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# Silent witness still there

Dalim Hotel was Ctg Al-Badr chief's torture cell

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

The bloodstains in the three-storey building have long disappeared. Shrieks of torture victims are no longer heard there.

But the Mahamaya Dalim Bhaban at Anderkilla, Chittagong still stands as a reminder of the brutal torture of freedom fighters and pro-liberation people 43 years ago.

Every inch of the building evokes the memory of the heinous atrocities of the Al-Badr and its leader Mir Quasem Ali.

It was an ordinary structure in downtown Chittagong, with a restaurant on its ground floor and a residential hotel on the first. Its owner Chandra Mohan Nath along with his family lived on the top floor.

Just two or three days before the beginning of the Liberation War in 1971, the owner and his family left the area for his village home in Hathazari.

Al-Badr Bahini, which was formed with the leaders and activists of Jamaat's the then student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS), captured Dalim Hotel and turned it into its main camp. Quasem as the president of Chittagong town ICS became the chief of the "killing squad," according to prosecution witnesses and documents.

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Mahamaya Dalim Bhaban in Chittagong now. Al-Badr men led by Mir Quasem Ali grabbed the three-storey building originally owned by a Hindu and turned it into a Nazi-styled concentration camp to confine, torture and kill pro-liberation people in 1971.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# HARTAL THIS WEEK Only day left is Wednesday

Guardians, students worried about JSC, JDC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first day of second spell of hartal, enforced by the Jamaat-e-Islami, passed almost in a relaxed manner yesterday, but uncertainty loomed large on the fate of 21 lakh JSC and JDC students due to frequent shifting of dates of their exams.

The fresh announcement of a 24-hour hartal on Thursday has dealt a further blow to the students as the exam schedule on that day is likely to be deferred like the last two exams.

The Jamaat-e-Islami called the country-wide hartal for Thursday in protest against its leader Mir Quasem Ali's death sentence for war crimes.

Anxious, guardians say their children are once again set to face similar ordeals like that of last year when frequent shut-downs and blockades, enforced in November and December, devastated exam schedules and messed up the

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Sumi Khan

# Relief, as it was just rumour

TAMANNA KHAN

Even minutes before the court started proceedings yesterday, rumours hanged thick in the air about the possibility of lesser punishment for war criminal Mir Quasem Ali who had allegedly spent millions of US dollars to lobby

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# Terror was reborn

Quasem behind birth of the world's third most active non-state armed group Shibir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though his crimes have finally caught up with him, war criminal Mir Quasem Ali in the last four decades established himself as a top businessman in Bangladesh. He emerged as a leading business tycoon of the very country, the birth of which he vehemently opposed in 1971.

Quasem not only dodged the trial for the crimes he committed during the nine-month-long Liberation War, but also reorganised anti-liberation elements following the political changeover in August 1975.

It was under his leadership that the hideous Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, of 1971 re-emerged as Islami Chhatra Shibir in 1977. Since its inception, Shibir was dreaded for its atrocities, and last year was ranked the third most active

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INDO-PAK BORDER

# 55 killed in suicide blast

Taliban-linked groups claim responsibility

AFP, Lahore

A suicide bomber killed at least 55 people at the main Pakistan-India border crossing; the blast tearing through crowds of spectators leaving after the colourful daily ceremony to close the frontier.

The explosion, which wounded more than 120, came at Wagah border gate near the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore after the "flag-lowering" ceremony, a display of military pageantry that attracts thousands of spectators every day and is popular with foreign tourists.

"It appears to have been a suicide attack. At least 55 people have been killed and more than 120 wounded. Women and

