

Santal driver Alfred missing for four days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Santal man, Alfred Marandy, who disappeared while travelling to Kashiani in Gopalganj on February 25 to see his family, has still been missing.

Alfred, son of late Stephen Marandy, who originally hails from Dinajpur, is a driver of The Christian Co-operative Credit Union Limited, Dhaka (CCCUL).

The CCCUL yesterday filed a general diary with Tejgaon Police Station.

After his office on 25 February evening, Alfred started journey by bus towards Kashiani.

His wife Hanna Baroi informed the CCCUL that her husband last talked to her over mobile around 11:00pm on that day while he was at Mawa Ferry Ghat, according to a release.

The police station Officer-in-Charge Majharul Islam told The Daily Star that they were yet to find any clue.

The CCCUL has employed a few of its staff to search for Alfred at hospitals, police stations and other possible places in Mawa, Gopalganj and Dhaka.

One can contact at 01713011673 or 01713011673 to inform about his whereabouts.

Govt will hang notices at schools to stop corporal punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman yesterday said the government would take initiatives to hang circulars in front of the head teacher's offices at all 64,000 primary schools in the country, banning corporal punishment to discipline students.

"We will do this so that the teachers and guardians can see it every day," he told reporters after a meeting at Bangladesh secretariat in the capital.

The minister said the teachers would have to undertake to comply with the code of conduct when



Mangoes are beginning to sprout as spring is already here. But the recent hailstorm damaged the fruits in some areas. The photo was taken at AGB Colony in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Women's unpaid work must be recognised

Prothom Alo, MJF, Mattra roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's participation in the labour force can be increased if men realise the importance of household work and equally share the burden, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

Quoting the National Labour Force Survey 2013, Towfiqul Islam Khan, research fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said, "The total number of employed males is 41.2 million and employed females is 16.8 million. So 24.4 million women are out of the labour force."

He explained that since the male to female ratio was almost 50:50, their shares in the workforce should ideally be equal.

While 36 percent of females eligible to work were in the

labourforce in 2010, the rate dropped to 33.5 percent in 2013 as per the survey, he said, expressing concern at the roundtable on "Valuation and recognition of unpaid work of women".

The discussion was organised by the daily Prothom Alo, in association with rights organisation Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and advertising firm Mattra, at the newspaper's office in the capital.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said since unpaid housework was not valued, it had no recognition and as it was not recognised women were not respected, which led to discriminations and violence against women.

"If unpaid work of women is included in the Gross Domestic

Product (GDP), its size will increase and also the contribution of women to GDP will be recognised," she said.

In 2014, MJF launched a campaign "Equality through Dignity" with its partner organisa-

"The estimated value of women's unpaid work was equivalent to 72.8 percent of the GDP in fiscal year 2013-14."

SOURCE: CPD ReSEARCH

tions and Mattra to make people aware of recognition of women's unpaid housework.

A CPD study conducted in 2014 in collaboration with MJF found that the estimated value of women's unpaid work was equivalent to 72.8 percent of the GDP in fiscal year

2013-14.

AB Mirza Azizul Islam, a former caretaker government adviser, said, "It is easy to change policies, but implementing those is difficult."

He said people's mentality about women should change.

Shamsul Alam, member of Planning Commission, said mentality would not change without a change in the economy.

He said men would automatically participate in housework, once kitchen technologies such as rice-cookers and coffee-makers became widely available.

Rights activist and chairperson of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) highlighted the importance of providing childcare to bring more women in the workforce.

NEWS IN brief

DB police impersonator arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police arrested four DB person impersonators in Aminbazar area of Savar, outside the capital, on Saturday night.

The arrestees are Aminur Rahman, 35, Al-Amin, 30, Sentu Miah, 35, and Khobir Uddin, 32.

Police also seized a car and some fake identity cards from their possessions.

On information, a team of police raided the area and arrested the criminals when they were demanding bribe from businessmen identifying themselves as DB police, said Sub-Inspector of Savar Model Police Station Momenur Rahman.

Detectives claim seizure of 2 bombs, bomb-making materials in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday claimed that they seized two bombs and huge amount of bomb making materials from a "militant den" at Dakkhin Khan in the capital.

None was arrested in this connection.

Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said a team of detectives carried out a drive on the third floor of a building at Sorderpara and made the seizure.

Concert on Liberation War at Army Stadium on March 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) will hold "Joy Bangla Concert" on March 7 to rekindle the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War in light of the historic speech of March 7 by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Apart from presenting the historic speech in a giant screen, seven leading bands will render patriotic songs at the six-hour concert, which will start at 4:00pm at the capital's Army Stadium, said a press release.

Interested persons are requested to register at <http://ticket.youngbangla.org> to get free tickets, Tonmoy Ahmed, assistant coordinator of the CRI, told The Daily Star.

10 sent to jail for selling porn video clips in Savar

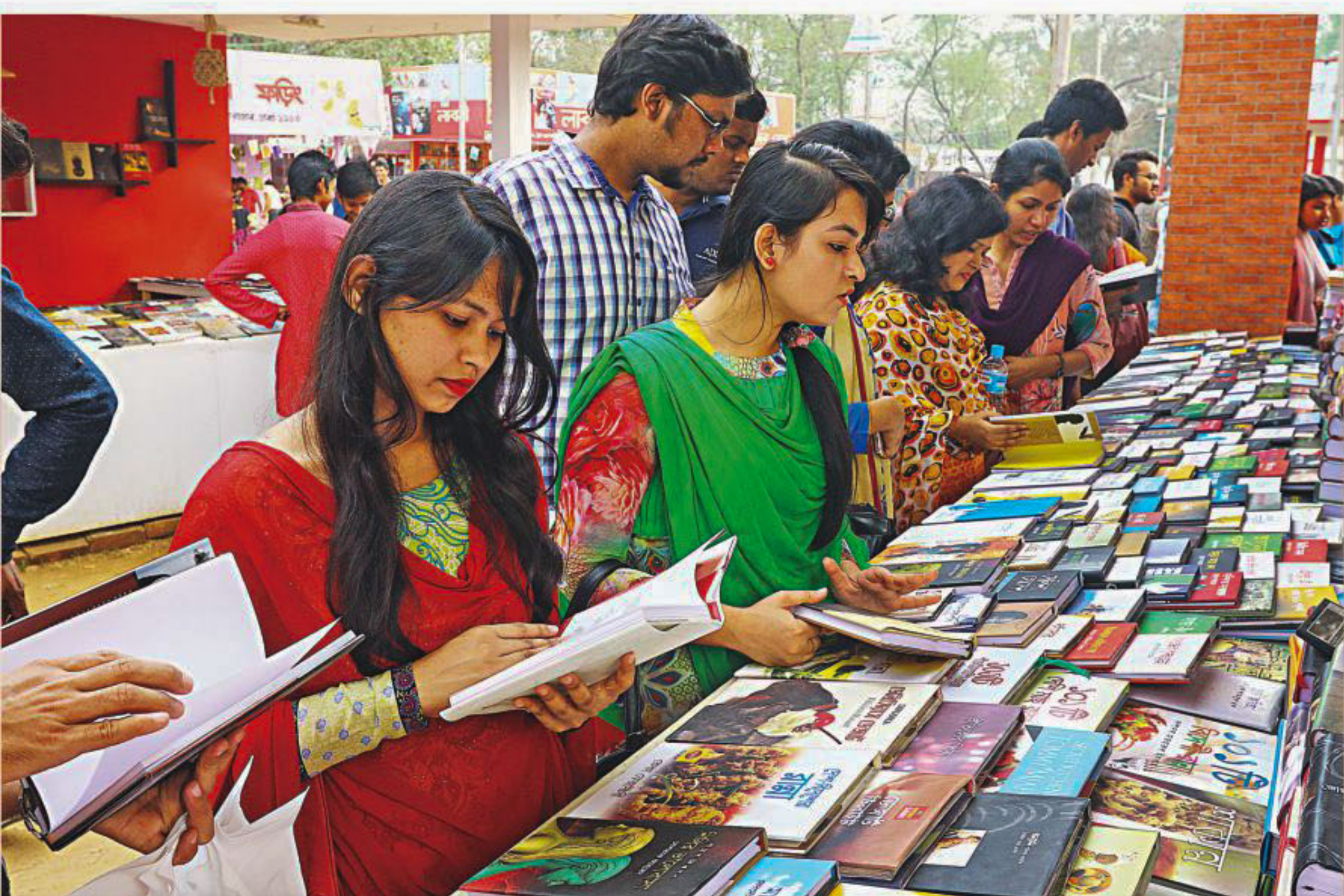
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A mobile court of Rab yesterday sentenced 10 people of mobile servicing shops, in Razzak Plaza of Savar, to one month's imprisonment for selling video clips of pornography.

