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## WAR CRIMES TRIAL

# Probe team visits Ctg killing spots

### SQ Chowdhury's name comes from witnesses; he denies war crimes, warns govt of 'separatist move' by Ctg people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury's name yesterday came up during enquiry into crimes against humanity committed in 1971 at Raozan in Chittagong.

As a seven-member investigation team of the International Crimes Tribunal visited different crime scenes in the upazila to gather evidence, witnesses and victims' families talked about Salahuddin's alleged involvement while providing the team with information on killings.

Salahuddin at a press conference held at his home in Chittagong yesterday refuted the allegations and claimed that he had left the country for Pakistan on April 8, 1971.

The team led by Chief Prosecutor Golam Arif Tipu yesterday morning visited Kundeshwari Homes, the house of martyr Natun Chandra Singha, founder of herbal medicine Kundeshwari Owshadhalaya.



**SQ Chowdhury** measure.

Prafulla Ranjan Singha, son of Natun, told the team that Pakistani army personnel with local collaborators including Salahuddin came to their house in the early morning of April 13, 1971. They dragged Natun out of the house and shot him in front of the temple inside the house compound. After Natun fell to the ground they sprayed him with bullets for good

The local collaborators had also brought in the Pakistan force for raiding the house twice before, he said.

"I was not in the country when the killing took place and learnt the details of that day from now deceased Amanat Khan Chowdhury, former chairman of Gahira Union Council," Prafulla said.

"I along with our family had left the country on April 11. The then Bangladesh Chhatra Union leader and freedom fighter Abdullah Al

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

At least 20 families live in this dilapidated building at 54 Shakhariabazar in Old Dhaka. The structure, like many others in the old part of the city, poses high risk of collapse anytime. The photo was taken yesterday.

## IBRAHIM 'MURDER' CID arrests Shaon's aide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Thursday night arrested an aide of Awami League lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon and took him on a three-day remand yesterday in connection with the killing of AL activist Ibrahim Ahmed.

Mazharul Islam Mithu, owner of the microbus that carried injured Ibrahim to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was arrested from the city's Mirpur area.

The CID officials interrogated the microbus driver Nizam Uddin on Thursday hours before picking up Mithu.

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## ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

# Selected firms asked to make detailed offers

### Final selection of investor by December

TAWFIQUE ALI

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has invited technical and financial offers from the four lowest bidders to select an investor for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE).

BBA Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said they had issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the first week of this month seeking technical and financial offers for the final selection of a concessionaire within two months.

The four pre-qualified international investors are Ital-Thai Development Company (Italy-Thailand), Gammon-Bougyes JV (India-

France), Sikder-KCC JV (Bangladesh-South Korea) and China Railway International Limited (China).

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, head of the project's expert committee, said the standard toll rates for a private car using the facility are fixed at Tk 100 for the whole way and Tk 50 for partial use.

The rates would be three to four times for buses, trucks and lorries while a considerably lower rate for motorbikes, he added.

The BBA fixed the concession period for the investor at 25 years. However, the timeframe might be proportionately extended if it

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## PM addresses UNGA today

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the 65th session of the UN General Assembly today afternoon.

Like the previous year, she will deliver her speech in Bangla at 3:00am (Bangladesh Time).

In her speech, Hasina is likely to touch on international issues like impact of climate change, Millennium Development Goals and UN peacekeeping, making Bangla an official language of UN as well as domestic issues including trial of 1971 war crimes, terrorist acts by BNP-Jamaat axis and her government efforts for socio-economic development.

## Use youth, tech power in MDGs

### Yunus tells nations

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has suggested bringing young people of the world together, with the massive power of technology as well as the support of social business, to ensure that Millennium Development Goals (MDG) are achieved in all countries.

Yunus made the remark at the 2nd meeting of the MDG Advocacy Group on September 22.

