FROM PAGE 1

Liberation War.

45 years back.

around 7:00pm.

he added.

kept at a condemned cell.

Quasem, widely considered as a

top financer of anti-liberation party

Jamaat-e-Islami, led ruthless militia

Al-Badr in Chittagong to commit

crimes against humanity during the

now left with only one option

seeking presidential clemency by

confessing the crimes he committed

night, Shahidul Alam Jhinuk, regis-

trar at the International Crimes

Tribunal, said his office sent a copy of

the judgment to Dhaka Central Jail

sent to the Dhaka district magistrate,

and the home and the law ministries,

Copies of the judgment were also

As per the precedents set in previ-

ous executions of war crimes con-

victs, the jail authorities will read out

the judgment before the death-row

convict. They will then ask him if he

The convict would get a "reason-

If Quasem, a member of Jamaat

able time" to reply, said prosecution

mercy, his plea would go to the presi-

dent through the home ministry. If he

doesn't, the jail authorities would

many days it would take for the

authorities to complete the procedures

Rahman Nizami and Mohammad

Kamaruzzaman were executed five

days after the dismissal of their review

pleas while another Jamaat leader, Ali

Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, and

BNP leader Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury were hanged three days

after the SC rejected their review peti-

Quader Mollah was hanged hours

after the jail authorities received a

short SC order on his review petition.

and Nizami didn't seek presidential

executed on November 22 last year

after the president turned down their

mercy petitions. Their families, how-

Besides, Jamaat leader Abdul

Quader Mollah, Kamaruzzaman

Mojaheed and Salauddin were

for executing the verdict.

tions.

clemency.

mercy.

It cannot be said for sure how

Previously, Jamaat leaders Motiur

make preparations for his execution.

would seek presidential clemency.

Talking to The Daily Star last

The 63-year-old Jamaat leader is

Confiscate properties of Mir Quasem

War crimes victims, their families urge govt after final verdict

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Victims and their families now demand that the state confiscate all moveable and immovable properties of convicted war criminal Mir Quasem Ali known as the money man of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

"How did he become an owner of huge properties?I want the state to investigate the matter as soon as possible and confiscate all his properties," said Jahangir Chowdhury, a freedom fighter who testified in court against 1971 Al-Badar commander Quasem.

During the Liberation War, Mir Quasem occupied Mahamaya Bhaban in Chittagong and turned it into a torture camp named Dalim Hotel. There Jahangir was tortured for 23 days.

Yesterday, the Appellate Division dismissed Quasem's plea to review his death sentence in the war crimes case





against him.

Hasina Khatun, 74, cousin of young freedom fighter Jasim Uddin killed after torture at Dalim Hotel, gave similar statements.

Quasem had been sentenced to Karnaphuli river. death on charges of killing Jasim.

"We had a firm belief that we would get justice. But anxiety and uncertainty were looming large in our minds as the trial process was taking long," Hasina Khatun said.

Recollecting the war-time memories, she said she had met Jasim for the last time at their Beparipara residence on

This three-storey building, the Mahamaya Dalim Bhaban at Anderkilla in Chittagong, was the headquarters and torture chamber of the Al-Badr in the district in 1971. Al-Badr men, led by Mir Quasem Ali, took over the building during the Liberation War and used it to confine, torture and kill freedom fighters and pro-liberation people. FILE PHOTO

Eid day in November 1971. That day Jasim wanted to have polao and meat.

Jasim went missing after leaving the house. Later, his family learnt from

advocate Shafi, who was released from Dalim Hotel, that Jasim was picked up by Al Badr men and taken to the torture camp where he was brutally killed. Jasim's body was thrown into the

"Now the government should confiscate the war criminal's properties so that those cannot be used in anti-state activities in future," said Hasina, adding that she now wanted to see quick execution of the verdict.

The war-time commando-in- chief who gave training to freedom fighters, Jahangir was picked up by the matter, he added.

Pakistani Army and Al-Badr men from his residence at Kadamtali in the city when he went to visit his mother.

On instructions of Mir Quasem, Al

Badr men took him to Dalim Hotel and tortured him. Freedom fighters rescued him from the camp on December 16, 1971. The prosecution produced in court

evidence of millions of dollars having

been spent by Mir Quasem on consultancy and lobbying against the war crimes trial, Jahangir said. "As far as I know he [Quasem]

worked at a public relations office in a foreign country. It's a big question where did he get the money from?"

It is high time now to investigate the

AL hails it, Jamaat calls shutdown

FROM PAGE 16

the party's website yesterday, soon after the judgment was delivered by the SC.

The statement claimed that Quasem has been a victim of the government's "conspiracy" and he has been "deprived of justice".

Ambulance, fire service, hospital vehicles, the press and other emergency services have been left out of the purview of the hartal in the statement.

