



ROW WITH ERDOGAN

Turkey's PM Ahmet Davutoglu says he will stand down

PAGE 9

A NATION TRANSFORMED

But how much courage does it take to be cowards?

PAGE 14

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



JS'S AUTHORITY TO IMPEACH SC JUDGES
HC scraps 16th amendment

Govt to appeal

REMOVAL POWER THROUGH YEARS

- 1 JS from 1972 to 1975
- 2 PRESIDENT from 1975 to 1978
- 3 SJC from 1978 to 2014
- 4 JS from 2014 to 2016
- 5 SJC TO GET IT BACK?

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Jatiya Sangsad has again lost the power to remove Supreme Court judges on grounds of incapacity or misconduct as the High Court yesterday scrapped the 16th constitutional amendment that restored the parliament's authority.

The HC declared that the amendment is illegal, unconstitutional and against the principles of the separation of state powers and the independence of the judiciary.

It strongly criticised article 70 of the constitution that imposed tight restrictions on MPs in performing functions freely in parliament and lack of unity among political parties.

The amendment brought to the constitution in 2014 abolished the chief justice-led Supreme Judicial Council system which was introduced in 1978.

The HC ruling infuriated ministers and MPs, and some of them in parliament launched a blistering attack on the HC.

"The judgment is against the constitution. The High Court doesn't have the jurisdiction to deliver this verdict," Law Minister Anisul Huq told the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Lawmakers hit out at judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three ministers and several treasury and opposition bench MPs yesterday lambasted a High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution.

The amendment passed in 2014 empowered parliament to impeach Supreme Court judges for "incapacity or misconduct".

Law Minister Anisul Huq, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and State Minister for Labour Mujibul Haque Chunnu told the House that the HC verdict was illegal, unconstitutional and beyond the HC jurisdiction.

Describing the verdict as "a conspiracy against democracy and sovereign parliament," the ministers and lawmakers warned they would not tolerate any such plots.

They added the 16th amendment could not be illegal or contradictory to the constitution as the same provision was mentioned in the original constitution of 1972.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



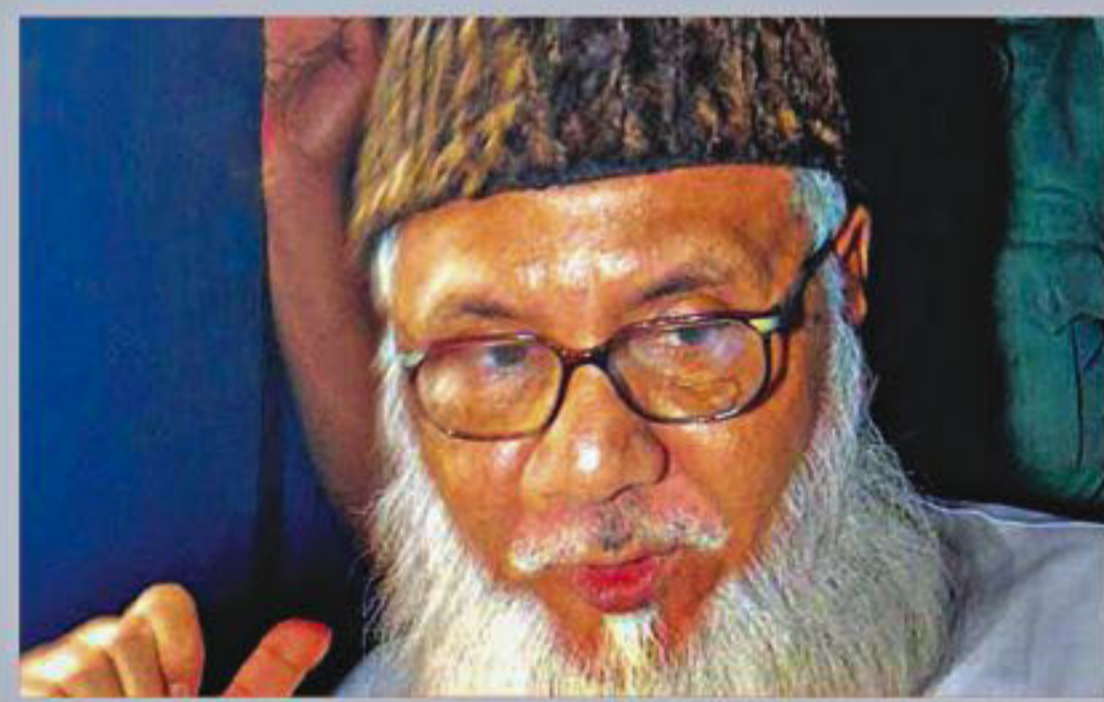
In a flagrant breach of rules, a car drives on the wrong side and against the direction of traffic in front of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital yesterday. Inset, an officer signals a car to pull over near the hotel for wrong-side driving. On Wednesday, the High Court asked the authorities to explain within two weeks as to why they should not be directed to stop vehicles running on the wrong side of roads in Dhaka.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



