

**REBEL & RAGAS**

Chhayanaut presents Nazrul classics based on North-South Indian ragas

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NATURAL INCUBATOR

A simple and cost-effective solution that can save premature babies

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ON THE TRAIL OF AAFIA

Why IS would offer to give up captives in return for her release

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WHY?

Tearful family members of forced disappearance victims ask law enforcement agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Law enforcement agencies are run with taxpayers' money. Why won't they be answerable to us? Why won't there be any accountability?"

Sanjida Islam raised these questions during a conference at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium, where about 100 families of victims gathered to observe the UN's International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances yesterday.

"If the Rab can find out an infant, why can't they find our children?" asked Ruhul Amin, referring to the elite force's drive to rescue a baby stolen from Dhaka Medical College Hospital on August 21.

Sanjida's brother Sajedul Islam Suman and Ruhul's son MA Adnan, both BNP activists, are among the eight youths picked up by the Rab from different parts of the capital on the night of December 4 last year.

They are still missing.

"What is the meaning of the independence that we won at the expense of a lot of

blood?" asked Kazi Abdul Matin, a freedom fighter whose son Kazi Rakibul Hasan Shaon is another disappearance victim.

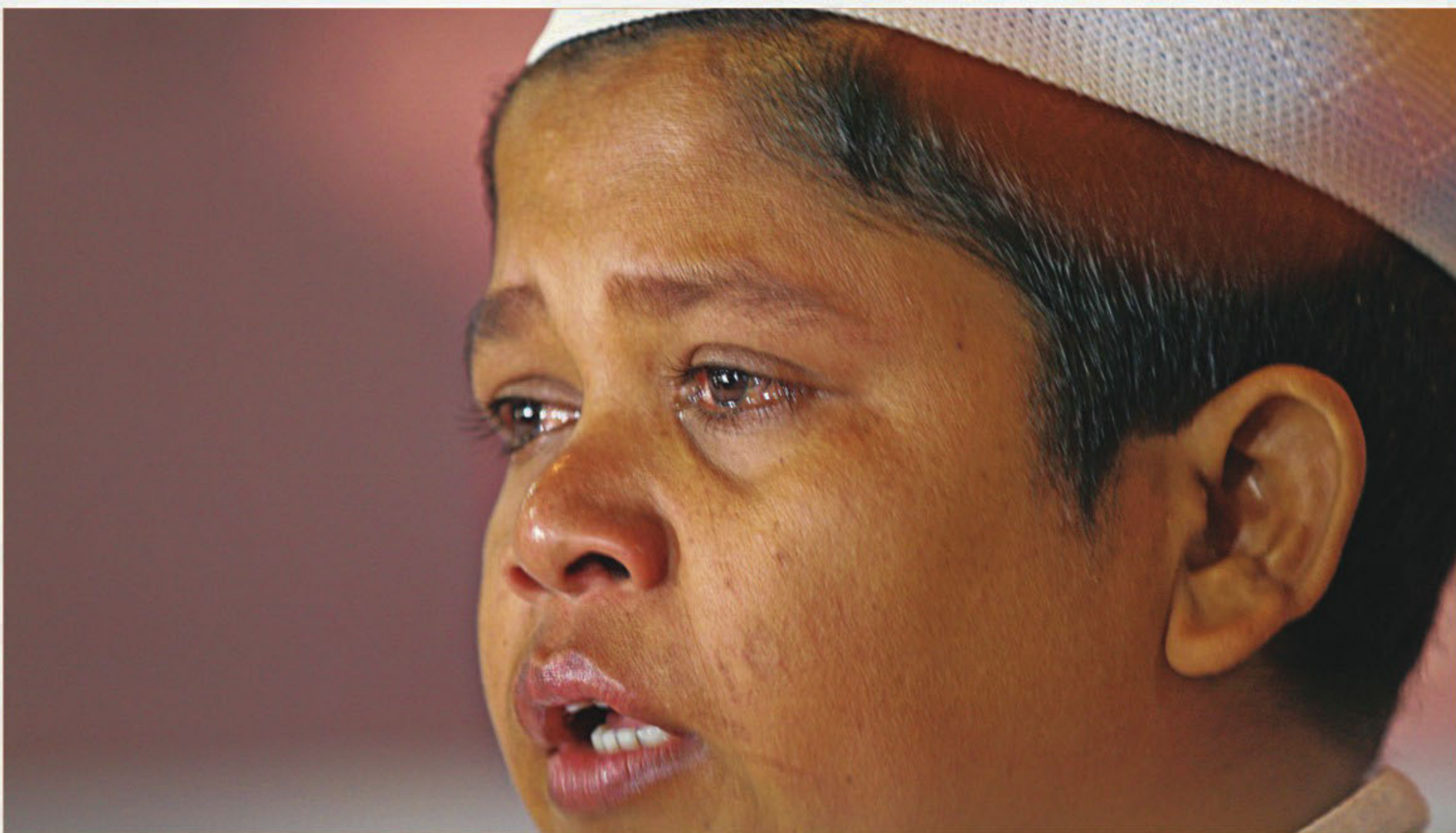
Shaon, a Jubo League leader, was allegedly detained by Rab-11 in Comilla on March 29 along with six other ruling party activists. He is still without trace, though the other six were handed over to Comilla Kotwali Police Station later that day and their pictures were published in a local daily the following day.

