

# 'BNP not to join polls under AL-led govt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the main opposition BNP yesterday said the party will not take part in any elections under the Awami League led government.

"BNP will not participate in election if caretaker government provision is scrapped," said the party's standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

"We will resist such elections keeping people with us," said Mosharraf while addressing a demonstration programme at Mahanagar Natya Mancho in the city yesterday.

He said election cannot be free and fair under Awami League government and that is why they will not participate in election under the present government.

The former minister also criticised the government for its failure to evacuate Bangladeshis from crisis-riddled Libya.

BNP staged the demonstration across the country demanding release of its arrested leaders and workers. The party leader Dr RA Gani chaired the protest programme.

The opposition leaders also opposed the government's plan to implement electronic voting system in the next parliamentary elections.

According to them, the government wants to introduce electronic voting only to manipulate the poll results, as the people are not aware of this system at all.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday held a separate "day of demand" demanding release of its top leaders remaining detained now.

The party held a rally at Purana Paltan in the city as part of its countrywide programme. Jamaat's Acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam was the chief guest at the rally.

ATM Azharul said the government has detained Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, and others illegally, as evidence of committing crimes against humanity is yet to be found against them.

The Jamaat leader also said the word "razakar" is being used to destroy the image of the Islamist leader in a bid to destroy the Islamic movement.



The mangled truck hit by a train at a level crossing in Nandalapur at Pagla of Narayanganj yesterday morning. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: COURTESY

# Brick kiln fined for grabbing Halda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a brick kiln Tk 5 lakh for grabbing the river Halda and polluting the air in Mohra of Chittagong.

A team the DoE, led by its Director (enforcement) Munir Chowdhury, penalised Akter Brick Works in a drive to prevent environment crime, says a press release.

The owner of the brick field was ordered to cease its operations immediately and destroy the kiln's chimney and furnace by March 3. Some 8,000 bricks were also seized. The brick kiln has been operating illegally for eight years, using over 3,000 litres of water from the river Halda in Kochukhain.

It also used soil from the land beside the river to produce some 24 lakh bricks every year.

The DoE had served a notice on the owner to cease its operations in 2010.

The five-acre brickfield is also located beside a primary school and a mosque where students and devotees are exposed to the toxic fumes of the brick furnace everyday.

# LEGAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT Cabinet approves final draft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the final draft of the Legal Assistance (Amendment) Act 2011 with a view to provide legal help for the poor people.

The approval came at the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The cabinet also approved in principle to enact Science and Technology Development Act 2011 for the development of science and technology in the country, prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the meeting. The prime minister held another meeting of the government's Stipend Trust Fund after the cabinet meeting.

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# BDR CARNAGE CASE 23 jawans on 2-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Twenty three Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) jawans were placed on a two-day remand each for interrogation yesterday as the Criminal Investigation Department started fresh investigation into the BDR carnage case.

The CID earlier pressed charges against 824 accused BGB jawans on 24 charges including killing, arson and looting during the mutiny at

the then BDR headquarters in Pilkhana on February 25-26 last year.

A trial court which has already started the trial proceedings, however, ordered further investigation following an appeal from the prosecution on February 3 as some names of BGB members who were involved in the carnage surfaced later.

Metropolitan Magistrate Keshab Roy Chowdhury placed them on remand after

CID's Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand produced them before it with a two-day remand prayer.

The accused are havildar Daud Ali, lance nayeks Rezaul Karim, Jasim Uddin, Mozammel Haque, Mojibur Rahman, Mahtab Uddin, Anwar Hossain, Hasmat Zaman, Emdadul Haque, Selim Miah, Nazrul Islam, and Belayet Hossain,

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The Daily Star English Medium Schools' Cultural Programme 2011 Chittagong. Watch TOMORROW at 4:05 pm on CHANNEL 5.

মুক্তিযুদ্ধের পতাকা হাতে  
চলেছি মোরা গণতন্ত্রের পথে

স্বাধীনতার ৪০ বছর

বাংলাদেশ পথনাটক ২০১১

১-৭ মার্চ, কেন্দ্রীয় শহীদ মিনারে প্রতিদিন বিকেল ৪টায়

আজ উদ্বোধন করবেন গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের  
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এ উৎসবে অংশগ্রহণ করবেন

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শেলটেক্ বসন্ত মেলা ২০১১

স্থান: শেলটেক্ টাওয়ার (শেলটেক্ লাউজ)

০১-১২ মার্চ ২০১১ | সকাল ১০:০০-সন্ধ্যা ৭:০০

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\*প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে

# Allot frequencies to community radios

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to allot frequencies to all community radios that received broadcasting licence.

Out of 14 licence holders, only five have been given broadcasting frequencies in February 23, they said, adding that more community radios should be given licences.

The opinions came at a discussion meeting titled "Community radios' role in implementing Right to Information Act", jointly organised by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) and Information Commission at the commission's conference room in the city.

The discussants said community radios could play a big role in spreading awareness about people's rights to information by broadcasting special programmes in local languages. The radios can inform people of their rights through musical performances, drama, talk shows, reports and news broadcasts, they said.

If mass awareness is created regarding Right to Information Act, the government would be more inclined to implement the new law, they added.

The discussants also called for integrated efforts from the community radios to help develop communities and bring people together.

Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Jamir was present at the programme as the chief guest. BNNRC Chief Executive Officer AHM Bazlur Rahman and Nilfar Nazreen of Bangladesh Betar also spoke.

Urban Food Production Day  
1 March 2011  
Theme: Improve Nutrition through Household Production

Today, for the first time in Bangladesh, people in 23 Pourashavas and City Corporations around the country are celebrating Urban Food Production Day

**Facts**  
About one third of Bangladesh's population lives in urban areas and almost half (43 percent) of them are poor, consuming less than 2,122 kcal per day.  
On average, households in urban areas spend about 45 percent of their income on food, while the poor in urban areas spend upwards of 60 percent.  
For the urban poor, malnutrition can result in stunted growth, weakened immune system, mental impairment and in rare cases, death.

**Events of the Day**  
Mass gatherings, Public lectures, Documentary presentations, Cultural events, Urban Food Production competitions and demonstrations

**Participating City Corporations:**  
Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Barisal, Rangpur

**Participating Pourashavas:**  
Dinajpur, Bogra, Comilla, Mymensingh, Tangail, Naogaon, Chapai Nawabganj, Kushtia, Jessore, Gopalganj, Tongi, Gazipur, Savar, Sirajganj, Narayanganj and Hobiganj

What UPPR is doing on Urban Food Production?  
UPPR's Urban Food Production (UFP) component is part of the programme's larger Socio-Economic Development component. UPPR promotes household- and community-level UFP demonstrations, provides small input support (i.e. high-yield variety vegetable and fruit tree seeds, seedlings, saplings, fertilisers, chickens and ducklings), gives small block grants to extreme poor women to start poultry and goat rearing and small agri-business, pilots bee-keeping and integrated fish-farming techniques, organises household UFP training (e.g. homestead vegetable production, poultry rearing, cow fattening, mushroom production etc) and gives livelihoods training (poultry vaccinating). To ensure the sustainability of UPPR's UFP activities, communities are trained to form linkages and partnerships with government, non-government and private agro-based service providers.

For further information on the programme please visit [www.upprbd.org](http://www.upprbd.org) or [www.undp.org.bd](http://www.undp.org.bd)

Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR)