



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE  
**LIFE**  
style



## LPG CYLINDERS

Customers may compromise quality as prices will go up

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## DUMPING CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Last chemicals from the Syrian weapons arsenal shipped out of country

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# 8 Huji men to walk gallows

Verdict comes more than a decade after deadly Ramna Batamul blasts; life term for 6 other militants

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and TAMANNA KHAN

The Islamist militants who carried out the deadly blasts during Pahela Baishakh celebrations at Ramna Batamul 13 years back to scare people away from their very own cultural heritage have at last got their comeuppance for the cold-blooded savagery.

A Dhaka court yesterday handed down death penalty to eight militants of Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji), including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, for killing 10 people in the attack on the Chhayanaut function on the first day of Bangla year in 2001.

Six other militants of the banned Islamist outfit were sentenced to life imprisonment for involvement in the blasts.

"It is undoubtedly a cruel, brutal and barbaric incident [the bomb attack]," Judge Ruhul Amin of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court said in the verdict of the murder case, one of the two lawsuits

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Mufti Abdul Hannan

## Late; a consolation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sanjida Khatun

Chhayanaut, which has been upholding the Bengali culture and heritage for nearly five decades, never thought that the core of the Bengali identity could come under such a ferocious attack.

"We never thought that culture could be attacked," said Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanaut, the organiser of the new-year celebration programme that was bombed in 2001, killing 10

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Brazil's sensational striker Neymar celebrates his second goal during their 4-1 win over Cameroon in a Group A match of the World Cup at the Mane Garrincha National Stadium in Brasilia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Brazil, Mexico ease into last 16

REUTERS, Brasilia

Neymar shot to the top of the World Cup scoring charts with a superb double in a 4-1 win for Brazil over Cameroon on Monday that sent the hosts through as Group A winners to face Chile in the last 16.

After grabbing a brace in Brazil's 3-1 win against Croatia in their opening game at the finals, Neymar was again the star of the show at an electric national stadium.

The 22-year-old struck twice in the first half either side of Joel Matip's goal for

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CAMEROON 1 (Matip 26) -- BRAZIL 4 (Neymar 17, 35, Fred 49, Fernandinho 84)

CROATIA 1 (Perisic 87)--MEXICO 3 (Marquez 72, Guardado 75, Hernandez 82)

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## It was so easy to kill people

SHARIFUL ISLAM and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

It was not dawn yet. A yellow taxicab with four youths set off from Mohammadpur at around 4:00am for Shahbagh. With a box containing remote controlled bombs, they were all set to embark on a dangerous mission.

The cab reached Shahbagh within 15 minutes. Three of the youths -- Arif, Jewel and Sujon-- got down from the cab while the fourth, Johnny, stayed inside the cab to guard the bombs. They were activists of the Islamist militant outfit Harkat ul Jihad

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PHOTO: FILE

Billows of smoke and panic-stricken people after a bomb went off at Chhayanaut's Pahela Baishakh celebrations at Ramna Batamul 13 years ago.

## A question that numbs all

SOHRAB HOSSAIN and TAMANNA KHAN

Nur Jahan, mother of Al-Mamun who was killed in the 2001 Ramna Batamul blast, rushed to her son's grave as soon as she heard the news that 14 men were convicted in the killing case.

Pointing at Mamun's grave at Kachipara village of Patuakhali's Bauphal upazila, she said, "I buried all my hopes there 13 years back."

"Can you tell me why they killed my son?" she

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## Huji grew up in BNP's care

SHAKHAWAT LITON and WASIM BIN HABIB

Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, home minister in the last BNP-led government, had assured Mufti Abdul Hannan, kingpin of the Islamist militant outfit Huji, that the militant leader could stay in the country without any fear.

The ex-minister told Hannan that he could even stay in Dhaka and move around freely.

It was his assurance that made Hannan stay in the capital and ditch the idea of fleeing the country.

At that time, Moulana Muhiuddin, senior leader of Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam, appeared as a blessing for Hannan, and played the role of mediator between Hannan and Altaf.

The Huji leader submitted a petition to the home

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## Attack on free minds

WASIM BIN HABIB and SHAKHAWAT LITON

The gruesome attack on Chayanaut's cultural programme at Ramna Batamul was a manifestation of the militant outfit Huji's well designed plan to wage a war on the country's progressive and cultural forces.

A series of terror attacks carried out by

Huji men made it clear that they wanted to succeed in their mission with arms by using the experiences they had gathered during the Soviet-Afghan war.

In the mid and late 1980s, some Bangladeshis had gone to Afghanistan to fight for the Mujahideen militants against

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## WAR CRIMES TRIAL

# Verdict today in Nizami's case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 would finally deliver the verdict in the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami today after the 22-month-long trial proceedings.

The case went through hurdles like tribunal reconstitution and rehearing of closing arguments.

Prosecutor Mohammad Ali claimed that the prosecution had been able to prove 15 out of 16 charges of genocide and crimes against humanity brought against the Jamaat chief

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ANINDYA MAJUMDER

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Passed-16/01/2007

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