

## LAWYER SAYMA MURDER

## HC commutes death penalty of killer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death sentence of the killer of Supreme Court lawyer Sayma Khanum was commuted by the High Court to life imprisonment yesterday.

The convict is Faizul Islam, an assistant accountant in the Public Works Department.

According to the prosecution, the convict stabbed advocate Sayma, 44, a former cultural affairs secretary of Dhaka Bar Association, to death inside her Elephant Road apartment in the capital on July 17, 2007.

A week later, Faizul was arrested in connection with the murder. Faizul confessed to killing Sayma, claiming that he had given a total of Tk 12 lakh to Sayma after she promised him that she would arrange a cadre service job for him under the 27th BCS examination. Sayma, however, did not keep her promise, Faizul also claimed.

On October 4 in 2011, a Dhaka court handed down death penalty to Faizul for killing the lawyer.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty gave the verdict.

Deputy Attorney General Moniruzzaman Rubel told The Daily Star the government will move an appeal before the SC, seeking capital punishment for Faizul.

JP MP'S LOAN SCAM  
SC stays return of Tk 25cr to BCBL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended till December 3 its October 29 order that stayed a High Court directive asking Jatiya Party lawmaker Shawkat Chowdhury to return Tk 25 crore to Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd (BCBL) within 50 days or face cancellation of his bail in loan scam cases.

The SC passed the order following a petition filed by Shawkat, seeking extension of its stay order on the HC directive.

Advocate Nurul Islam Sujan appeared for the JP lawmaker.

On October 22, the HC

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PHOTO: ANWAR UL ISLAM

Prof Anwar Ul Islam holding a bundle of the new fibre in his office room.

## RU prof 'discovers shinier, stronger' golden fibre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A pharmacy professor of Rajshahi University has claimed to have discovered a new natural fibre and said this golden thread is better than jute or linen.

Prof Anwar Ul Islam has already finished a four-year research on the fibre and called upon textile experts to work on his findings and see whether it could be produced commercially.

"The fibre surpasses the brightness, softness and strength of jute and linen," he said in a recent interview with The Daily Star. The former science faculty dean said it would be useful for making comfortable clothes.

According to a 2016 report of fortnightly Apparel News, the fibre is "quite comfortable like the cotton as well as very glossy, which would bring brightness and shine in the clothes."

Prof Anwar, who is currently working with US scientists on anti-cancer medicines, calls his findings a "by-product of his regular hit-or-miss experiments".

Graduating in pharmacy from Dhaka University, Anwar did his PhD in India in 1983.

He joined RU in 1991 after serving a pharmaceutical company for some years. Apart from teaching, he conducts experiments, often out of his personal necessities.

The professor developed a herbal nasal drop when he suffered cold, and produced a hair tonic and a fairness cream from herbs when he felt he was ageing.

The new fibre came up in the middle of these experiments.

"I spotted a plant four years ago when I needed a plenty of fibres for tying plants to sticks at my garden," said the professor who resides in a spacious house on the campus. "Then I found out a microorganism that helps obtain quality fibres from the plant's stem."

Prof Anwar declined to give the names of the plant and the bacteria, which helps extraction of the fibre from the plant's stalks, because he has not got a patent on his discovery yet.

The scientist conducted the research all by himself, starting in 2013.

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NUR HOSSAIN'S 8 CASES  
Deposition deferred till April 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Recording statement of witnesses in eight arms, drug and extortion cases against Nur Hossain, the death row convict in the sensational 7-murder case, was deferred till April 1 by a Narayanganj court yesterday.

Yesterday was scheduled for taking the depositions in the cases, filed with Shiddhiganj Police Station, in the presence of Nur Hossain at the Narayanganj additional second district and sessions judge's court of Mosammat Kamrun Nahar, said Additional Public Prosecutor Jasmin Ahmed.

## JS to discuss Rohingya issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Separate discussions will take place in the ongoing 18th session of parliament on Unesco's recognition of Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech, Rohingya issue, and the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference.

The Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) set the agenda during a meeting at the parliament yesterday.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the meeting that the historic speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the main driving force of the nation because through his speech the father of the nation had given instructions for guerrilla fighting and called for economic freedom.

Pointing to the Rohingya issue, the prime minister said Bangladesh had opened up a "new door of humanity" by

giving shelter to Rohingyas, which was lauded worldwide, according to a release of the parliament secretariat.

Hasina also praised all concerned, especially Speaker Shirin Sharmin, for successfully holding the 63rd CPA conference in Dhaka from November 1 to 8.

The House will discuss the three issues on different dates, but the dates and time of the discussions were not finalised yet.

Unesco on October 30 declared Bangabandhu's March 7 speech as a part of the world's documentary heritage.

On this day in 1971, the father of the nation called on the freedom-loving Bangalees to wage a decisive struggle against the Pakistani rulers. The speech had set the tone for the Liberation War that would officially begin on March 26.

The Business Advisory Committee also decided that the current session of

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Members of the Garo community perform a traditional dance during the Wangala festival on St Teresa Church premises in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal yesterday. Wangala -- the biggest traditional festival of the Garo people -- is a celebration of harvest in late autumn.

PHOTO: STAR

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Court again wants report on Khaleda's arrest warrant  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again directed the OC of Gulshan Police Station to submit a report by December 12 on execution of the arrest warrant against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a case filed over undermining the country's map and national flag.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Nur Nabi passed the order after Gulshan police failed to submit any report on the issue.

Earlier on October 12, the same court issued arrest warrant against her as she failed to appear before the court.

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## Drive against unfit buses starts Nov 19

Says Khokon at DSCC coordination meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A month-long drive against unfit and worn-out public buses as well as drivers without licences will be launched in the capital on November 19.

The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Department of Environment will conduct the drive in at least five points in an effort to ease traffic congestion.

The decision came at a DSCC coordination meeting yesterday at Nagar Bhaban with its Mayor Sayeed Khokon in the chair. Representatives of 26 utility service providing agencies were present at the meeting.

"We got good results during the drive in

INDIAN STUDENT MURDER  
Flatmate placed on 2-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted a two-day remand for Indian student Mainsam Winson Singh in a case filed over the killing of his compatriot Ateef Sheikh, a student of University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC).

A fourth-year MBBS student Ateef, 25, son of Abdul Khalique of Assam, was stabbed to death in his flat in the port city on July 15 allegedly by his classmate cum flatmate Winson, of Imphal East of Manipur. Winson, who allegedly tried to kill himself by hanging afterwards, was rescued from the same room.

Police arrested Winson after he was released from a private hospital on July 23.

On Thursday, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) officials produced Winson with five-day remand prayer. Another flat mate Gangmei Niraj, 25, was held after Ateef's father filed a case on July 18.

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