The first lady of Qatar, Sheikh Mozah Bint Nasser, was also invited to address the gathering to outline the role of the Group towards achieving the United Nation MDGs, said a press release.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon convened the meeting at the UN Headquarters, New York with the president of the General Assembly, Prof Joseph Deiss of Switzerland, in the chair. Representatives of various countries and the media were invited to the meeting.

Prof Yunus emphasised that the UNMDGs were the most

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## Obama praises Hasina for MDG achievements

BSS, New York

US president Barack Obama yesterday congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for Bangladesh's achievements in attaining UN-set Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that earned the country the special UN award.

"I congratulate you," Prime Minister's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad told BSS quoting the US president as telling the Bangladesh premier at a reception hosted in honour of the world leaders joining the UN General Assembly in New York by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

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A CNG refilling station at Ashulia hangs a notice that reads in Bangla: No Gas Available. Many CNG stations in Savar and Ashulia are about to shut because of gas crisis. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# CNG stations bear the brunt of gas shortage

### 28 stations in Savar face closure

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

CNG refuelling stations in Savar and Ashulia zone are about to shut down permanently due to severe gas crisis.

Slow business because of low gas pressure or no gas has been causing a huge loss to the owners of around 28 CNG stations from Nabinagar intersection to Chandra and Ashulia for the last one and a half years.

Despite growing demand the CNG stations remain unable to provide gas for vehicles while they are bearing the burden of station and staff maintenance.

Although the authorities concerned admit the situation, no news of resolving the crisis came from that side.

Abdul Wahab, zonal marketing manager (Savar) of Titas Gas Distribution and Transmission Company Ltd, said the crisis has become severe due to

increased consumption of gas.

He said, "At the moment gas production cannot be augmented to meet the demand."

A top-level official of Titas Gas said, "We are now supplying 110 million cubic feet of gas in the zone per day against a demand of 180 cubic feet. This huge gap between the demand and supply is triggered the crisis."

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## BNP won't join current JS session

### Says MK Anwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nationalist Party will not join the ongoing Jatiya Sangsad session, as the party top brass believe the atmosphere in parliament is in no way congenial to the opposition.

MK Anwar, member of the BNP standing committee, said the main opposition wants to go to parliament sitting, but the attitude of the prime minister and her party lawmakers has to be changed first.

He was addressing a press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan office yesterday.

Anwar said the ruling party couldn't tolerate the opposition

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## BNP doesn't want to join JS to hinder war crime trial

### Says AL's Hanif

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint General Secretary of Awami League Mahbul Alam Hanif yesterday said BNP has decided not to join parliament to hinder the trial of the war criminals and to cover up the corruption of Khaleda Zia's two sons, Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman.

"BNP won't be able to show any logic behind their attempts to save war criminals

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## Jihadi books, dummy firearms seized from Shibir mess

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police seized a huge number of jihadi publications, several pairs of police uniform and replica shotguns and handguns from a two-storey building in the capital's Elephant Road yesterday.

New Market police early in the morning raided the place based on a complaint that some youths had been trying to break into the building. When police reached the spot the miscreants were gone and the residents were not home.

Yesterday's recovery also includes books and booklets of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, national flags, cassettes and CDs.

Syed Nurul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Ramna zone, said, "Earlier in April, police recovered a huge number of jihadi books and documents from the same house."

The building belongs to Prof Aminur Rahman Majumder, a teacher of Soil, Water and Environment Department of Dhaka University and joint convener of BNP-Jamaat backed White

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## US Congress to honour Yunus

