

## 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 Salaudinn Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

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

Salaudinn 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 Salaudinn Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for war crimes, they said there had

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You thought trucks cannot ply waterways. You were wrong or so it seems from these recent photos. These tractors and scores others with their trailers cross this waterbody to fetch stones from Bichanakandi, as there is no bridge over the canal at Anforer Mor in Sylhet's Gowainghat. Bichanakandi is also a tourist attraction near the border with India. Apart from ruining the tourist spot, these tractors are damaging the banks of the canal and polluting its water. Adding to this all, people have built a makeshift bridge with bamboos and bags of dirt to cross the canal, obstructing the water flow.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 3 local govt election bills amended

Only mayoral aspirants can contest with party symbols

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament last night passed three bills allowing partisan elections for the mayoral post at city corporation level and to the chairman post at upazila parishad and union parishad levels.

Any independent candidate will also be able to contest for those posts on meeting specific criteria.

However, elections to the councillor, vice-chairman and member posts will remain non-partisan.

Piloted by LGRD Minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, the three bills -- Local Government (Union Parishad) (Amendment) Bill 2015, Local Government (Upazila) (Amendment) Bill 2015, and Local Government (City Corporation) (Amendment) Bill 2015 -- were separately passed in voice votes.

A number of opposition and independent MPs opposed the bills citing discrimination between the mayoral and councillor candidates, and between chairman and member

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## Another step towards justice

MAHFUZ ANAM

### COMMENTARY

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

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

Bangabandhu's killers. Thus came a time when ours became the only constitution in the world that protected self-proclaimed killers.

Though the propaganda has it otherwise, Bangabandhu never pardoned any alleged war criminal facing specific charges like rape, murder and arson. But the martial law regime repealed the Collaborators Order 1972 in 1975, thereby blocking 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 Banshkata enclave in Lalmonirhat yesterday. Story on page 2

## They signed petitions for mercy

Reiterates law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday reiterated that war criminals Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Salaudinn 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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## Expatriates face MRP trouble

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



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

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

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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