

**HOLEY ARTISAN CASE**  
**Three more prosecution witnesses testify**

**JNU CORRESPONDENT**  
Three more prosecution witnesses yesterday gave their statements before a Dhaka tribunal in the Holey Artisan Café attack case.  
Including them, the tribunal recorded statements of 103 out of 211 prosecution witnesses in the case.  
The witnesses are Dhaka Medical College Forensic Medicine department's Associate Prof Sohel Mahmud, and lecturers Prodig Biswas and Kabir Sohel.  
Judge Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka recorded statements of the witnesses after which defence lawyers cross-examined them.  
The tribunal set September 3 for the next hearing.  
Sohel Mahmud told  
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**Bangladesh Mahila Parishad staged a sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, making a call to come forward to prevent rape and other violence against women and children. The association also demanded speedy trial of rape cases.**  
PHOTO: STAR

**FR TOWER CASE**  
**Rajuk assistant director gets bail**

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
Shah Md Sadrul Alam, an assistant director of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) who was arrested on charges of design manipulation of FR Tower in Banani, was granted bail yesterday.  
Five other accused -- former Rajuk chairman KM Harun, former inspector Mehedi Uzzaman, former directors (estate) Shamsul Alam and Md Moazzem Hossain, and former coordinator Mofazzel Hossain -- also got bail after their surrender yesterday.  
Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order, after the accused filed bail petitions.  
On August 8, Liakat Ali Khan alias Mukul, 57, chairman of Rupayan Group -- the builder company of FR Tower -- got ad-interim bail after his surrender before a Dhaka court.  
Two other accused -- FR Tower land owner SMHI Faruq and building co-owner Tasvirul Islam -- were earlier arrested and later granted ad-interim bails in the cases.  
Yesterday, the judge granted them permanent bail.  
On June 25, ACC filed two cases accusing 23 people, including a former chairman of Rajuk, chairman of Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd and several government officials, for alleged involvement in illegally extending the building.  
An ACC enquiry, found that the 23-storey building had no fire alarms, narrow exit points and staircases, blocked fire exits and other issues.  
Although authorities had legally obtained permission for a 15-storey building, they extended it to 23 storeys.  
ACC sued 25 people in two cases filed over the illegal extension -- to 16th to 18th and 19th to 23rd floors.

**N'ganj imam's killer arrested**

**UNB, Narayanganj**  
An imam of a mosque in Narayanganj -- whose decapitated body was found inside his room last week -- was murdered by a friend over repayment of a loan, police said yesterday.  
Police on Wednesday arrested Wahiduzzaman, an imam at a mosque of Shibchar area in Madaripur, from Shibchar on charges of killing Didarul Islam, imam of Mollikerpara Jam-e Mosque under Sonargaon upazila.  
SI Abul Kalam Azad of Sonargaon Police Station conducted a drive in Madaripur area after finding Wahiduzzaman's connection with the murder, and arrested him, said Harun-ur Rashid, superintendent of police (SP) in Narayanganj at a press conference at his office on Wednesday.  
Wahiduzzaman has since given a confessional statement to the SP saying he killed Didarul, he added.  
Police sources said Wahiduzzaman had taken a loan from Didarul, and was being pressured to pay it back.  
On the night of August 21, Wahiduzzaman went to Didarul Islam's mosque, bringing two bottles of soft drinks, one of which was spiked with sedatives.  
After Didarul fell unconscious drinking the beverage, Wahiduzzaman slit his throat, and fled the scene after throwing his blood-stained lungi and two soft drink bottles in a ditch by the side of the mosque.  
Later, based on the confession, the blood-stained lungi and bottles were recovered as evidence.

**ATIA MAHAL GRENADE BLAST**  
**PBI final report says all accused died in anti-militant drives**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**  
In its final investigation report, Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) has confirmed death of two attackers and the key planner of the twin grenade blast on a crowd at Atia Mahal of Shibbari area in Sylhet city on March 25, 2017.  
The attackers, Ashraful Alam Nazim, 22 and an unidentified male, 28, were killed in an anti-militant drive at Barahat area in Moulvibazar on March 29-April 1, 2017.  
The key planner Lokman Hossain alias Mosaraf Hossain alias Sohel, 38, also died along with his family members in a suicide blast during another anti-militant drive at Nasirpur area of Moulvibazar on March 29, 2017, the report said.  
PBI also said all three were active members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).  
On July 22, PBI Inspector Dewan Abul Hossain filed the final investigation report to the court of 2nd Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Saifur Rahman.  
The court forwarded the report to Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court after hearing on August 20. The final report will be presented before the court on October 20.  
Bangladesh Army led the anti-militant drive, code-named "Operation Twilight", at a militant hideout in Sylhet's Atia Mahal from March 24 to March 28, 2017.  
On the evening of March 25, 2017, while the drive was ongoing, two grenades were blasted around 400 metres away from Atia Mahal, which claimed seven lives including Rab intelligence chief Lt Col Abul Kalam Azad and two police officers.  
Police filed two separate cases, one regarding the militant hideout and another for the twin grenade blast, with Moglabazar Police Station accusing unnamed people after the operation.  
Following an order of Police Headquarters on May 9 that year, PBI took over the cases from Moglabazar Police Station and started investigation from May 13.  
PBI Inspector Dewan Abul Hossain, investigating officer of the grenade blast case, said, "After thorough investigation of the case, we found that three militants were involved with the attack. They were hiding in two different hideouts at Moulvibazar and came to Shibbari during the drive at Atia Mahal to blast grenades outside to divert the drive."  
After the drive at Atia Mahal, two more drives were conducted at two militant hideouts in Moulvibazar, where these three accused died, he said.  
"As all three accused are dead, we submitted the final report to the court", he said.

**3 killed, 2 injured in road accidents**

**STAR REPORT**  
At least three people were killed and two injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.  
In Dhaka, two people were killed after a bus of SR Plus Paribahan collided with a bus of Ahad Paribahan in Kabirpur area of Ashulia.  
The deceased are Abdul Jolil, 33, owner of the Ahad bus; and its driver Zahangir Alom, 32.  
Fire service, quoting locals, said, Jolil's bus broke down in the middle of the road, so he called for another bus of the same company to tow it away.  
When the other bus arrived, Jolil and Zahangir were outside tying the two vehicles together. At that time, a bus of SR Plus smashed into their bus from behind, killing them both. Two passengers of the SR Plus bus were injured in the accident, he added.  
The bodies were sent to a local hospital for autopsy, said police, adding that the buses were seized but the helper and driver of the SR Plus bus managed to flee.  
In Chattogram, Gulam Murshed, 35, was killed when a bus hit him while he was crossing the road in Banshbariya area of Sitakunda upazila around 5:30am, said police, quoting locals.  
Locals took Murshed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, police sources added.  
The bus driver fled the scene with the vehicle, and police are trying to catch him.

**Ferdouse Samad passes away**

**CITY DESK**  
Ferdouse Samad, wife of late Dr Kazi Abdus Samad, passed away on Monday in Dhaka.  
She left behind her son Nasser, daughter Narmeen, daughter-in-law Jolanda, son-in-law Bakhtiar, grandchildren and friends.  
Her janaza will be held today after Jumma prayers at Gulshan's Central Azad Mosque. She will be laid to rest at Azimpur Boro Daira Sharif family graveyard.  
Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to be present and offer prayers.  
She will be fondly remembered for her love, devotion and sincerity to all those who knew her.

**Indefinite transport strike called in Sylhet division and B'baria from Sept 2**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**  
Bangladesh Road Transport Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad has called an indefinite strike in Sylhet division and Brahmanbaria from September 2.  
Leaders of the organisation took the decision from a meeting at its office in Sylhet on Wednesday night, to press home their demands -- including transfer of a case against a driver and his helper to a bailable section and a stop to BRTC bus operations on the Sylhet-Sunamganj route.  
On March 23, Sylhet Agriculture University student Wasim Afnan was killed as a bus ran him over on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Moulvibazar, after he was allegedly pushed off the bus.  
The bus driver and his helper were later arrested on the charge of murder and sued in a non-bailable case.  
The transport leaders' other demands include reduction of fine to Tk 50,000 from Tk 5 lakh in section-105 under proposed Road Transport Act 2018; making its section-84, 98 and 105 bailable; and reduction of fine to Tk 30,000 from Tk 3 lakh in section-84 and 98 under the act.  
Besides, they demanded police investigation before filing road accident cases, inclusion of their representatives in the probe team and ending police harassment on highways.  
Selim Ahmed Folik, joint convener of the Parishad, said, "We had submitted a memorandum to the divisional commissioner and the DIG of police in Sylhet regarding our demands, but to no avail. That's why we called the strike."  
BRTC's Sylhet Regional Manager Julfikar Ali said, "We started the bus service on June 3 this year with eight buses on the route, but we had to reduce the number to four in the wake of pressure from transport owners and workers."  
M Kazi Emdadul Islam, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said, "Their demand for stopping the BRTC bus service is illogical. The service will not stop under any circumstances."

