

CONVICTED WAR CRIMINALS

EXECUTED



ABDUL QUADER MOLLAH
Jamaat Assistant Secretary General
DEATH



ALI AHSAN MOHAMMAD MOJAHEED
Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami
DEATH



MOTIUR RAHMAN NIZAMI
Ameer, Jamaat
DEATH



MUHAMMAD KAMARUZZAMAN
Jamaat Assistant Secretary General
DEATH



SALAUDDIN QUADER CHOWDHURY
BNP National Standing Committee member
DEATH

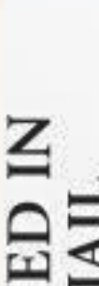


MIR QUASEM ALI
Jamaat CEC member
DEATH

REVIEW PENDING



DELAWAR HOSSAIN SAYEED
Nayeb-e-Ameer, Jamaat
JAIL UNTIL DEATH



GHULAM AZAM
Former Chief, Jamaat
90-YEAR JAIL



ABUL KALAM AZAD
Expelled Jamaat member
DEATH



ASHRAFUZZAMAN KHAN
Islami Chhatra Sangha leader in 1971
DEATH



ABDUL ALIM
Former BNP minister
JAIL UNTIL DEATH

FUGITIVE CONVICTS



CHOWDHURY MUEEN UDDIN
Islami Chhatra Sangha leader in 1971
DEATH



MA ZAHID HOSSAIN KHOKON
Faridpur BNP leader
DEATH



ABDUL JABBAR
Former Jatiya Party Lawmaker
JAIL UNTIL DEATH



ABDUS SUBHAN
Nayeb-e-Ameer, Jamaat
DEATH



ATM AZHARUL ISLAM
Jamaat Asst Secretary General
DEATH



SYED MOHAMMAD QUASAR
Former Jatiya Party Minister
DEATH



MOBARAK HOSSAIN
Expelled Awami League leader
DEATH

Besides, appeals of war crimes convicts Mahidur Rahman, Forkan Mallik, Serajul Haque alias Siraj Master, Khan Akram Hossain, Obaidul Haque Taher, Aatur Rahman Nani, Shamsuddin Ahmed, SM Yousuf Ali, Shamsul Haque, Muhibur Rahman Boro Mia, Mujibur Rahman Angur Mia and Abdur Razzak are pending with the SC. Eight others – Shakhawat Hossain, Billal Hossain Biswas, Ibrahim Hossain, Mujibur Rahman, Kazi Ohidul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar(2) and Abdul Khaleque Morol, are yet to file appeal. Afsar Hossain Chutu, who is now in jail did not file appeal and 11 fugitive convicts Syed Hasan Ali, Gazi Abdul Mannan, Nasiruddin Ahmed, Hafiz Uddin, Azharul Islam, Ashraf Hossain, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Bari, Prof Sharif Ahammed, Harun, Abdul Hashem also didn't file appeal.

Moneyman he was

FROM PAGE 1

try those who committed crimes against humanity in 1971, he started using money and his connections abroad to thwart the trial process.

War criminal Quasem reportedly paid \$25 million to an American lobby firm for carrying out a smear campaign to make the war crimes trial controversial and save his party and its top brass.

Though Quasem didn't hold a significant portfolio in his party, his trial had been one of the most talked-about topics over the last few years at home as well as various forums abroad.

"It is because of his wealth. He [Quasem] used money as a weapon. What portfolio he held in his party is not important here, the significant thing is that he was the treasurer of the Jamaat-e-Islami," Prosecutor Tureen Afroz explained.

"He adopted different strategies to put pressure on the Bangladesh government through his connections abroad to thwart the trial. But those were not successful," she told The Daily Star.

In 1971, Quasem was general secretary of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then

student wing of Jamaat. When the student body re-emerged as Islami Chhatra Shibir in 1977, he became its founding president.

The victims of his heinous crimes and their family members had to see the dramatic rise of Quasem in the country's political and business arena.

He owned and had shares in a large number of organisations, including business firms, media outlets, charities and social organisations. Through these institutions, he allegedly financed Jamaat's activities.

Quasem also represented several foreign charities in Bangladesh. He channelled huge sums of money to his party instead of serving the stated purposes of the charities, according to prosecutors and investigators.

"He played a significant role in creating funds and giving the Jamaat-e-Islami a strong economic foundation," said Sanaul Huq, co-coordinator of the investigation agency designated to probe war crimes.

Quasem collected money from abroad in the name of different organisations and used it for his party, the senior investigator told this correspondent.

Son of Mir Tayeb Ali and Rabeya Begum, Quasem was born in Munsidangi Satalori of Manikganj on December 31, 1952.

