



TIMELINE	ARREST JUNE 29, 2010	INVESTIGATION JULY 2010-OCTOBER 2011	FORMAL CHARGE DECEMBER 11, 2011	CHARGE FRAMING MAY 28, 2012	TRIBUNAL VERDICT OCTOBER 29, 2014	SC VERDICT JANUARY 6, 2016
-----------------	--------------------------------	--	---	---------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------

DEATH stays for

DEATH DESIGNER

Happy, yet not happy enough

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Justice seekers were happy with the apex court yesterday upholding the death penalty handed down to war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami but they would have been happier if it confiscated his wealth as well to compensate the victims.

Yesterday's verdict came at a time when the call is getting stronger for confiscation of all properties of convicted war criminals and the distribution of those among the families of freedom fighters and 1971 rape victims in hardship.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, an organisation campaigning for the trial of war criminals for more than two decades, held a press conference on November 26, to press home this demand.

"After 1975, they [war criminals] had been given opportunities to live luxurious lives, amass wealth, and even become minister, whereas victims had been going through untold sufferings over the last 45 years. If the victims are compensated with the properties, confiscated from the war criminals, the trial would have been more fruitful," said Shahrir Kabir, executive president of the committee.

Born in a run-of-the-mill family of Pabna, Nizami ascended to the top of Jamaat-e-Islami, a party which avowedly opposed Bangladesh's independence in 1971.

Nizami assisted war crimes convict Ghulam Azam,

ASHUTOSH SARKAR with TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

He masterminded the formation of a ruthless militia that unleashed terror on peace-loving Bangalees, killed unarmed civilians, raped women and destroyed properties during the 1971 Liberation War.

Towards the end of the nine-month war, the infamous militia -- Al-Badr Bahini -- committed "crimes of serious gravity intending to demean the human civilisation".

Sensing Pakistan's imminent defeat, the notorious force systematically rounded up, tortured and killed the nation's brightest luminaries to intellectually cripple the soon-to-be independent Bangladesh.

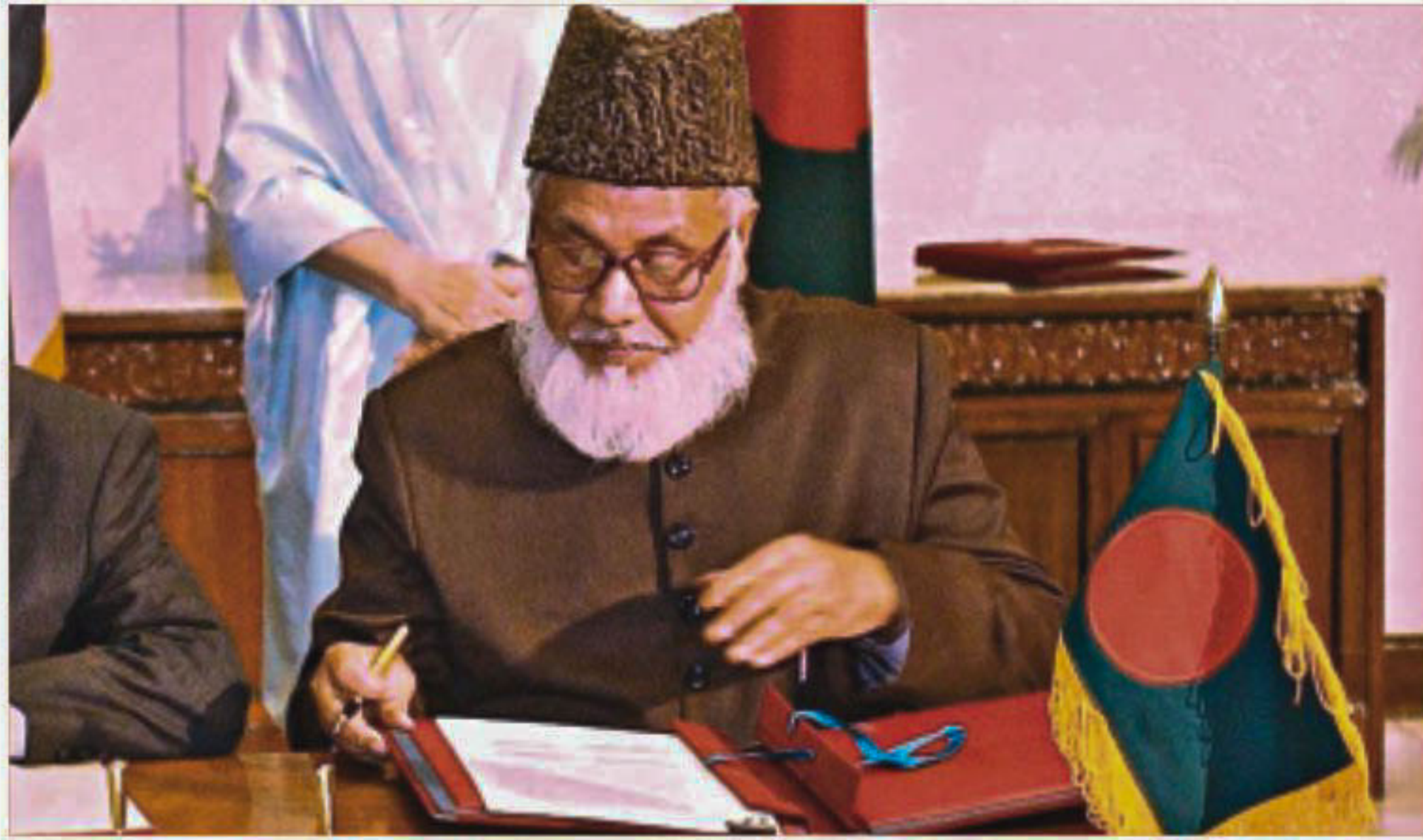
The man behind all this was Motiur Rahman Nizami, chief of Al-Badr Bahini, which played the role of an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army in 1971.

