

# Proper policy a must to ensure poison-free food

Experts tell roundtable

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for a well-thought food policy that would meet country's increasing demand for food and ensure poison-free food for all.

"Unless we ensure poison-free food for our children, the next generation might be physically abnormal and very likely to suffer from intellectual backwardness", said paediatrics specialist Dr Lenin Chowdhury.

The roundtable titled "Poisonous Vegetables: Our Health Problem" organised by Nirapad Khadya Andolon, a civil society initiative to ensure safe food, was held at the National Press Club in the city.

Executive Member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) Dr Md Abdul Hye Majumdar in his keynote paper focused on the disastrous effects of using chemical fertilisers and pesticides on the environment as well as on human body.

"In most cases vegetables and foods are sold and consumed long before the period of intoxicating effects of pesticides that is usually seven to ten days is over and this multiplies health hazards of common people", said Dr Majumdar.

He said using chemicals of organo-phosphate group like methyl parathion and ethyl parathion for rat control is very dangerous to environment. These chemicals are components of nerve gas and master gas, he added.

Pointing to the reasons of excessive use of chemicals and fertilisers, Dr Majumdar said due to catchy advertisements of multinational companies, farmers began cultivating high yielding varieties of crops that demand huge fertilisers and pesticides.

Dr Lenin expressed concern saying that apart from having effects on the next generation, people are being increasingly affected by heart,

kidney, brain and blood related diseases in these days due to consumption of intoxicated vegetables and food items.

Quoting a study in the USA, Executive Director of Ubinig Farida Akhter said young children who are exposed to the chemicals used as pesticides cannot remember lessons properly.

Dr Ferdous Ahmed Koreshi presided over the discussion while former President of Bangladesh Economic Association Manowar Hossain, former MP Kamrunnahar Jafar, President of Bangladesh Manobadikar Bastobayan Parishad AMM Noman, journalist Ersheedul Majumdar, President of Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association Khondkar Ruhul Amin also spoke on the occasion.

The Indian deputy high commissioner in Dhaka was summoned to the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon to convey Bangladesh's strong protest and condemnation against the comments.

On August 12, BJP President Rajnath Singh made the remark in Goa.

He also said Bangladesh and some other neighbouring countries have virtually developed into a "terrorist hub", causing grave danger to the security of India.

"Bangladesh government is appalled at such outrageous comments and found them completely uncalled for and highly irresponsible as they came from the president of a leading political party in India," the spokesman said.

He dismissed the accusations made against Bangladesh by the BJP chief as "baseless, fabricated and intended evidently to foment anti-Bangladesh sentiments in India."

The comments made by the BJP leader were deeply disturbing and worked against the cause of friendly relations existing between the two neighbours, the spokesman noted.

The spokesman recalled that Rajnath Singh had made similar comments in Assam on July 20 this year.

He said the government strongly condemned his remarks and hoped that the Indian government would do everything possible to prevent such "provocative comments."

The government of Bangladesh also hopes that all concerned would refrain from such "outlandish and shocking suggestion," the spokesman added.

## One dies in Ctg wall collapse

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A person was killed and another injured as a wall collapsed on them at West Kamal in the port city yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Abdul Latif, 22, son of late Zamir Ahmad, police said.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at around 8.30am yesterday when a portion of a boundary wall, adjacent to a under construction road near Mazidia Madrasa of Noornagar, suddenly fell on pedestrians Abdul Latif and another unidentified person.

Latif succumbed to his injuries while he was being taken to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). The unidentified man was undergoing treatment at the hospital till filing of this report.

The dead was identified as Golam Mostafa, 30, son of late Tomiz Uddin of Goda Simla village under Pirkacha upazila in the district.

The accident occurred when a Rangpur-bound bus from Kurigram was killed in a road accident at Nabidganj Bazar on Rangpur-Kurigram highway under Pirkacha upazila in the district yesterday, police said.

The dead were identified as Kavum, 10, and his younger brother Kibria, 7, sons of Kausar Howlader, a mason living at north Khalishpur. The victims were students of Daulatpur Govt Primary School.

Police and witnesses said the two minor boys were run over by a Khulna-bound passenger bus while they were crossing the road.

Movement of vehicles on the Khulna-Jessore highway was disrupted for about one and a half hours as the agitated people put up barricades in protest against the deaths.

Victims' father Kausar Howlader lodged an FIR with Daulatpur Police Station in this connection.

Our Correspondent from Comilla adds: One person was killed in a road accident at Kalakochuya on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Burichang.

A mob put up barricade on the road for two and a half hours demanding exemplary punishment to the driver of the bus.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Maleq, 32 son of Abdul Aziz of Eshapur village in Daudkandi upazila.

Police said the accident took place at around 4:15am when a Daudkandi-bound passenger bus hit the chicken-loaded pickup van from behind.

Pick-up van helper died on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

BSS from Rangpur adds: A cyclist was killed in a road accident at Nabidganj Bazar on Rangpur-Kurigram highway under Pirkacha upazila in the district yesterday, police said.