His father, an accountant of Public Works Department, used to work in Chittagong. Though Quasem was born in Manikganj, he was brought up in the port city where his father worked, according to the investigators.

Quasem got involved in Islami Chhatra Sangha in 1967 while studying at Chittagong Collegiate School. Later, he became president of its Chittagong College and Chittagong town units.

On November 6, 1971, he was made general secretary of Chhatra Sangha's East Pakistan unit, according to prosecution documents.

The defence did not dispute these facts.

As a top leader of Chhatra Sangha that turned into Al-Badr in 1971, Quasem became chief of the infamous force in the port city. He set up several torture camps, including the one at Mahamaya Dalim Hotel, and committed crimes against humanity in 1971, the prosecution said.

Quasem went into hiding after the

Liberation War.

Following the country's independence, the government banned five communal parties, including the Jamaat. The ban resulted in suspension of Chhatra Sangha's operation.

But after Bangabandhu's assassination on August 15, 1975, the anti-liberation elements got a strong footing in the country.

Many of the collaborators of the Pakistan army resurfaced in Bangladesh even before their mother organisation, the Jamaat, got the chance to operate again in the country in 1979.

Islami Chhatra Sangha again started its activities in Bangladesh in 1977, renaming itself Islami Chhatra Shibir.

And Quasem, being at its helm, shouldered the responsibility for reorganising his fellows under the new umbrella.

According to a book titled Ekattorer Ghatok O Dalalera Ke Kothay published in 1987, except for the name, there was no difference between Islami Chhatra Shibir and Islami Chhatra Sangha. Everything else, including the flag and the monogram, remained the

same. The prosecution used the book as evidence in many war crimes cases at the tribunals.

Quasem joined the Jamaat as an activist in 1980, when he was coordinator of Rabeta Al Alam Al Islami, a non-governmental organisation.

He became a member of Jamaat's Shura in 1985. Though he was in Jamaat Central Executive Council, the 18-member highest policymaking body of the party, he was better known as a supplier of funds to his party, said prosecutors and investigators.

According to a defence petition filed on July 19, 2013, Quasem was chairman of Keari Ltd, a real estate and tourism company, chairman and director of Diganta Media Corporation Ltd, which owns daily Naya Diganta, and now off-the-air Diganta TV.

He was director (marketing) of Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industries, chairman of Agro Industrial Trust, member-secretary of Fouad Al-Khateeb Charity Foundation and chairman of the Association of Multipurpose Welfare Agencies of Bangladesh, the petition said.

He also held management positions in many other organisations,

including Industrialists and Businessmen Welfare Foundation, Allama Iqbal Sangsad, Islamic University of Chittagong, Darul Ihsan University and Centre for Strategy and Peace Studies, the petition mentioned.

He was member-secretary of Islami Bank Foundation, a sister concern of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.

Quasem had paid \$25 million to an American lobby firm to carry out smear campaigns to create controversy about the war crimes trial, the then law minister Shafique Ahmed told parliament in April 2013.

In its full verdict, the Supreme Court said Quasem was a very resourceful person and was "capable of engaging lobbyist firm by spending US\$25 million to frustrate the trial of offences of crimes against humanity."

"The fact of engaging a lobbyist firm may or may not be true, but fact remains that learned Attorney General has collected a receipt of payment of US\$25 million from which it can be inferred that the appellant is a very resourceful person.... This is evident from the materials on record as well," said the judgment.

End of Quasem

FROM PAGE 1

forces surrendered on December 16, 1971 and like many other collaborators, Quasem went into hiding.

But after the changeover in 1975, he re-emerged with a new mission. He reorganised Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS), which according to court documents had turned into Al-Badr, the infamous killing squad, in 1971.

In 1977, Chhatra Sangha was renamed Islami Chhatra Shibir and Quasem became its founding president.

He later joined Shibir's mother organisation Jamaat-e-Islami and played the leading role in ensuring cash flow to the party by building a financial empire in independent Bangladesh.

Finally, he was arrested on June 17, 2012, at the office of the daily Naya Diganta, a concern of Diganta Media Corporation, of which he was chairman.

Following a seven-year legal battle, he was hanged in Kashimpur Central Jail-2 last night.

"The execution of Quasem was carried out at 10:30pm," Prashanta Kumar Banik, senior jail super, told reporters.

Quasem, 63, is the sixth war criminal and fifth Jamaat leader to have been hanged for war crimes.

Around 12:30pm, three ambulances, including the one with Quasem's body, left Kashimpur jail and headed to Manikganj under police escort.

