

DEATH for Jamaat's 'moneyman'

Mir Quasem taunts tribunal as it hands him maximum punishment on 2 war crimes charges

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| THE VERDICT | GUILTY of 10 charges | DEATH SENTENCE (Unanimous verdict) for abducting Jasim, torturing him to death | DEATH SENTENCE (Majority verdict) for abducting Ranjit and Tuntu, torturing them to death | IMPRISONMENT (7-20 years) on 8 charges | ACQUITTED of 4 charges | DETAILS ON PAGE-2 |
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WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY
It was a "death factory" in 1971. Perhaps no other phrase can better describe the horrors that unfolded in Al-Badr's Chittagong headquarters, where the militiamen would torture and kill freedom fighters and pro-liberation activists hauled up from across the region.

The harrowing tales of brutalities committed there 43 years ago still haunt many in the port city. Mir Quasem Ali, the man who presided over that camp at Mahamaya Dalim Hotel in Anderkill, finally stands to pay for the crimes he committed during the Liberation War. The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced him to death for abduction, torture and murder of a teenaged free-

dom fighter and two civilians. Led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, the tribunal found him guilty on 10 of the 14 charges of abducting, confining and torturing people at the "death factory". While pronouncing the verdict, Justice Obaidul Hassan said the offences, for which Quasem was sentenced to death, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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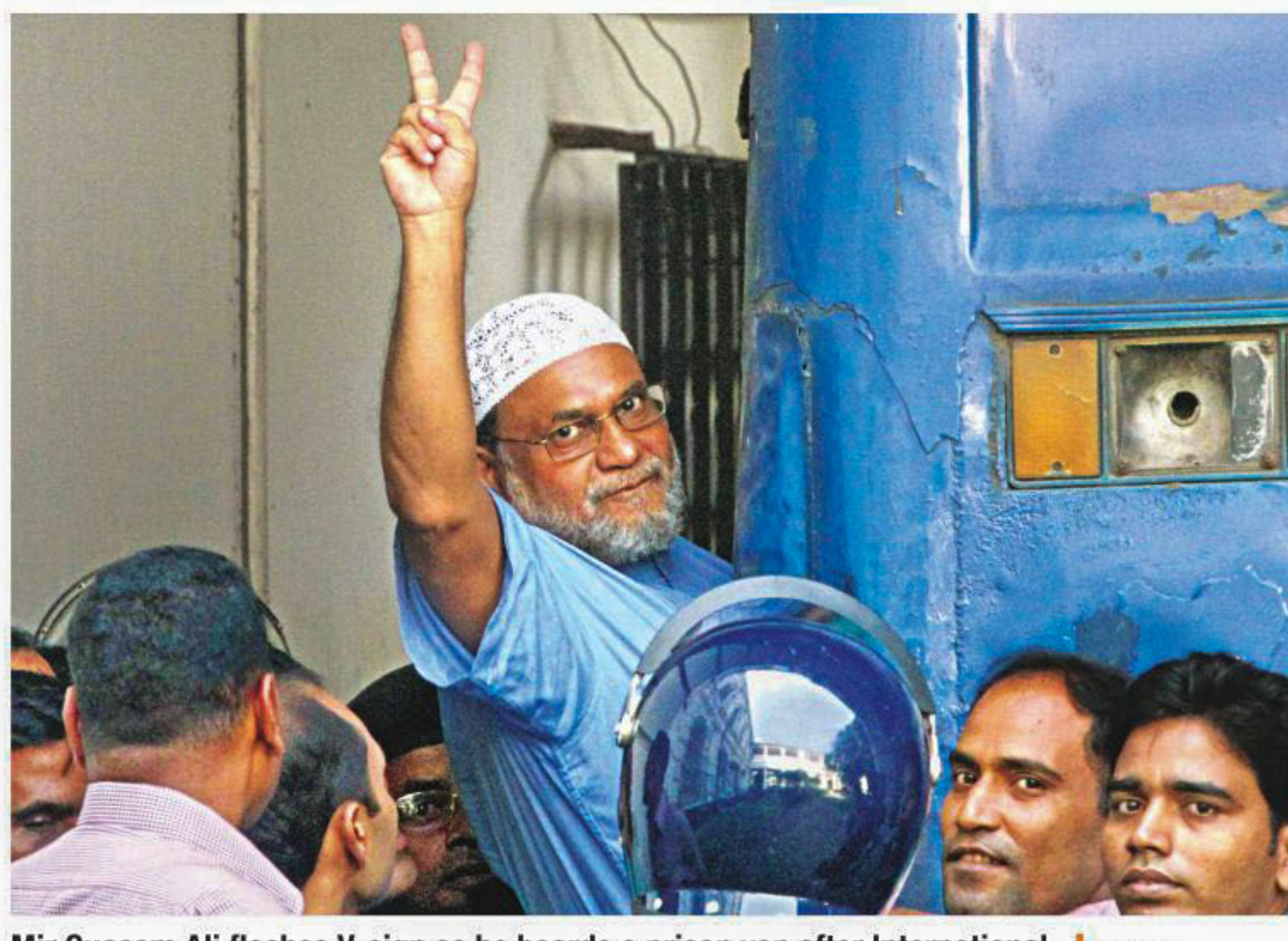
BHERAMARA TRIPPING

It was too big for control system

SHARIER KHAN
A system that prevents widespread electricity blackout in case a major power source trips failed to function as it was supposed to on Saturday. The tripping of Bheramara interconnector station, through which 450 megawatts of power was being imported, was too much for the "under frequency relay" system to prevent the blackout, experts told The Daily Star. According to sources in the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) and Power Development Board (PDB), when there is a sudden failure of a power generation SEE PAGE 11 COL 3
RELATED STORY ON PAGE 11

Up in the sky boy can now smile

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN
It was around noon on November 28, 1971. Several people were held captive at a room of Dalim Hotel, torture camp of notorious Al-Badr Bahini, in Chittagong town. Suddenly, the room's door was flung open. Three to four men rushed in carrying a person on their shoulders. They threw him on the floor. "As the door was shut, I removed his blindfold, untied him and took him in my lap. When we lifted his face to the sunlight coming through the ventilator, we were shocked." SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Mir Quasem Ali flashes V-sign as he boards a prison van after International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday awarded him death for his 1971 war crimes. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

\$25m helped, not that much

US lobbyist hired 'unlawfully' to upset war crimes trial
EMRAN HOSSAIN
Seven months after the international crimes tribunal was set up for trying war criminals, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali schemed to foil the trial by playing his trump card: Money. In October 2010, Quasem struck a \$25 million deal with one of the most influential US lobby firms, Cassidy & Associates, for engaging with the US government and the Bangladesh government "to protect his interest". A Washington-based journalist found the amount "huge" given it was paid by an individual, although lobbying is legal in the US. The journalist told The Daily Star the contract violated the US law, as the firm did not inform the US government SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

SC verdict on Kamaruzzaman appeal today

ASHUTOSH SARKAR
All eyes are on the Supreme Court as the verdict in the appeal of war criminal and Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman challenging his death penalty is scheduled for delivery today. A four-member SC bench headed by Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha is set to sit at 9:00am and pronounce the judgment at the beginning of today's court proceedings. The verdict delivery is on top of the court's cause list today. The three other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Hasan Foez SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



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Super Chef 2014

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