NO to NIZAMI'S review plea

SC confirms death sentence for Al-Badr chief over war crimes; HSC exams of Sunday deferred as Jamaat calls hartal



TIMELINE

- ARREST: AUG 29, 2010
- INVESTIGATION: JULY, 2010 TO OCT, 2011
- CHARGE SHEET: DEC 11, 2011
- CHARGE FRAMING: MAY 28, 2012
- TRIBUNAL VERDICT: OCT 29, 2014
- SC VERDICT: JAN 6, 2016
- REVIEW VERDICT: MAY 5, 2016

ASHUTOSH SARKAR, TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

The legal battle in the war crimes case against Motiur Rahman Nizami has finally drawn to a close after 69 long months.

The man, who led the ruthless militia Al-Badr in the massacre of Bangladeshis including intellectuals and professionals during the 1971 Liberation War, has now only one

option left -- seeking presidential clemency by confessing to the crimes he committed during the nine-month war.

The Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the Jamaat-e-Islami chief's petition for reviewing its verdict that upheld his death penalty awarded by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in 2014.

"Dismissed," pronounced Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha in a

packed courtroom, paving the way for the execution of the former minister.

As per the precedents set in previous executions of war crimes convicts, it is expected that after the SC's dismissal of the petition, the court will release the full text of the verdict and send it to the tribunal.

The copies of the verdict will be sent to the jail authorities and the district

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

PABNA PEOPLE HAIL VERDICT -- PAGE 7

The tale of long delay in his trial

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

The investigation into the war crimes of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami and Abdul Quader Mollah began on the same day in July 2010. Charges were framed against the duo on the same day in May of 2012.

The cases, however, had different paces from then on.

The entire legal procedures of Quader Mollah's case ended on December 12, 2013 and he was executed that very day.

Nizami's legal proceedings ended yesterday, nearly two and a half years after Quader Mollah was executed.

Nizami's case took around 36 months, from indictment to the final verdict, due to alleged delaying tactics of the defence; the Chittagong arms haul case, in which Nizami was an accused and had been sentenced to death; reconstitution of the International Crimes

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

JUDGMENTS WRITTEN AFTER RETIREMENT

SC won't rehear most of the 168 settled cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

