



**Abdull Samad Sheikh, 60, breathed his last yesterday. The rickshaw puller of Faridpur, locally known as Tree Samad had taken it upon himself to plant at least one tree a day. The Daily Star last year acknowledged his contribution.** PHOTO: FILE

## The man who planted a tree every day

FROM PAGE 16  
 much can I do alone? You all should plant trees."  
 He died of septicaemia after he had a surgery for removing a tumour in Faridpur Medical College Hospital around 4:00 yesterday morning.  
 Samad, a resident of Faridpur's Alhabad union, was admitted to the hospital on July 2.  
 His son Chapal Sheikh said, "He was recovering well, but suddenly he died in my arms today [Saturday]."  
 Prof Ratan Kumar Saha of the hospital's surgery department said, "After his operation he was suffering from septicaemia. For this reason, he died

around 4:00am today."  
 Septicaemia is an infection caused by bacteria entering the bloodstream, the surgeon said, adding that it was a potentially life-threatening infection that affects thousands of patients every year.  
 The nature lover left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter-in-law, a grandson and a host of admirers and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was buried at Bhajondanga graveyard after Asr prayers.  
 Samad lived with five family members in two huts belonging to the deputy commissioner's office. He had no land of his own. He used to earn around Tk 100 a day by pulling rick-

shaws and with that money bought necessities for his family and at least one plant from Faridpur Horticulture Centre.  
 Jagadish Chandra Gosh, a former teacher of Faridpur High School, said, "No living being can survive without trees. Samad planted many trees, which save our environment. He was a true lover of nature."  
 Mojibor Rahman, a member of Nirswarga Sangsad, an environmental organisation, in Faridpur, said, "A rickshaw-puller planted at least one tree every day by saving money from his little income. We should follow him. His death is a great loss for us."

## Photo she hides from daughter

FROM PAGE 1  
 were abducted and killed in Narayanganj over three years ago. Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya a few days after the abduction.  
 Nupur, who is from Kadamtali area of the district's Siddhirganj, and Jahangir were married just 10 months before the incident. They were a happy couple and their happiness increased many fold when Nupur said she was expecting a baby.  
 But that happiness was short-lived. Jahangir started to work as Swapan's driver when Nupur was eight-month pregnant. On April 27, 2014, Jahangir was driving a car which had Narayanganj City Corporation councillor Nazrul Islam and his three associates in it. The five men and two others, who were travelling in another car, were kidnapped on that day.  
 The murderers cut the victims' bellies and then tied the bodies to sacks full of bricks before throwing them into the Shitalakkhya. The victims were blindfolded, and their hands and legs were tied with ropes,

said police.  
 Jahangir, who was around 30, was buried a day after his body was recovered on April 30.  
 "Losing him this way was not even in my nightmares. When I was pregnant, we dreamt that we would raise our baby -- be it a boy or girl -- together. But my life is absolutely shattered," Nupur said holding her baby, Roja, in her arms in a small room on August 8.  
 Roja, who is little over three, was born two months after her father's murder. Nupur and Roja live in Nurpur's father-in-law's house in Narayanganj.  
 "She [Roja] still does not seem to realise that her father is no more. What would I tell her when she would grow up?," asks the mother.  
 Two years ago, Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy gave Nupur a temporary job at the corporation with a monthly salary of Tk 6,000. But making ends meet with the money has been a constant struggle for the mother. Nupur is now waiting for her permanent appoint-

ment.  
 "My daughter asks for many things and I try to fulfil her demands with my small income. But it is very difficult to run a family with this amount."  
 "My life will go on anyway, but what about my child? What will happen to her education?"  
 Expressing her gratitude to Ivy, Nupur said the seven murders had devastated the seven families but "I hope the government would stand by us".  
 As the High Court is set to deliver its verdict on the death references and appeals in the sensational case today, Nupur said, "I just hope that the high court would uphold the judgment of the lower court. I want this case to come to an end. I demand capital punishment to those who killed my husband and the others in such a brutal manner."  
 She also said there were rumours that the killers, especially main culprit Nur Hossain, might get off the hook.  
 "If they are acquitted, people would lose faith in law. At least, I would not have any faith in it."

