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**MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER**



# Open campaign to kill professor

*Culprits propagate in social media over his position on veil*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University professor is living his life under a 24-hour police protection, after a Facebook page administered supposedly by militants openly called for his death for asking a female student to remove her veil during a class.

Police in uniform now guard his campus residence while plainclothes cops follow his movement when he comes out of his residence, said the professor.

"Four police personnel are guarding my house since May 2," the teacher told The Daily Star.

Since the threat, he restricted his movement. Now he goes out of his house only to teach at his department. "I am avoiding all other programmes in and outside the campus as my family members are very worried about my security."

On April 29, he filed a general diary with the Shahbagh Police Station regarding the death threat and sought police protection.

The Daily Star is not naming the professor and his department for security reasons.

The call for his murder comes amid the spate of targeted attacks that saw secular bloggers, writers and people of different faiths and ideologies killed over the last few years.

Contacted, DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said he spoke with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner about the matter and requested him to ensure security of the professor.

"I told him [DMP commissioner] that the persons behind running the Facebook page and calling for his death should be arrested. We have taken the matter seriously."

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A Dhaka University professor shows the AP news agency the threat on his life he received on Facebook for asking a girl in his class, who had her face covered, to unveil her face so that he could identify her.

PHOTO: AP

# 'It's an attempt to meddle in internal affairs'

*War crimes prosecutors, activists on Pakistan's reaction to Nizami verdict*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes trial campaigners and prosecutors in Bangladesh reacted sharply to a statement from Islamabad on Thursday's Supreme Court dismissal of condemned war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami's review petition.

Pakistan once again attempted to intervene in Bangladesh's internal affairs and showed utmost audacity by issuing such a statement, they said.

They also urged the government to lodge a strong protest.

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed Nizami's petition for reviewing its verdict that upheld his death penalty awarded by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in 2014.

The Al-Badr leader has now only one option left, seeking presidential clemency by confessing to the crimes he had committed during the nine-month war.

On Friday, Pakistan foreign ministry issued a statement, reported The Dawn of Pakistan.

The statement said, "We have noted with SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



# Tagore's birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is 25th Baishakh. This is the day when Bangalees all over the world celebrate the birth anniversary of Kobi Guru Rabindranath Tagore, the polymath who etched a place of honour and recognition on the literary stage of the world.

Born in 1861 in West Bengal's Kolkata, Tagore's work reshaped the Bangla literature and music in such a way that academic pursuits on these fields remain incomplete without studying his work.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# HC judgment soon on executive magistracy

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court is likely to deliver a final decision on the legality of empowering administrative officials to perform judicial functions this month, as it is about to finish hearing arguments on the seven-year-old relevant writ petition.

In response to the petition, the HC on November 15, 2009, issued a rule asking the government to explain as to why the amended rules of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) giving judicial powers to executive magistrates should not be declared illegal.

Counsels for the petitioner and the state, and two amici curiae (friends of the court) -- Dr Kamal Hossain and Ajmalul Hossain -- had already placed their arguments before the HC on the petition in April last year.

Other two amici curiae -- M Amir-Ul Islam and Rakanuddin Mahmud -- may place arguments before the same court any day, petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal is expected to deliver a judgment on the petition after concluding hearing arguments this month.

Jurisdiction of this bench has to be restored through the chief justice for concluding the hearing and delivering the judgement on this case, as its powers have been changed, Manzill said.

He said Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has the authority to restore the jurisdiction of the bench for disposal of the petition.

Both Dr Kamal Hossain and Ajmalul Hossain had told the HC that performing judicial functions by the executive magistrates was not lawful, he added.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu opposed the writ petition, saying the executive magistrates have been given the powers to take cognisance of some offences for the time being to protect peace in the areas concerned.

Three HC benches had been scheduled to hold final hearing of the petition for its disposal at different times earlier, but they could not do that due to reconstitutions of their jurisdictions.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# 'REVEALING STATE SECRETS' Turkey jails 2 journalists

AFP, Istanbul

An Istanbul court on Friday jailed two opposition journalists on charges of revealing state secrets, in a trial that has become a lightning rod for concerns about the erosion of press freedom in Turkey.

Can Dundar, editor-in-chief of leading opposition daily Cumhuriyet, was sentenced to five years and 10 months at the closed-door trial, while his Ankara bureau chief Erdem Gul was handed five years in prison, television stations said.

The sentencing came hours after Dundar escaped an apparent attempt on his life by a gunman outside the courthouse.

The two men were acquitted of espionage but were found guilty of revealing state secrets over a story accusing the government of seeking to illicitly deliver arms bound for Syria.

They will not immediately be placed in detention as the court of appeal has yet to rule on the case.

"We will continue to do our job as journalists, despite all these attempts to silence us," Dundar told reporters after the verdict. "We have to preserve courage in our country."

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# 35 tons of dead fish appear in a Chinese lake



CNN

At least 35 tons of dead fish appeared in a lake in southern China, leaving residents stunned.

The piles of fish washed up in a lake in Hainan province on Wednesday, Chinese state media reported.

Residents expressed concerns on pollution, but local authorities said the fish died as a result of salinity change.

The change in salinity levels likely occurred after a tide pushed the fish up farther into Hongcheng Lake in the city of Haikou, state-run People's Daily reported.

Regional environment officials are still investigating.

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# TOP! QUOTE

"I think you [IGP] should admit your failure that you could not protect people -- targeted or non-targeted."

PROF AJAY ROY, FATHER OF SLAIN BLOGGER AND WRITER AVIJIT ROY, AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL YESTERDAY.

