

## Retired cop nabbed while taking tolls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A retired constable of the Special Branch of police was arrested from Malibagh Sunday at the act of collecting tolls from street vendors.

A team of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police caught Yusuf Ali at about 1:30pm when he was taking

illegal money posing himself as a policeman.

The CID handed over Yusuf to Motijheel police last night.

The duty officer of Motijheel Police Station confirmed the handover but said the CID did not lodge any complaint against him till 9:00 pm on Sunday.

## Argument in BNP leader Nurul Islam murder case begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Argument in the sensational Laxmipur BNP leader Advocate Nurul Islam murder case began at the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong yesterday.

Additional Attorney General Barrister Abdur Rezak Khan, Deputy Attorney General Helaluddin Molla and Public Prosecutor Kamrul Islam Chowdhury Sajjad appeared for the state while Advocate Ahsanul Haq Hena defended the accused.

Barrister Abdur Rezak said all the information and evidences produced during the proceedings were enough to prove the fact that Nurul Islam was murdered in a pre-planned way.

He said a powerful and influential network was involved in the murder of Nurul Islam and he was killed for political reason.

Barrister Rezak pointed out references of 35 sensational cases, including the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case.

Defence lawyer Ahsanul Haq argued that the murder was a pre-arranged incident and 'the drama' was staged to help make much-talked-about 'Sabash Bangladesh'

programme.

He said no specific evidences were found against the accused and the First Information Report (FIR) also did not mention the names of any accused, witnesses or the details of the murder.

The argument will continue today, court sources said.

A gang of armed criminals picked up BNP leader advocate Nurul Islam from his chamber in Laxmipur on the midnight of September 18, 2000.

Later, his mutilated body was found in the river Meghna.

Laxmipur Bar Association President AKM Tarekuddin Mahmud filed a case with the Laxmipur Sadar Police.

After the investigation, police submitted charge sheet against 31 people on July 30, 2002, and the trial began in the Sessions Judge's Court of Laxmipur.

The case was later transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong on the order from the home ministry on November 21, 2002. And hearing of the prosecution witnesses was completed on November 9 this year.

A total of 13 chargesheeted accused, including prime suspect Laxmipur Awami League leader Abu Taher, were arrested.

## Extortionists active in Barisal ahead of Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Extortionist groups are openly collecting toll from people and businessmen in the city in the name of Eid celebrations.

Some of the groups like Bondhu Mohol, Amra Kajona, Sthanio Jubo Samaj, Jubo Samprodaya, School

Samaj, Jubo Mohol, Prio Samaj, Sthanio Chhatra Bondhu, Baghia Jubo Samaj, Sachetan Jubogon and Amra Baro Jana are now active in toll collection.

Youths aged between 13 and 31 are involved in such practices and their main targets are shopkeepers, wholesale depots, business enterprises, beauty parlours, diagnostic centres and residential houses.

The groups are distributing low-quality Eid greetings cards among the residents and businessmen with a demand for tolls as much as Tk 1,000.

Some of them demand tolls in the name of Eid gates, cultural functions and feeding of the destitute.

Local administration sources say they are aware of it but cannot take any action as there is no formal complaint against the extortionists.

The affected people and businessmen alleged that the extortionists collect the toll under the shelter of political godfathers.