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## Four killed in road accidents

### STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in separate road accidents in Khulna, Comilla and Rangpur yesterday.

Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Two minor boys were killed in a road accident at Daulatpur in Khulna city yesterday.

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## WEATHER TODAY

### Moderately heavy falls likely

#### UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and lowest 24.9 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:34am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.2	27.6	74	64
Chittagong	32.5	25.5	86	82
Rajshahi	33.8	27.1	81	77
Khulna	32.5	26.4	82	81
Barisal	32.5	25.8	90	--
Sylhet	33.1	25.0	87	72
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.0	88	83

## Dhaka shocked at BJP chief's comments

### Indian diplomat summoned

#### UNB, Dhaka

A foreign ministry spokesman yesterday expressed deep shock and surprise at Indian BJP president's comments that India should launch an attack to dismantle 'terrorist hideouts inside Bangladesh.'

The Indian deputy high commissioner in Dhaka was summoned to the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon to convey Bangladesh's strong protest and condemnation against the comments.

On August 12, BJP President Rajnath Singh made the remark in Goa.

He also said Bangladesh and some other neighbouring countries have virtually developed into a "terrorist hub", causing grave danger to the security of India.

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## ARMS Comilla reunion Aug 16

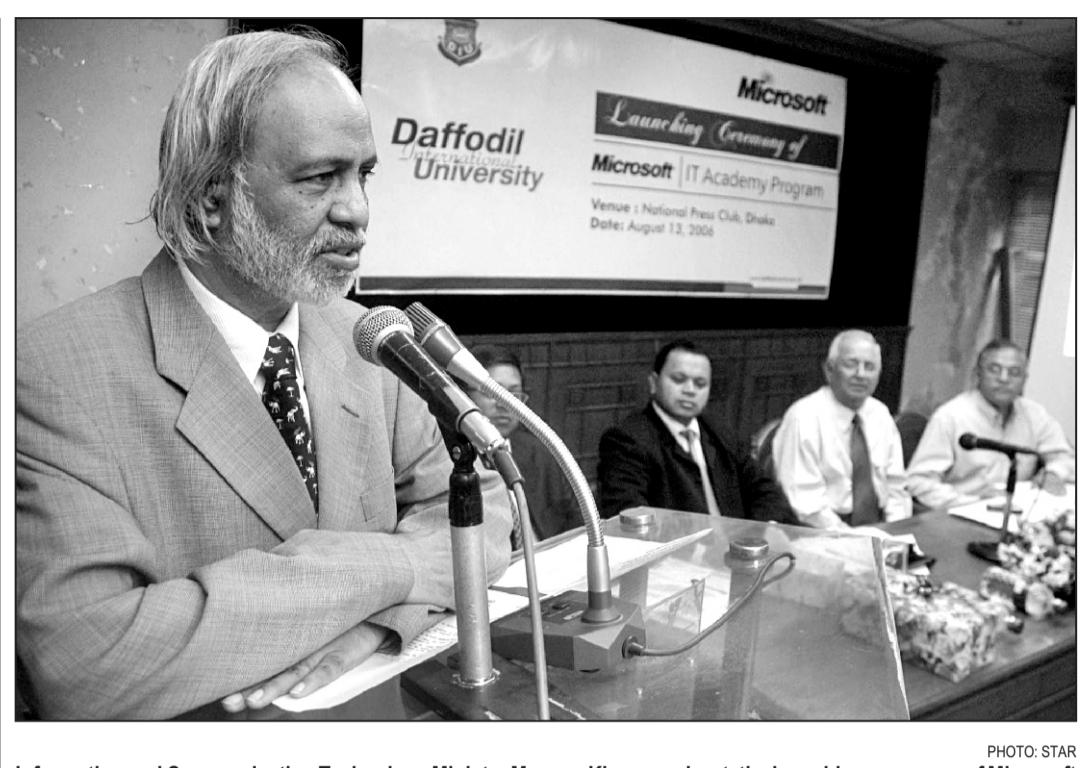
#### BSS, Dhaka

Associates of Residential Model School (ARMS), Comilla will hold its annual reunion at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University on August 16.

Former students and teachers of the school have been requested to join the daylong programme to be started at 10:00am.

An ARMS press release yesterday also requested all to complete their registration for the event.

A case was also filed the same day in this connection with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Station.



Information and Communication Technology Minister Moyeen Khan speaks at the launching ceremony of Microsoft IT Academy Programme organised by Daffodil University at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

## JAMAL UDDIN MURDER

### IO begs unconditional apology to court

#### CU CORRESPONDENT

A Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Anwar Hossain, also the Investigation Officer (IO) of the sensational abduction and murder of Chittagong business magnet and BNP leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed, submitted his response yesterday begging unconditional apology to the court.

He submitted a one-page response to the Government Record Officer (GRO) at around 5:00pm.

The court will pass an order on it on August 30, sources said.

Earlier on Thursday, the court of Chittagong Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammed Akram H