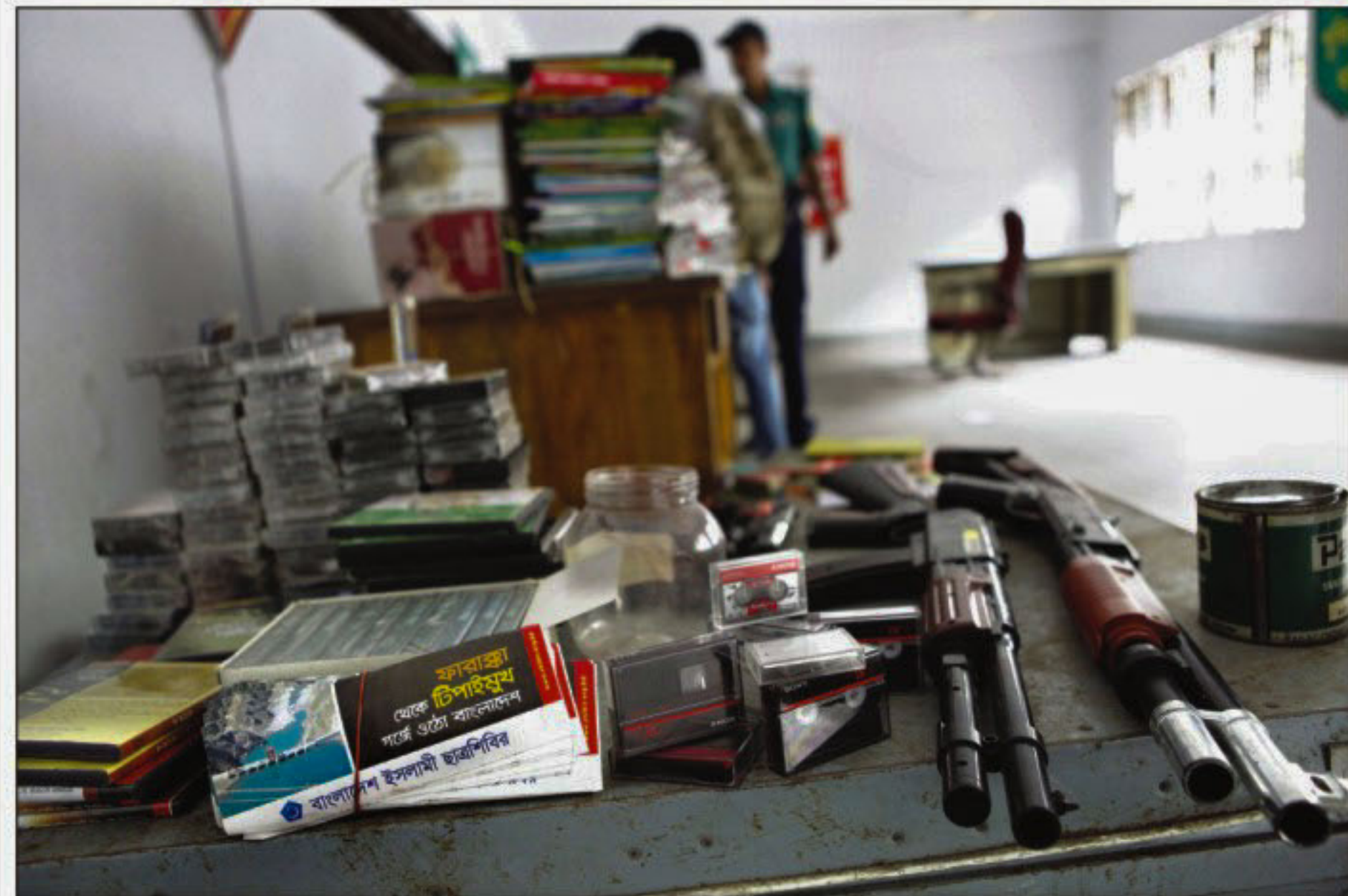
AFP, Washington

US lawmakers yesterday approved a measure granting the Congressional Gold Medal to Nobel peace prize winner Mohammad Yunus, a pioneer of micro-credit.

Along with the Medal of Freedom, which is awarded by US presidents, the Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honour that can be awarded in the United States.

The House of Representatives approved a measure seeking to grant Yunus the honour on Thursday night, after the

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Books and booklets of Jamaat-e-Islami and Shibir, cassettes and CDs, replica shotguns and jihadi publications recovered by police from a two-storey building in the capital's Elephant Road yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR