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**CARE 16212**

# 7-MURDER ACCUSED NUR HOSSAIN Dhaka, Delhi ready for extradition

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Bangladesh is waiting for India to fix a date for handing over Nur Hossain, the main accused in the Narayanjan seven-murder case, as all formalities have been completed.

If Nur is handed over to Bangladesh, it would be the first instance in which a suspect is handed over to Bangladesh under the extradition treaty between the two countries.

The home ministry sent a letter to the Indian external affairs ministry through foreign ministry on March 1 seeking date and time of handing over of Nur Hossain, who was arrested by Kolkata police for intruding into India, sources in the home ministry said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mozammel Haque Khan, senior secretary to the home ministry, said the fixing of the date depended on India.

According to the home ministry letter, Nur might be



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PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Relatives of Suvash Shom, 56, cry after the trader of Chittagong died at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Twenty-five percent of his body was burnt after alleged pickets firebombed the bus he was travelling in at Tiger Pass of Chittagong on February 19.

# HEARING ON REVIEW PLEA TODAY Kamaruzzaman seeks time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemned war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking a four-week adjournment of hearing on his review petition against its verdict that upheld his death penalty.

The petition was submitted to the SC around 3:30pm on ground that Kamaruzzaman's principal counsel Khandker Mahub Hossain was "unable to conduct the hearing of the review petition due to unavoidable circumstances and personal difficulties", defence lawyer Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

The Appellate Division included both the review and adjournment petitions on its today's list for an order.

Upon hearing the adjournment petition, a full bench of the apex court might fix a date today for hearing the review

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# Hartal, blockade take 2 more lives

Man killed jumping off a bus amid bomb blasts; another petrol bomb victim dies

STAR REPORT

Panicked by a crude bomb attack on a bus, a man jumped to his death from the roof of the moving vehicle in Joypurhat yesterday.

Another victim of a petrol bomb attack died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, raising the death toll of the blockade violence to 84, which began on January 6.

In Chittagong, Detective Branch of Police in a drive held Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat city unit Ahsanullah Chowdhury early yesterday.

Ujjal, 30, son of Bhupen Chandra of

Chitrapara in Joypurhat town, was going to Bogra from Joypurhat on the roof of the bus, reports our correspondent in Dinajpur.

When the bus reached Karimpur on Joypurhat-Bogra highway, some six people on two motorbikes exploded two crude bombs aiming at the bus.

Ujjal jumped off the bus and received severe head injuries.

Locals rushed him to Joypurhat Modern Hospital where he died around 7.00pm yesterday, police said.

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# TORCHING LAND OFFICES What's the motive?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land offices, which store important land related documents, have become the target of arson during the ongoing indefinite blockade with vandals setting some of those on fire at night.

A number of arson attacks on land offices have been reported at district and upazila headquarters in last three weeks, prompting eminent citizens and rights activists to express their concerns over the incidents.

Even yesterday miscreants set fire to a union land office at Shologhar in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj, damaging its main doors and windows partially.

A platform under the banner "National Citizen

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# US envoy for free expression, dialogue

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat on Sunday said a democracy can only achieve its full potential with ample and safe space for free expression, opposition voices and political dialogue.

"Freedom of expression and dissent are critical contributors to a vital democratic process," she said this while addressing a function at the Liberation War Museum at Segunbagicha yesterday.

At the function, the US ambassador gifted the Liberation War Museum with an authenticated copy of the Blood Telegram with the seal of the United States National Archives.

Liberation War Museum Trustee Board members Sarwar Ali, Rabiul Hussain,

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# BLOGGER RAJIB MURDER Court to decide on charge framing on March 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on March 18 will decide whether it will frame charges against the eight accused in connection with the killing of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider in February 2013.

Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani, chief of emerging militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team, and seven students of North South University are among the accused.

After hearing arguments from both the defence and the prosecution yesterday, Judge Ruhul Amin of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka fixed the date for passing an order on the issue.

Advocate Mosharraf Hossain Kajol and four more lawyers placed their arguments for discharging their clients from the charges while the prosecution for framing charges against all the accused.

Almost a year after Rajib murder, detectives pressed charges against them on January 28 last year.

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# IT'S THERE, BUT THEY CAN'T USE IT

Students of Yusuf Ali High School in Balaybari of Jhalakathi having their classes outdoors as their old school building was declared abandoned two years ago. They have a new school building, top, which has been completed seven months ago but is yet to be handed over to the school authorities.

PHOTO: STAR

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government should take stern steps to stop the ongoing violence in the name of democratic protest?

Yes (56%)  
No (44%)

TOTAL VOTES: 454

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think it would be justified for the government to lower the marriageable age for girls under 18?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
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# Boko Haram pledges allegiance to ISIS

Niger, Chad troops open new front against militants

AFP, Lagos

Boko Haram has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, after repeated indications that it was seeking a formal tie-up and a series of Nigerian military successes against the rebels.

The Nigerian group's leader Abubakar Shekau made the announcement in an audio message on Saturday night, describing it as a religious duty and saying it would "enrage the enemy of Allah". The declaration raises the possibil-

ity that Western powers, which have so far stayed out of direct military operations in northeast Nigeria, might be pulled into the conflict, which has left more than 13,000 people dead since 2009 but largely been seen as a "local" or regional issue.

"Operating as an ISIS proxy could draw Western efforts against its operations, particularly from France, which already runs a multi-country anti-terrorist campaign in the west and central African region," said Ryan Cummings,

from risk consultants Red24.

Extremists from Libya to Pakistan have previously pledged support or allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi while the group itself last month expanded its reach into lawless Libya.

There have been growing indications that Boko Haram was looking to formally align itself with IS group, starting last year when Shekau declared the captured town of Gwoza, in Borno state, part of a caliphate.

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# Texting makes spelling better

MAIL ONLINE

It was condemned as a "digital virus" with many fearing standards of literacy would plummet.

But text speak has not been the disaster for language many feared and one leading linguist has claimed it actually improves people's writing and spelling.

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