



Gonojagoron Mancha activists burst into cheers in the capital's Shahbagh right after being informed that Quader Mollah had been executed. The photo was taken around 11:29pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Shahbagh prevails

DUI CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, the slogan "Shahbagh triumphs" instead of "Hang Quader Mollah" reverberated Projonmo Chattar last night shortly after execution of the war criminal, whose life sentence gave birth to the Shahbagh movement 10 months ago.

With the hanging of the Jamaat-e-Islami leader, the anti-war criminal movement met with its first success. And the activists greeted it by hugging each other, dancing, flashing V signs, shouting "Joy Bangla", bringing out processions and some shedding tears of joy.

"I've waited for this day for 42 years. Perhaps, Allah has kept me alive till date to see this," said an elated freedom fighter, waving the national flag.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said a protester in tears. "We can go to sleep tonight knowing that we didn't let our predecessors' sacrifices go in vain."

After a special tribunal jailed Mollah for life on February 5, youths started pouring into the capital's Shahbagh intersection, terming the sentence too lenient for the man who killed people, including children, and raped women

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Public transport drivers urge Khaleda to call off blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of public transport drivers under the banner "Sammilita Motor Sramik Oikya Jote" yesterday urged BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to immediately call off the ongoing blockade which is detrimental to Bangladesh's economy.

Six to seven members of the jote had gone to Khaleda's Glushan 2 residence in the capital to hand over a memorandum

containing their plea but none received it, witnesses told The Daily Star.

Earlier, the jote brought out a procession from Mohakhali Bus Stand towards the residence but police barred them from proceeding at the Gulshan 2 intersection around noon.

There the jote leaders alleged that they were losing their means of livelihood for the blockades as miscreants vandalised their vehicles during the political demonstrations.

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## MOJAHED'S DEATH SENTENCE SC seeks concise appeal statement from defence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed lawyers representing war crimes convict Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed to submit on December 19 a concise statement, containing the case summary and particular argument points, on his appeal challenging the death penalty.

A five-member bench of the SC Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Muzammel Hossain passed the order.

The state counsels had submitted their concise statement against the appeal on November 24, Additional Attorney General and Coordinator of the prosecution team MK Rahman told The Daily Star.

Mojaheed filed the appeal with the SC on August 11. International Crimes Tribunal-2 on July 17 found the 65-year-old Jamaat secretary general guilty on five out of seven charges of crimes against

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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