



## Boy meets tragic end on way to SSC exam hall

Sticks head out of bus window, hits pole

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was around 9:15am yesterday. SSC examinee Sakibul Islam along with his mother Farida Yeasmin was going to his exam centre at a school inside Dhaka Cantonment.

Amid heavy traffic, their bus was moving very slowly near Mohakhali, and Sakibul's English First Paper test would begin in less than 45 minutes.

Worried sick, they got down and crossed the road to take another vehicle.

Even though Sakibul, a student of Banani

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Vehicles running on the road in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday, hours after SSC examinee Sakibul Islam was killed there in an accident on way to the examination hall. His life was cut short tragically when his head hit a lamppost as he stuck his head out of the bus window. *Bottom*, Sakibul's father, left, and one of his relatives wait in front of his Dakkhin Badda house.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, SHAHEEN MOLLAH

# Long wait for end of trials

53 accused languishing in jail for more than 10 years as trials yet to complete; HC asks govt to explain why 20 of them should not get bail

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Faruk Hossain landed in jail 12 years ago as an accused in a murder case. Aged only 13 at the time of his arrest, he was produced before the Sessions Judge's Court in Sylhet 131 times until November 16 last year.

Son of late Ali Hossain of Kamalganj in Moulvibazar, Faruk is still languishing in Sylhet Central Jail as his trial is yet to be completed.

Another prisoner of the same jail, Selim Mia was produced before the court 122 times in about 12 years till November last year.

Basir Uddin, who is in Sunamganj jail, appeared before the District and Sessions Judge's Court 81 times in 13 years till November last year.

At least 53 accused have spent more than 10 years in different jails and their trials have not yet been concluded, an official of the

462 accused in prison for over 5 years as of December last year

HC asks for case documents of 20 accused, orders jail authorities to produce them this month

Supreme Court Legal Aid Office (SCLAO), told The Daily Star yesterday.

As cases of 20 of those accused were placed before the two benches of the High Court yesterday by the panel lawyers of SCLAO, the benches ordered the jail authorities to produce them before it.

The benches also issued rules upon the government to explain why the 20 prisoners should not be granted bail in the cases.

Following media reports that many have long been in jails without being convicted, SCLAO on November 16 last year sent letters to the authorities of all the 68 jails across the country seeking names and particulars of prisoners whose trials have long been going on.

In the letters, SCLAO said it would provide legal assistance to those financially insolvent. The government organisation

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**TOP QUOTE**

"I will not bow down to anyone, and I hope that none of my colleagues will do so."

NEW CEC  
KM NURUL HUDA  
TOLD THE DAILY STAR

## It's a reflection of PM's liking

BNP-led alliance says about the new EC; terms CEC controversial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the new Election Commission the reflection of the prime minister's liking, the BNP-led 20-party alliance last night said a "controversial government official" has been appointed as the chief election commissioner (CEC).

"We are deeply frustrated and aggrieved. A controversial government official was made the chief election official. It would not be possible for the new commission to perform its duties fairly," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said.

It would not be able to hold free, fair and acceptable polls, he said.

The BNP leader was briefing reporters after an hour-long alliance meeting at the party chief's Gulshan office. With BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair, the meeting was attended by the chiefs of the components of the combine.

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## CEC Huda's name came from Tariqat

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

If number speaks for itself, Awami League ally Bangladesh Tariqat Federation can consider itself very lucky at the moment.

Three members of the new Election Commission, including the chief election commissioner, have been picked from the list given by the party, Tariqat Chairman Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvandy told The Daily Star yesterday.

The two election commissioners chosen from the Tariqat list are ex-secretary Md Rafiqul Islam and Brig Gen (retd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury.

On Monday, President Abdul Hamid

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## Israel legalises settler homes on Palestinian land

UN condemns move

AGENCIES

Israel passed a law on Monday retroactively legalising about 4,000 settler homes built on privately owned Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, a measure that has drawn international concern.

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নতুন মৌসুমের আলু দিয়ে তৈরী সান চিপস এখন আরো মজার আরো সুস্বাদু

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**KEY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One-on-one interaction with representatives
- UCAS Fee waiver for the first 20 eligible students\*
- Scholarship information\*
- Course / credit transfer information
- On the spot application submission

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