

# BANGLADESH AT UN

## No room for Ban's message in government supplement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh observes the 40th anniversary of its gaining membership in the United Nations, but the government did not include the message of the UN secretary general in the supplement published on the occasion. Today marks the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's gaining membership in the United Nations, but the government did not include the message of the UN secretary general in the supplement published on the occasion. The government dropped Ban Ki-moon's message because it included his call for holding talks for solving the existing political crisis, a senior government official said. According to this official, Ban in the message said political dialogues

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# SUBHAN'S TRIAL

## Recording of IO's deposition suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday suddenly stopped recording testimony of an investigation officer in the case against Jamaat-e-Islam leader Abdus Subhan and decided not to consider his 38-minute deposition as evidence. The tribunal took the decision as it was revealed that IO Noor Hossain had investigated last part and Motiur Rahman first part of the case. The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam expressed discontent over the prosecution for bringing Noor first for deposition instead of Motiur Rahman. The court also directed the prosecution to bring Motiur today for testimony and said it would take Noor's testimony later. Yesterday was fixed for recording testimony of the investigation officer and Noor started testifying at 11:12am. At one point, he appeared to have investigated only the last part of the case. "You should have brought the first IO [investigation officer] first," said Justice Hassan, while Justice Shahinur Islam asked: "Why did you bring the second IO first instead of the first IO?" "The part, which was testified by

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# \$19.23m IPFF loan for optical fibre network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fiber@Home has borrowed \$19.23 million from Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) project of the World Bank to expand its "nationwide optical fibre transmission network". Five local financial institutions took the credit risk for Fiber@Home, a nationwide telecommunication transmission network (NTTN) operator. Two separate agreements were signed to this effect at Westin hotel in Dhaka yesterday evening. The first deal was signed between five local financial institutions and the IPFF, while the second one was between Fiber@Home and the local financial institutions. AB Bank, United Commercial Bank and Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IIDFC) were the arrangers, while Trust Bank, GSP Finance and LankaBangla Finance also participated in the deal to take the credit risk.

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# MP Enamul conceals wealth info

## Says ACC probe

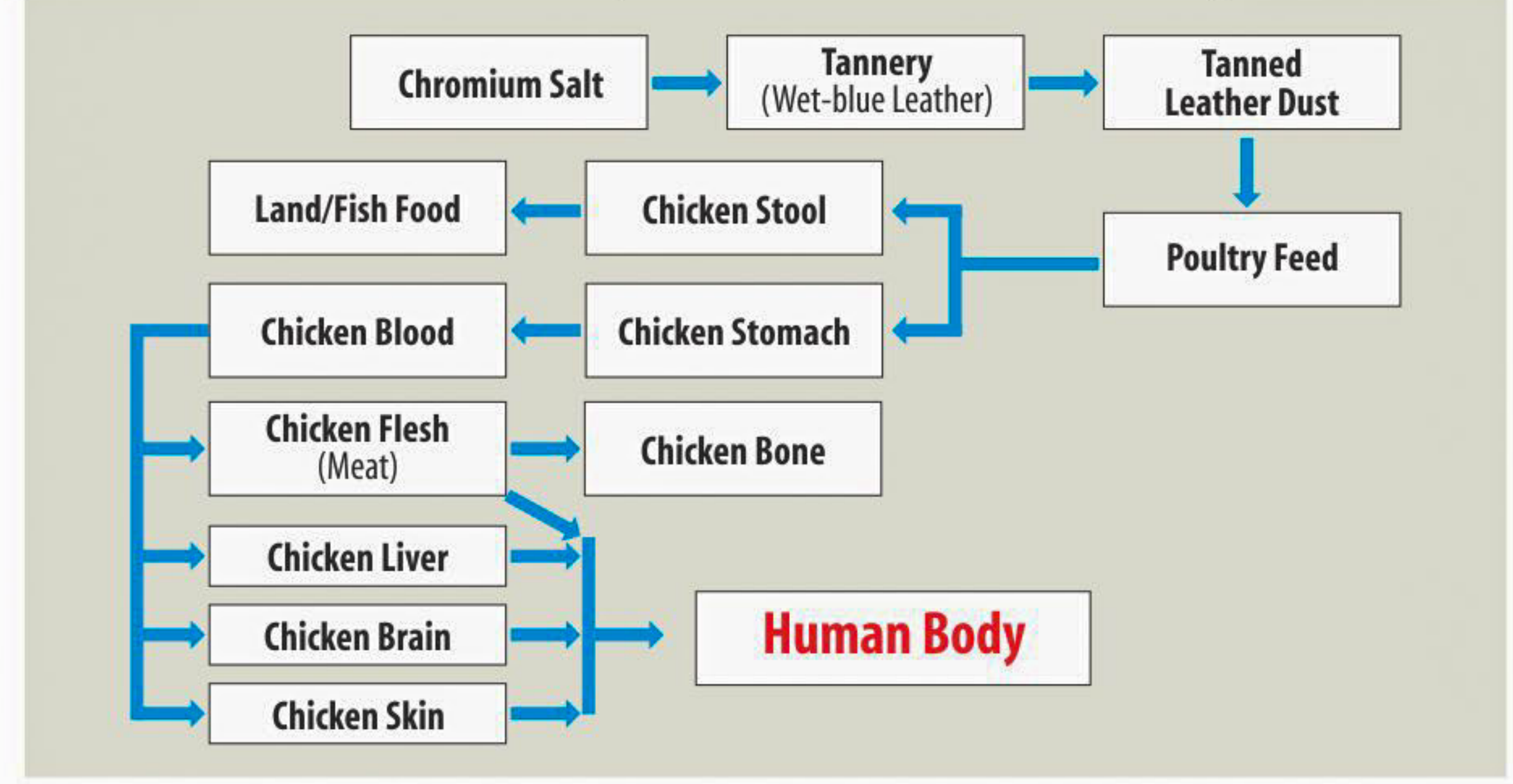
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling party lawmaker Enamul Haque from Rajshahi-4 constituency concealed information in his wealth statement of his properties worth over Tk 215 crore, according to findings in an Anti-Corruption Commission investigation. ACC investigation officer Jatan Kumar Roy submitted the probe report yesterday to the commission, suggesting that Enamul should be sued, said a top ACC official prefer