"The minister told me there were no cases against my son," said Matin, who is also an ex-military man, referring to a meeting with the state minister for home. "Then why was he detained by Rab?"

Some 24 speakers at the programme, organised by the rights platform Moulik Adhikar Surokkhya Committee, recounted how their closed ones were allegedly abducted and sometimes killed by law enforcers.

Most of the families complained of harassment and non-cooperation by police and Rab when they tried to trace the missing

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Tears welled up in Mehedi Hasan's eyes at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday. His elder brother Shahnoor Alam was reportedly picked up by Rab personnel in Comilla on April 29 and allegedly tortured to death a few days later.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**ABDUL ALIM**

Age: 83

Position in 1971:

Top Peace Committee leader in Joypurhat

Position after '71: Minister in Zia's cabinet, elected MP thrice

Total charges: 17, Guilty: 9 charges

Acquittal: 8 charges

Committed crimes: Genocide, murders, looting, arson, deportation

Verdict: Jailed until death on Oct 9, 2013

War crimes convict Alim dies in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convicted war criminal Abdul Alim died of cancer at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday.

The 83-year-old former BNP minister breathed his last at 1:15pm at the Intensive Care Unit of Cardio Vascular Surgery department of the hospital, said BSMMU Director (Hospital) Brig Gen (ret) Abdul Majid Bhuiyan.

Alim, who was sentenced to imprisonment until death for his 1971 war crimes, had been suffering from lung cancer since October last year.

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IMAM MURDER

3 suspects held

Half-day hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three suspects including a woman were detained in Narayanganj and Comilla yesterday over the murder of Sheikh Nurul Islam Faruqi, imam of Supreme Court Jame Masjid.

Police rounded up Mahmuda Khatun, 50, and Shariful Islam, 32, in Rupganj upazila, said Abdul Momin, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in the capital.

Mahmuda works at the tailor shop

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It will gag media

Worried editors react to broadcast policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the national broadcast policy, newspaper editors, senior journalists and some noted personalities yesterday said such a policy was not acceptable, as it would gag the media and curb the freedom of journalists.

The policy would hinder the progress of the media that have helped democracy thrive and the economy grow since the restoration of democracy in the country in 1991. The media played a responsible role without the need for a new policy, they said

at a discussion on challenges before the media.

The discussants criticised the provision that says every broadcast organisation must prepare "a charter of duties" and "an editorial policy" to be approved by the proposed independent commission.

The Editors' Council, a platform of editors of leading national dailies, organised the discussion at the Cirdap auditorium in the capital.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star,

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PHOTO ON PAGE 3



Two women cook in their front yard in ankle-deep water as the flooding and erosion by the Jamuna continue to devastate the Phulchhari upazila of Gaibandha. The photo was taken yesterday at Paglar Char.

PHOTO: STAR

Flood hits six more districts

STAR REPORT

Nearly one lakh more people have been affected by floods in 70 villages of Bogra as a breach in the flood-control embankment by the Jamuna river widened by another 100 metres yesterday.

With them, lives of more than 10 lakh people have been disrupted by the recent spell of floods in 17 districts of the country, according to the data of the Department of Disaster Management.

Meanwhile, two

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**Dutch-Bangla Bank**



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Daily Samakal	31 August and 1, 2 & 3 September, 2014

Website: www.dutchbanglabank.com/scholarship

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