The Jamaat-e-Islami ameer, now 73, has never repented of the cold-blooded savagery.

Instead of getting punished for the heinous crimes, Nizami was rehabilitated after 1975. He gained immense political power and went on to become a minister during the BNP-led government's tenure between 2001 and 2006.

But justice caught up with him in October 2014 when a special tribunal sentenced him to death for the war crimes.

And yesterday, a Supreme Court bench



'A CLEAR SLAP ON THE FACE OF THE LIBERATION WAR!' The national flag on war criminal Nizami's desk when he was made a minister during the BNP-Jamaat rule. PHOTO: COLLECTED

unanimously upheld his death penalty for masterminding the killing of intellectuals and involvement in two incidents of mass killing of over 500 people in Pabna in 1971, paving the way for his execution.

Nizami is the third former minister after Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury to get death penalty for their notorious role during the war.

The Jamaat ameer now has the option of seeking review of the SC judgment after the release of the verdict's full text. If his review petition is rejected, he will get a chance to seek presidential clemency.

If Nizami decides not to seek clemency or

is denied it, he will be the second Al-Badr top leader after Mojaheed to walk the gallows.

Jamaat secretary general Mojaheed, who had succeeded Nizami as Al-Badr chief towards the end of the war, was executed on November 22 last year.

In October 2014, the International Crimes

FINAL VERDICT

DEATH PENALTY on **3** charges

LIFE TERM JAIL on **2** charges

ACQUITTED of **3** charges



WAR CRIMES RESEARCHER SHAHRIR KABIR TOLD THE DAILY STAR.

"Germany confiscated property of Nazi high commands to compensate victims [of World War II]. Bangladesh should follow it."

Pakistan shows no reason yet

Bangladeshi diplomat leaves Islamabad for Lisbon assignment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Maushumi Rahman, counsellor (political) at Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad, left Pakistan last night for Lisbon to take up her new assignment in the country's Portugal mission.

This comes amid Dhaka's deep anger over Islamabad's "request" to withdraw her, without citing any reason.

The move appears to be a counter-action from Pakistan following the withdrawal of its diplomat Farina Arshad from Bangladesh on December 23 last year after she was accused of terror financing.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahrir Alam says Pakistan's action may affect relations between the two countries.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Bodies of intellectuals dumped at Rayerbazar in the capital after the Pakistan army and their local collaborators massacred them towards the end of the Liberation War. PHOTO: COLLECTED

The nightmare named Nizami

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

On a summer morning of 1971, he invited the villagers of Bausgari in Santhia upazila of Pabna for a meeting.

From the meeting, held at Bausgari Ruposhi Primary School around midmorning on May 10, he announced that Pakistan army would arrive to secure "peace" in the area.

But four days later, people would find that the man, Motiur Rahman Nizami, was lying. The Pakistani force did arrive at the dawn on May 14 but not as peacekeepers.

The troops along with their local collaborators surrounded three villages of Santhia upazila -- Bausgari, Ruposhi and Demra -- and picked up around 450 civilians.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

সেকলো® ২০ ক্যাপসুল

ওমেপ্রাজল

বাংলাদেশের সর্বাধিক প্রচলিত গ্যাস্ট্রিক আলসারের ঔষধ*

Seclo® 20 Capsule

Omeprazole

Tested & trusted

এখন নতুন ফয়েল ডিজাইনে

আরো ছোট ক্যাপসুল

পুরাতন

Since 1958

SQUARE PHARMACEUTICALS LTD. BANGLADESH

This is circulated with the prior approval of Licensing Authority (Drugs).

* IMS PLUS 2Q MAT, 2015