



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the 80th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at ESCAP Hall, United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## BLOGGER NAZIMUDDIN SAMAD MURDER Eight years on, trial of case yet to start

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Eight years into the murder of blogger Nazimuddin Samad, the trial of the case is yet to begin at a Dhaka court.

The prosecution said the trial in the murder case did not start due to non-appearance of the accused before the Anti Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka.

On April 6 of 2016, the 28-year-old law student of Jagannath University (JnU) was hacked and shot to death by unidentified assailants in Old Dhaka's Sutrapur area.

Nazimuddin, who was critical of extremism on his Facebook posts, moved to Dhaka from Sylhet for higher studies.

"The charges were not framed against the accused as they were not produced before the tribunal on most scheduled dates in the past. During charge framing, the accused in custody must appear before the court," assistant public prosecutor Golam Sharuar Khan Jakir told The Daily Star recently.

"March 25 was scheduled for framing charges in the case. On the day, we got a letter from the jail authorities, which

stated the accused could not be produced before the tribunal due to absence of police escort," he said.

Asked about arranging online attendance for the accused, Jakir said, "We installed equipment for it, but it is yet to be operational."

"It took more than four years to complete the investigation. In addition, the court also remained closed for several months due to the coronavirus outbreak. Moreover, five accused are currently absconding. For this, the court had to follow certain procedures," he added.

Wishing anonymity, a tribunal staffer said, "The accused have not been produced before the tribunal since the incident of two death-row convicts in publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan murder case getting snatched away from the Dhaka court premises on November 20, 2022."

The day after Nazimuddin's murder, Sub-inspector Nurul Islam filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station against some unknown assailants under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

On August 20, 2020, the Counter SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## TEACHER RECRUITMENT EXAM QUESTION LEAK 'Syndicate struck a deal with 200 candidates'

Say detectives after arresting 5 including 2 DU students

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A syndicate made an arrangement with at least 200 candidates prior to the third phase written test for the recruitment of assistant teachers in government primary schools, offering to provide leaked question papers along with solutions.

Candidates received the questions and solutions a few minutes before the tests. Mobile phones confiscated from some examinees during the March 29 exam contained both the genuine question papers and their solutions.

Around 3.5 lakh candidates from 21 districts of Dhaka and Chattogram divisions took part in the exam.

Asim Gain, the mastermind behind the syndicate, took amounts ranging from Tk 10 lakh to Tk 15 lakh from each examinee.

He accepted cash payments ranging from Tk 2.5 lakh, along with a cheque for the remaining balance, as per an investigation of the Cyber and Special Crime division of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

However, further investigations are necessary to confirm whether all 200 candidates indeed received the questions.

Detectives have recently arrested five persons in this connection, including Dhaka University students Jyotirmoy Gain, 26, and Sujan Chandra Roy, 25.

The three others are Manish Gain, 39, Pankaj Gain, 30, and Lovely Mondal, 30. They gave confessional statements in front of a Dhaka court yesterday.

While the DU duo has been charged with leaking question papers, the three others stand accused of buying the questions.

Jyotirmoy and Sujan are both residents of Jagannath Hall and study at the Law Department of DU.

According to DB chief Harun Or Rashid, the two stated that Jyotirmoy's uncle, Asim, tasked them with solving these questions, offering them Tk 12,000 to Tk 15,000 per paper. Once solved, they would send the question papers back to Asim, who would then distribute them to the candidates.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Jyotirmoy and Sujan on a two-day remand.

Meanwhile, a well-placed source within the detective branch has confirmed that four students of an engineering university near DU also assisted Jyotirmoy and Sujan. They, too, were recruited by Asim.

The four used to work in Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta Bhaban of Jagannath Hall.

Asim initiated communication with examinees three months prior to the exam, specifically targeting those who were nearing the end of their age limit for government service applications.

"Asim has previously leaked question papers for multiple exams, accumulating hundreds of crores. Using this wealth, he constructed an opulent residence in his hometown. Known for his local political sway, Asim has been implicated in activities including human trafficking, the hundi business, and the cable industry," said the DB chief.

"He is now on the run. We are trying to arrest

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## Three new SC judges sworn in



Muhammad Abdul Hafiz

Md Shahinur Islam

Kashafa Hussain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three judges were sworn in as Supreme Court justices yesterday.

Yesterday, the new judges were elevated from the HC Division to the Appellate Division, raising the number of apex court judges to eight.

Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan administered their oath at the SC Judges' Lounge where judges from both Appellate and High Court divisions of the SC and lawyers were present.

SC Registrar General Md Golam Rabbani conducted the oath-taking ceremony.

Later, the Attorney General's Office and the Supreme Court Bar Association congratulated three newly appointed apex court judges.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and SCBA Secretary Shah Monjurul Hoque accorded the felicitations to Justice Muhammad Abdul Hafiz, Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Kashafa Hussain at the courtroom No 2 of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Later in the day, the three new apex court judges paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi 32 in Dhaka.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin made the appointments of three apex court judges under Article 95(1) of the constitution.

## A people's doctor

Colleagues observe  
Zafrullah's first death anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is now up to the people in society to take on the task of completing the important work left unfinished by Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Zafrullah devoted his life to serving the people of the country, with all his thoughts and considerations focused solely on their well-being, they added.

"Zafrullah addressed issues such as cancer, heart transplants, and various others, harbouring numerous desires to further benefit the people. Although he is no longer with us, it is now incumbent upon everyone to honour his legacy by completing his unfinished works," said Prof Altafunnessa Maya, chairman of the Trustee Board of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital organised the discussion yesterday marking the first death anniversary of Zafrullah.

At the event, attendees watched a video documentary titled "A People's Doctor", which depicted Zafrullah's life. Additionally, doctors, nurses, and staff reminisced about their memories of Dr Zafrullah during the gathering.

Sayed Zaman, director of Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital, emphasised Zafrullah's advocacy for enhancing the nation's health and his dedication to progress and democracy.

"We are fighting today without Zafrullah. We have to continue this fight," he added.

The event was attended by Zafrullah's wife and Naripokkho member Shireen Huq, his son Bareesh Hasan Chowdhury, trustee board members Abul Qasem Chowdhury and Kona Chowdhury, and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

Zafrullah, 82, died on April 11 last year due to kidney complications, while receiving treatment at Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in Dhanmondi.



The scorching heat in Dhaka has surpassed all records. This was not supposed to happen as there are many rivers around Dhaka. The reality is encroachers have grabbed these rivers. It is possible during the rule of an autocratic regime.

RUHUL KABIR RIZVI  
BNP senior joint secretary general



BNP leaders could not understand that Awami League does politics by standing beside the country's people. We are always accountable to them. On the other hand, BNP has been practicing anti-people politics.

OBABDUL QUADER  
Awami League general secretary



## 'Golden' Monir acquitted in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has acquitted Monir Hossain, also known as "Golden Monir", in an arms case.

The acquittal came to light recently although the verdict was announced over two and a half months ago.

On February 5, Judge Md Asaduzzaman of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka delivered the verdict, said additional public prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

He was acquitted as the charges brought against him were not proven, he said.

A total of 16 prosecution witnesses testified before the court during trial.

On November 20, 2020, Rab arrested Monir with arms, bullets, foreign liquor and currencies, gold ornaments and Tk 1.9 crore in cash from his Merul Badda residence.

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## 'Want Bangladesh to be a net security provider in the region' Says US political officer

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US wants Bangladesh to be a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific region as the country has made exponential progress since independence and demonstrated its capacity in helping the regional countries, said a US official.

It also wants to see Bangladesh as a prosperous country having the principles of democracy, good governance and human rights, which is why Washington has been speaking aloud on free elections and taken actions against Rab, he said.

Maxwell Martin, political officer at the US embassy in Dhaka, said this at a briefing on the Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) and implications for Bangladesh at the embassy yesterday as IPS has renewed focus in the region including South Asia.

Martin said the US supported Bangladesh Armed Forces with training, capacity building and equipment in countering terrorism. Bangladesh also made exponential progress, supporting Myanmar during the cyclones last year, responding positively in sheltering the Rohingya and its contribution to the UN peacekeeping is notable.

"You have seen us become more open and vocal about the political situation in Bangladesh. This is part of the IPS. We are also engaged in multiple fronts that include economy, security and politics."

Martin said, "We thought our sanction against Rab was important for that unit to change their behavior in

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Two veteran wrestlers have a go at each other at Jabbarer Boli Khela yesterday. Like each year, the event took place at Laldighi Maidan in Chattogram. A total of 80 contestants participated in the 115th edition of the historic tournament. Bagha Sharif of Cumilla became the champion in this year's edition by defeating Rashed Boli of Cumilla Sadar. The yearly tournament accompanied by a three-day fair draws a large crowd from across the country.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN