

ARRESTED
July 13₂₀₁₀

INDICTMENT
May 28₂₀₁₂

TRIBUNAL VERDICT
Feb 5₂₀₁₃

APPEALS
March₂₀₁₃

SC VERDICT
Sep 17₂₀₁₃

REVIEW REJECTED
Dec 12₂₀₁₃

CONVICTED ON
6 charges

DEATH PENALTY
for killing Laskar,
5 of his family

Butcher of Mirpur hanged

Mollah first to walk gallows for war crimes 42 years back, to be buried at Faridpur village home under police protection

WASIM BIN HABIB and
TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The digital display showed 10:01pm at the Dhaka Central Jail gate. The entire nation had waited long for this moment.

It was the moment when Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah walked the gallows, barely four days before the nation celebrates Victory Day.

Around 42 years back, Mollah didn't twince even once and neither did his heart skip a beat when he led his men to thrash a two-year-old child to death and slit the throats of a pregnant

woman and two minor girls.

In the first-ever execution in a war crimes case last night, the 65-year-old Jamaat man finally paid for these acts of cold-blooded savagery.

The hanging of Mollah, who earned the nickname Mirpurur Koshai (butcher of Mirpur) for his sinister role during the Liberation War, represents a watershed in the nation's pursuit of a closure on the wounds inflicted in 1971.

The Jamaat leader was taken to the gallows around 5 to 6 minutes before his execution by Chief Hangman

Shahjahan Bhuiyan, said jail sources.

"He [Mollah] was hanged at 10:01pm. His body was kept dangling for 20 minutes to confirm his death," Dhaka District Magistrate Sheikh Yusuf Harun told The Daily Star.

An ambulance carrying Mollah's body went out of the prison under police protection at 11:15pm and headed for his village home at Sadarpur upazila in Faridpur.

Arrangements were made to bury Mollah in his village home, Abu Hena Morshed Zaman, deputy commissioner of Faridpur, told The Daily Star

at 10:15pm.

The Jamaat leader was executed hours after the Supreme Court rejected his petition to review the death sentence, bringing an end to the drama that had played out for two days since Tuesday evening.

Mollah's counsels took out an order from the SC chamber judge on Tuesday night to stay his execution only one and a half hours before he was to hang at 12:01am.

The apex court yesterday rejected Mollah's plea for reviewing his death sentence, clearing the way for the

execution of the condemned war criminal.

In an instant reaction after the execution, Shafiuddin Mollah, who testified against the Jamaat leader, told The Daily Star, "We are very happy. Much of the grief and agony that have weighed on us for the last 42 years will go now."

Shafiuddin, who lost his paternal uncle in a massacre at Alubdi village in Mirpur, said they would feel happier when all 1971 war criminals get their due punishment.

He thanked the prime minister and

all pro-Liberation War forces for their continuous efforts to bring the war criminals to justice.

Mozaffar Ahmad Khan, the first prosecution witness in the war crimes case, said, "Our efforts to bring the war criminals to book have finally seen some success. As a freedom fighter, I am very happy today."

Mollah, then leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, later renamed Islami Chhatra Shibir, never expressed remorse over the war crimes he committed 42 years ago. His party also

One survived to see justice

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Not even a two-year-old boy was spared by Abdul Quader Mollah and his cohorts.

They killed the boy, slamming him on the floor, slit the throats of his mother and two sisters, and raped his two other sisters, one of whom died from her wounds.

All but one member of the family were killed just because Hazrat Ali Laskar, the father and a tailor by profession, was a supporter of the Awami League and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

More than 42 years later, justice was finally delivered and Mollah, the infamous "Mirpurur Koshai" (Butcher of Mirpur), was executed at 10:01 last night.

The Supreme Court in its verdict, released on December 5, said the manner in which Mollah had led the killers in the planned murder of Laskar and his family members "exceeded all norms of humanity".

The lone survivor of the massacre was one of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Justice reigns, freedom wins

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

An execution is no cause for cheers, but a reason for reflection. And when a war criminal, convicted and sentenced through due process, takes those final steps of life to the gallows, the collective prayer is one, and only one: that such criminality does not recur, that men like him do not walk the earth again.

This morning, in this people's republic preparing to observe yet one more anniversary of its liberation, the knowledge that justice has finally caught up with Abdul Quader Mollah, that for the first time in the forty two years we have spent, so far, in freedom a collaborator of the Pakistan occupation army, indeed a war criminal, has met his due end only reminds us of what we must yet do to preserve our self-esteem as a nation.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Case completes all legal phases

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

With a Supreme Court bench hearing two review petitions, no legal phase has been left unexplored in the war crimes trial of Quader Mollah.

The defence filed one of the petitions with the chamber judge of the apex court on Tuesday night, seeking a review of the death penalty. The other one was filed yesterday morning against his life imprisonment.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain rejected both the petitions yesterday, clearing the legal bar to Mollah's execution.

Earlier on September 17, this bench sentenced Mollah to death, overruling the life term handed down by

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Hartal Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday announced that it would hold a gayebana janaza for its assistant secretary general, war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah, today and enforce a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Ershad picked up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of an intelligence agency picked up Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad from his Baridhara residence and took him to the Combined Military Hospital last night.

JP sources said Ershad was picked up as part of the government move to force him to participate in the election. But Rab-1 Commander Kismat Hayat said the JP chief was feeling sick and they just provided him

security on his way to the CMH.

A four-member team of the intelligence agency entered his President Park residence at 11:15pm and came out with him after 15 minutes.

The development came just hours after a meeting between the ruling Awami League high-ups and three JP leaders -- Raushan Ershad, Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu -- at the Gono Bhaban.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

LAXMIPUR TURNS BATTLE ZONE

4 killed, 28 injured

Another dies in Comilla

STAR REPORT

At least four people were shot dead and 28 were injured when Rapid Action Battalion personnel opened fire during their clash with opposition men in Laxmipur town yesterday morning.

Jamaat activist Anwar Hossain was killed and 38 people, including three policemen, were injured in Comilla after police clashed with Jamaat men in Monoharganj upazila, on the last day of the opposition alliance's blockade.

In Laxmipur, the clash erupted after a Rab team raided the house of district BNP General

Secretary Sahabuddin Sabu around 6:00am to arrest him, reports a correspondent from Laxmipur.

Sabu and his family tried to resist and the law enforcers shot Sabu in the leg before arresting him and his brother Azizul Karim, witnesses claimed.

As the news spread, activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP student body, brought out a procession and engaged in a clash with the Rab team in Chawkbazar area of the town.

Rab personnel opened fire to bring the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Jamaat runs amok

Hindus' houses, shops, war tribunal judge's home attacked

STAR REPORT

Riled at the execution of Abdul Quader Mollah, Jamaat-Shibir men last night beat an Awami League leader in Satkhira dead and torched over 100 houses and shops in Nilphamari and Satkhira.

A group of Jamaat-Shibir activists beat up Azizur Rahman, ex-president of Gopinathpur union unit of AL in Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira, at his village home around midnight, leaving him dead on the spot, said police.

Witnesses said Jamaat-Shibir men blocked the Nilphamari-Domar road and stormed the houses of local Awami League leaders and Hindus at

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

KHALEDA TO INDIA

Take position similar to others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged India to take a similar position as the United Nations, European Union and world powers like the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, China and Japan have taken on the present political



SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

HSBC The Daily Star

Climate Awards

Programme Postponed

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we regret to inform that we are postponing the Awards Night of **HSBC – The Daily Star Climate Awards 2013**, scheduled to be held tonight, **Friday, 13 December 2013**. We will communicate the new programme date soon.

We apologise for any inconveniences.