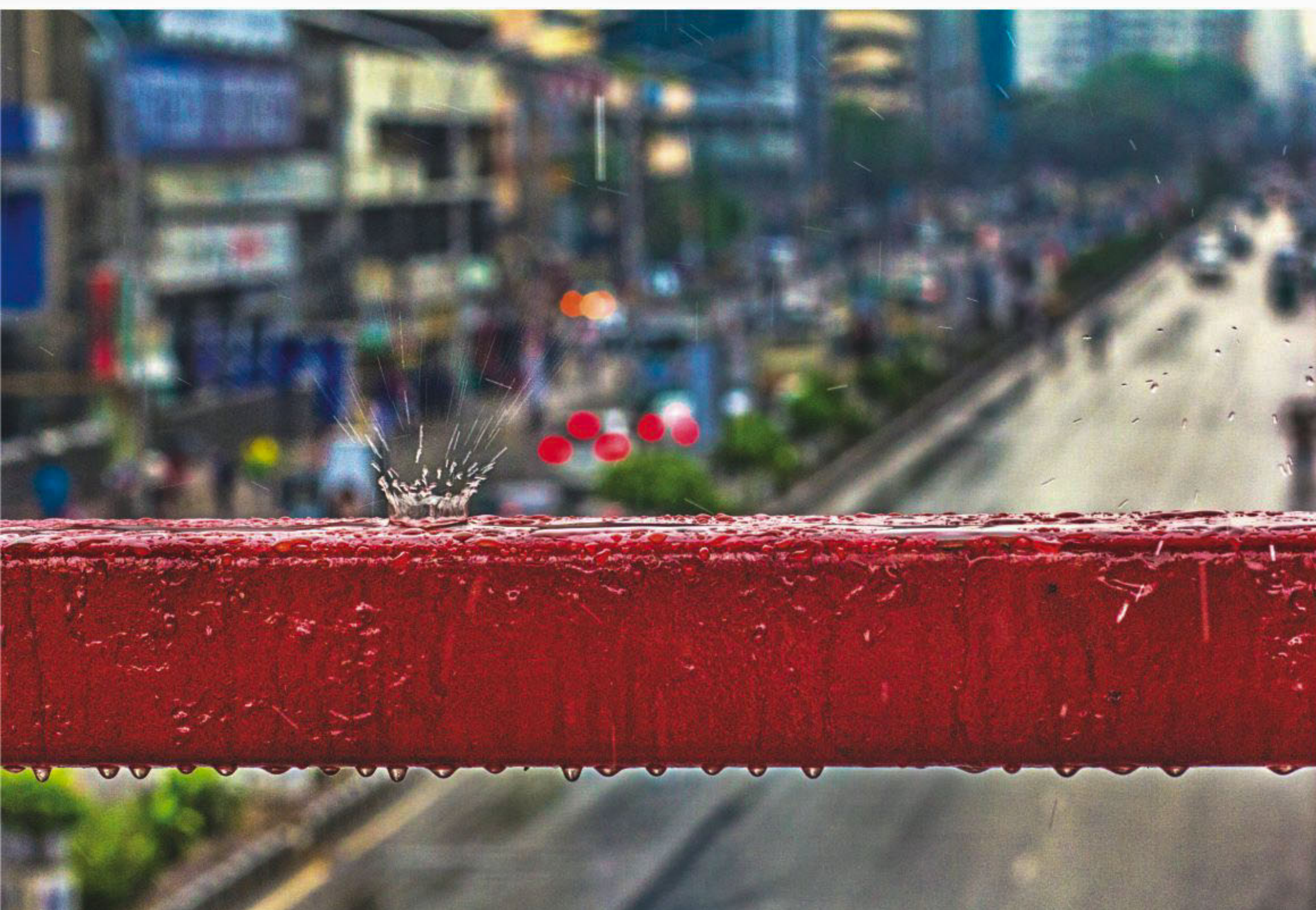


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PRAYER TIMING MAY 8

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-20	12-45	4-45	6-29	8-00
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-00	6-34	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A few drops of rain in the capital relieve Dhaka city dwellers from the summer heat yesterday. Overcast skies and intermitted drizzles were a welcome change after weeks of heat wave that left many panting and opting to stay indoors. The photo was taken from a footbridge near Farmgate.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Shab-e-Barat on May 22

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and forgiveness, will be observed in the country on May 22 as the Shaban moon was not sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

The National Moon Sighting Committee made the decision at a meeting at the Islamic Foundation office at Baitul Mukarram in the evening, said a hand-out.

Joint Secretary M Amzad Ali of the religious affairs ministry chaired the meeting.

According to Muslim belief, Shab-e-Barat is the night when Allah arranges the affairs of the following year. On Shab-e-Barat, Allah writes the destinies of all the creations for the coming year by taking into account their past deeds.

Muslim devotees will offer special prayers, recite from the holy Quran, hold milad, zikr and perform other religious rituals throughout the night, seeking divine blessings for the wellbeing of mankind.

# BIN LADEN KILLING

# ISI 'poisoned' CIA ex-official in Islamabad

TNN, Washington

The US made secret preparations to evacuate its diplomats stationed in Pakistan to India on the night of the raid in May 2011 on the Abbottabad compound where Osama bin Laden was hiding, unnamed US officials have disclosed, while also suggesting that the then CIA station chief in Islamabad was poisoned by ISI in retaliation for the humiliating commando assault that killed the al-Qaeda chief.

The startling revelation, reported first in the Washington Post, centers on the months around the Abbottabad raid, Pakistanis twice breached protocol by outing the serving

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