He will be buried in his village home in Chala under Harirampur upazila in Manikganj, his daughter-in-law Tahmina Akhter had told The Daily Star earlier.

This is the first time a war criminal was hanged in Kashimpur jail. Five other war criminals were executed in Dhaka Central Jail.

Various pro-liberation groups, including Gonojagoron Mancha

which champions the demand for capital punishment for war criminals, and people of Chittagong hailed the execution.

Jamaat-e-Islami, within half an hour of the execution, called for an eight-hour hartal from 6:00am tomorrow protesting what they said was the "killing of Quasem".

PROCESS FOR EXECUTION

The process began after he declined to seek presidential mercy, the last option to avoid the gallows.

However, the countdown to the execution of Quasem started after the Supreme Court dismissed his review petition on August 30.

The process gained pace after the apex court released the full text of its verdict the same day and sent it to the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that had originally tried and convicted him.

The tribunal on the very day sent the copy of the verdict to the Dhaka Central Jail. The copy ultimately went to the Kashimpur Central Jail.

On Wednesday, the Jamaat leader sought time to decide his next course of action when jail authorities read out the verdict before him and asked him if he would seek the presidential clemency. He sought more time when the authorities asked him the same question the following day.

His family members, including his wife Khandakar Ayesha Khatun, met him on Wednesday. After the meeting, Ayesha told reporters that her husband wouldn't decide his next course of action until his son, allegedly picked up by unidentified men 22 days ago, returns home.

On Thursday afternoon, the jail authorities said Quasem would not seek presidential mercy.

There was speculation among the public that the condemned war criminal might be hanged on Friday night. But the jail authorities informed the media it wouldn't happen that night.

Yesterday, around 9:30am, the prison authorities asked his family to meet him in jail. Around 3:45pm, 47 family members entered Kashimpur jail. Of them, 38 including his wife and his daughters were allowed to meet him in phases. They came out at 6:38pm.

The executive order on Quasem's execution had reached the prison authorities around 4:45pm.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel have been deployed in Dhaka and Gazipur.

A swarm of journalists and onlookers gathered about 20 to 50 yards from the main gate of the jail as they were not allowed to go near it.

Inspector general of prisons, Gazipur deputy commissioner, superintendent of police, civil surgeon and imam of Kashimpur Jail Mosque entered the jail by 10:00pm.

FACE OF A TRAITOR

Son of Mir Tayeb Ali and Rabeya Begum, Quasem was born in Munsidangi Satalori of Manikganj on December 31, 1952. He got involved with Chhatra Sangha in 1967 while studying at Chittagong Collegiate School.

He later became president of Chhatra Sangha's Chittagong College and Chittagong town units.

On November 6, 1971, he became general secretary of its East Pakistan unit, according to prosecution documents. The defence didn't dispute these facts.

As a top leader of Chhatra Sangha in 1971, Quasem became the chief of Chittagong unit of Al-Badr.

He and his aides abducted pro-liberation people and persecuted them at torture camps including Dalim Hotel, Dowsta Mohammad Panjabee Building and Salma Manzil, before killing them, according to prosecution witnesses and documents.

On Dalim Hotel, the Tribunal-2 in its verdict said, "The evidence pre-

sented proves it beyond reasonable doubt that the harrowing dynamics of terror, violence, torture impeccably demonstrate that the system of cruelties and terror even transformed to brutal murder of many detained civilians in the 'death factory' of AB force headquartered at Dalim Hotel."

It added, "Accused Mir Quasem Ali had been in steering position of the Al-Badr detention and torture camp... The accused was an indispensable cog in the 'murdering machinery' implanted at Dalim Hotel."

Upholding the tribunal verdict, the Supreme Court on March 8 this year said, "The accused [Quasem] not only organised the force at Chittagong, he had commanded the force and directly participated in the perpetration of most barbarous acts unknown to human civilization. He does not deserve any leniency on the question of sentence on consideration of the nature and gravity of offence."

Two war crimes tribunals have so far delivered 26 judgments. Fifty people have been convicted and 28 of them sentenced to death for the crimes they committed during the Liberation War.

Of the convicts, Quasem and his party men -- Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Abdul Quader Mollah -- and BNP Leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury were hanged.

Besides, appeals of 17 more convicted war criminals are also pending with the SC.

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 crimes. Jabbar, who is absconding, was sentenced to imprisonment until death by International Crimes Tribunal-1.

[Our Gazipur correspondent Abu Bakar Siddique]

FROM PAGE 16

walking the gallows.