The accused -- including Joy Roy, Shakhawat Hosen, Mominul Islam, Hasan Miah, Babor Ali, Al-Amin and Mirajul Kabir -- were sent to jail.

Ten computers and other accessories, used for pornography, were also seized, said Sub-Inspector of Rab-4 Suprovat.

Elite force of Rab ran the drive on the second floor of the building and found pornography clips -- kept for selling -- in 10 shops. Later, an executive magistrate sentenced them, he added.



Bookworms crowd and look at books at a kiosk of Amar Ekushey Granthamela in the capital yesterday, as the fair is scheduled to close today.

PHOTO: STAR

Book lovers get an hour more on last day of fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Amar Ekushey Granthamela, which had been a rendezvous for writers and book lovers over the last one month, closes today with the awarding of best publishers in a host of categories.

On the last day today, Bangla Academy extended the duration of the fair by one hour. The fair will start at 1:00pm and continue till 8:00pm.

"It seems the fair began only yesterday," said Sazzadur Rahman, a Dhaka University student and regular visitor.

In the last 28 days, 3,304 books were published. Last year, the number was 3,700, according to the Information Centre of Bangla Academy. Ninety-two new books hit

the fair yesterday.

Statistics shows, of the 3,304 books, the highest 909 books were on poetry, 518 were novels and 486 were on short stories.

Four poetry books of Shahida Sultana, an official of Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia, have been published this year. The books are "Berajal", "Mirittu Ke Biroho Bhebe Bhul Hoy", "Kolaboti Phool", and "Bosonter Dhrupodi Ahaban".

Her poems tell of struggle, challenges, dreams and frustration.

Young poet and writer Malek Mustakim has written two books -- "Deyalmukhi" and "Bishonnotabirodhi



Chumbonguli".

The novel Deyalmukhi is based on a lonesome youth's struggle, while "Bishonnotabirodhi Chumbonguli" tells a story of love, separation and depression.

The closing ceremony will be held at 6:00pm.

French researcher and translator France Bhattacharya and Bengali expatriate writer Manzu Islam will be g i v e n

ABM Musa kept door open for everyone

FROM PAGE 4 and observed that his works should be preserved.

They said Musa had always kept his door open for everyone, and none had ever returned empty handed from him.

They made these remarks at a discussion organised by ABM Musa-Setara Musa Foundation at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, marking the 85th birth anniversary of Musa.

Born on February 28, 1931 at Dharmapur village in Feni, he contributed to different fields of journalism throughout his 64-year career and was a founder member of the Jatiya Press Club.

He started off as a journalist with the

Insaf in 1950 before moving to the Pakistan Observer the same year.

Speakers said Musa never discriminated between the ages. "He drew everyone to himself with love and affection" said sports journalist Masud Hossain Khan Dulal.

Professor of Dhaka University Sheikh Abdus Salam said Musa never denied the necessity of change, but rather embraced it.

Among others, Professor Sakhawat Ali Khan of mass communication and journalism at Dhaka University, Journalist Kamal Lohani, Prime Minister's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, and Journalist Farida Yesmin also spoke at the programme. Musa died in 2014.

HC upholds

FROM PAGE 3 government and the ACC to explain as to why the sections of the law should not be declared illegal and stayed the case proceedings against them.

Yesterday, the HC vacated its stay order and asked the lower court concerned to finish the trial proceedings of the case against the petitioners in eight months, he added.

DoE drive

FROM PAGE 3 requested to help them in this regard.

Presiding over the programme, Director of DoE (Dhaka metropolitan) Dr Anwar Hossain Hawlader said they would take initiatives to shut down the factories producing poly bags.

