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# Single war tribunal by next month

Merging decision comes as number of pending cases drops

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is likely to merge the two war crimes tribunals within August, as the number of pending cases has dropped after the disposal of 20 major cases.

"The two international crimes tribunals will be merged into one after their judges return to the country from a conference in Argentina," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star on July 16.

Merging the two tribunals is a matter of time, he said without elaborating.

In March this year, the law minister told this correspondent that there was no need to keep six High Court judges engaged in the tribunals for the remaining cases.

Anisul Huq had also said there was a huge backlog of cases pending with the HC and those would be heard and disposed of quickly if some of the tribunal judges return to the HC.

A tribal source said the six judges of the two tribunals are supposed to attend a two-week international conference in Argentina to share their experience of holding war crimes trial and come back before the end of August.

The issues regarding their going to Argentina would be finalised within this month, the source added.

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On their arrival at Kamalapur Railway Station, a passenger has to get past another hurdle -- a pool of water accumulated due to downpours. However, rickshaws are there to help them cross the water for Tk 10 each. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Man kills son, daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man allegedly hacked to death his three-year-old daughter and eight-year-old son following a quarrel with his wife over Eid shopping at Chakaria upazila early yesterday.

The children are Tanjila Moni and Jamal Hossain.

Probash Chandra Dhar, officer-in-charge of Chakaria Police Station, quoting locals, said the father, Mohammad Kashem Makkus, hails from Chantali village of Myanmar's Akiab district.

Kashem, 45, along with his wife, Saira Khatun, 38, and three children had been living at a rented house in Gainakata village for the last several years.

He is unemployed and could not buy any of their children any dress on this Eid. The couple had a fierce fight over the matter around 2:00am yesterday.

At one stage, Kashem brought a machete from the kitchen and tried to stab his elder son Sagor Hossain, 10,

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March 12, 1993. A bus passes the crater of Mumbai blast. PHOTO: AFP

## Key Mumbai plotter loses final appeal

AFP, New Delhi

India's top court yesterday rejected final appeal by Yakub Memon, a key plotter of bomb attacks that killed hundreds in Mumbai in 1993, paving the way for his execution.

Media reports said Yakub Memon would hang on July 30 -- more than two

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## It's all for dowry

Woman loses eyesight to husband's cruelty

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Victim of brutal domestic violence, Sukhi Akter may never be able to see again.

Her right eye was gouged out by her husband and she now cannot see anything with her left eye, which too was badly damaged in the incident, according to doctors.

"We have placed a shape conformer in the patient's right eye socket ... She sees nothing with her left eye," said Dr Golam Morshed after conducting a surgery on her at the National Institute for Ophthalmology (NIO) in the capital yesterday afternoon.

"Her left eyeball is bruised, which probably has affected her nerves, disrupting the communication between the eye and the brain," the doctor explained.

There's hardly any possibility for the 26-year-old housewife to get back her eyesight even if she is treated abroad, he added.

On Friday, Sukhi's husband Rabiu Hossain with the help of other family members plucked out one of her eyes and damaged the other for dowry at their house at Jinjira in Savar on the outskirts of the capital.



Sukhi Akter

Sukhi's brother Mohsin Khan said the right eye was being preserved at the hospital but it was of no use, according to doctors.

Visiting the NIO yesterday, this correspondent found the victim's farmer father Noor Mohammad begging doctors and others to help his daughter get back her eyesight.

Her mother Laila Begum wanted justice. "I want justice; eye for an eye."

Rabiul, the husband who was handed over to police by the neighbours following the incident, was in Dubai between 2012 and June this year.

When he first went there, he took Tk 3 lakh for Sukhi's family. Then he came home last year and again went there after a few weeks.

During his entire stay in Dubai, he never sent money for his wife, according to the victim's family.

After returning home this time, he started demanding Tk 1.5 lakh from Sukhi's parents as dowry and would often beat her up for failing to give him the money.

Aggrieved by such repeated torture, Sukhi in the first week of July left her husband and went to her parents.

