



Communist Party of Bangladesh brings out a procession, scheduled to end at Mongla, from the city's Muktangan yesterday demanding an end to oppression and discrimination against women.

## 'Apply latest technology to increase rice production'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scientists have suggested Bangladesh must pay particular attention to the untapped potentials and latest technologies to increase rice production, as the country faces challenges for rapid population growth, decline of land and regular natural disasters.

They said Bangladesh has been almost self-sufficient in rice with over three crore tonnes yearly production; but maintaining expected annual growth of 1.7 percent to meet the need may be very difficult with the existing technologies and crop management system.

The observations came at a symposium on "Food security in Bangladesh: vision and strategies of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)" organised by IRRI at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital yesterday.

"Special attention should be given for

upland areas. For example, Chittagong Hill Tracts is a huge area having huge potentials for crops production," said M Syeduzzaman, member of IRRI Board of Trustees.

He said biotechnology in agriculture has made a lot of developments; the country has to take its opportunities.

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council Executive Chairman, Dr Waise Kabir, said rice yield gap -- a gap between possibilities of yield and real yield -- is still wide in Bangladesh. To meet the future challenges is never possible without reducing the gap.

He suggested for comprehensive research on the agricultural policies to find appropriate mechanisations to raise production.

IRRI Representative in Bangladesh, Dr Zainul Abedin, said major problem for food security in Bangladesh is that its population is increasing by 1.5 to 1.6 percent annually, while farmland is declining

by one percent.

Abedin said the country's rice production has increased over the years mainly because of high yielding varieties, but their potentials have been almost at the highest level now.

On the other hand, very erratic climates -- shortfall of rain during monsoon and flooding in haors during Boro season have put agriculture at risk. Besides salinity increase in the coastal areas has created a new challenge, the rice scientist observed, said Abedin.

He suggested improving and developing rice varieties tolerant to adverse climatic situations, improving crop management, and educating farmers by skilled officials and removing barriers to adoption of new technologies.

IRRI Scientists Jauhar Ali, Glenn Gregorio, US Singh, JK Ladha and Ronald Buresh also spoke.

## Submit report on militants' bank transactions

### Committee for combating militancy requests finance ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee for Resistance and Correction Militancy yesterday requested the Finance Ministry to submit a report to its next meeting on whether the militants are using network of any local bank.

"We need to know whether there is any dubious transactions to stop terror financing and root out militancy in the country," a senior home ministry official said after a meeting of the committee at the ministry.

Headed by State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku and comprised by representatives of different ministries, law enforcement agencies, Islamic Foundation and some other government bodies, the meeting mainly discussed stopping terror financing, said the official.

Meanwhile, the committee that sits in an interval of three months observed that

the militants might thwart the trial of liberation war crimes.

"The government has taken the war criminals to justice. But the militants who had been patronised by the previous [BNP-led alliance] government may obstruct the move," Tuku told reporters after the meeting.

He said the militants emerged by getting patronisation, but the Awami League government has captured and put them for trial.

Tuku said there was patronisation by the state itself behind the August 21 grenade attack and August 17 serial bomb blasts across the country, smuggling of 10 trucks arms and the killings of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and AL leader Ahsanullah Master.

The committee members said the militants could not gain strength and are being arrested regularly due to continual drives against and the government's

various campaigns to uproot extremism.

The committee, originally formed under the leadership of former state minister for home Tanjim Ahmed Sohail, took various initiatives to make people aware about extremism, they said.

The committee members decided to emphasise on deliberation of imams before the Juma prayers across the country to build awareness among the people about the negative sides of militancy.

Members of the committee are secretaries of the ministries of home, education, law, religious affairs, social welfare, LGRD and cooperatives, and information, the inspector general of police, chiefs of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Ansar and VDP, National Security Intelligence, Rapid Action Battalion, and the director general of Prime Minister's Office.

## Man killed for protesting stalkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals on Monday night stabbed to death a man who protested stalking of his wife at Dattapara in Tongi.

Police said the criminals slit throat of Raju Hossain Bappi, 26, in front of his house when he was returning from work around 10:30pm.

Raju was rushed to a local clinic where doctors declared him dead.

Sub-inspector Abul Bashar of Tongi Police Station said Raju's wife Sikha Khatun told them that a man had been stalking her when her husband was away.

She told her husband about the stalking, as it was getting worse. OC of the police station said Raju had protested the stalking and the stalkers might have killed him.

