

### Brahmanbaria war crime suspect held

Defence seeks acquittal of 'Razakars' Taher, Nani during argument  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that the prosecution has failed to prove all six charges brought against two alleged Razakars of Netrakona Obaidul Haque alias Taher and Ataur Rahman alias Nani.

Defence counsel Abdus Subhan Tarafder also prayed to the tribunal to acquit them of the charges pressed for atrocities committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested one Emdadul Haque, 78, over his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity in 1971 in Brahmanbaria.

Earlier, praying to the tribunal to issue an arrest warrant, prosecutor Rizia Sultana Chaman told the tribunal that the investigator has so far interrogated 25 and found two specific charges against the war crime suspect.

Chaman said witnesses are being threatened by the suspect.

According to the prosecution, Emdadul was chief of Peace Committee of Chunta Union during the war.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with member judges Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrwardi issued the warrant and fixed February 16 for next hearing.

Yesterday, during the argument, the defence said poor people registered their names in the Razakar Bahini for financial gain and his clients Taher and Nani are from well-off families so they did not need to enlist their names in the auxiliary force to the Pakistani occupation army.

Pointing out the killing  
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The Biswa Ijtema ground on the bank of Turag in Tongi, Gazipur yesterday. Muslims from across the country and the world started congregating there, *inset*, for three days of prayers and supplication. The Ijtema will be held this time in four phases, the first one beginning tomorrow. People from 17 of the 64 districts take part in the first phase.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## Biswa Ijtema starts tomorrow

HELEMUL ALAM and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

Thousands of Muslims have started congregating on the bank of the Turag River in Tongi, Gazipur for the three-day Biswa Ijtema that starts tomorrow.

For the first time, the Ijtema will be held in four phases.

People from 33 districts will take part in the first two phases this year while those from the remaining 32 districts will take part in two more phases next year.

But foreigners will be able to join every phase.

Tabligh Jamaat has been organising Biswa Ijtema, also called the World Muslims' Congregation, every year since 1946.

In 2011, the organisers split the congregation into two phases to deal with overcrowding, ensure better management, and give security.

Giasuddin, an organiser, said 17 districts would take part in the first phase and 16 others in the second phase, which is scheduled to start on January 15.

Addressing a press conference Tuesday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the people of the country did not harbour militancy.

He said the Ijtema would pass off nicely with police ready to ensure people's security.

Superintendent of Police of Gazipur Harun or Rashid said they did not sense any militant attack during the congregation.

He said 5,000 police personnel would guard the Ijtema ground. There will be 60 CCTV cameras, five watch towers, and plainclothes police, he added.

The SP said 20 mobile courts of the Deputy Commissioner's (DC's) office would be deployed.

Officials said 3 crore litres of water would be supplied to the ground every day through tube wells, and there would be 6,000 toilet units in concrete buildings.

The ground will have uninterrupted power supply, while fire officials will stand ready to deal with any accident, they said.

The Akheri Munajat will be held on January 6. Districts participating in the first phase are Dhaka, Sherpur, Narayanganj, Nilphamari, Sirajganj, Natore, Gaibandha, Laxmipur, Sylhet, Chittagong, Narail, Madaripur, Bhola, Magura, Patuakhali, Jhalkathi, and Panchagarh.

In second phase, people will come from Jhenidah, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Netrakona, Narsingdi, Comilla, Kurigram, Rajshahi, Feni, Thakurgaon, Sunamganj, Bogra, Khulna, Chuadanga, and Pirojpur.

## MONDAY'S CIRCULAR ON PAY SCALE University teachers see 'bureaucratic conspiracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association yesterday castigated Monday's finance ministry's statements over the eighth national pay scale and termed it as part of continuous conspiracy against the teachers.

"Evil efforts have been made to create smokescreen among the conscious quarters about teachers' dignity, nature of works, and service tenure, among others through the press release," said a statement of the association, signed by its president Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed and secretary general Prof ASM Maksud Kamal.




