



People in Faridpur, hometown of Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, celebrating yesterday the apex court verdict upholding death penalty for the Jamaat leader for his 1971 crimes. PHOTO: STAR

# V for a mother

FROM PAGE 16  
for whose death Mojaheed had advocated to the Pakistani army.  
On August 29, 1971, the Pakistan military detained Rumi, a member of special guerrilla squad Crack Platoon. His co-fighters Bodi, Azad and Jewel were also caught and taken to the camp in the old MP hostel in Nakhla para.  
Another Freedom fighter Jahir Uddin Jalal, caught by Razakar Bahini the next day, was sent to the camp, where he met Bodi, Jewel, Azad, Rumi and eminent music composer Altaf Mahmud.  
In his testimony as a prosecution witness, Jalal gave descriptions of the horrific torture on the freedom fighters and Altaf Mahmud.  
Most of their fingers had been cut off, he said.  
"Around 8:00pm [on August 30, 1971], Motiur Rahman Nizami and



Jahanara Imam Rumi  
Mojaheed along with three or four others went to the room of Capt Kayum, walking past my confinement room," said Jalal.  
"Indicating Nizami and Mojaheed, Jewel said they along with others had tortured them. He also said Mojaheed and Nizami might kill them any time."  
Later, Jalal was taken away and tortured by Mojaheed in the presence of Nizami and Choudhury Mueen Uddin.  
At one point, he heard Nizami and

Mojaheed say that Jalal, Bodi, Rumi, Jewel and Altaf should be shot dead and the bodies be made to disappear before the president's clemency on September 5.  
After this, the torture on the detainees intensified.  
Though Jalal returned alive from the camp, the bodies of the freedom fighters and Altaf Mahmud were never found.  
The International Crimes Tribunal-2 in 2013 gave life sentence to Mojaheed for the killing of Altaf, Rumi and others and death sentence for intellectuals' killing. The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the sentences.  
Coming out of the court yesterday, Jalal said, "We are happy that the apex court upheld the tribunal judgment. Now we want quick execution of the verdict."

# Tough law on cards

FROM PAGE 1  
wants to control people's voices.  
Aneek R Haque, a counsel at the Supreme Court, said if the draft was passed in its current state, abuse of law would increase. "Law enforcers being able to arrest anyone without a court order is by far the worst thing in the draft," he said.  
"Most of the issues are already covered by the ICT act and the pornography act ... here only the punishments are increased ... another means to control the social networks and blogging," said Aneek, who is a former legal consultant to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).  
Echoing the opinion, Abu Saeed Khan, senior policy fellow of LIRNEasia (a regional think tank on ICT policy and regulation), said, "This is a reproduction of the much criticised amendments the government had unilaterally made to the ICT Act, 2006, on October 9, 2013."  
Saeed said the draft was a poorly crafted legislation since superficial assumptions triumphs over evidence. "It will allow rampant abuse of power by the law enforcers," he said.  
The draft said a controller would carry out probes anywhere in the country if there was a threat to the internet infrastructure.  
A person guilty of cyber crime committed in Bangladesh affecting Bangladesh could be sentenced up to 14 years' imprisonment or fined up to Tk 1 crore, or both.  
Not going into details, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, said, they had already noticed some points that need to be discussed with industry stakeholders.  
"We want to take some time to finalise the act," Palak told The Daily Star on Monday after an event of the ICTExpo.  
According to International Telecommunication Union, Bangladesh's position on the readiness of cyber security is 79 out of 105

countries. In the union's report published last Thursday, Bangladesh scored 0.294 out of one.  
The report puts India (0.706), Sri Lanka (0.412), Thailand (0.412) and even Myanmar (0.382) ahead of Bangladesh on cyber security readiness.  
The USA was first scoring 0.824.  
The report said Bangladesh did not have specific regulations and compliance requirements.  
Rajshahi University Associate Prof Zulfiqar Ahmed of the Department of Law had prepared the draft and submitted it to the ICT division on April 19. Later, an English translation of the draft was handed over to Sajeed Wazed Joy, the ICT adviser to the prime minister.  
Zulfiqar claimed that the new law would not violate human rights as it would give the police more power and at the same time restrict the police's authority in some cases.  
"Amended ICT act has lots of deficiencies on human rights ground but here I tried to cover the issue," claimed Zulfiqar.  
He said he had gone through similar acts of Singapore, the USA, India, and Pakistan before making the draft.  
The draft can be found on the ICT ministry website under the link "Acts and Rules", where only acts passed by parliament are usually shown.  
The draft has a provision for creating a post of national security adviser, who would be the supreme authority for all decisions and at the same time enjoy indemnity from the act.  
"There is nothing said on the adviser's quality and status ...," Aneek said, adding, "And it is obvious since indemnity is here, the adviser would enjoy super power without any responsibility."  
The draft has provision for setting up a "National Internet (Cyber) Security Organisation" for protecting Bangladesh's sovereignty, security and integrity, and

