



PHOTO: STAR  
Stale rice found at a canteen of a launch at Sadarghat terminal in the city is being dumped into the river Buriganga during a mobile court operation against food adulteration and unhygienic food.

## AVIAN FLU THREAT

# 'Launch awareness campaign about guest birds'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to take effective measures to stop hunting and trapping migratory birds as well as prevent them from mixing with domestic fowls in order to tackle the bird flu threat.

As part of the measures, the movement of migratory wild ducks carrying the avian virus will be monitored so that no-one gets close to those birds.

This was told at a seminar on 'Guest birds & bird flu and protection of public health' organised by the forest department and the Nature Conservation Committee in the city yesterday.

The participants of the seminar called for a massive awareness about the migratory birds and enforcement of the existing laws to check bird flu.

The environmentalists said at least three species of guest birds -- bar-feaded geese, black-headed gull and ruddy shell ducks -- are carrying the avian virus.

They warned that black-headed gulls may spread the virus as they stay in wetlands around human habitations.

Last year, nearly 1,50,000 black-headed gulls arrived in Bangladesh during winter, the experts said.

The meeting decided to step up vigilance at different land, air and sea ports so that no virus-affected fowl can enter the country through import.

Forest and Environment Minister Tariqul Islam asked the officials concerned to identify the major places where the guest birds land and take precautionary measures on priority basis to prevent spread of bird flu.

Chairman of the Nature Conservation Committee Brigadier (Retd.) Sharif Uddin Ahmad presented a keynote paper.

State Minister for Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary of the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry Abdul Karim, Chief Conservator of Forest Osman Gani and bio-diversity experts also spoke.

## Hasina visits two ailing AL men at Birdem

### UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visited two ailing party followers at the Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday.

Hasina visited former Gopalaganj district Awami League president Advocate Sydur Rahman Chan Mia and Haji Abul Kashem of Tungipara upazila.

Hasina's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and AL leader Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin accompanied the opposition leader.

Prof Iqbal Ab Salan, Abu Naser Rizvi and DR Nazrul Islam were present during her visit.

## ATTACK ON TEXTILE WORKERS

# Badruddoza demands judicial inquiry

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation now needs honest, patriotic and competent leaders to save the country from the misrule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, said Badruddoza Chowdhury, president of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB), yesterday.

Referring to the Wednesday's attack on workers of Sinha Textile Group, he said the security guards attacked them at the instruction of a BNP leader.

He demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident and proper treatment for the injured workers.

Hundreds of such incidents took place in the last four years of alliance government, Badruddoza said at an Iftar party at the party office.

Pointing to the Transparency International report, the former president said the alliance government, not the people of the country, is totally responsible for putting the country on the top of the 'corruption' list for the fifth time in a row.

Formation of a national government comprising honest, brilliant and patriotic leaders is a must to save the nation from such a disgrace, he added.

The Bangladesh Hawkers' Welfare Association organised the Iftar party.



PHOTO: STAR  
President of Gono Forum Dr Kamal Hossain visited injured workers of Sinha Textiles Group at the Modern Clinic at Kanchpur yesterday. About 200 workers were injured in an attack by the security guards and ansars on Wednesday.