Awami League presidium member and Health Minister Mohammed Nasim, while talking with reporters at Dhanmondi office of the party's president, hailed the verdict saying that people's expectations have been fulfilled through the verdict.

Commenting on Jamaat's call for hartal, Nasim said Jamaat is a political party of war criminals, hated by the people, and thus the people would not

respond to such call.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq expressed satisfaction over the apex court's verdict while he was speaking at a programme held at National Press Club.

He also said all properties belong-

ing to war criminals will be confiscated and used for the the welfare of freedom fighters and the politics of Jamaat will be banned as well.

Quasem is the fifth Jamaat leader to get the death penalty for his notorious role in 1971.

At 9:02am yesterday, the fivemember bench of the Appellate

Division, headed by the chief justice, They would send it to Kashimpur sat amid tight security. Central Jail-2, where the convict is

Mir Quasem's fate sealed

"The petition is dismissed," Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha pronounced in the packed courtroom, paving the way for the war criminal's execution.

Quasem was sentenced to death by the ICT-2 in November 2014.

Probe in the war crimes case against him began in July 2010. He was arrested on June 17, 2012, from the office of the daily Naya Diganta, a concern of Diganta Media Corporation, of which he was chair-

According to the prosecution, Quasem, till November 5, 1971, was president of Chittagong town unit of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami. He was made general secretary of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra

Sangha on November 6, 1971. He

became one of the top leaders of Al-Badr, which was formed with the leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Sangha. During the Liberation War, Quasem set up a torture camp at Mahamaya Dalim Hotel in

Chittagong and masterminded brutal torture and killing of many of the detainees. central executive council, seeks penalty on two charges and different before the court.

jail terms on eight other charges. He challenged the verdict at the apex On March 8 this year, the SC upheld his death sentence on one charge -- the killing of young freedom fighter Jasim Uddin at Dalim Hotel --

his involvement in abduction, confinement and torture of freedom fighters and innocent people. It, however, acquitted him of the other three charges, including a murder charge on which he was sen-

and jail terms on six other charges for

Quasem filed a petition seeking review of his convictions and sentences on June 19, and the apex court on Sunday fixed yesterday for giving verdict after it heard the petition for

tenced to death by the ICT-2.

Delivering the judgment yesterday, the CJ said there was an "error" in the "operative portion" of the judgment on Quasem's appeal, as it didn't mention the sentence on charge no 14 (abduction, confinement and torture of Nasir Uddin Chowdhury) against him though he was found guilty on the SC.

ever, claimed that the duo didn't seek The "error" has been modified, the CJ said, adding that the conviction and sentence of 10 years' imprisonment handed by the Tribunal-2 is crimes. maintained.

The other judges of the bench are given jail until death by the ICT-1.

Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain,

The SC released the 29-page verdict around 5:00pm and then sent it to the ICT.

Our Gazipur correspondent reports: Quasem learnt about the SC verdict through the radio at Kashimpur Central Jail-2 around 10:30am.

"He became a bit nervous, but he is physically well," said Nashir Ahmed, jailer of the prison.

A few hours after the verdict, Jamaat called a 12-hour countrywide hartal today for what it said was the government's conspiracy to kill Quasem. REACTIONS

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said they were satisfied with the SC

verdict, as the nation's expectations have been fulfilled through it. ICT Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arieff Tipoo said, "We are happy as we have got the expected judgment."

Law Minister Anisul Huq said, "I am satisfied with the Supreme Court verdict as the nation has got justice." Quasem's counsel Khandker

Mahbub Hossain alleged that the prosecution had brought false allega-The ICT-2 gave him the death tions and produced fake evidence

"As per the law, whatever verdict the apex court delivers is justice," he said, adding that it is for the future generation and global legal experts to evaluate whether the verdict was right

The ruling Awami League welcomed the verdict while the BNP kept mum as it did in the past after pronouncement of judgments in war crimes cases against other Jamaat leaders.

Different socio-political and

cultural organisations hailed the verdict and brought out processions in different parts of the country. The SC has so far dismissed six review petitions of convicted war criminals. The review petition of

another war criminal, Delawar Hossain Sayedee, is pending with it. In February 2013, the ICT-1 sentenced the Jamaat leader to death for war crimes, but the SC commuted the

sentence to jail until death in September 2014. Appeals of 15 more convicted war

criminals are also pending with the

Besides, the apex court is yet to deal with the government's appeal seeking the death penalty for ex-Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Jabbar for war

Jabbar, who is absconding, was

Protest goes on in Kakrail

FROM PAGE 16

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Bangladesh.

main opposition party.

the main opposition party.

was a 'bottomless basket'.

be with Bangladesh, he said.

Bangladesh has changed.

containing militancy," he said.

home minister.

The day before Obaidul stabbed Risha on the Kakrail footbridge near the school, he waylaid her after she left school and tried to talk to her.

