

Tahrir 'chief' indicted

Court frames charges also against five other members of the banned Islamist outfit

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Mohiuddin Ahmed, allegedly the chief coordinator of banned outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir Bangladesh, in a case filed for threatening the public security and sovereignty of the country.

Five other members of the radical organisation, including its alleged joint coordinator, were also indicted in the case.

The court fixed October 24 for beginning of the trial with the testimony of the complainant, a sub-inspector of Uttara Model Police Station who filed the case in 2010.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the indictment order over three and a half years after detectives pressed charges against them.

The long delay was apparently because of the prosecution's not getting the government permission to proceed with the case.

A trial court needs government permission before accepting charges in any case filed under the Anti Terrorism Act, 2009.

Of the accused, Mohiuddin, 43, is a Dhaka University teacher now on forced leave while Kazi Morshedul Haque alias Plaban, 48, is allegedly the Islamist group's joint coordinator.

The four other accused are Tanvir Ahmed, 26, Towhidul Alam alias Chanchal, 36, Saidur Rahman alias Rajib, 26 and Abu Yusuf Ali, 34.

All on bail, Mohiuddin, Morshedul, Saidur and Yusuf yesterday appeared before the court and pleaded not guilty.



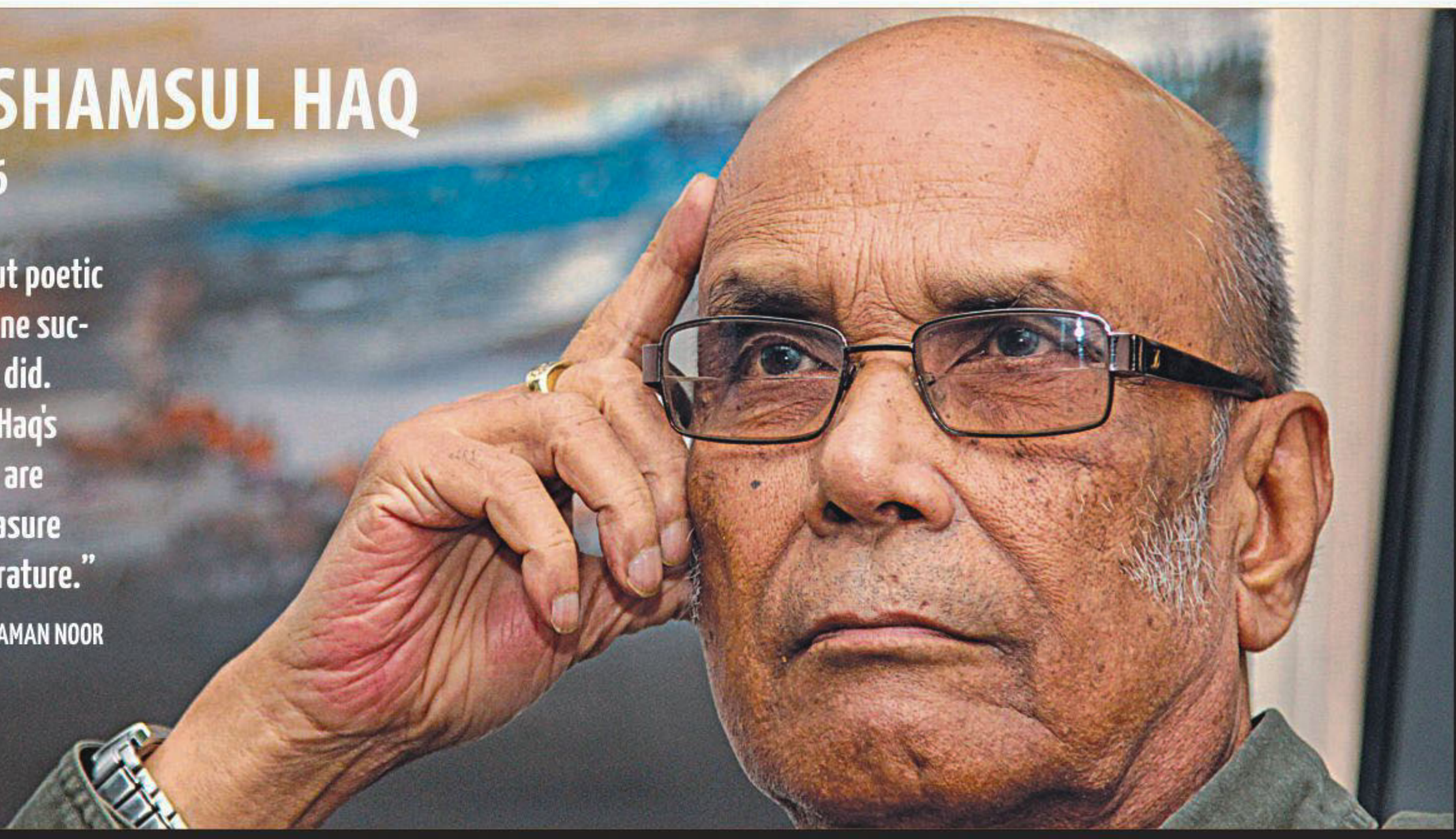
Mohiuddin Ahmed

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SYED SHAMSUL HAQ 1935-2016

"Many tried out poetic dramas but none succeeded like he did. Syed Shamsul Haq's poetic dramas are invaluable treasure for Bangla literature."