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# TRANSPORT MECHANISM OF CHROMIUM

## From tannery waste to human body



SOURCE: INT'L JOURNAL OF CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

# Poisoning poultry, fish

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Yet the business kept flourishing. About a hundred factories in Hazaribagh now produce feed daily out of some 75 to 200 tonnes of solid waste that includes salt, bone, leather shavings and trimmings. Though the Rapid Action Battalion or the Department of Environment conducted one or two drives, things have hardly changed. The Department of Livestock Services and the Department of Fisheries are entrusted with maintaining quality of animal feed. But they did not take effective steps. "I was not aware of the use of tannery waste in fish feed until recently," fisheries department Director General Syed Arif Azad said, following a report in The Daily Star mid-July this year.

He, however, said that in the last six months, the department tested over 1,200 fish feed samples from across the country and found shortage of protein in some samples. The department warned the manufacturers but lodged no criminal cases. All it did was getting the manufacturers to apologise and pledge quality in future.

"Cases take so long ... there are also certain procedures, you know," Arif told this newspaper. The department also did not test heavy metals in the feed. However, Arif said they would do this now as the reports of animal feed being mixed with tannery-based protein are coming out.

The livestock department, however, filed one case and that is against Amir Multi-protein Ltd in Hazaribagh in March after a Rab-led drive found the factory was operating illegally. "There is no registered feed mill in Hazaribagh. However, if we have information about anyone manufacturing contaminated poultry feed, we can take action," said Director General Mozammel Hoque Siddiquee of the livestock department. Following The Daily Star report on July 15, the Rab led a drive and livestock department officials sealed off four illegal feed factories in Hazaribagh. After the raid, the livestock department filed a criminal case against three illegal poultry feed factories. Moshir Rahman, president of Feed Industries Association of Bangladesh (FIAB), said they had notified the government of the alarming practices in 2007 and several times later. "There were one or two drives but it took only some days for the illegal factories to restart. Who knows whether they bribe police?" According to Moshir, the FIAB