## Obaidul Quader meets chief justice

FROM PAGE 1  
 of bars across the country today, Wednesday and Thursday.  
 On Friday, Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a pro-BNP lawyers' platform, announced protest programmes at all bars for the same days, demanding resignation and arrest of Law Commission Chairman ABM Khairul Haque for his comments on the verdict.  
 Speaking at a press conference on August 9, Justice Khairul had strongly criticised the Supreme Court verdict, terming it misconceived, irrelevant and immature.  
 Passed in 2014, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution had restored parliament's powers to remove SC judges for misconduct or incapacity.  
 Last year, the High Court declared the amendment "illegal" and the decision was upheld by the SC on July 3 this year. The apex court released the full verdict on Aug 1.  
 Since then, the ruling AL has been criticising and the BNP has been welcoming observations in the verdict.  
 Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad announced its programmes at a press conference at the AL president's Dhanmondi office yesterday.  
 Speaking there, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, member-secretary of the lawyers' forum, said the chief justice's observations were "unexpected, irrelevant and unconstitutional" and claimed those would not be acceptable to anyone.  
 He also urged the apex court to expunge parts of the observations.  
 "A certain quarter is trying to create controversy over the judiciary after the release of the verdict," Taposh said, claiming that the observations might create a passage for the unconstitutional forces to come to power.  
 "The chief justice undermined parliament. Undermining parliament is equivalent to undermining democracy as well as the people," he added.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice Chairman Abdul Baset Majumder, the forum's Convener Yousuf Hossain Humayun, Food Minister Qamrul Islam and Awami League's Law Affairs Secretary SM Rezaul Karim, among others, were present.  
**QUADER SLAMS BNP**  
 Yesterday, Obaidul Quader alleged that a vested quarter was hatching a plot over the verdict to halt the country's peace and progress.  
 He slammed BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and its Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed, saying they have become "over enthusiastic as if the court would put them in state power".  
 "They [BNP] have engaged in hatching a new conspiracy as part of their politics of vengeance to halt the country's development and progress. We will not allow them to realise their dream," said Quader.  
 He was addressing a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar. Dhaka north and south unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League jointly organised the programme to mark the National Mourning Day on August 15.  
 Quader said Moudud had termed the judiciary "biased" when he lost his Gulshan home in a legal battle.  
 "But soon after the court verdict over the 16th amendment, this very man has claimed that the judiciary is independent."  
 Meanwhile, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the Supreme Court, as "the protector of the constitution", has come up with a "historic verdict" in the 16th amendment case.  
 He also said the government lost its "moral legality" to stay in office by disregarding the verdict.  
 The BNP leader was speaking at a "doa mahfil" at the party's Nayapaltan central office. The programme was organised to pray for the well-being of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who

has recently underwent a successful eye surgery at a London hospital.  
 "When the state is at stake, the Supreme Court has delivered the verdict from its sense of duty," Fakhrul said.  
 In response to a statement of Quader that the BNP was doing politics over the 16th amendment verdict, Fakhrul said, "Before teaching BNP morality, you [Quader] should resign because of the current [poor] state of the country's roads and highways."  
**Needles stuck**  
 FROM PAGE 16  
 Begum, mother of Kamrunnahar Sumaiya, filed a case against four people including the female superintendent of Khadizatul Kobra (RH) Mahila Qawmi Madrasa under section 70 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.  
 The police arrested Hafiza Begum and Fatema Akhter Liza in the evening. Renu Begum in the case said another student informed her Friday morning that Sumaya was gagged and whipped 160 times. Besides, needles were inserted under her nails by three female teachers at the diktat of Superintendent Khadija Akhter for allegedly stealing Tk 100 on Thursday night.  
 Renu said she immediately rescued her daughter and admitted her to Gournadi Upazila Health Complex.  
 At that time, the superintendent admitted that Sumaiya was punished for her "naughtiness" at the madrasa hostel, Renu said.  
 Nihar Ranjan Boidya, medical officer of Gournadi Health Complex, said Sumaiya was out of danger but traumatised and she needed psychological counselling.  
 Jahidul Islam, founder of the madrasa, said superintendent Khadija Akhter is his wife and that he had suspended Hafiza Begum and Roksana Begum for torturing Sumaiya.

## Indian boy

FROM PAGE 16  
 could drive a gearless scooter for 40 km, on the world's highest motorable road, while blindfolded, but Jeet allegedly did just that, in September of last year.  
 How? Bharat Patel explains: "He has very good control over his senses. If we bypass one of his senses, he can perform tasks using the others," he told Yeh Mera India. "Midbrain Activation is also known as super-sensory development. It enables developing all our senses to an unimaginable extent. It's sort of scientific training that entails 'Brain Gym', which is taught physically, but mainly it's about the audio practice that stimulates the mind using the frequencies that come through the sound of music."  
 That doesn't make much sense, but it's apparently what Jeet Trivedi had to master over several years, in order to perform all kinds of impressive tasks while blindfolded. What kind of tasks, you ask? He can ride a scooter, read books, catch objects thrown at him, find hidden objects, pass a thread through a needle or play chess with three people simultaneously and beat them all.  
 Asked how he could ride a scooter without using his eyes, the 17-year-old said: "I use my ability to smell, to visualize the approaching obstacle. I calculate what the obstacle could be, and what would take me out of that situation. And I overcome the obstacle." Bet you didn't know you could visualize obstacles with your sense of smell. That's because you are not trained in Midbrain Activation.