friendship with foreign countries and others.  
The draft suggested a minimum five years of jail for offenders who harm someone's computer network, erase or distort data or send electronic messages with false information to defraud a person.  
Several crimes in the draft have been mentioned as cyber terrorism with a minimum four-year imprisonment.  
**EVEN FOREIGNERS CAN BE TRIED**  
Aneek said it was illogical that none could comment on any international issue and that if a foreigner commented on a Bangladeshi issue, he or she could be tried under this act.  
The draft has clauses to try foreigners, individuals and organisations. If someone tried to obstruct an international organisation from conducting its activities, it would be considered cyber terrorism, according to the draft.  
If anyone tried to enter the network of another person or organisation or try to infect it with a virus, it would be considered cyber terrorism.  
According to the draft, taking photographs secretly and publishing them without permission would be considered a crime with a provision for imprisonment up to 10 years.  
Industry people said this provision was also incorporated in the pornography act.  
Saeed questioned the competence of the people concerned who drafted the law. "It refers to the confiscation of floppy disks, which is no longer used."  
He said the government should conduct public consultation prior to finalising the proposed law that concerns complex technical and social issues.  
A senior official of the ICT division requesting anonymity said, "We see no indication that a public consultation meeting on it would be held. As the draft is on the web, the government sees it as public consultation."

# Top traffickers out of dragnet

FROM PAGE 16  
The UNHCR chief said it was essential to address the root cause in Myanmar to end human trafficking. "I think we need to have a regional consultation to make sure that the root cause in Myanmar is addressed. I think that is very much possible," she added.  
She further said human trafficking got a massive turn from the initial smuggling of jobseekers for a lucrative business through the sea. Now, the people are being trafficked by using larger ships instead of small fishing boats to realise ransom and sell them as slaves to fishing industries in Thailand, she said, adding that many ultimately die for their failure to pay the ransom.  
Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Chief Executive

Syeda Rizwana Hasan alleged that the government seemed reluctant to identify and arrest the kingpins in Bangladesh.  
"It is really surprising that people are leaving the country without travel documents by the sea, but the law-enforcement agencies don't know anything," she said, adding that the government must arrest the ringleaders of the trafficking gangs and place them before the public.  
Renowned rights activist Hamida Hossain said, "The government formed committees at district, upazila and union levels to prevent human trafficking. Lawmakers have been made members of those committees. But what have they done so far?"  
Former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan said human trafficking had been going on

for long in the country, but the government failed to check this menace. Addressing the roundtable as the chair, he said the law-enforcement agencies must play a significant role in preventing the heinous crime.  
Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shujan, said it was not enough to only punish the human traffickers, as it was also essential to address the root causes of the problem.  
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) Executive Director Prof CR Abrar said the government's flawed policies and barriers in legal migration were the root causes for human trafficking.  
Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumdar, columnist Syed Abul Moksud, media analyst Mohammad Jahangir, among others, spoke at the programme.

# Intellectuals' killing not forgiven

FROM PAGE 1  
Not only that, he went on to become a minister of the 2001-2006 BNP-led four-party government.  
In an outrageous comment in 2007, he said there were no war criminals in Bangladesh.  
Three years later, he was arrested in a war crimes case, and after another three years, he was sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 for the heinous crime of intellectuals' killing. Yesterday, the Supreme Court upheld the tribunal verdict.  
Once the verdict is implemented, it would be the first execution of a war criminal for the killing of the intellectuals--aloss the country still struggles to recover.  
"The event of 'large scale killing of intellectuals' to further a common purpose under a designed plan that took place just a few days before the victory on 16 December 1971 terribly shocks the conscience of humankind and the Bangalee nation," said the tribunal verdict while narrating the nature of his atrocities.  
Mojaheed joined Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha in 1965 when he was studying in Rajendra College in Faridpur.  
His father Abdul Ali was the ameer of Faridpur Jamaat-e-Islami and a top leader of the local chapter of the anti-liberation Peace Committee.  
Mojaheed, from 1968 until 1970, was the president of Faridpur district Chhatra Sangha.  
Admitted to Dhaka University law department in 1971, he served as the president of Dhaka city Chhatra Sangha from January to July and became general secretary of the organisation's East Pakistan unit thereafter.  
In October 1971, he became the president of the East Pakistan Chhatra Sangha.  
After the Pakistan military crackdown in March 1971, the student organisation was turned into Al-Badr,

Jamaat-e-Islami's "action section", according to the tribunal judgment delivered on July 17, 2013.  
"The workers belonging to purely Islami Chhatra Sangha were called Al-Badr, the general public belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim League, Nizam-e-Islami etc were called Al-Shams and the Urdu-speaking generally known as Bihari were called al-Mujahid," read the tribunal verdict.  
The tribunal cited the above paragraph from a book titled "Sunset at Midday" by Peace Committee leader Mohi Uddin Chowdhury of Noakhali. Mohi Uddin left Bangladesh for Pakistan in 1972 and his book was published in 1998.  
Being the top leader of the Chhatra Sangha and Al-Badr, Mojaheed visited many districts and held meetings with his followers, provoking them into killing freedom fighters as well as pro-liberation people, according to prosecution documents.  
He and Motiur Rahman Nizami, another war criminal, took part in a meeting with the leaders and activists of Jamaat and Chhatra Sangha in Mymensingh on April 22, 1971.  
At the meeting, Mojaheed said, "Al-Badr is a name! A wonder! Al-Badr is a commitment! Where there is a so-called freedom fighter, there is Al-Badr. Where there is a miscreant, there is Al-Badr. For the 'Indian agents' or the 'miscreants', Al-Badr is the Azrail [angel of death] incarnate."  
Two days later, the Daily Sangram, the Jamaat mouthpiece, ran a report quoting from the speech.  
During the war, the Pakistani occupation army set up a camp at Mohammadpur Physical Training Institute in Dhaka.  
Mojaheed regularly visited the camp, which was also the headquarters and torture centre of Al-Badr. There he used to hatch conspiracy with the senior army officers to annihilate the

"Bangalee population".  
Rustum Ali Mollah, an eyewitness, who lived at the institute's quarters, testified before the tribunal that one day he saw Mojaheed at the camp, accompanied by Nizami and the then Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam.  
Even two hours before the surrender of the Pakistani army on December 16, Mojaheed gave a speech at the headquarters, terming the day "painful" and the surrender a "tragedy".  
He urged the Al-Badr members to spread wherever they could without being "ashamed" of their deeds, according to a book titled "Al-Badr" by Selim Mansur Khalid. The prosecution used this book as evidence.  
"We have also carefully considered the accused's [Mojaheed's] position of authority through which he asserted his effective influence and control over the Al-Badr men and the Al-Badr headquarters in Dhaka city," said the ICT verdict.  
Sensing defeat, the Al-Badr picked up intellectuals from their houses and took them to the headquarters, mostly from December 10 to 15.  
The victims, who were among the best minds of the nation, suffered brutal torture before being killed and dumped in different killing fields in Rayerbazar and Mirpur.  
Dhaka University teachers Prof Mofazzal Haider Choudhury, Prof Munier Chowdhury, Prof Giasuddin Ahmed, Prof Anwar Pasha, and Prof Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya; journalists Serajuddin Hossain, Syed Najmul Haque, ANM Gollam Mostafa, Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Selina Pervin, Shahidullah Kaiser, and physicians Fazle Rabbee and Alim Chaudhury were among the martyred intellectuals.  
While the bodies of many of them were recovered from the killing fields, some were never found.

# Quake moved

FROM PAGE 16  
world's highest peak, which straddles Nepal and China, the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation found.  
But its height -- usually given as 8,848 metres (29,029 feet) -- was unchanged by the disaster, according to the research, published in Chinese state media.  
The report said Everest had moved 40 centimetres to the northeast over the past decade at a speed of four centimetres a year, and risen three centimetres over the same period.  
Nepal rests on a major fault line between two tectonic plates -- one bearing India pushing northward into a plate carrying Europe and Asia at a rate of about two centimetres (three quarters of an inch) per year -- the process that created the Himalayas.  
Roger Bilham, professor of geological science at the University of Colorado, agreed with the Chinese findings.  
But he said the focus should not be on Everest, calling the peak "a lump of uneroded rock that just happens to have survived a little bit higher than all the other rocks in the Himalaya".  
"The Everest region was a mere bystander, and was pulled slightly by this movement by a few centimetres south and a little bit down," he told AFP in an email.  
More than 8,700 people were killed in the April 25 quake and a major aftershock on May 12, which also triggered landslides and destroyed half a million homes, leaving thousands without shelter.  
Scientists say the densely populated Kathmandu Valley, around 80 kilometres southeast of the epicentre, moved south by nearly two metres during the quake.  
Nepal's government said it had not yet studied the impact on Everest but that quake-affected areas had moved south.

# TRAFFICKING VICTIMS 37 more to return from Myanmar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar  
Thirty seven more Bangladeshi trafficking victims, who were rescued by Myanmar navy on May 21, will be repatriated today or tomorrow.  
Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) would hand them over to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) along Ghumdhum border in Naikhanchhari upazila of Bandarban, Col Anisur Rahman, sector commander of Cox's Bazar BGB, told The Daily Star yesterday.  
"We are waiting for their [BGP] letter in this regard," he said.  
On May 21, Myanmar navy rescued 208 boatpeople from the Bay of Bengal when they were being trafficked into Malaysia.  
Initially, the Myanmar authorities maintained that all the victims were Bangladeshi. However, the Bangladesh high commission interviewed the self-claimed Bangladeshis for the confirmation of their nationality.  
After the high commission's verification, the first batch of 150 returned home on June 8 from the Southeast Asian country. Of them, three were identified as Rohingyas, according to police.  
Among the rest 58, thirty seven more were later recognised as Bangladeshis.  
On May 29, Myanmar's navy found 727 more people crammed on a fishing boat in its waters. The country's information ministry claimed that at least 608 of the rescued are

Bangladeshi, according to an AFP report.  
The repatriation is taking place amid a regional crisis of human trafficking through the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. The crisis unfolded in the first week of last month when the Thai authorities found mass graves of "trafficking victims" in its southern Songkhla province.  
Towards the end of that month, Malaysia also discovered over a hundred graves in Padang Besar, which has a border with southern Thailand.  
**AL creates**  
FROM PAGE 16  
"People of the country no longer believe the Awami League. They [AL] were out of power for nearly 22 years ... But if the party loses power this time, it will meet the same fate as the Muslim League ... The Awami League will no longer remain the Awami League."  
She came down hard on the prime minister, saying Sheikh Hasina was not only an autocrat but also a killer. "Hasina is directly involved in killings and enforced disappearances."  
"Democracy will be restored [in the country] and it will not take long. Just have patience for a few more days."  
She also accused the government of trying to destroy her party by letting loose the law enforcers and the Chhatra League and the Jubo League on the BNP leaders and activists. "It won't be possible to annihilate the BNP as it's a pro-people party."

# Modi

FROM PAGE 16  
He also thanked "the extraordinary hospitality, friendship and goodwill that he received from the people and government of Bangladesh," said the statement.  
Modi also spoke to Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani.  
The Indian PM told Sharif about New Delhi's goodwill gesture to free detained Pakistani fishermen on the occasion of Ramadan.  
"The fishermen released will be able to be with their families to observe this blessed month," Modi tweeted.  
Modi reiterated to Prime Minister Sharif his message of peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, the statement said.  
He assured Afghan President Ghani of India's steadfast commitment to support Afghanistan in its efforts to build a peaceful, stable, secure and prosperous nation.  
Modi had invited Saarc heads of state and government to his swearing in as PM on May 26 last year and then spoken to Hasina, Sharif, Ghani and Sri Lankan president just before the World Cup Cricket Tournament earlier this year.

# Inu, 24 others threatened

FROM PAGE 16  
President Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Baishakhi TV CEO Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamol Dutta, Executive Editor of the daily Ittefaq Shaheen Reza Noor, cultural personalities Ramendra Majumder, Chhatra League General Secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree former President Bappaditya Basu, spokesperson of a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha Imran H Sarker, leader of another faction of the Mancha Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, Mancha activists Mahmudul Haque Munsil Badhan, FM Shaheen, blogger Kaniz Aklima Sultana, private university teacher Arafat Rahman, journalist Munni Saha, Nabanita Chowdhury and Anjan Roy, noted cultural activists Syed Hasan Imam and Sangeeta Imam.  
Referring to a meeting of the outfit leaders, the letter stated that the "honourable jurists" of the outfit, after a lot of discussion, declared death sentences to the following anti-religious persons and ordered to execute the sentences.  
The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter.  
On June 3, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan, former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and five others

received death threats from a militant outfit. "Alkaida-A. Bangla Team: 13" had purportedly issued the threat through a letter.  
Earlier on May 20, the same militant group in a letter issued death threats to 10 other people, including DU VC AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, DU Prof Kaberi Gayen and Asim Sarker, Prime Ministers' Adviser HT Imam, Awami League lawmaker Tarana Halim and Imran H Sarker.  
Contacted, Joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Monirul Islam said they were looking into the matter seriously.  
Regarding the previous two threats, he said after scrutinising those, it seemed to them that Ansarulaha Bangla Team did not post the letters.  
**Ramadan**  
FROM PAGE 16  
Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office at 7:30pm, said a PID handout yesterday.  
People have been requested to inform the committee through the following phone and fax numbers if they see the Ramadan moon of 1436 Hijri anywhere in Bangladesh sky.  
The phone numbers are 9559493, 9559643, 9555947, 9556407 and 9558337 while the fax is 9563397.