CASES TAKE SO LONG... THERE ARE ALSO CERTAIN PROCEDURES, YOU KNOW Fisheries dept director, about not filing criminal cases against manufacturers for poor feed quality

members produce around 80 percent of the 30 lakh tonnes of feed a year. The image of the industry is being tarnished for the unscrupulous traders in Hazaribagh. On February 10, 2011, the then Department of Environment director Munir Chowdhury seized toxic feed in a raid and sued the owners. The accused were arrested but they came out easily after filing an appeal. "We had to face threats from some quarters. They seemed very powerful," Munir said when contacted recently. Some workers engaged in boiling and sun-drying the tannery waste said police take Tk 100-200 for each burner used for boiling the solid waste. "Whenever a burner is on, one has to bribe the cops," said a tannery worker in Hazaribagh during a recent visit by a reporter from this newspaper. "There is an association [of feed manufacturers] that pays police on monthly basis. Police become strict whenever there is a mobile court drive but they loosen the grip later," he said. Police, as usual, deny the allegation. "We have destroyed toxic feed from some factories. We would not have done it if we had taken bribe from the factories," said Moynul Islam, officer-in-charge of Hazaribagh Police Station, referring to a July raid in Hazaribagh. Al Amin, executive magistrate of the Rab, who led a mobile-court drive lately, said, "We can conduct raids. But monitoring these factories is basically the responsibility of livestock and fisheries departments. Without a robust role from them, shady activities at these factories cannot be uprooted."

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# Teenage

FROM PAGE 1

The caretaker said their mother Jayasree Zaman talked with the daughter over phone around 9:30pm. Later, she returned home and found her children hanging at around 12:00 midnight, he said.

Although police suspected these to be cases of suicide, they were yet to confirm without seeing the autopsy reports.

Referring to a six-page note recovered from the flat, police further said frustration might be the reasons behind the siblings' taking their own lives.

"The pages were written in English, like literature full of allegories which denotes a frustrating living," said Iqbal Hossain, deputy commissioner (Uttara division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Quoting Jayasree, the DC said the note was written by Alim, a student at the Belmont International School.

Police reached the spot around 1:00am after the mother informed them over the phone and recovered the bodies, added the DC.

Elias said Jayasree, who works with Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), returned home at around 11:15pm and found the main door locked from inside and called him for help.

The caretaker later entered the room through the backdoor of the balcony and opened the main door. He saw the lights on at the son's room and opened the main door only.

"When I was getting down the stairs, I heard madam [Jayasree] screaming. I rushed to the flat and found her in her son's room. He was hanging from the grill there," he said.

"About 20 minutes later, she looked for her daughter in the other room and found her too hanging," added the caretaker.

Victims' aunt Tilottoma Zaman, a teacher at Scholastica's Uttara branch, said her sister had been raising the siblings alone after her husband Alimul Haque left the family seven years ago. Alimul has been living in China after marrying another woman, she added.

The bodies were buried at the Azimpur graveyard yesterday afternoon following autopsy at Dhaka Medical College morgue.

# BUS TRIPS BEFORE EID

## Operators hike ticket prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like the previous years, many private bus operators have started to charge higher fare from the passengers ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja compared to the usual time. This correspondent visited different bus terminals in the capital yesterday where many passengers alleged they had to pay Tk 50 to Tk 70 more than the standard ticket price. "Usually, it costs TK 420 to go to Bogra from Dhaka but now they are charging Tk 470," said Saidur Rahman, who bought the ticket for October 1 from the Mazar Road counter of Shyamoli Paribahan. Suján Mandal, another passenger who wanted to travel to Rajshahi on the same day, said Hanif Paribahan charged him Tk 620 for a Tk 550 ticket. He bought the ticket from the Gabtoli counter. "It has become a common trend of the bus operators to charge extra ahead of the Eid and we have become accustomed to this nuisance," said Jubayer Rahman, a ticket-seeker, at the SR Paribahan's Kallyanpur counter. In response to the allegations, the bus operators yesterday said they were charging the passengers as per the government directions. "Throughout the year, we charge less than the fare set by the government. But during the Eid, we charge as per the government rate. Because of this, the fare increases slightly," said Romesh Chandra Ghosh, managing