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# Killers unpunished

Nation today mourns 4 nat'l leaders murdered in jail



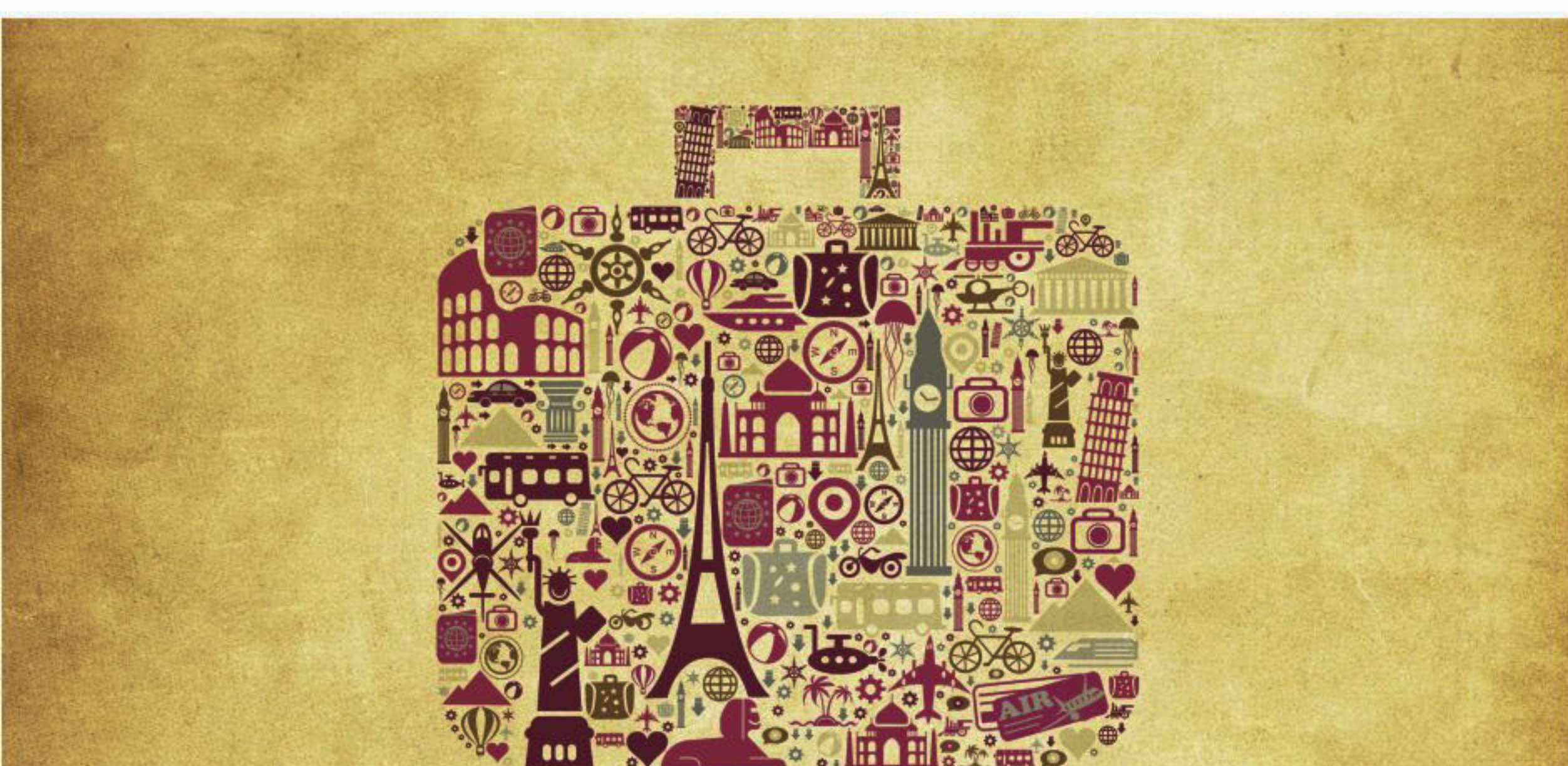
ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Although it has been more than a year since the trial of the historic jail killing case concluded, none of the convicted killers has been punished leaving the nation in frustration and dissatisfaction.

The Supreme Court on April 30 last year upheld the death penalty of three former army personnel and life term imprisonment of eight others for killing the four national leaders.

All the convicts, however, are hiding in the USA, Canada, Pakistan, Libya and some

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that PM Sheikh Hasina's remark that parliamentary election can be held anytime in a democracy is an indication of early national polls?

Yes (40%) No (60%)

TOTAL VOTES: 240

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP chief Khaleda Zia that the government depends only on repressive acts, filing false cases and harassing opposition leaders and activists to be in power?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

PRAYER TIMING November 3

Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের অগণিত শহীদের রক্তমাত চুকনগর, ডুমুরিয়া, খুলনাতে ২৫ তম শাখা ও

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