

# Frame farmer-friendly agri policy

Speakers tell consultation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national consultation meeting yesterday stressed the need for formulating a farmer-friendly agriculture policy incorporating recommendations of the growers to ensure effective development of agriculture sector.

The consultation meeting titled "Proposals on farmers-friendly agriculture policy" was organised by Incidin Bangladesh, a research organisation, in cooperation with the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at the National Press Club in the city.

Representatives from different political parties, labour organisations, non-government organisations and media attended the meeting.

They said opinions of marginal farmers would be vital in formulating an effective agriculture policy. They stressed improvement of the condition



Shawkat Momen Shajahan MP speaks at a national consultation meeting in the city's National Press Club yesterday.

of the marginal farmers for real development.

A 22-point recommendation was

presented at the consultation.

Land reform, strong agriculture research institutes and subsidies on

fertiliser, diesel and power should also be taken into consideration for development of agriculture, they said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture Ministry Shawkat Momen Shajahan said the government is sincere in agriculture production.

He said the government is working to increase use of surface water and made fertiliser more accessible and less expensive.

Farmland and industrial land have been identified across the country, he said, adding that the government is preparing a new law to ensure that agriculture land is not used for non-farm purposes.

Executive Director of Incidin Bangladesh AKM Masud Ali presented the keynote paper at the consultation while Abdullah Zafr moderated the programme.

# Van-puller murdered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A van-puller was murdered in front of a firewood shop in Shiromoni area of Khulna city at about 10:00am yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rahim Gazi, 40, son of late Gazi Matiur Rahman of Madhyapara of

the same area.

The body was taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Sub-Inspector Muhammad Mursaleen suspects the murderer to be an employee of the firewood shop. Police refused to release the identity of the suspect fearing it would make it difficult to apprehend him.



Sanui Sadat Hossain

(October 19, 1981-September 26, 2010), son of Engr. Belayet Hossain and Azadi Hossain, passed away at his home from cardiac arrest. Sanui studied at Scholastica, Playgroup-A'Levels; graduated from Richmond, The American International University in London in Computer Engineering; worked at Information Solutions Limited, Dhaka and was one of the proprietors of Hubble Bubble cafe and Mynt lounge. He left behind his parents, older brother, sister-in-law and his beloved 20-month-old niece, Shouhayla. His Qulkhwani will be held today, baad-Asr, at Mynt, 4th floor, House 153, Block E, Road 11, Banani. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for Sanui.

-Rubaiyat Hossain

# WAR CRIMES TRIAL

## Govt only to follow tribunal's directives

Says Sahara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said action against the war criminals would be taken as per the directives of the International Crimes Tribunal.

The home minister was taking to the journalists at a briefing before holding a meeting with local leaders of ruling Awami League (AL) at Chittagong Circuit House in the evening.

Asked whether the government is thinking about any action against Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Mir Kashem Ali, the home minister said International Crime Tribunal's investigation team is carrying out investigation

into the crimes against humanity that took place during the liberation war.

If any involvement in the crimes is found by the investigation, the tribunal would take action against them and the government would help implement the order of the tribunal, she said.

AL city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, General Secretary (GS) Kazi Inamul Hoque Danu, Lawmaker ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, AL North district unit GS Moslem Uddin and leaders of AL front organisations were present at the meeting.

# Expelled AL leader killed in 'shootout' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An expelled leader of the ruling Awami League (AL) was killed in a 'shootout' with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Bastuhara in Dumuria upazila of Khulna yesterday.

Rab Sub-inspector Haridas Mazumder also sustained bullet injuries during the 'gunfight', Rab claimed.

The deceased was identified as Kazi Fazlur Rahman alias Mohabbat.

He was accused of several criminal charges including freedom fighter Altaf Hossain killing charge.

Mohabbat was expelled from the post of cultural affairs secretary of Khalishpur upazila unit of AL for his alleged involvement with the killing of Altaf.

Jahanara Begum, wife of Altaf, filed a murder case with Khalishpur police station one day after he was stabbed to death in front of his Khalishpur residence on May 26.

Lt Col Mohammad Shoaib of Rab-6 said a Rab patrol team showed signal to Mohabbat to stop his motorbike at about 3:00am. Mohabbat was returning to Khulna city from Dumuria accompanied by two of his accomplices.

At one stage, they opened fire on the law enforcers that triggered a 'gunfight'.

Mohabbat was caught in the line of fire while two of his accomplices managed to flee.

Later, Rab recovered one 9mm pistol, one LG and one bullet from the spot.

# BAU online admission process begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Agricultural University has introduced online application system for admission seekers to undergraduate courses, says a press release.

BAU Vice-chancellor Prof Dr MA Sattar Mandal inaugurated the website, at which students can get application form and fill it up online.

The launching ceremony was held at the faculty of agricultural engineering and technology on Sunday.

To get admit cards, students have to pay application fees through electronic money order (EMO) service available at 966 post office branches and receive a 16-digit PIN number on the mobile numbers they supply.

Using the PIN, students are required to upload his scanned photograph and create a provisional admit card to appear the admission test.

The BAU website is www.bau.edu.bd/admission. Admission tests are scheduled to be held on December 04.

# 2 factories fined for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined two factories a total of Tk 52 lakh for discharging untreated liquid waste in the Shitalakkhya.

The two factories, Falcon Tex Limited in Kanchpur and Empire Dyeing Limited in Siddhirganj were fined Tk 20 lakh and Tk 33 lakh respectively for operating without setting up effluent treatment plants (ETP).

The DoE had warned the factories earlier that unless they set up ETPs immediately and complied with the environmental regulations, their gas, power and water supply would be severed. None of them had been issued clearance certificate by the DoE.

However, in spite of the warnings, the mills continued discharging untreated liquid waste in a nearby drain that ultimately ended up in

the Shitalakkhya. The mills have so far emptied almost 260,000 cubic metres of impurities into the river, according to an estimation of the mobile team of DoE officials.

During the drive, led by Mohammed Munir Chowdhury, director of Enforcement and Monitoring unit of the department, the team found red and yellow coloured untreated toxic waste being discharged from Empire Dyeing Limited.

The Narayanganj Police and officials of Palli Bidyut Samity also participated in the crackdown.

ETPs are used to treat water that has been contaminated by either industrial or commercial activities prior to its release into the environment or its re-use.

Meanwhile, the mobile team disconnected power supply to Imam Poultry Farm in Nayabari of Sonargaon for operating without an Environment Clearance Certificate.

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