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RAJON KILLING  
Dulal, Nur  
testify  
before court

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Moulvibazar

Dulal Ahmed and Nur Miah, two accused in the sensational Rajon killing case, gave confessional statements before a metropolitan magistrate's court in Sylhet yesterday.

Another accused Moyna Mia on Monday also confessed to torturing Samiul Alam Rajon, a vegetable vendor.

As many as five accused have so far given confessional statements. Names of two others, however, could not be known immediately.

At least six men tied 13-year-old Rajon to a metal pole and beat him to death in Kumargaon Bus Stand area of Sylhet on charge of "trying to steal a rickshaw" on July 8.

The incident was also videoed and uploaded on

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## Witch-hunt, even today!

60-year-old woman stripped, beheaded in Assam

THE WASHINGTON POST

Acting on the instructions of a self-appointed "goddess," a mob in the Indian state of Assam accused a woman in her 60s of witchcraft, dragged her from her home, stripped her and beheaded her.

As gruesome as the crime was, it was just one of thousands in India over the past decade and one of about a hundred in the past five years in Assam, a largely tribal state on India's northeast border.

Last July, a woman in Bihar, Saraswati Devi, was beaten to death by villagers after they forced her to consume human excrement, according to the Hindustan Times. In 2013, in the state of Jharkhand, 54 women accused of witchcraft were killed.

The woman killed Monday, according to India's NDTV, was an Adivasi, an ethnic group originally transported to Assam by the British to work on the region's tea plantations. The Adivasi people, who tend to be poor and uneducated, have been the targets of mob violence for years from various tribal groups in the country.

Police investigating the murder Monday in the

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TOP!

QUOTE

"All governments want to split the opposition parties. But no government succeeds."

AL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER  
SURANUJIT SENGUPTA  
AT A DISCUSSION IN THE CAPITAL

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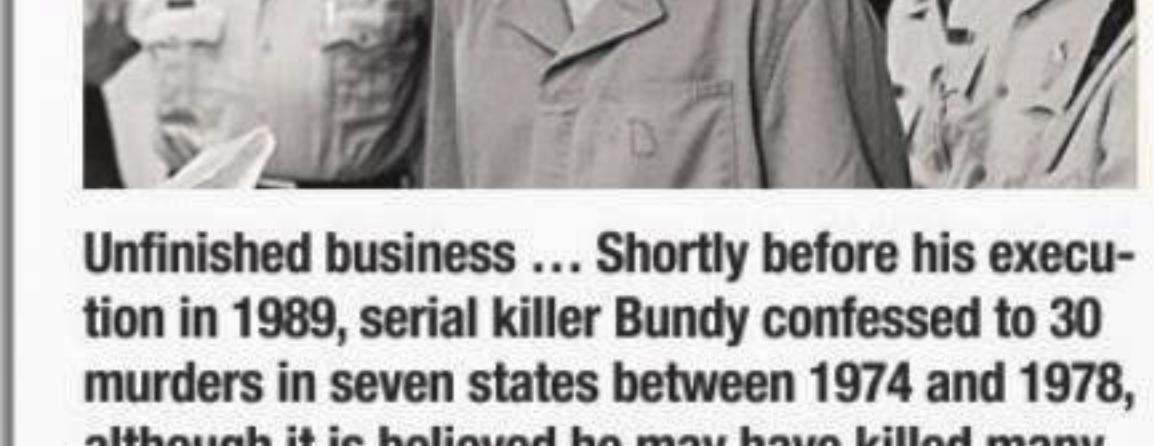
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Unfinished business ... Shortly before his execution in 1989, serial killer Bundy confessed to 30 murders in seven states between 1974 and 1978, although it is believed he may have killed many more.

PHOTO: MAIL ONE

Want to spot a serial killer?  
Criminologists reveal key traits

MAIL ONLINE

The first recorded serial killers date back to the Roman Empire when a group of matrons were said to have poisoned men using a deadly ring.

Today, thanks to modern technology, psychologists and criminologists have defined and identified what makes a person commit such cold-blooded murders again and again.

Working with Dr Elizabeth Yardley, Director of the Centre for Applied Criminology at Birmingham City University, Real Crime magazine has highlighted five key characteristics of serial killers.

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