ASADUZZAMAN NOOR



Syed Haq no more

REAZ AHMAD

Be it verses, plays or stories - he depicted a nation's proud history with a mastery that no one else could hope to achieve in one life.

Syed Shamsul Haq, most eminent of contemporary Bangla poets, an ambidextrous

PHOTO ON PAGE 5

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His footsteps to echo



ATAUR RAHMAN
Cultural personality

I am sitting with my dried up eyes with the Bangla translation of William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' by Syed Shamsul Haq. He is no more. Translation of 'Hamlet' was done in Royal Marsden Hospital, London. This play will be produced by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Syed Haq, my dearest Haq Bhai, entrusted me to direct this play. He developed confi-

dence in me as I happened to direct 10 of his plays including one in English. Syed Haq, our dear Haq Bhai, has left us for good this afternoon while in the ICU of United Hospital. It is a kind of rendezvous with the father universe and mother earth. I have no tears to shed but a pair of dried up burning eyes as we have lost

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



MG!

"I want to tell this parliament that the only punishment to these beasts [those who commit violence against women] should be shooting them dead, instead of giving them right to legal protection."

JATIYA PARTY LAWMAKER
KAZI FIROZ RASHID

Islamabad Saarc summit set to be postponed

Bangladesh, India won't attend

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The 19th Saarc summit in Islamabad is set to be postponed, as Bangladesh and India are not going to attend it citing growing interference in the internal affairs of member states as well as the recent terror attack in India.

The summit is slated for November 9-10. Diplomatic sources said other member states, including Afghanistan and Bhutan, have also conveyed their reservations to Nepal, the Saarc current chair, about attending the summit.

Sri Lanka too has signalled that it would not be participating, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan foreign office reacted to the India's decision, calling it

"unfortunate". As par the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) charter, the summit cannot be held without all the leaders (heads of the state/government) of its member states.

Contacted, diplomatic sources in Dhaka, New Delhi and Kathmandu said that Nepal, as the Saarc chair, will soon make an announcement about the summit's postponement, and fresh dates will be worked out after consultation.

The move seems stepping up of India's diplomatic offensive to isolate Pakistan globally after the recent Uri terror attack blamed by New Delhi on Islamabad.

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MP hit him, UNO kicked him and OC beat him

Tangail schoolboy tells HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Tangail schoolboy, who has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment by a mobile court, yesterday told the High Court about the alleged torture on him by a local MP, an OC and a UNO.

"The OC [officer-in-charge] blindfolded me and beat me up at the police station and told me I would be put on crossfire. Fearing crossfire, I confessed I had written that [threatening the MP on Facebook]," said Sabbir Shikder.

He said the lawmaker had hit him and the upazila nirbahi officer kicked him.

The ninth-grader, who was sentenced by the mobile court reportedly under the

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FIRST US PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Clinton 'leads 1-0'

Trump vows to hit her harder next time

AGENCIES

Hillary Clinton was calm, cool, well-prepared and -- pundits say -- victorious in the first presidential debate against Donald Trump, but her strong showing may have little impact on polls showing them in a dead heat.

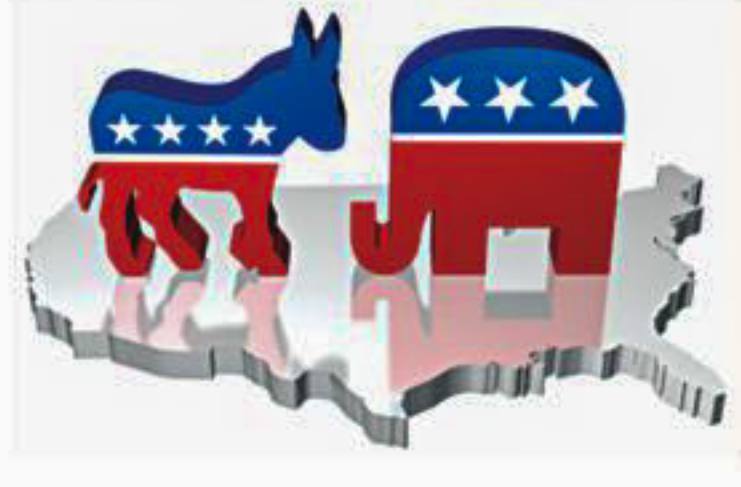
Both campaigns cried victory yesterday after the sometimes nasty showdown in which the White House hopefuls sparred on the economy, crime, foreign policy and more personal issues -- like Clinton's email controversy and Trump's refusal to release his taxes.

"We had a great, great time last night," a beaming Clinton told reporters on a plane taking her to North Carolina for a renewed bout of campaigning.

"And I think people saw last night some very clear differences between us," the Democrat added.

The Republican Trump, who told AFP after the debate that it had gone

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