



## Fayza Haq passes away

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Eminent art critic, journalist and teacher Fayza Haq passed away due to prolonged illness yesterday morning. She was 68.

She breathed her last at her Dhanmondi residence in the capital.

Fayza was laid to eternal rest at Banani graveyard after the Asr prayers, amid a gathering of family members, former colleagues and readers.

She had been an integral part of The Daily Star since its inception and embellished the daily with her profound knowledge, erudition and avid enthusiasm in exploring art and culture.

There are few art critics in the country who wrote as extensively on fine arts and culture as she did.

Eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi said, "Fayza Haq is one of the pioneer art critics of our country. She would write not just for writing's sake, rather

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## 26 arrested for 'taking drugs'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 26 persons on Thursday night allegedly for taking drugs at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan.

Of them, Rezaul Haque Chowdhury, Ariful Islam, Foysal Haque, Anwar Hossain, and Sujan Sardar are students of Dhaka University, claimed Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh police.

Another, Shamsuddin Ahmed, is a student of Jagannath University.

"We arrested them around 10:00pm during an anti-drug drive," he added.

Contacted, DU acting proctor Prof Amzad Ali said they were yet to confirm whether the five were DU students as they did not have any ID cards. "We'll take steps after verifying their identities."

# Doctors bent on full cure of 'tree man'

### Perform 23rd surgery as warts regrow

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The medical team treating Bangladesh's first "tree man" Abul Bajandar has performed the 23rd surgery on him as warts partially regrow on his left hand.

Not only have the physicians continued operating on the 27-year-old man, but they are also considering giving him a job at Dhaka Medical College Hospital so they could always keep him under observation till he fully recovers.

After the 22nd surgery on March 21, the bark-like warts were almost gone from the



bilitate him since he needs to be under observation," said Dr Sen.

Quoting the US lab report, he said with further surgeries, there was a good chance that the warts would not show up again and Bajandar would be fully cured.

Bajandar has been staying in a cabin at the burn unit of DMCH since he was admitted in January last year with the condition. His wife and daughter also stay with him.

"I was upset when the warts started to re-grow but the doctor said further operations will cure me completely, so I did not lose hope. I will do anything whatever it takes to get



From left, Abul Bajandar's left hand on January 28, and June 13 this year. PHOTO: STAR

hands and feet of Bajandar, but they started returning in mid-May.

Last month a lab test result from the USA said his warts would likely reappear but it also gave the hint of a full cure.

Doctor Samanta Lal Sen, national coordinator at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said the nine-member medical board formed to treat Bajandar performed the latest surgery a few days before Eid-ul-Fitr.

He said his treatment, which is supported by the government and free of cost, would take more time, maybe years.

"But we are trying to give him a job at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and reha-

back to my normal life," said Bajandar.

After the string of surgeries, he hopes he would go back to his village in Khulna and start a new life.

Chief of the burn unit Prof Abul Kalam said they were providing costly medicines to Bajandar, so the disease did not return.

He said the US lab report predicted that his warts would likely reappear, but it also hinted that it was possible to cure him with proper treatment.

Halima Khatun, wife of Bajandar, said, "I want my husband to smile and see him play with our three-year-old daughter Tahira."

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## Journo falsely implicated by police

Alleges family  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Daily Observer photo-journalist has been languishing in jail for the last 10 days after police indicted him in a, what the family alleged yesterday, false drug case.

Ashik Muhammad, 25, was arrested on June 27 night in the capital's Shantinagar while he was returning home by his motorbike.

His mother Achhia Begum told The Daily Star that her son left home saying that he would meet his friends.

The next morning, "Ashik told me [over cellphone] that police had arrested him in a Yaba case and they would only release him if we could provide one lakh taka or else he would be shown arrested in a drug case," said Achhia.

Her paralysed husband has been bed-ridden for the last seven years, she said, adding that she has to depend on Ashik's income to run the family.

As she failed to provide the money, police sent her son to jail, she alleged.

Some photojournalists, who met Ashik at Dhaka Central Jail, said a Paltan

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# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Green-billed malkoha.  
Note the partially hidden long tail.

PHOTO:  
IHTISHAM KABIR

## Green-Billed Malkoha

When you are diligently searching for birds, competition and jealousy come naturally. Others always seem to be finding birds that you somehow missed. "It was singing perched on that branch all day yesterday" or "Mr. So-and-So who went with the same guide to that special spot found it right away" or "I swear it was on that field every day of last week" or "There are usually so many of them this time of year..." – but, when you go there, that bird is nowhere to be seen. As your heart sinks, comments like these evoke unkind feelings in even the most mild-mannered birder.

And so it happens that, on a familiar patch of Purbachol that I had scoured countless times, my birder friends run into a green-billed malkoha.

Naturally, I am not with them at the time of this memorable incident. They are searching for a brahminy starling in a boroi tree when the malkoha unexpectedly emerges from behind the leaves and flies in all its green-billed glory. This could happen to anyone - others finding a bird he had missed. But what irks me is hearing about how close it came. It flew close enough to fill the frame of my friend's camera. How is that for a good luck surprise?

Now, what's the fuss, you ask? The birding field guides say that the green-billed malkoha is a common bird in Bangladesh. Well, it might be

common, but for me it is not. I tried for a long time to get a good picture of it. I had chased it in many places. But the bojat bird always managed to

remain out of sight, hiding behind

leaves and branches while showing me tantalizing glimpses of its tail or its head with the pale green beak – but never its whole body.

So, yes, I couldn't help feeling a bit jealous when I heard my friends tell this story.

But then luck rewarded me. One afternoon I followed a woodshrike – a small bird the size of a doel (magpie robin) - to a sajna tree at the edge of a farmer's vegetable patch. Movement in the next tree, a shirish, caught my eye. It was a larger bird, high up behind the leaves. I froze in place, waiting, and soon enough it showed itself to me: a green-billed malkoha!

For the next fifteen minutes it flew to several nearby trees, silently prowl the branches while it looked for food and allowing me a few photo opportunities.

The green-billed malkoha is a member of the cuckoo family. It is a native of several Asian countries starting in India stretching east through Bangladesh all the way to southeast Asia.

Its body is coloured in different shades of greyish green. It is about 50 cm. long with a patterned long tail. Perhaps its most startling feature is the patch of red skin around its eyes. It catches worms and insects from the leaves and branches while slowly traversing the branches of trees and bushes. It can be found in forests as well as village groves.

It is shy like other cuckoos, but in one respect it is different: it will not lay its eggs in the nest of other birds.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir



Guests applaud as Bangladesh's first nano-satellite Brac Onnesha is launched into earth's orbit yesterday (July 7) at 3:10pm Bangladesh time. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency organised a video conference on the occasion at Brac University auditorium yesterday when the launching was telecast live. Among others, Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman attended the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

## JU finally offers class-I job to slain AC Robiul's wife

JI CORRESPONDENT

Amid criticism, the Jahangirnagar University authorities yesterday changed their decision and offered a class-I job on an ad hoc basis to Umme Salma, wife of slain police official Rabiu Karim.

On Thursday, the authorities offered her a class-III job, although she was qualified for a class-I job. The decision sparked protest on social media.

Yesterday, Salma was offered the position of an

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