"I have lost my daughter. But the killer should be caught and punished so that no one else dares to commit such crime," Ramzan, who joined in the second-day demonstration, told The Daily Star.

Because of the demonstration that began around 12:00noon, vehicular movement came to a halt in the area resulting in long tailbacks, police and locals said.

holding a free fair national election in

The BNP was also happy that Kerry did

not have a meeting with Opposition

Leader Raushan Ershad which hinted

that the US still considers the BNP as the

Jatiya Party, however, insisted that it is

While talking to The Daily Star, AL

veteran leader and Commerce Minister

Tofail Ahmed said Kerry's statement

about Sheikh Hasina-led government

proved false the then US secretary of state

Henry Kissinger's words that Bangladesh

The relationship between Bangladesh

and the USA is better than ever and now

the US has realised that Bangladesh is

marching forward and the US is proud to

About Kerry's trip to Bangladesh,

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan

Kamal, who had a meeting with Kerry,

told The Daily Star that Kerry's tour

proved that the US's mindset towards

Bangladesh is going forward under the

strong leadership of Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina. Now the country wants to

work with Bangladesh especially in

Monday discussed bringing back the

Bangabandhu killer to Bangladesh. "We

are hopeful about his assurance," said the

Kamal in his meeting with Kerry on

"The USA has realised that

ued their demonstration seeking justice for eighth grader Risha until 2:30pm and then left the place, vowing that they would demonstrate until the perpetrator was brought to book.

Meanwhile, visiting the Victim Support Centre in Tejgaon, NHRC Chairman Reazul told reporters that had the police been vigilant and active as they should Obaidul might not have

dared to attack Risha in broad daylight. Our Dinajpur correspondent reports that a team of Ramna police detained Obaidul's sister Khateza, 37, and her husband Khadimul, 45, in

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul

While talking to The Daily Star, a top

leader of the BNP said, "The situation

might have turned negative for the BNP, if

Kerry had not given Khaleda an appoint-

ment. If he had refused, the ruling party

would have gotten an opportunity to

question the acceptability of the BNP to

supposed to be 20 minutes but he talked

to the BNP chief for about 35 minutes. It

happened because Kerry was interested

to know about the BNP's thoughts on the

next election, rise of militancy and other

issues," said the BNP leader wishing

with Kerry, the BNP delegation expressed

worry over the cases against the BNP chief

and that the government, out of ven-

geance, might make Khaleda ineligible to

strong role in holding a free fair national

Kerry did not give Jatiya Party leader

they could not ask for an appointment as

as the opposition leader was sick and did

not seek an appointment. Later when we

Raushan Ershad an appointment.

They hoped that the US would play a

The BNP was happy with the fact that

Jatiya Party rejected the claim and said

"We were not sure about the meeting

Party sources said during the meeting

"The duration of the meeting was

the international community."

anonymity.

run in the next election.

election in the country.

Raushan was sick.

Alam Hanif said Kerry's trip to

Bangladesh proved that the whole world

was with the Sheikh Hasina-led govern-

AL leaders see positive indication

Witnesses said the students contin- their village home at Miratongi under | FROM PAGE 1 Birganj upazila yesterday morning.

> During interrogation, the couple informed police that Obaidul came home last Thursday and left on Monday noon.

Abu Akkas Ahmed, officer-incharge of Birganj Police Station, confirmed the detention of the couple.

Jahangir Alam, a neighbour, said he saw Obaidul on Monday noon at Laterhat in the upazila.

Shiblee Noman, assistant commissioner (Ramna zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police were trying their best to arrest the killer.

contacted them, they requested us to join

the programme at Dhaka's Edward M

Kennedy Centre in Dhanmondi," said

Fakhrul Imam MP and presidium mem-

Dhaka termed Kerry's visit productive,

adds our diplomatic correspondent.

Meanwhile, diplomatic circles in

They said Kerry's trip would give a

"tremendous boost" to the relationship

of the two countries and help advance

cooperation on countering terrorism and

Washington said Kerry's visit was purely

to offer US help as the Bangladesh gov-

ernment confronts growing extremism

that resulted in deadly attacks, including

the July 1 attack which killed 22 people,

mostly foreigners, at Holey Artisan

on cooperation in any specific issue,

countering terrorism and extremism was

the core agenda of his discussion with

the PM and other ministers that secu-

rity and stronger civil society were

essential to ensure continuation of

"We have seen a shift in US policy. The

Diplomatic sources said Kerry told

Bangladeshi political leadership.

Bangladesh could be proud of.

Though there was no announcement

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and

ber of the party.

violent extremism.

Bakery in Dhaka.

development.

2 top 'Neo JMB' men in India

He, however, added it is also possible that the two fled to evade arrest as law enforcers came to know their identity and involvement in the Prof Rezaul murder.

Contacted yesterday, CTTC unit chief Monirul Islam said, "Ripon and Khaled went to the neighbouring country in April and they have been hiding there since then."

Police have already informed New Delhi about the two.

"We have also come to know the address of the Kolkata hotel where they boarded after going to India. Later, they left the hotel," added another top official.

CTTC sources said Ripon is from a northern district. He has the potential to take over the position of Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury.

"Neo JMB" coordinator Tamim was killed along with his two accomplices in an operation at a militant den in Narayanganj on Saturday. He was thought to be the Gulshan attack mastermind.

Police say Ripon played a key role in all the attacks carried out in the northern region and reportedly claimed by so-called Islamic State. The "Neo JMB", as the law enforcers

call it, follows the ideology of Islamic State. It was formed by leaders and operatives of mainstream JMB who did not accept the leadership of Saidur Rahman. Khaled, who studied in English

department of Rajshahi University, coordinated the April 23 attack in which Prof Rezaul Karim was hacked to death, police say.

and the police headquarters visited India and interrogated Islamic State operative Abu Al-Musa Al-Bangali,

arrested in India recently. Police capability Tamim had, said a top CTTC sources said Musa had connections official. with Ripon and Khaled.

After the July 1 attack at Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan, law enforcers recovered three AK-22 semiautomatic rifles, seven AK-22 magazines and 79 of its bullets.

Five 9mm pistols, 50 bullets and around 200 bullet shells were also seized from the restaurant.

Investigators said the AK-22s were first smuggled to Nepal from where those were carried to India before reaching to Dhaka through Chapainawabganj border.

Besides, the pistols were smuggled from Munger district of Bihar in India through the same border.

"Different explosive materials including power gel and detonators were also smuggled through the Chapainawabganj border," said a top investigator.

He also said they have so far identified around 10 people who played direct or indirect roles in carrying the firearms and explosives materials from Chapainawabganj to Dhaka.

On the night of July 1, militants seized the cafe, frequented by foreigners, and killed 20 hostages, including nine Italian, seven Japanese and one Indian citizen.

Two police officers were also killed in their bid to end the siege. Police are also hunting some other

"Neo JMB" leaders, including a retired army man known among militants as

He trained "Neo JMB" operatives for different attacks at a Char in Gaibandha. He might become the capacity to carry out big terror operations leading to massive destruction. He, however, lacks the intellectual

Police are also looking for four other operatives -- Jahangir Alam alias Rajiv Gandhi, 27, Manik, Chocolate and Chittagong University student

Nurul Islam Marzan. According to the official, Marzan, who was a close aide to Tamim, has the ability to take the position of Tamim. He is intelligent and can speak Arabic and English fluently, a skill needed to maintain interna-

tional connection. Jahangir Alam alias Rajiv Gandhi is another key leader of "Neo JMB". Also known as Tiger alias Shanto alias Adil alias Subhas, he played significant role

in different attacks. Details about Manik and Chocolate could not be known.

TAMIM'S DNA SAMPLE TO BE SENT TO CANADA

Officials at the CTTC unit said the DNA sample of Tamim will be sent to Canada to check if it matches up with that of his father and sister living there.

"We'll appeal to a Dhaka court tomorrow [today] for permission to send Tamim's DNA sample to Canadian authorities to scientifically confirm his identity," a top official of

The Bangladeshi-Canadian grabbed the attention of law enforcers early last

After coming to Bangladesh in 2013, Tamim met Mawlana Abul Quasem, who has been the acting ameer of banned JMB since the arrest

Okhrabari Madrasa in Dinajpur. He acted as the ideologue for militants,

11 to die for murder in Laxmipur

US is now saying that Bangladesh has an

Abdur Rauf, Abdus Shahid, son of extraordinary development story. The same US, soon after independence, had termed Bangladesh as a basket case," a diplomat said, adding that this was a clear shift and something for which Jagannathpur, and Mohammad Abdul

Madhya Gobindapur of Sadar upazila. Four of the convicts -- Alam, Miraj,

Manju and Mahinuddin -- were presseven remain at large. According to court sources, the

village under Laxmipur Sadar upazila. The court examined depositions of 23 persons in the case that was filed with Laxmipur Sadar Police Station by

CTTC told The Daily Star yesterday.

of Saidur Rahman.

Quasem, known to the outfit mem-Recently, three officials from CTTC coordinator of the group as he has the bers as "Boro Hujur", was a teacher at police sources said.

Basher, son of Syed Ahmed from March 8, 2003 shot and stabbed to death local union Jubo Dal activist

Alim Aziz -- all from Titarkandi; Mainuddin, son of Suja Miah from Purba Rajapur, Morshed Alam, son of Jamaluddin from Gobindapur, Masud, son of Khalilur Rahman from

ent before the court while the other

Maulana Babar Miah at Titarkandi

convicted offenders on the night of victim's brother Nurul Islam.