

LIKE A DIAMOND
Runa Laila continues to dazzle audience, with melody



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ARRESTED July 13 2010 | INDICTMENT June 4 2012 | TRIBUNAL VERDICT May 9 2013 | APPEAL FILED June 6 2013 | SC VERDICT Nov 3 2014 | REVIEW REJECTED April 6 2015 | CONVICTED ON 4 charges | **DEATH PENALTY** For mass killing in Sohagpur

Nightmare of Sohagpur hanged

Kamaruzzaman second to walk gallows for war crimes committed 44 years back; to be buried at Sherpur village home under police protection; Jamaat calls hartal for tomorrow



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

On a July morning in 1971, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman marched into Sohagpur, a remote hamlet, and unleashed cold-blooded savagery.

Within six hours, the local militia he raised, and the Pakistan occupation forces massacred at least 164 unarmed civilians and raped many women. Since then, Sohagpur in Sherpur town has been known as "Bidhoba Palli", the village of widows.

Kamaruzzaman, then nearly in his 20s, flung some of the bodies into a lorry and took those to Sherpur town as trophies just like a big game hunter would do in Africa.

Over the loudspeaker, he invited people to come and see his handiwork. Sohagpur had paid the price



The clock above the Dhaka Central Jail gate striking 10:30, the moment Kamaruzzaman was executed last night. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

an aura of sarcasm and authority, was finally hanged last night for the mass killing he had committed.

Sixty-three-year-old Kamaruzzaman was the second war criminal to die after Abdul Quader Mollah, assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, a party that opposed the birth of Bangladesh.

His execution, which came after a five-year-long legal battle, was a watershed in the nation's pursuit of a closure on the wounds inflicted during the Liberation War in 1971. Around 30 lakh people were killed and over two lakh women raped in the war.

Kamaruzzaman, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, was taken to the gallows around 10 minutes before his execution by hangman Raju and two others, said jail sources.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1
SEE ONLINE FOR JOURNEY TO JUSTICE; PROFILE OF KAMARUZZAMAN



MG!

"We consider it [the execution] a victory. Our father's death is a martyr's death That's why we

HASAN IQBAL
ELDEST SON OF KAMARUZZAMAN TO THE DAILY STAR AFTER MEETING HIS FATHER IN JAIL

10:30pm before and after

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and RAFIUL ISLAM

Nazimuddin Road, the main street leading to the Dhaka Central Jail started cramming with policemen, journalists and onlookers since last afternoon.

A little after 6:00pm, the road and its adjoining alleys were made off-limits to people except journalists and the locals. Some shops in neighbouring areas were also closed down.

The whole place was teeming with security personnel aligned in three rows. Some of them stood guard on the rooftops of the nearby buildings.

Newsmen began giving live updates from the spot around the sundown. A few

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PADDY FIELD CLEARED FOR BURIAL -- PAGE 2



The widows of what is now known as Bidhoba Palli (Village of widows) in Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur. Kamaruzzaman planned and took part in the killing of at least 164 people of the village on July 25, 1971. The photo was taken in May 2013. PHOTO: FILE

Some solace for village of widows

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The clock struck 10:30.

It was perhaps the most desired moment in the lives of the widows of a remote Sohagpur village. It was the time that brought an end to their long, agonising wait for justice as the man, who unleashed horrendous atrocities on them 44 years ago, walked the gallows last night.

Sohagpur, a small village under Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur, around 200km north of Dhaka, was the place where Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, the chief organiser of Al-Badr in greater Mymensingh, had unleashed terror. On July 25, 1971 his militiamen and Pakistan army men had killed at least 164 people, one by one, turning the entire village into a valley of the dead.

The killing spree lasted for about six hours that day. Then they dragged off the women and raped them brutally. Even the widows, who fled their homes that day and

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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)
Abduction, killing of Badiuzzaman	LIFE TERM	ACQUITTED

No arrest without specific reasons

Dhaka police 'assure' pro-BNP lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP lawyers yesterday said the Dhaka Metropolitan Police chief had assured them that no leaders and activists of the party would be arrested without any specific allegation during polls time.

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Mayor aspirant of the DNCC Zonayed Saki waves after unveiling his election manifesto at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Graft-free services

Mayor hopeful Saki prioritises civic amenities for Dhaka north


AKRAM HOSEN

A corruption-free city corporation is Zonayed Saki's first priority.

"If elected, I will make all the details of transactions and budgetary allocations available to people for scrutiny. So that if there is any irregularity, the citizens will hold us accountable," he told The Daily Star in a recent interview.

Use of modern technology would play a vital role in

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