that end.

According to the prosecution, Nutan Chandra killing case did not make any progress after 1974. The other cases

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PRAYER TIMING		
October 2		
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-56
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



The Goods Hill, ancestral home of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in Chittagong. PHOTO: FILE

Shutdown in US after 17 years One million workers on unpaid leave

REUTERS, Washington

The US government began a partial shutdown yesterday for the first time in 17 years, potentially putting up to 1 million workers on unpaid leave, closing national parks and stalling medical research projects.

Federal agencies were directed to cut back services after lawmakers could not break a political stalemate that sparked new questions about the ability of a deeply divided Congress to perform its most basic functions.

After House Republicans floated a late offer to break the logjam, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid rejected the idea, saying Democrats would not enter into formal negotiations on spending "with a gun to our head" in the form of

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Goods Hill, the house of horror

WASIM BIN HABIB and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

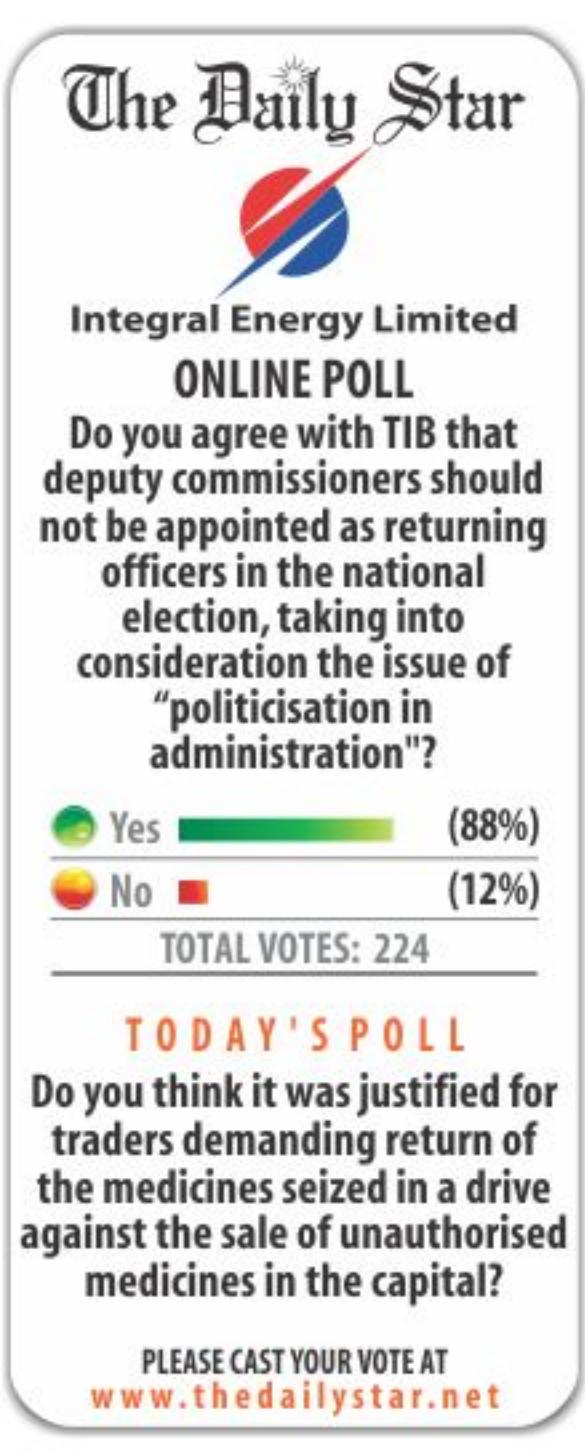
Goods Hill, the ancestral house of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in Chittagong city, was repeatedly mentioned in the verdict of International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Located in Rahmatganj, Goods Hill became a frightening house for the freedom fighters and residents after it was turned into a torture centre during the Liberation War in 1971.

"The accused and his father [Fazlul Quader Chowdhury] used Goods Hill situated at Chittagong town as torture centre and he as self-declared brigadier used to lead operations in different places of Chittagong," reads the judgement.

The Pakistan army and followers of Convention

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with TIB that

deputy commissioners should

not be appointed as returning

officers in the national

election, taking into

consideration the issue of

"politicisation in

administration"?

Yes (88%)
No (12%)
TOTAL VOTES: 224

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for traders demanding return of the medicines seized in a drive against the sale of unauthorised medicines in the capital?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE
www.thedailystar.net