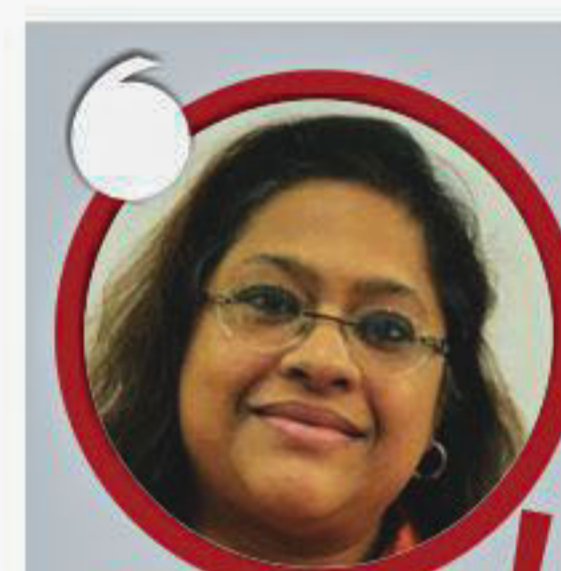
The Supreme Court yesterday said it would not hold rehearing on most of the 168 cases in which former chief justice Md Muzammel Hossain and former SC judge AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik wrote judgments and orders after their retirement.

A few of the cases might be heard again if deemed necessary, said a four-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

But all judgments and orders delivered in the 168 cases will remain upheld, according to the suo moto order of the SC.

The full texts of those will be released in a month, the chief justice said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



TOP QUOTE

"With today's verdict, a chapter in the trial of the top war criminals of 1971 comes to an end."

ICT PROSECUTOR TUREEN AFROZ AFTER SC DISMISSED NIZAMI'S REVIEW PETITION

In loving memory

Renowned businessman and humanitarian, owner of Heera Jewellers, Sponsor director of National Bank, director of NCL, director of Eastland Insurance, chairman of Empire Group and owner of numerous other businesses, Mr. **Ali Akbar Khan**, breathed his last breath on 4th of May 2016 at 6:00 am at the Samitej Hospital in Bangkok (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un). He was 70 years old at the time.

He leaves behind his 7 daughters and 1 son and countless well-wishers. His Janaza will be held today, 6th May 2016, Friday, after the Jum'ah Prayers at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. His Qulkhwani will be held on 7th of May 2016, Saturday, after the Asr Prayers at the Baridhara No. 1 Mosque (for males) and at his residence (for females). We humbly request your presence at his Janaza and Qulkhwani so that his soul may be put to rest in peace.

Sincerely, **Devoted family and friends**

US ready to help fight terrorism

Biswal tells PM; after meeting home boss, she says her country wants to see 'conclusion of Xulhaz murder probe'

STAR REPORT

The United States yesterday said it was ready to help Bangladesh fight terrorism and violent extremism by providing it with experts and technical support.

Nisha Desai Biswal, US assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs, made the offer to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when she met the PM at her office, reports UNB.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said Biswal invited the PM to co-chair a high-level event on migration with US President Barack Obama in New York. The programme will be held on the sidelines of the 71st UN General Assembly in September.

The two leaders also discussed the issue of the recent secret killings in Bangladesh. Biswal stressed the need for developing a "better understanding" between the two countries to counter terrorism.

Meanwhile, the US assistant secretary of state yesterday told journalists that her country will look forward to "see the conclusion of the government's efforts" to bring the perpetrators of Xulhaz murder to justice.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

promoting knowledge
An initiative of **MTB | The Daily Star**

Take Part in the competition and win one-year subscription of The Daily Star and MTB account opening FREE!!

For the 5th consecutive year, Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTB) and The Daily Star will jointly distribute 1,000 complimentary copies of The Daily Star for a year to the residential students of the University of Dhaka. Interested students are requested to participate in the competition.

Application forms will be available at a Desk set up at every Hall gate from Today-May 8, 2016

You may also collect the application form from the respective Halls and drop the filled-up form into the box placed at every Hall gate.

The last date for taking part in the competition is **May 8, 2016**
Winners will be notified via The Daily Star newspaper or through e-mail
For any queries, please contact **The Daily Star Circulation Dept: Cell 01711623906**

UNLIMITED PIZZA AND DRINKS FOR ONLY BDT 750!

Gulshan Banani free delivery

HOTLINE: 01700690381
VALID FROM 6TH MAY TO 13TH MAY
House No # 93, Road No # 6
Block # C, Banani, Dhaka - 1213

Le Pizzaria