**Prof Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan passes away**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
Eminent gynaecologist and former principal of Chattogram Medical College (CMC) Prof Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan passed away yesterday at a hospital in port city due to old age complications. She was 80.  
She left behind her husband, son and a host of well wishers to mourn her death.  
Her first namaz-e-janaza was held on CMC Central Mosque premises after Zohr prayers yesterday, and the second one was held on Jamiatul Falah Mosque premises after Asr prayers.  
She will be buried at Banani graveyard in Dhaka following another janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque premises after Jumma  
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**Youths showcase project plans on social development**

**CITY DESK**  
Expressions Limited with support from US Embassy hosted a seminar for the project "Student Leadership Development Workshops" at the capital's Cirdap auditorium yesterday, says a press release.  
The workshops were divided into six units on various topics -- including patriotism and religion, international relations, radicalisation and counter radicalisation, policing in Bangladesh and religious harmony.  
Among the participants, several came with projects which they want to implement at their university and across the city. Some projects showed social media page where people can promote knowledge on religion and peace.  
A handful of the participants want to host different seminars like that one in madrasas, schools and universities.  
Earl R Miller, the US ambassador to  
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**US Ambassador Earl R Miller, among others, attended the seminar at Cirdap auditorium yesterday.**  
PHOTO: COLLECTED



**The Daily Star and Sunshine Grammar School and College in Chattogram signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) yesterday. Under the MoU, inked by Sunshine founder principal Safia Ghazi Rahman and the newspaper's Head of Marketing Md Tajdin Hassan, copies of The Daily Star will be distributed among the institution students for a year.**  
PHOTO: STAR

**Nupur returns home after groundbreaking surgery**

**BSS, Dhaka**  
Twelve-year-old Nupur returned home yesterday, after a successful minimally invasive cardiac surgery at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), the first of its kind at any government hospital.  
Hailing from Sujaganar upazila in Pabna, Nupur was suffering from Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) -- a hole in the wall between the two upper chambers of heart.  
A team of 10 doctors, headed by Dr Ashraful Hoque Sium, conducted the operation at the NICVD on August 25.  
They carried out the two-and-a-half-hour surgery, which costs Tk 5,000.  
After successfully completing the surgery, an elated Dr Sium said, "I am speechless! I used to dream of doing something big for the people... With the support of the honourable prime minister, I've been able to materialise that dream. I'm very happy and thankful to all."  
In minimally invasive cardiac operations, surgeons perform heart surgery through small incisions in the chest as an alternative to open-heart surgery. Surgeons do not cut through the breastbone, instead operating between the ribs, which may result in less pain and a quicker recovery for many people.  
It allows surgeons to use techniques that limit the size and number of cuts, or incisions that they need to make. It is typically considered safer and quicker than a traditional heart surgery.  
Before NICVD, only National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh (NHFB), a private hospital in the city's Mirpur, conducted such surgeries  
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**Syndicate approves suspension of 69 DU students**

**DU CORRESPONDENT**  
The Dhaka University syndicate at a meeting last night approved its disciplinary board's recommendation of suspending 69 students over their involvement in question paper leak during admission tests.  
The university authorities will also issue a show-cause notice to these students, authorities said.  
If they fail to respond to the notice within seven working days, they will be expelled.  
All the suspended students were enrolled between 2012-2013 and 2017-2018 sessions, two syndicate members confirmed to The Daily Star.  
Earlier on August 6 this year, the disciplinary board -- comprising the vice-chancellor, deans, provosts and the proctor -- made the recommendation during a meeting.  
Contacted, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md  
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