

# 44 on waitlists fight last battle



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

And thus the curtains fell on the audition rounds of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2017. After having scoured every district for a potential Super Chef, the 44 placed on waiting lists from all across the country came together for one last battle in the kitchen at the capital's Bangladesh Shooting Complex Federation yesterday.

Originally, there were 47 on the waiting list but three could not make it to the competition.

The cooking started early in the morning, each participant attempting to prepare their best possible dishes. They had a wide variety of items to choose from, but the judges were not only looking for the taste of the dishes but also the execution, presentation and innovation.

Of the 44 participants, 11 were handed in aprons, signaling their qualifications to the next televised rounds of one of the biggest culinary competitions in the country.

They are: Rasheda Akter, Nur Nahar, Farha Bari, Ferdous Ara Turin, Maymuna Akter, Ayesha Ershadi, Yasmin Sultana, Sumona Sharmin Akhter, Asma Rupa, Munim Hossain and Wajifa Yasmin.

They will compete with the rest of the participants who were directly given aprons during the regional rounds.



Contestants, who made the waiting list of culinary contest Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef-2017, at a final cook-off in the capital's Bangladesh Shooting Complex Federation yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Five Moulvibazar men charged with war crimes

Decision against 6 Netrakona men Jan 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed five charges against five Moulvibazar men for allegedly committing genocide and crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrwardi fixed January 15 to begin the trial with the prosecution's opening statement.

Of Moulvibazar's Rajnagar upazila, Yunus Ahmed, 71, and Ujer Ahmed Chowdhury, 63, are in jail while the rest, Samsul Hossain Tarafder, 65, Nesar Ali, 75, and Mobarak Mia, 66, are on the run.

Prosecutors pressed the five charges on May 26. They allege Samsul was an Al-Badr commander while the rest Razakar Bahini members.

The charges include the abduction, torture and killing of one Danu Mia; looting and torching of three houses; confinement of three people; abduction, confinement and torture of another three and looting and torching of the houses of one Harendra

Bhattacharya between November 22 and December 5.

It also includes killing of one Jamini Mohan Dev and abduction, confinement and torture of three people on November 25 and abduction of four people including one Rasraj Bhattacharya on November 27.

The remaining are over the abduction and torture of four people and killing of two between November 29 and December 8; and an act of genocide through the killing of 14 Hindus on December 29.

Afterwards, the tribunal fixed January 24 to decide whether to frame charges against six Netrakona men for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War.

Prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal and defence counsel Gazi MH Tamim completed placing submissions on the charges.

The accused are Sheikh Abdul Majid alias Majid Maulana, 66, Abdul Khaleque Talukder, 67, Kabir Khan, 70, Salam Begh, 68, Nuruddin alias Raddin, 70, and Abdur Rahman, 70. Only Abdur Rahman is in jail.

Prosecutors pressed seven charges on May 22 against the Razakar suspects of the district's Purbadhala upazila.

## BNP plans to hold countrywide talks over EC formation

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

BNP has planned to hold roundtables, discussions and seminars across the country to drum up peoples' support in favour of Khaleda Zia's proposal on formation of the next election commission on the basis of consensus among the political parties.

The party has already started a division-wise campaign and held discussions in Sylhet few days ago and yesterday in Chittagong.

It is now planning to spread the campaign at the district level to create a "debate" over the issue.

"The tenure of the existing EC expires in February.

"We have already started holding seminars and roundtables...at divisional level and will spread at district level gradually," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, party's secretary general, told The Daily Star.

The party is also planning to hold roundtables and discussions in the capital soon, he said. Pro-BNP platforms have already started talks in this regard; talks will be held soon with the professional bodies and stakeholders, he said.

Fakhrul said they have already sent copies of Khaleda's proposal to all the embassies, high commissions and foreign offices.

On December 18, Khaleda Zia placed a 13-point proposal for the formation of a "strong and non-partisan" election commission on the basis of consensus among the political parties and also urged the president to take an initiative.

The party has sent its copy to the president Wednesday.

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## Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar



Tania Islam, 12, a class-four student of Singrauli Government Primary School, has been suffering from blood cancer.

Her father Jewel Rahman and mother Rohimun Nahar live in Singrauli village under Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar.

According to doctors, Tania needs immediate treatment which will cost around Tk 4 lakh. But it is not possible for her family alone to bear the entire expense of the treatment since her father is a bicycle maker.

So, her family members have requested everyone to lend their generous hands to help save her life.

Aid can be sent to Rohimun Nahar, AC No: 002119747, Sonali Bank, Shamsheernagar branch. The family can be reached at 01719-892776 (Shila Momtaj, headteacher of Singrauli Government Primary School).

## NEWSIN brief

### SC too clears way for pilgrims to choose any airline for hajj journey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict clearing the way for the hajj pilgrims to choose any airline for hajj journey.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice SK Sinha dismissed a government appeal challenging the HC verdict.

Following a writ petition filed by Abdur Kabir Khan, vice president of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, and a hajj pilgrim, Rezaul Islam, the HC on February 20, 2014 passed the order.

The HC had also declared illegal a government decision that the pilgrims must choose Biman

### Muggers shoot, rob RMG staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed muggers snatched away around Tk 20 lakh from a garment official after shooting him in the leg in Banasree of Dhaka yesterday.

Saiful was rushed to a Gulshan hospital.

The muggers on two motorcycles intercepted a rickshaw carrying Saiful and his colleague and tried to snatch the money withdrawn from a bank, said Proloy Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station.

As Saiful tried to resist them, the criminals shot him

### Kamal made home secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forest and Environment Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed was appointed as secretary to home ministry.

The Public Administration Ministry issued a notification in this regard yesterday.

The secretary post of the home ministry fell vacant as senior secretary of the ministry Mozammel Haque Khan has been appointed to the Public Administration Ministry on Monday. Mozammel replaced Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury who has been appointed

### Zia joined 1971 war

FROM PAGE 5

the Mujibnagar government", said Mozammel.

"Later he was given the charge of sector commander following his apology," he said.

After taking office of the chief martial law administrator after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination in 1975, Ziaur Rahman provided embassy jobs to the self-proclaimed killers, Mozammel replied in a written statement.

Zia also approved the indemnity ordinance (which gave immunity from legal actions over the assassination of Bangabandhu, coups and other political events between 1975 and 1979), he said.

Zia also incorporated anti-liberation war people including Shah Azizur Rahman and war criminal Abdul Alim in the cabinet which proves that Zia was not a freedom fighter on ideological grounds, he said.

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### জমি বিক্রয়

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