

Kadar gets justice

OC Helal who arrested, tortured him jailed for 3 years

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Following a three-year legal battle, former Dhaka University student Abdul Kadar has finally got justice as a Dhaka court yesterday punished a police official for torturing him in custody in 2011.

The court handed down three years' imprisonment to Md Helal Uddin, the then officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, for torturing Kadar.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Alamgir Kabir Raj also fined the convict Tk 10,000, in default of



Helal Uddin



Kadar

which he has to spend three more months in jail.

The judge convicted Helal in absentia, rejecting his lawyer's petition for

adjourning the pronouncement of the verdict.

The judgment sets a rare example of punishing a police official for custodial torture in a country where allegations of such torture and deaths are rampant.

At least 17 people died in jail custody in the first three months of this year. The number was 60 last year, according to rights body Ain O Salish Kendra.

In his immediate reaction to the verdict, Kadar, now a lecturer at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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FROM PAGE 1

Laxmipur Government Mahila College, told this correspondent, "I have got justice, finally."

Before delivering the judgment, the court cancelled Helal's bail, declared him a fugitive, and issued a conviction warrant against him.

The sentence will take effect from the day of the convict's arrest or surrender.

In the judgment, the magistrate said the charge against the accused for

Taking into cognisance a report of The Daily Star, the High Court directed the government and the police authorities to launch special probes into the matter.

Following the directive, OC Helal, sub-inspector Alam Badsha and assistant sub-inspector Shahidur Rahman were suspended in July 2011.

Kadar was released on bail on August 3 the same year. Later, three courts acquitted him in all three false cases.