According to the DoE sources, they seized 135 tonnes of banned poly-thene bags and fined their producers a total of Tk 1.72

Report in 3 days if summons reached

FROM PAGE 3 court, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

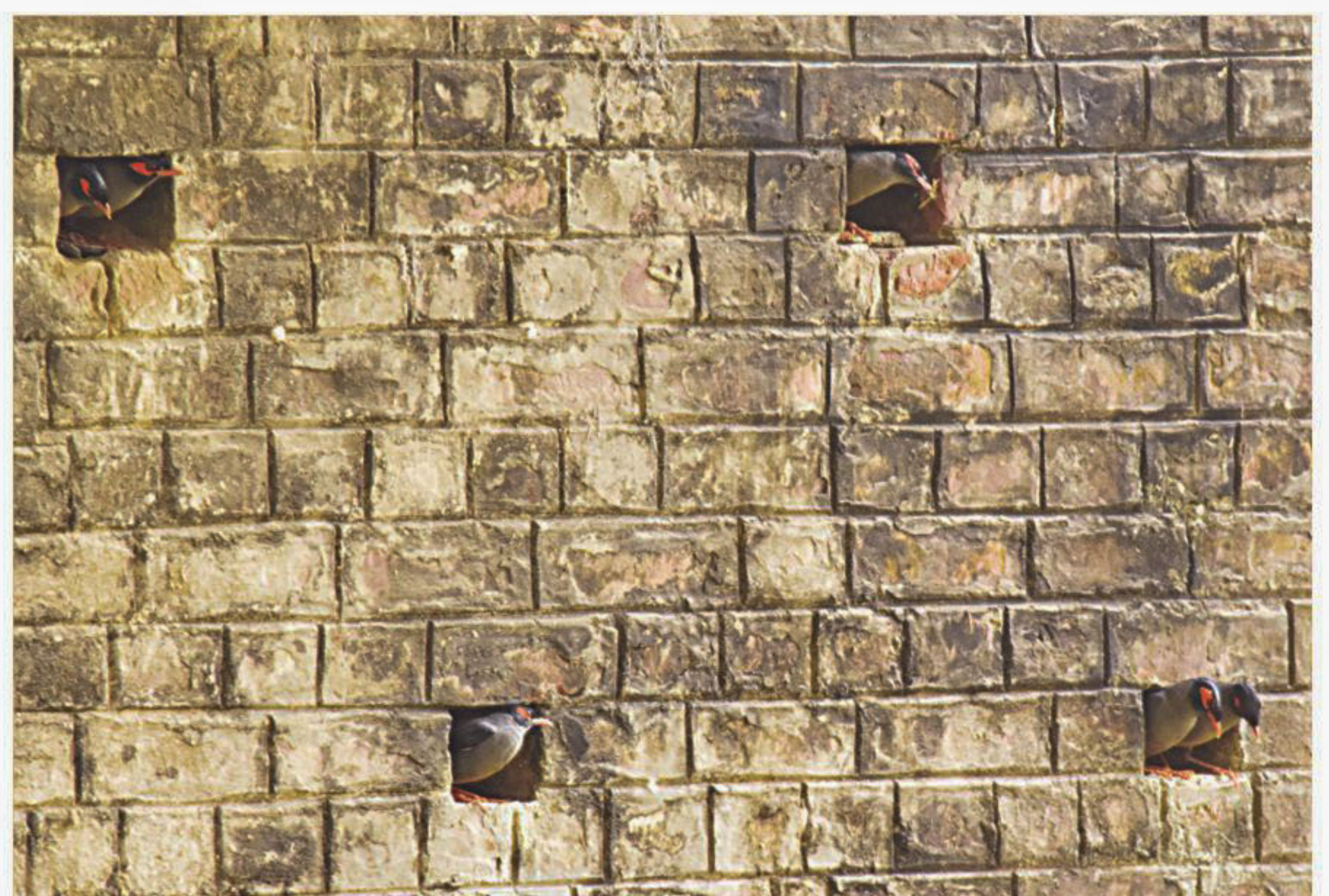
The HC on January 12 this year directed its registrar to issue a notice asking Tarique, now in London, to surrender before the trial court by February 14 in the case as per its January 19, 2014 order.

The ACC then prayed to the HC to fix a date for hearing its appeal against

Tarique's acquittal.

The money laundering case is one of the 16 cases, including the August 21 grenade attack cases, filed against Tarique. He was arrested on March 7 in 2007 during a crackdown by a military-backed caretaker government.

After securing parole, Tarique went to London in September 2008 for treatment and has been living there ever since.



Desperately seeking a safe refuge in the threatened biodiversity, some common mynahs known as shaliks use the holes of a wall under a bridge as nests at Kottia, Manikganj. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU