



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE

style

FORGET & FORGIVE!
It's ridiculous to use this cliché with regard to war crimes trials

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DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT
Terminally ill woman kills herself legally reviving "assisted dying" issue

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NO ESCAPE

SC upholds death penalty for Kamaruzzaman; review scope still debatable

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death penalty for Muhammad Kamaruzzaman for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

A war crimes tribunal awarded him the capital punishment a year and a half ago.

The apex court verdict has paved the way for execution of the Jamaat leader, a key organiser of the infamous Al-Badr Bahini responsible for abducting, torturing and killing freedom fighters, intellectuals and pro-liberation people in 1971.

Kamaruzzaman, 62, got the death sentence for the mass killing at Sohagpur in Sherpur on July 25, 1971. The SC upheld his conviction on this charge unanimously, and his death penalty by a majority decision.

The four-member SC bench headed by Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, however, commuted his death sentence to life term imprisonment for killing Golam Mostafa at Gridda Narayanpur village of Sherpur.

The court also found the Jamaat-e-Islami assistant secretary general guilty of two more charges involving killing and torture, but acquitted him of another charge of killing.

On May 9 last year, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 found Kamaruzzaman guilty of five of the seven charges brought against him and sentenced him to death on two, life term on two charges and 10 years' jail on another. He was acquitted of two

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Widows of those massacred in Sherpur's Sohagpur, also known as the Bidhoba Palli (village of the widows) during the Liberation War want to see the verdict on Kamaruzzaman executed as soon as possible.

FILE PHOTO

Village of widows

Sohagpur victims wait to see Kamaruzzaman punished

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

As the morning dawned in remote Sohagpur village on July 25, 1971, Julekha Begum (not her real name)

became busy in household chores. Suddenly, she heard a loud burst of gunfire from a nearby field.

Little did she know that her peaceful village would soon be turned into a death valley.

Within a few minutes, Julekha's husband returned home from the field. Then came two Pakistani soldiers accompanied by some known faces. They enquired her husband

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THE FINAL VERDICT

CHARGE	TRIBUNAL	SUPREME COURT
Killing of 164 people, rape	DEATH SENTENCE	Death Sentence (by majority)
Abduction, killing of Golam Mostafa	DEATH SENTENCE	Life term (by majority)
Killing of Dara, five others	LIFE TERM	Life term (by majority)
Torture on Principal Hannan	10-YEAR JAIL	10-year jail (by majority)
Killing of Badiuzzaman	LIFE TERM	Acquitted

Ashura today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), will be observed today with due religious fervour and solemnity.

On this day in the Hijri
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Whole week gone All verdicts to be executed

Jamaat calls hartal for Wednesday too; JSC, JDC exams delayed again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday announced to enforce the third bout of hartal for tomorrow, aimed at wasting the only working day left this week, in protest against the Supreme Court's upholding the death penalty of its leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

With this latest announcement of hartal, the exams of around 21 lakh students of schools and madrasas slated for tomorrow have met the same fate as the previous ones -- a further postponement.

The Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations were supposed to begin on November 2. But the authorities could not hold the exams that day thanks to the Jamaat-sponsored general strike across the country.

Hence, the JSC and JDC exams were set to start from tomorrow. But again, the commencement of the exams has been delayed with the hartal tomorrow and now the students will have to wait until next Sunday for their exams to begin.

A back to back nationwide shutdown for Wednesday and Thursday
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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday once again vowed to complete the war crimes trial and execute all the verdicts to free the nation from stigma.

The Awami League-led government had committed itself to trying war criminals, she said at a public rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital, adding, "We did it, despite threats from several quarters."

The ruling party organised the rally to mark the 39th Jail Killing Day in

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