Referring to some ministers' allegation that their decision regard-

ing the new pay scale involving the university teachers was not reflected in the gazette, they said a "controversial" circular issued by an additional secretary of the finance ministry was sent to the education ministry bypassing the ministers' decision.

This clearly proves that some bureaucrats have been involved in the conspiracy, they said demanding punishment for those officials responsible for issuing the circular.

The FBUTA statement said there is no chance to enjoy privileges of grade-III for a professor after completing 15 years of service. It takes more than 25 years for a professor, if there is no PhD degree. Whereas, there are rules of getting grade-III for an official in the

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Standard Chartered

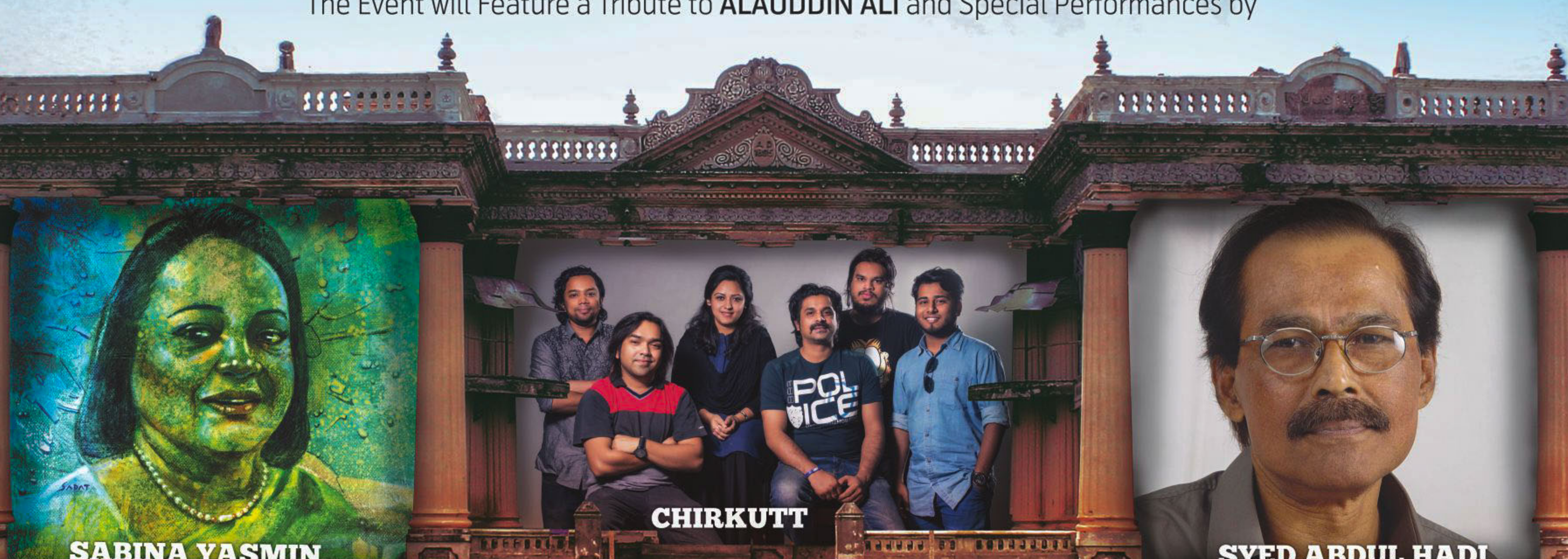
celebrating life

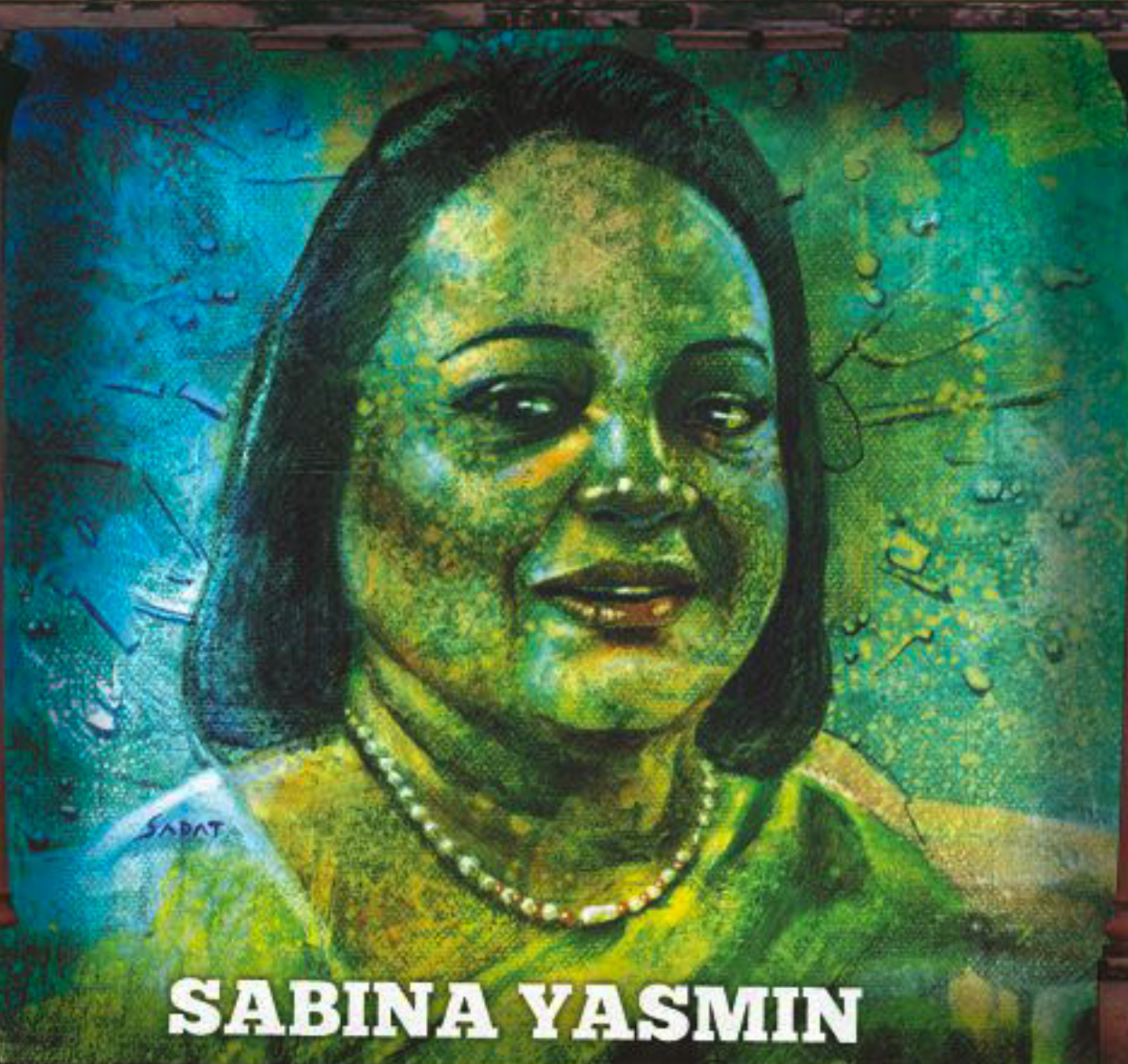
a film, photography & lyrics contest

— PRESENTS —


# GALA EVENT 2015

The Event will Feature a Tribute to ALAUDDIN ALI and Special Performances by

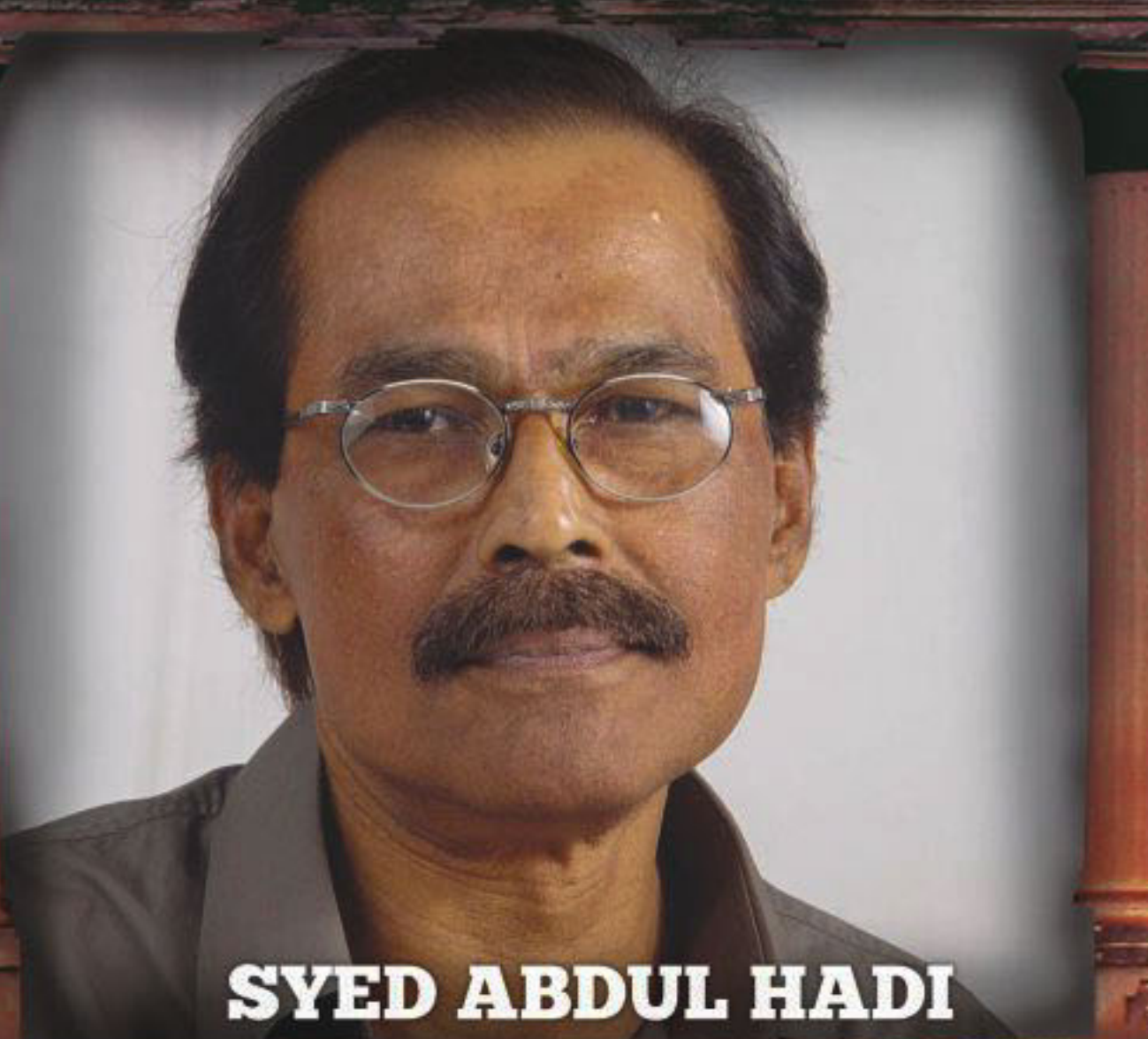




**SABINA YASMIN**



**CHIRKUTT**



**SYED ABDUL HADI**

Everyone is Excited to Attend the Gala

## ARE YOU?

CELEBRATING LIFE GALA EVENT 2015  
 DATE & TIME: JANUARY 10, 2016. SUNDAY, 5:00PM.  
 VENUE: BANGABANDHU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER (BICC), DHAKA  
 The program is open to all. Register at [www.imdhaka.com/celebratinglifebd](http://www.imdhaka.com/celebratinglifebd)  
 Bring the print of the registration to collect your entry passes from:  
 The Daily Star Centre: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

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