## Registration of 585 NGOs cancelled this year

### Matia tells House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations donated Tk 19.1 crore to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to help the victims of the Nimtoli inferno and Begunbari building collapse incidents.

Of the amount, Tk 91.5 lakh have been distributed among the victims.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, also in-charge of the PM's Office in the parliamentary business, said this in the parliament while replying to lawmakers' queries.

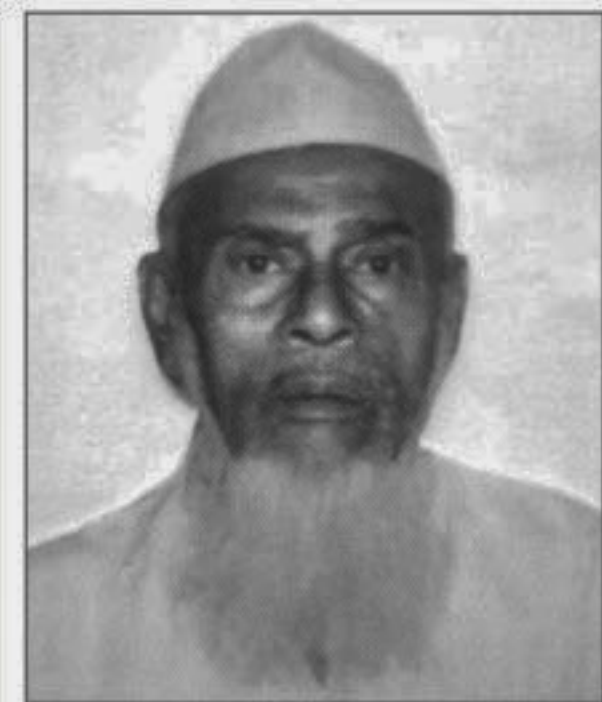
Around 127 people were killed in the two incidents occurred in June this year. The minister placed a list of families and people who got the financial assistance.

According to the list, Tk 1 lakh was given to each of the 82 families victim to the incidents, while Tk 50, 000 was given to each of the 19 people victimized by Nimtoli inferno.

She, however, did not say whether the rest of the money would be distributed among the victims.

In response to another query, Matia said, since 1990, registration of 641 non-government organizations (NGO) was cancelled on grounds of different reasons. Of them, registration of 585 NGOs was cancelled this year, she added.

She said the list of these NGOs is available on the website of NGO Affairs Bureau.



## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaj Mazharul Safa, son of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's (DAM) founder Khan Bahadur Assunullah, died of old age complications at Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital at Mirpur in the city early yesterday, says a press release.

Safa, 88, left behind his wife, son, daughter and a host of relatives, admirers and well-wishers to mourn the death.

His first namaz-e-janeza was held on DAM's Dhanmondi premises at 9:00am yesterday and his second namaz-e-janeza is scheduled to be held at Nalta Rowzasharif in Satkhira today.

He will be buried at family graveyard at Nalta.

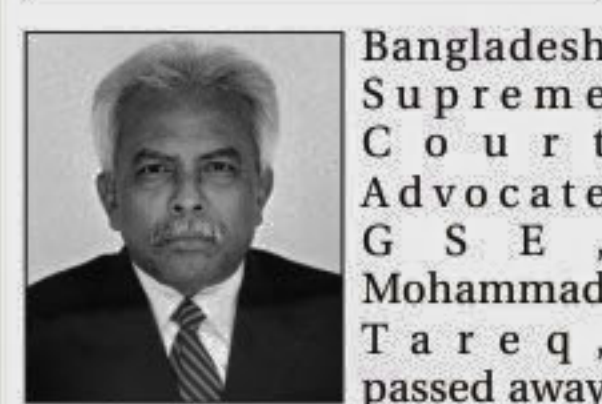
A special Milad Mahfil will be held at DAM Bhaban in Dhanmondi on Thursday after Maghrib prayers.

His Qulhwani will be held on Friday after Juma prayers at Nalta sharif Shahi Jame Mosque in Satkhira.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam expressed deep condolence at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

## Mohammad Tareq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



He left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relatives, admirers and well-wishers to mourn his death.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam expressed shock at his death. He prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Mohammad Tareq had worked in UGC and Sonali Bank Ltd as panel advocate.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of MA Rouf, former chairman of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, chief engineer of Public Works Department and Secretary.

All the relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul, said a press release.

