



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina waving at the participants at a party rally at historic Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday marking Jail Killing Day. The nation observes the day on November 3 as four national leaders – Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and M Mansur Ali – were shot dead following repeated bayonet charges at Dhaka Central Jail on this day in 1975.

PHOTO: BSS

## DEATH PENALTY FOR MUEEN, ASHRAF Gonojagoron Mancha celebrates verdict

DU CORRESPONDENT

Gonojagoron Mancha activists yesterday celebrated the verdict that sentenced fugitive war criminals Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan to death, and called for immediate execution of the verdict.

The mancha activists had occupied the space in front of the National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday morning, awaiting the verdict. When the news reached them, the activists erupted into cheers. They hugged each other, distributed sweetmeats among themselves and shouted "Joy Bangla".

The protesters brought out a jubilant procession that marched across Dhaka

University before returning to Shahbagh.

Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of the mancha, urged the government to carry on diplomatic efforts to bring the criminals, who had fled abroad, back to the country and immediately execute them.

"In 1971, the duo collaborated with the Pakistani occupation force in killing our intellectual community to make the nation intellectually crippled," Sarker said.

A special court in Dhaka yesterday sentenced Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan to death for their offences during Bangladesh's war of independence 42 years back.

All eleven charges brought against Mueen and Ashraf by the prosecution were proved beyond doubt.

## Writ petition filed against hartal during public exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the political parties, including ruling Awami League and opposition BNP, to stop hartal during public examinations.

Eunus Ali Akond in his petition said it is the fundamental rights of students to sit for the scheduled examinations. Though the political parties have the legal rights to enforce hartal, they cannot hamper academic activities of students, he said.

The petition was submitted as a supplementary

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## Hefajat's Shafi threatens retribution for detractors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hefajat-e Islam Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi yesterday threatened the government with dire consequences if it continues to make "derogatory remarks" about him and other Alems and attempts to bring Qawmi madrasas under its control.

Abdul Jabbar, general secretary of Bangladesh Qawmi Madrasa Education Board, read out a statement at a press conference in a community centre in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong. Shafi wrote the statement.

Shafi's threat comes a day after he said people misunderstood him when he likened women to tamarinds. At a rally on Saturday, he also asked the government not to pass the Qawmi Madrasa Education

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## PRIVATE INITIATIVES IN HEALTH SECTOR Govt must lead promotion

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government needs to play a leading role in promoting private initiatives in the health sector and coordinating public initiatives under public-private partnerships in the sector, said health experts at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar "Finalisation of Country's Commitment to Universal Health Coverage in the Post-2015 Development Agenda" was held at the health and family welfare ministry in the capital.

The ministry along with CARE, Bangladesh and GlaxoSmithKline, Bangladesh organised the seminar.

The objective of the seminar is finalising how Bangladesh will commit to human resource for health in the upcoming third global forum on the issue, scheduled to be held this month in Brazil, said Zillar Rahman, additional secretary of the health ministry.

The slogan of the summit is "Foundation for Universal Health Coverage and the Post-2015 Development Agenda".

Bangladesh is one of the 57 countries with severe shortage of health workforce, said Asadul Islam, director general of the health ministry's health economics unit, who presented the keynote speech.

Among others, M Azizul Huq, managing director of GlaxoSmithKline, Bangladesh and Jahangir Hossain, programme director (health) of CARE, Bangladesh addressed the seminar.



Participants at a seminar titled "Finalisation of the Country's Commitment for Universal Health Coverage in the Post-2015 Development Agenda" at the health and family welfare ministry in the capital yesterday. The ministry, CARE, Bangladesh and GlaxoSmithKline, Bangladesh organised the seminar.

PHOTO: STAR

## DECLARATION OF POLLS SCHEDULE EC will wait as long as possible for consensus Says chief election commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will wait as long as possible to announce schedule for the next general election with the hope for a consensus between the two major political parties, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday.

"The country's people are eagerly waiting for a political consensus. We want a peaceful election with the participation of all. We will wait as long as possible for this. We also want a consensus," he told reporters at the EC Secretariat.

The EC has not finalised any date for announcing the election schedule, he said, adding, "You (reporters) will be informed everything in time."

The EC yesterday uploaded the draft amendment to the electoral code of conduct for the next general election on its website to receive suggestions within the next seven days. Any one can send suggestions in writing during the time.

"After inclusion and exclusion of

some provisions on the basis of these suggestions, we will send it to the law ministry for final approval," he said.

When asked whether the commission will change the code of conduct again after any political consensus, the CEC said, "We will take measures in accordance with whatever decision comes."

The CEC denied making an comment about the EC's next course of action against Jamaat-e-Islami saying, "We will comment and take steps after getting the copy of the verdict's full text."

On August 1, the High Court (HC) declared illegal Jamaat's registration as a parliamentary political party with the EC, as many provisions of its charter run counter to the country's constitution and the Representation of the People Order. The full text of the verdict was released on Saturday.

It may take around a week more to get the copy of the verdict officially, an EC official told The Daily Star yesterday.



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