



THRU' THE FRONTIER

Here we publish the summary of the roundtable discussion

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MESSAGE FOR ARAB ALLIES

Obama says he will have "tough conversation" with Gulf states

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DISMISSED

SC seals Kamaruzzaman's fate in one word; family meets the war crimes convict as execution of death penalty a matter of time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A single word confirmed the death penalty of Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, chief organiser of notorious Al-Badr force in greater Mymensingh in 1971.

"Dismissed," pronounced Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha in a packed courtroom, bringing to a close the five-year-long legal proceedings in the war crimes case against Kamaruzzaman.

The chief justice and three other judges of the Supreme Court left the courtroom within a minute after they started the proceedings at 9:05am yesterday.

The full text of the verdict would be released within a day or two, said court sources.

Kamaruzzaman, assistant secretary general of anti-liberation party Jamaat-e-Islami, now has only one option left -- to seek clemency from the president.

He was sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on May 9, 2013 for committing crimes against human-



ity, including mass killings in Sohagpur of Sherpur during the 1971 Liberation War.

The SC upheld the verdict. But the convict sought review of the judgment. Finally, his review petition was rejected yesterday by the four-member SC bench headed by the chief justice. The other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik.

As the apex court delivered the verdict, speculations ran high that Kamaruzzaman might be executed yesterday.

Several lawyers thought that Kamaruzzaman would be hanged last night. They referred to the execution of Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah and the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

They pointed out that Quader Mollah and Bangabandhu's killers were hanged on the very day their review petitions were rejected by the SC. Quader Mollah was executed after a short order from the SC

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JAMAAT CALLS 48-HR HARTAL - PAGE 16



A billboard stands on the roof of a Farmgate building in the capital while another is coming down dangerously on an adjacent building. There are many across the city, mostly on roadsides, posing danger to people and traffic.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Risky, illegal

Billboards in Dhaka pose high risk as seasonal storms set in; DCCs fail to remove them due to 'poor manpower'

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka city people are exposed to serious risks of fatal accidents, particularly during storms, as the city authorities have failed to check the mushroom growth of billboards, many of them illegal and built without proper safety measures.

In fact, in the capital's two city corporations, illegal billboards outnumber the legal ones.

And although deaths from billboard collapse during nor'wester have become a common phenomenon in recent years, the city authorities remain unmoved, with a section of officials and ruling party men allegedly controlling the advertisement business.

Just on Saturday night, collapse of a colossal hoarding on several vehicles near Dhaka Club at Shahbagh during a

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Mass promotion in bureaucracy

873 officials promoted in already top-heavy civil administration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a wholesale promotion in the civil administration, the government yesterday promoted 873 officials to higher positions.

Of them, 231 joint secretaries were made additional secretaries, 299 deputy secretaries were elevated to the rank of joint secretary and 343 senior assistant secretaries to the rank of deputy secretary.

The mass promotion came just over a year after the Awami League-backed grand alliance government assumed

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TOP QUOTE

"Is it our dress? It is the dress of the British. And you still have that servile attitude."
PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA QUOTED BY A MINISTER AS SAYING YESTERDAY. SHE WAS TAKING TO TASK SOME MINISTERS FOR WEARING SUITS IN SUMMER.



Family members arrive at Dhaka Central Jail to meet death-row convict and war criminal Kamaruzzaman around 6:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Revised trade deal with India okayed

Modification allows two neighbours to transport goods to a third country using each other's territory

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The cabinet yesterday approved the revised Bangladesh-India bilateral trade agreement under which the two neighbours would use each other's territories for transiting goods to a third country.

The modified deal would enable Bangladesh to use Indian territories for transporting goods to Nepal and Bhutan. Similarly, India would be able to send goods to Myanmar through Bangladesh.

"If Bangladesh wants to trade with Bhutan and Nepal, it will be able to use Indian road, rail and waterways. It's a huge achievement for Bangladesh. It's an idea and initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," Cabinet Secretary M Musharrif Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters after the cabinet meeting at the secretariat.

The two countries had entered the deal on March 28, 1972. Under the previous agreement, which expired on March 31,

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