Quasem had challenged the verdict with the Supreme Court which upheld the tribunal verdict in March this year. Quasem filed a petition seeking review of the judgment which was also dismissed and Quasem was hanged last night.

Youngest of 10 children of school teacher Syed Ahmed, Jasim was a higher secondary school examinee at the Chittagong College when he joined the Liberation War. He used to visit Hasina at Bepari Para in Chittagong regularly.

The young freedom fighter asked his cousin to cook scented rice on Eid day (Eid-ul-Fitr) and she complied. Jasim had the rice and left urging her to wish him luck so that they could be successful in freeing the nation from the clutches of the Pakistan army and their local collaborators.

"Jasim, a brave young freedom fighter was murdered in unlawful captivity at the

Shafiu in his book published in 2006.

The book was used as evidence in the case.

Prosecution witness Sanaulah Chowdhury, who was abducted on November 27, 1971 and was, held at the Dalim Hotel for 12 days, said a boy, who had endured severe torture, was brought to the room on November 28, 1971.

"Pointing to that boy, someone told the Al-Badr men 'he is not dead yet, throw him in so that the detainees understand the consequence of not telling the truth'. Then they [the Al-Badr men] left the boy in the room," he said.

"Advocate Shafiu Alam told me that he [who gave the orders] was Mir Quasem Ali, commander of Badr [Al-Badr] force," he said.

The special tribunal in its judgment said, "Killing Jasim, a youth freedom fighter in captivity at the AB [Al-Badr] camp was the ending phase of the organised and system cruelties that, as revealed,



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. Led by Mir Quasem Ali, Al-Badr men took over the building during the Liberation War and used it to confine, torture and kill freedom fighters and pro-liberation people.

FILE PHOTO

Coffee could be extinct by 2080

FROM PAGE 16

The disappearance of the coffee plant would have a profound impact on the 120 million people worldwide whose livelihoods depend on its beans -- many of whom live in the world's poorest nations.

For several of the 70 countries in the world which produce coffee, the industry is central to their economy. More than half (59 per cent) of earnings from exports in Burundi are from the product, while the beans make up a third (33 per cent) of Ethiopia's exports and 17 per cent of Nicaragua's.

The majority of the coffee farmers are smallholders, meaning they are particularly vulnerable to a volatile market.

Coffee-drinkers are also expected to see flavour and aroma seriously impacted -- alongside soaring prices for the ever-scarcer beans.

"Looking ahead, it is hard to see how consumer prices cannot be anything but badly affected by the projected long-term decline in growing area and other impacts of a more hostile climate," the report said.

"More and more extreme weather events in major coffee-producing

regions seem set to create supply shortages, and hotter conditions will impair flavour and aroma.

"Even instant coffee is likely to be hit hard in a world of 3°C or more."

Dramatic changes are expected as a consequence of the increasing threats to the crops. Over the next few decades, coffee production is expected to move away from the equator and up mountains, causing deforestation.

It is not just the rising heat that will harm the crops. Climate change is expected to bring with it the spread of fungi that devastates the plants.

The Climate Institute is not the first

to warn about the bleak future of the coffee bean. According to a recent report by eighty scientists at Kew Gardens, coffee is at risk of running out by the end of the century, due to climate change and intensive farming.

Mario Cerutti, a spokesperson from the coffee producer, Lavazza, acknowledged the impact climate change was having on the industry: "We have a cloud hovering over our head," he said. "It's dramatically serious. Climate change can have a significant adverse effect in the short term. It's no longer about the future; it's the present."

Al-Badr camp where he was brought on capture. He was non-combatant at the time of his forcible capture," observed the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in its verdict.

Lawyer Shafiu Alam, who was among the captives at Dalim Hotel, in his book "Sei Se Somoy Anonde Bedonay" wrote that on November 28, 1971, three to four men flung open the door of a room carrying a boy on their shoulders.

They threw him on the floor. "As the door was closed, I removed his blindfold, untied him, and took him in my lap. When we lifted his face to the sunlight coming through the ventilator, we were shocked.

"It was teenage freedom fighter Jasim! His head almost slipped off my lap. We realised that Jasim was no more," said

were practiced as routine activities at the torture and detention camp directing the detained civilians brought there on capture."

"The pained relatives could not have trace even of their dear ones. What a brutality! What a grisly felony attacking the humanity!" it said and handed down death penalty to Quasem for the crimes.

The Supreme Court in its verdict said: "We find no mitigating ground to commute the sentence of death in respect of the charge. The tribunal rightly held that accused Mir Quasem Ali has incurred criminal liability which may legitimately be taken into account as an aggravating factor for the purpose of determination in the degree of culpability and awarding sentence."