

# WAR CRIMES TRIAL

## Seven charges pressed against six Netrakona suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With seven charges being pressed on Sunday against six Netrakona men over crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War, International Crimes Tribunal-1 fixed June 12 to decide whether to take those into cognisance. Evidence was found against seven men from Purbadhala upazila who were "involved" with Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, and in abductions, torture, lootings, arsons, rape and murders, as per the tribunal's investigation agency on March 16. Ahmad Ali, 78, died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital on October 28, 2015 while investigations were ongoing, prosecutor Sabina Yasmin Munni told The Daily Star. Of the rest, Abdur Rahman, 70, is in jail while Sheikh Abdul Majid alias Majid Maulana, 66, Abdul Khaleque Talukder, 67, Kabir Khan, 70, Salam Begh, 68, and Nuruddin alias Raddin, 70, are on the run. The charges include the killing of three Hindu men including prominent physician Hem Bagchi in Purbadhala Rajpara and looting of their houses in May; and abduction and torture of Abdul Goni of Barha village on July 25. It also involves the abduction and killing of Abdul Khaleque Talukder of Barha village and looting and torching of his house on August 21; and abduction and killing of Mahir Uddin of Barha village on August 27. The rest are over the abduction of four people from Purbadhala upazila and killing of two of them between November 12 and 16; abduction and killing of Siraj Ali Mandal of Moudam village on November 20; and rape of a woman on November 25.



A worried student of medical technology and pharmacy hurriedly carries one of his fellows to a rickshaw as she became so sick that she had to be taken to a hospital during the 14th consecutive day of their ongoing hunger strike in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Around 81 students became severely sick in the last five days and were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but no ambulance has been kept stand by. The students have been continuing the hunger strike to press home their 10-point demand including new posts, and establishment of a diploma education board.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Shab-e-Barat road trip turns fatal for three teenagers

## Other road crashes kill three more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like previous years, Raju and 14 other teenage boys from the capital's Shanir Akhra area decided to go on a short trip on Shab-e-Barat on Sunday and they selected Padma Bridge construction site at Mawa for it. After offering the Esha prayers they started their journey around 1:00am on a pickup-van. But their short trip turned fatal while they were returning from the site around 3:45am. A goods-laden lorry coming from opposite direction collided head-on with their vehicle leaving 13 of them injured. Three of them -- Shuvo, 16, Rahat, 13 and Rafiq, 13, -- were declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Raju lost his right forearm. Another critically injured Manir Hossain, 15, is undergoing treatment at the hospital while the rest were given primary treatment at different hospitals. Meanwhile in Chittagong, Mobarak Khan, 20, of Patiya upazila was killed when a pickup-van hit him as the driver lost control over the vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Kadamrasul area of Sitakunda upazila yesterday. In Mirsarai upazila of the district, trucker Md Milan, 35, of Natore was killed as his vehicle turned turtle after hitting a tree beside Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Baratajia area yesterday. In Jhenidah, Mohsin Ali Mollah, 56, of Basantapur village was killed when a bus ran him over while he was crossing the Jhenidah-Kushtia highway at Madandanga Bazar in Shailakaupa upazila on Sunday morning.

# Diplomatic zone under stronger surveillance

## CCTV cameras to alert police to any anomaly

RAFIUL ISLAM

Law enforcers will now be immediately alerted to any suspicious gathering or movement of individuals and any unusual incident in the capital's diplomatic zone under a new surveillance system. Monitors of customised closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras will blink whenever such an incident takes place. The system, jointly initiated by the local residents and police, ensures foolproof security in major portions of Gulshan, Baridhara, Niketon, Banani and surrounding areas. Around 700 cameras of 3-16 mega pixels have already been set up as part of a massive plan to bring the whole Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) under this security system, said police and community leaders said. "The whole diplomatic area is now under the foolproof surveillance system," said Rafiqul Islam, assistant commissioner (AC) of Gulshan Zone, who is coordinating the task from Dhaka Metropolitan Police. "Soon 500 more high-powered cameras will be installed," he said, adding they had already spent around Tk 15 crore provided by locals and private organisations. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the modern video management surveillance system at Gulshan-2 tomorrow. In case of any accident, the cameras will capture images with special focus and will also alert police through customised signals if there is any mass gathering or presence of any suspicious individual in specified areas like banks or shopping malls, said a DMP official linked with the installation of the technology. A good number of cameras were set up on some important roads including Abdullahpur to Sonargaon crossing, Rampura Bridge and Hatirjheel and in areas like Tejgaon truck stand, Karwan Bazar, Mohakhali and Gabtoli bus terminal, police said. The project was initiated by Law and Order Coordination Committee (LOCC), a platform of locals and police, and Gulshan police in 2014. The project, assisted by DNCC and local community organisations, gained pace after Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella was shot dead at Gulshan 2 in September last year. Police claimed to have identified his killers using footage of one of the 130 CCTV cameras, installed in Gulshan area in 2015 as part of the project. Sources in DMP said the system's server was connected by optical fibres, and it had the capacity to centrally store footage of around two months. Moreover, each camera has individual storage capacity and can preserve footage for two days, they said. "The cameras have the capacity of

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# Nurjahan Begum gone but not forgotten

## Condolences, tributes pour in from all corners

STAR REPORT

She may have passed away but her contributions to society and women empowerment will persist for generations and she will live forever in our heart. Nurjahan Begum, the editor and publisher of weekly magazine Begum, breathed her last at the age of 91 at the capital's Square Hospitals yesterday morning. President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, ministers, political leaders and different socio-political and cultural organisations yesterday expressed condolence over her death. The Body of the Begum editor was kept on Central Shaheed Minar premises around 4:00pm where people from different classes and professions thronged to pay respects to the renowned personality. In a condolence message, the premier recalled with profound respect the contribution of Nurjahan Begum to the women renaissance in the subcontinent, reports BSS. "The nation has lost a great woman," she said. President Abdul Hamid prayed for eternal peace of her departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members, reports BSS. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in her message said Nurjahan Begum was a torch-bearer for the country's women and inspired countless women through the magazine. Finance Minister AMA Muhith, LGRD Minister Khandaker Mosharraf, BNP's Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, also mourned her death. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said Nurjahan Begum was a pioneer of women in journalism. "She not only inspired women but also worked for their development," he said. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor said she had worked relentlessly to create a breathing space for women in the patriarchal society. Women's activist Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said Nurjahan worked for women's emancipation against religious fanaticism, superstition and backwardness. Rights activists Sultana Kamal termed Nurjahan Begum's death as the end of an era.

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Eminent Nazrul singers along with Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq perform a song at a human chain formed in front of a mural of the rebel poet near Saarc Fountain on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday demanding erecting memorials at places associated with Nazrul's memories and renovating and maintaining ones already present.

PHOTO: STAR

# Another Chinese national held over ATM scam

## Put on one-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Sunday arrested another Chinese national at his rented apartment in the capital's Uttara on suspicion of his involvement in an ATM card scam. The arrestee is Chen Xu, 42. "He might have been involved in the ATM card forgery, for which another Chinese man was arrested on Wednesday," said Mahbubur Rahman, said sub-inspector of New Marker Police Station. A metropolitan magistrate placed him on a one-day remand after police produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer. On Wednesday, a Chinese national, Zou Jianhui, 38, was arrested at an ATM booth on suspicion of swindling money through counterfeit cards. The law enforcers suspected that he was involved in an international syndicate of

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# Nazrul singers dismayed over sorry state of his memorial murals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent Nazrul singers yesterday expressed disappointment over the poor maintenance of two murals of the rebel poet in the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. At a human chain in front of one near Saarc Fountain, the artists demanded their proper maintenance and beautification and installation of new ones at key points containing verses from his poems and songs. Nazrul exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick pointed out the flyers and posters pasted on the pillars flanking the memorial and illegible texts inscribed below. The Daily Star ran a photo of the memorial on May 14 and drew Dhaka North City Corporation

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# Four pvt medical colleges told to comply with rules

BSS, Dhaka

The health and family welfare ministry on Sunday gave an ultimatum to four private medical colleges, asking them to submit necessary information, including land registration, in the next 15 days, or face legal actions. The medical colleges--Bangladesh Medical College, Popular Medical College, Uttara Adhunik Medical College and Uttara Women Medical College--are situated in different areas of the capital. The health ministry served notices to the colleges concerned following a decision taken at a meeting on the private medical college policy, held at the ministry on Sunday with Health Minister Mohammad Nasim in the chair. At the meeting, the medical colleges were also warned that their academic activities would be suspended if they fail to

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