

EXECUTION OF WAR CRIMINALS

## Dhaka reacts sharply to Pak statement

Summons high commissioner

REZAUL KARIM and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Dhaka has reacted sharply to a statement from Islamabad on Sunday's execution of two war criminals, and summoned the Pakistan high commissioner in Bangladesh for lodging a formal protest.

Pakistani Envoy Shuja Alam was asked yesterday afternoon to come to the acting foreign secretary's office at 2:30pm today, a diplomatic source in Dhaka told The Daily Star.

The development came hours after Pakistan foreign ministry issued a statement, voicing "deep concern and anguish" over the execution of war criminals Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

It called for reconciliation in Bangladesh in line with the Tripartite Agreement of 1974.

Salauddin and Mojaheed were hanged in the early hours

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## Of commitment, of healing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Families of war crimes victims, campaigners and researchers have hailed the government for its commitment in bringing the perpetrators of 1971 to book and implementing the court verdicts against them.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday following the hanging of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for war crimes, they said there had

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## Another step towards justice

MAHFUZ ANAM

One of Bangladesh's many tragedies was the near reversal, within three and a half years of our birth as a country, of the gains of our Liberation War and the coming to power, later, of people who not only opposed the birth of Bangladesh but actively participated in the genocide and crimes against humanity that was the hallmark of the Pakistani forces and their Bengali

### COMMENTARY

collaborators.

The rot began with the assassination of Bangabandhu and the taking of power by the killers. The subsequent killings of the four national leaders in jail, the coming to power of General Zia, changes brought to the constitution, the most condemnable of which was the indemnification of actions of

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### They signed petitions for mercy

Reiterates law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday reiterated that war criminals Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury had sought presidential clemency before their executions, a statement contradicted by the duo's family members.

"The convicts had signed the mercy petitions. I gave my opinion on the

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A mother cries as she bids farewell to her daughter who would leave for India today. She visited her daughter at former Banshkhata enclave in Lalmonirhat yesterday. Story on page 2

PHOTO: STAR

## Expatriates face MRP trouble

Several lakh waiting for MRP as hand-written passport becomes invalid from tomorrow



50,000 Bangladeshi in Saudi Arabia yet to get MRP despite paying fees, charges

BELAH HOSSEIN BIPLAB

They paid fees and service charges to IRIS Corporation for their passports in Saudi Arabia three to four months ago but the Malaysian outsourcing company did not bother to give passports to at least 50,000 Bangladeshi expatriates.

Over 11 lakh Bangladeshi expatriates were yet to get machine readable passports (MRPs), Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali told parliament on Thursday.

According to International Civil Aviation Organization's deadline, nobody would be able to travel abroad with old passports after tomorrow, unless the UN agency, which develops and suggests airline safety standards and practices, extends the time.

At least 2,500 expatriates in Malaysia were uncertain of their future as IRIS did not provide them with MRPs even after they had paid all the fees six/seven months ago, before the company closed its activities there.

The company has collected at least Tk 50 crore as passport fees and service charges from the expatriates in Saudi

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