## Gopal Krishna Nath

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof Gopal Krishna Nath, of the department of chemistry, University of

Dhaka. His kin request his friends and acquaintances to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

## Muggers shoot businessman, snatch Tk 32 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of three muggers shot a businessman at Dainik Bangla intersection in the city and robbed him of Tk 32 lakh yesterday afternoon.

Yunus Munnaf, 35, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds on his left leg. He owns Hasan International Residential Hotel on VIP Road at Fakirapool.

Musabbir Hasan Rana, who works for Munnaf, said they were going on a rickshaw to the hotel with Tk 32 lakh.

As the rickshaw reached the area, two youths approached them from two sides, shot at Munnaf and snatched the bag of money from Rana and on a motorcycle, they fled the scene.

Officer-in-Charge Shahidul Haque of Paltan Police Station said Rana was being interrogated.

## New city corporations to be set up Says Ashrafur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rules are being formulated under the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009 to establish new City Corporation, LGRD and Cooperatives and Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam told the House yesterday.

"Establishing new City Corporation will be considered on completion of formulation of the rules," the LGRD minister said in a scripted reply to BNP lawmaker Lutfar Rahman of Cox's Bazar-3.

In a written query, the opposition lawmaker, who was not present in the House as his party is boycotting it, enquired whether the government has any plan to upgrade Cox's Bazar headquarters into city corporation.

Now there are six city corporations established at the divisional headquarters of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet.

In response to another query on introduction of electronic voting machine (EVM) on large scale, the LGRD minister said the Election Commission (EC) is actively considering introducing EVM in all elections, in phases, in future.

## SHAHRIAR KABIR, MAMUN'S APPEALS HC starts hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday started hearing on the eight-year long pending two writ petitions filed by journalist-writer Shahriar Kabir and Professor Muntasir Mamun challenging their arrest detention and remand during the BNP led four-party alliance government.

The petitions also prayed to the HC court to direct the government to pay Tk 5 crore to each of them in compensation for arresting them under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and causing them financial and reputational loss.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain yesterday adjourned the hearing and fixed Wednesday (today) for further hearing on the petitions.

Kabir and Mamun were arrested in December 2002 on suspicion of anti-state activities. They were both freed later on High Court orders.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam argued for the petitioners.

## Discussion on education policy in next session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A general discussion on the National Education Policy 2010 was deferred to next session of parliament as lawmakers did not agree to participate in it in 'short notice'.

The education policy was placed in the parliament on Monday. But the discussion on it was not included in the original order of the business for yesterday's sitting. It was included for discussion in a supplementary order of business.

On the eve of beginning of the discussion, Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim took floor and said it is not possible for them to participate in the discussion on the education policy without going through the policy thoroughly.

"We need time to take preparation for participating in the discussion," he said, proposing to hold the discussion today.

But the speaker didn't agree as another general discussion on achieving UN Millennium Development Goal award will be held today. He said if the two discussions are held simultaneously, importance of the discussions will be reduced.

The speaker then invited ruling party lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta, who piloted the motion for holding the discussion, to give his opinion on the matter. Suranjit said the cabinet passed the education policy and now it became the government policy. If the House passes the education policy, it will be national policy, he said.

He then suggested the speaker to take opinion of the Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, who later spoke for holding discussion yesterday.

But AL lawmaker Tofail Ahmed, Jatiya Party lawmakers Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Hafizuddin Ahmed, Workers Party's MP Rashed Khan Menon and independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim spoke for deferral of the discussion.

Then the speaker said the discussion will be held in next session, which is likely to begin early of December.

## Woman killed allegedly by husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman died after her husband allegedly poured scalding hot water on her at Tajmahal Road in the city on Monday.

The deceased, Ramesa Begum, 28, was wife of Rashed Miah, 45, a rickshaw garage owner in Mohammadpur.

Recovered early yesterday, the body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Ramesa's older brother, Liton Lasker, said the couple without any children used to have quarrels, as Rashed had another wife.

Liton alleged that Rashed killed Ramesa by pouring boiling water on her sometime on Monday and fled the scene.

Late on Monday, a friend of Rashed took Liton's younger brother Dablu to Ramesa's house and left him there. Dablu found his sister's scalded body lying on the bed with a water pot beside.

Abdul Wahed, sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station, suspects Rashed for the killing, as he is on the run. A case has been filed with the police station.



Shikhhak Karmachari Oikya Parishad brings out a procession from the city's Muktangan yesterday on the occasion of World Teachers Day.