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# Sangsad to amend

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the judge from her/his office. Kazi Firoz Rashid of the JP and Fazle Hossain Badsha of Workers Party are among others who submitted amendment proposals seeking to form a judicial council to investigate allegations against SC judges, sources at parliament secretariat said. The bill, however, stipulates that a separate law will be enacted to outline the procedure for investigation into alleged misconduct or incapacity of SC judges. Some other legislators proposed enacting another law specifying requirements for the post of an SC judge. The government placed the 16th constitutional amendment bill in the House on September 7. The parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry has recommended major changes to the bill. In its report placed in parliament, the committee recommended replacing the preamble of the bill with a brief one. With the passage of the bill, the existing constitutional provision for removal of a SC judge by the chief justice-led Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) will be abolished. The constitution of 1972 had empowered parliament with the authority to remove a SC judge. But the fourth amendment to the constitution in January 1975 abolished the Jatiya Sangsad's power and empowered the president with the authority. Then military ruler Gen Ziaur Rahman had introduced the SJC by amending the constitution through a martial law order which was ratified by the fifth amendment to the constitution in 1979. The High Court in 2005 had declared the fifth amendment illegal and void. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in 2010 upheld the HC verdict, but condoned the introduction of the SJC until December 2012. The AL-led government however introduced afresh the SJC through the 15th amendment to the charter in 2011. The government's move to empower parliament to remove SC judges has drawn huge criticism from different quarters. Many jurists and opposition political parties feared that the latest amendment to the constitution will appear as a threat to an "independent" judiciary. In efforts to get the bill passed unanimously in parliament, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already met lawmakers of Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation seeking their support in this regard. The main opposition Jatiya Party has already announced that it will support the bill. The ruling Awami League however commands more than three-fourth majority in the House which is more than enough to pass the bill.

# Cops, BGB on alert

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Police, said the IGP, is prepared to tackle any probable violence. The Supreme Court is set to declare the verdict today on appeals in the case against the 74-year-old Jamaat nayebe-ameer. The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on February 28 last year had handed death penalty to him for committing crimes against humanity in Pirojpur during the Liberation War in 1971. State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan said special security measures will be taken in Jamaat strongholds. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) troops have been deployed in different districts last night. Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed, director general of BGB, said troops were deployed in seven to eight districts as of 10:00pm as per demands from the civil administration. The paramilitary force will remain deployed in district headquarters, but if required, the BGB members will move to any location from there, he added. The Jamaat is likely to announce a tougher agitation programme including hartal if the SC upheld Sayedee's capital punishment, party sources said. In an emergency meeting last night, Jamaat policymakers discussed its next course of action over the SC verdict. Party high-ups have asked its leaders and activists and Islami Chhatra Shibir men to get prepared for any tougher movement, a Shibir leader told this newspaper yesterday. The law and order issue came at the forefront of people's mind as the news of SC verdict in Sayedee's case spread yesterday noon. People feared about recurrence of widespread violence across the country over the verdict as they saw over one and a half years ago. WILD PROTESTS Immediately after the tribunal's verdict, Jamaat-Shibir activists had unleashed terror across the country to protest Sayedee's death penalty. At least 65 people were killed and several hundreds injured within seven days after the verdict. Besides, temples, houses, shops and businesses of religious minorities, especially the Hindus, were vandalised and torched. And that was not all. Houses and properties of prosecution witnesses, prosecutors and judges of tribunals came under attack allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men during the anti-government movement last year. A key prosecution witness in Sayedee's case, Mostafa Hawlader was injured critically in December last year when he came under attack allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men at his house in Pirojpur. He died of his wounds two days later. Another prosecution witness Mahabubul Alam Howlader was injured in an attack allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir activists on October 28 last year. Talking to this correspondent, Mahabubul yesterday said though the government has provided the witnesses with strong security, they still feared fresh attacks. Meanwhile, police in Pirojpur, the home district of Sayedee, have taken necessary measures to tackle any law and order situation, reports our correspondent. Shah Abid Hossain, superintendent of Pirojpur police, said security has been beefed up for all witnesses in Sayedee's case. After holding an emergency meeting, Jamaat yesterday issued a release calling upon the people to pray for Sayedee so that the government cannot "victimize" him. The party demanded immediate release of Sayedee claiming that he was handed punishment on "false and imaginary charges". Although Jamaat earlier called hartals for almost every dates of verdict delivery by the international crimes tribunals, it refrained from enforcing a shutdown this time around. GONOJAGORON MANCHA BACK Led by Imran H Sarker, a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha gathered at the capital's Shahbagh last evening, demanding capital punishment for Sayedee. Speaking at a rally, Imran said people wants to see appropriate punishment meted out on Sayedee for his crimes against humanity. "People will not allow any conspiracy over the verdict. If the verdict doesn't reflect people's expectations, they will once again take to the streets and realise their demands through waging a spontaneous movement as they did in the past," he insisted.