## Surgery

FROM PAGE 16  
 feeling well, Sen said. He said it was too early to say if she was out of danger.  
 Ahsan Habib, Muktamoni's paternal uncle, said, "We spoke to Muktamoni in the ICU an hour after the surgery."  
 Meanwhile, Muktamoni's family members expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her support for Muktamoni's treatment.  
 Sen said the prime minister had thanked the doctors for their work.  
 It is expected that Muktamoni would have to stay in DMCH six more months for further surgery. She was admitted to the hospital on July 11.  
 A 13-member medical board was formed to look into the girl's case and on August 8 they decided to operate after a biopsy showed a tumour in the artery of her hand.  
 Muktamoni, afflicted by the problem mainly in her right arm, was struggling as her arm was swelling like a beehive. Her parents first noticed the problem when she was only three.  
 It began with a small swelling on her chest. Days later, marble-sized protrusions appeared under her left armpit.  
**Public trust**  
 FROM PAGE 16  
 like rape, abduction, forced disappearance and murder remain a big concern, he noted.  
 Syeda Rizwana Hasan, a leading environmental attorney and chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said the nation lost its moral turpitude as people these days no longer wanted to protest and show courage against any misdeed fearing retribution.  
 People simply vanish and no one knows their whereabouts, she said, "It cannot go on like this."  
 Rizwana, whose husband and businessman Abu Bakar Siddique had been kidnapped three years ago but was later freed, said people who returned after being victim of enforced disappearance did not want to talk about it.  
 These returnees still feel threatened because incidents of such disappearance continue to happen, she added.  
 According to rights activist Nur Khan Liton, accountability and transparency remain absent in a country where people's right to vote is no longer considered as an issue. "In such a situation, we have to continue movement and fight against misdeeds to uphold the rule of law."  
 A new trend is emerging that after picking up individuals, law enforcement agencies are quickly labelling them with different identities. As a result, others choose to remain silent, he said.  
 According to Nur, law enforcers not only involve themselves in their "misdeeds," they engage other state components as well in such activities.  
 Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafullah Chowdhury said formulation of an independent commission could be effective to make sure that law enforcers did not engage in criminal activities.  
 Moderating the discussion, Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist Jyotirmoy Barua said new laws must be made to replace the age-old ones as old laws were not providing enough protection to the citizens.  
 Supreme Court lawyer Subrata Chowdhury and Prof Asif Nazrul of DU also spoke.

## Myanmar

FROM PAGE 1  
 security force operations in the aftermath of attacks against three border guard police facilities in Maungdaw and Rathedaung in October and further clashes in November [last year].  
 Myanmar officers yesterday said the government had deployed a fresh batch of troops in Rakhine after a recent spate of murders, reported AFP.  
 They said soldiers have been sent to a mountainous area where a band of militants is actively training.  
 "Many battalions with hundreds of soldiers from central Myanmar were deployed to the Mayu mountain range," a military officer told AFP, requesting anonymity.  
 State media also reported that the government had imposed new curfews, to be set "in necessary areas" as the army beefs up its clearance operations".  
 "I have noted from the summary report of the investigation commission for Maungdaw in Rakhine state, publically released last Sunday, that many allegations of human rights violations are being investigated or have been recommended for further investigation," said Yanghee Lee.  
 The Presidential Commission admitted it was not able to verify many of these alleged violations or crimes including torture, rape and arson, and asked that these be properly addressed by the relevant authorities, the human rights expert added.  
 "There have been increasing reports of incidents affecting the local population, including the killings of six Mro villagers on August 3," she said, adding, "I share the concern of the Myanmar government and its people regarding the safety and security of those living in Rakhine state in the light of these incidents."  
 The special rapporteur acknowledged the Rakhine state's responsibility to provide security and protect people from attacks by extremists, but said this responsibility had to cover all residents, and the authorities could

not afford more security to some than the others.  
 She reminded that the use of force must always be in line with the principles of necessity and proportionality to ensure full respect for human life. "Any measures security forces take or any operations they undertake to secure the areas concerned must be carried out in line with international human rights norms and standards," Lee stressed.  
 Special rapporteurs and independent experts are appointed by the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights Council to examine and report back on a specific human rights theme or a country situation. The positions are honorary and the experts are no UN staff.  
 Rakhine has been gripped by violence since October last year when militants attacked police posts, sparking a bloody military crackdown that the UN believes may amount to ethnic cleansing of the Muslim minority Rohingya.  
 More than 70,000 Rohingya villagers fled across the border to Bangladesh, carrying with them stories of systematic rape, murder and arson at the hands of soldiers.  
 The major part of the military campaign ended several months ago, but fear continues to stalk the region amid sporadic bouts of violence.  
 Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long faced criticism for its treatment of the more than one million Rohingya, who are denied citizenship and struggle to access basic services.

## 2 killed

FROM PAGE 16  
 (south) of Habiganj police, said they fired about 100 shots and 25 tear gas canisters to control the situation.  
 Additional police forces are deployed as the village remains tense.  
 Most of the injured were taken to Bahubal Upazila Health Complex and Habiganj Sadar Hospital, Abdul Hai, chairman of Bahubal upazila, said, adding that he tried to settle down the dispute in vain on Friday.

## Anomalies taking toll

FROM PAGE 16  
 A meat trader who preferred to be unnamed said he bought 10 buffalos and paid Tk 250 as toll charge for each.  
 "On top of that, I had to pay another Tk 50 for each buffalo to take the cattle out of the market before 12:00am," he said, adding traders would not be allowed to take cattle out of the market before midnight without paying the extra money.  
 Lutfor, however, refuted the allegations of collecting extra charges and renting out shops.  
**SHOPS ALL AROUND**  
 There are hotels, tea stalls, barber shops, mobile phone credit recharge, stationary and contractual butcher shops at the cattle market. A recent fire from a tea stall at the market left 22 cattle dead.  
 Lutfor earns Tk 1,000 to Tk 6,000 a month from each shop and collects another Tk 1,000 from each for supplying water, said some shopkeepers.  
 Asked about the shops, DNCC Chief Estate Officer Aminul Islam said Lutfor might have rented out shops considering the necessity of the buyers and traders.  
 "We carried out several drives at the market and found that he [Lutfor] only collects electricity bills from shopkeepers."  
 The city corporation would surely take action if anyone came up with specific allegations of irregularities, said Aminul. "We might even cancel the lease of the market."  
 Under the lease rules, the divisional commissioner can overrule the decision of the chief executive officer of a city corporation to lease out a market if it fails to spend 45 percent of the lease money in the maintenance of the respective market and if irregularities are found.  
 Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Helaluddin Ahmed said they would summon DNCC officials if they received any written allegations of irregularities.  
 "We'll hold a hearing on the allegations and if their answers are not found to be satisfactory, legal actions will be taken against them as per rules," he added.  
**TENDER PROCESS**  
 The DNCC floats tender in Magh (Bengali calendar) every year to lease out the cattle market and the contract comes into effect on Pahela Baishakh, the Bangla New Year.  
 The corporation this year fixed a minimum tender price of Tk 12.7 crore, but Lutfor quoted Tk 11.17 crore and won the bid as the "highest bidder".  
 However, sometimes it cannot complete the tender process in time. For example, this year's contract was in force on Baishakh 15.  
 Although the city corporation's mandate allows it to collect charges directly during the lease lapse period, it didn't do so.  
 Meat merchant association leader

Robiul alleged that the DNCC estate department collected charges through the lessee during that period and plundered the money.  
 In case of any delay in the tender process, the corporation is supposed to take over the toll collection of the cattle market and form a committee comprising of the DNCC chief executive officer, secretary, zonal executive officer, chief estate officer, director of Local Government Division, a representative of the DC office and the councillor of ward-9 to ensure transparency in toll collection.  
 Contacted, all but the chief estate officer said they had no idea about how the toll was collected during the 15 days this year.  
 "We collected Khas [toll charges] through outsourcing," claimed DNCC Chief Estate Officer Aminul Islam.  
 Asked about the name of the outsourced firm, Aminul said his subordinate officers knew about it.  
 The other officials remained tight-lipped about the name.  
 Sanwar Hossain, manager of the Gabtoli cattle market lessee firm, said: "We collected Khas for the city corporation last year, but I can't remember what happened this year."  
**TOLL HIKED 'ARBITRARILY'**  
 The estate department increased the toll rate this year from Tk 50 and 70 to Tk 100 and 150 for each cow and buffalo respectively after the city corporation had invited bids through newspaper advertisements.  
 Traders said the estate department didn't consult them about hiking the toll rate although it had earlier promised traders of holding talks with them prior to making any such decision.  
 Asked about the reason for hiking the rate, Aminul told this correspondent, "You better talk to the chief health officer who led the committee that increased the toll."  
 DNCC Chief Health Officer Brig Gen SMM Saleh Bhuiyan said a proposal was sent to the committee to increase the toll rate, but the committee didn't accept it.  
**DB officer**  
 FROM PAGE 16  
 Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia told reporters that a team of detectives led by Rahul went near Nagar Shastho Kendra on information that criminals would be trading arms there.  
 When the police officer caught a suspect, another one opened fire and they fled the scene, he said.  
 Rahul is with the west division of DB. But the scene of the crime is in east division's jurisdiction. Asked, DB Joint Commissioner Abdul Baten said Rahul's team went there with permission.  
 Police were conducting block raid in the area as of filing the report at 1:00am today. Abdul Baten said they were trying to collect CCTV footage from nearby areas.