

# Invent alternative to formalin

Hasan Mahmud asks scientists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud urged scientists to invent an alternative to formalin for the safe preservation of foodstuff.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the 9th Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CUVAS) in a city hotel on Thursday evening.

The theme of the conference was "Food Safety in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges". Around 200 researchers from countries including Denmark, India, Japan and Pakistan attended the two-day conference.

Hasan said detrimental chemicals like formalin are frequently used to preserve foodstuff as the country's existing laws on ensuring safe food are not sufficient to prevent the adul-

teration of food.

Though the population increased three times in the last fifty years, the country does not need to import "that much of foodstuff" as scientists and researchers helped increase the production of crops several fold, he said.

Developing consciousness, alongside application of laws, in people from all walks of life is necessary to ensure safe food and prevent environmental pollution, he added.

He expressed hope that CUVAS would play a vital role, not only in educating students but also in presenting developments in food preservation techniques.

University Grants Commission member Prof Dr Akhter Hossain and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Pran Gopal Datta were present at the programme with CUVAS Vice Chancellor Prof Dr ASMahfuzul Bari in the chair.



Mother and sister of a road accident victim wailing at the sight of their loved one's body at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Five people were killed when a covered van rammed a three-wheeler at Sitakunda in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Five Tahrir men arrested

METRO DESK

Five operatives of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir were arrested from two separate spots in Dhaka and Sylhet yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports: Police arrested three of the operatives who were trying to hold a rally before Monowara Jame Mosque in the city's Katabon around 2:30pm.

Two of the arrestees, Nur-e-alam Mohammad Shihab Uddin and Abdul Matin, are students of Dhaka University while the third one, Abdul Matin, is a student of Bangladesh Institute of Glass and Ceramic in the city's Tejgaon.

Sub-Inspector Mohammad Alam Mian of New Market Police Station said the trio was shouting slogans against the government while holding a banner.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two of the operatives, also students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, distributing the outfit's leaflets before Sheikhghat Boro Mosque in Sylhet city after Juma prayers.

The arrestees are Jewel Ahmed, in his final year at Bachelor of Business Administration and hailing from Sridhara village in Beanibazar upazila, and Atique Sarfaraj, of the civil and environmental engineering department and hailing from Barohatia area of Chittagong.

Rab handed them over to Sylhet Kotwali Police Station in the evening after filing a case in this connection.

# Robbers shoot two

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers shot and wounded two people, including a student, at Demra in the capital yesterday morning.

Anik, 12, a class VI student of Trimohoni Daffodil International School, and Sajib, 21, a shopkeeper in the area -- were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Anik suffered bullet injury in his right hand while Sajib in his right leg.

Police said a gang of robbers went to Gurnagar area by a trowler around 6:30am. Sensing presence of robbers, local people chased them. At one stage, the gang opened fire and escaped by the trowler, police added.

Sajib told reporters at the hospital that the gang of eight to ten was led by local goons Alamgir and Shamsuddin. They are notorious criminals.

Anik's uncle Jainal Abedin filed a case with Khilgaon Police Station.

# 8 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and six others injured in road accidents in Chittagong, Chapainawabganj, Rangpur, and Pabna yesterday and Thursday.

Our staff correspondent from Ctg reports: Five persons were killed and six others injured as an improvised passenger vehicle collided head-on with a covered van in Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

Four of the deceased were identified as Md Kawser, 20, son of Baten Mia of Muradnagar of Comilla, Monir Hossain Hira, 35, son of Hiron Mia of Baghaura of Brahmanbaria, the passenger vehicle driver Md Ershad, 30, son of Kanchan Mia of Kulgaon of Bayezid in Chittagong, and Hazera Begum, 20, of Chittagong. Identity of the other victim aged around 16 could not be known immediately while police suspected him to be the helper.

The accident took place near Shitalpur High School, leaving 10 persons, all on board the passenger vehicle, injured.

Highway police and locals immediately sent the injured to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared four of them dead, said Sub-

inspector Jahirul Islam, in-charge, CMCH police outpost.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent says: An unidentified man was crushed under a speeding bus at Rasulpur intersection in Shibganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased was said to be aged about 35. Police sent the body to the sadar hospital for autopsy.

Our Rangpur correspondent adds: An elderly man was killed after being hit by a speeding motorcycle at Modhapara Village in Gangachara upazila on Thursday.

Shamsur Ali, 70, the deceased, was a farmer of Ghonartari village. He died en route to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

ABM Zahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gangachara Model Police Station, said police handed the body over to the victim's family.

Our Pabna correspondent reports: A minor boy was killed as a speeding bus hit him at Jalalpur point on Pabna-Nagarbari highway in the district headquarters on Thursday evening.

Maruf Hossain, 7, the dead, was son of Milon Hossain of village Jalalpur in Pabna sadar upazila. He died on the spot.

# March 12 rally for 'terrorist activities'

Says Tuku

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Intelligence reports and comments of BNP's top leaders reveal that the March 12 rally would be held to conduct "terrorist activities" in the excuse of safeguarding democracy and "Moududi's Pakistani Islam", said state minister for home.

"Law enforcement agencies will not sit idle if they (BNP-Jamaat) create any lawlessness and anarchic situation in the name of democracy and Moududi's Pakistani Islam," warned the state minister, Shamsul Hoque Tuku yesterday.

Talking to reporters in Rajshahi Circuit House, Shamsul said BNP cadres, during its 1994 regime, attacked Sheikh Hasina's train in Ishwardi of Pabna and Lalpur of Natore and criminals threw grenades on her rally in Dhaka in 2004.

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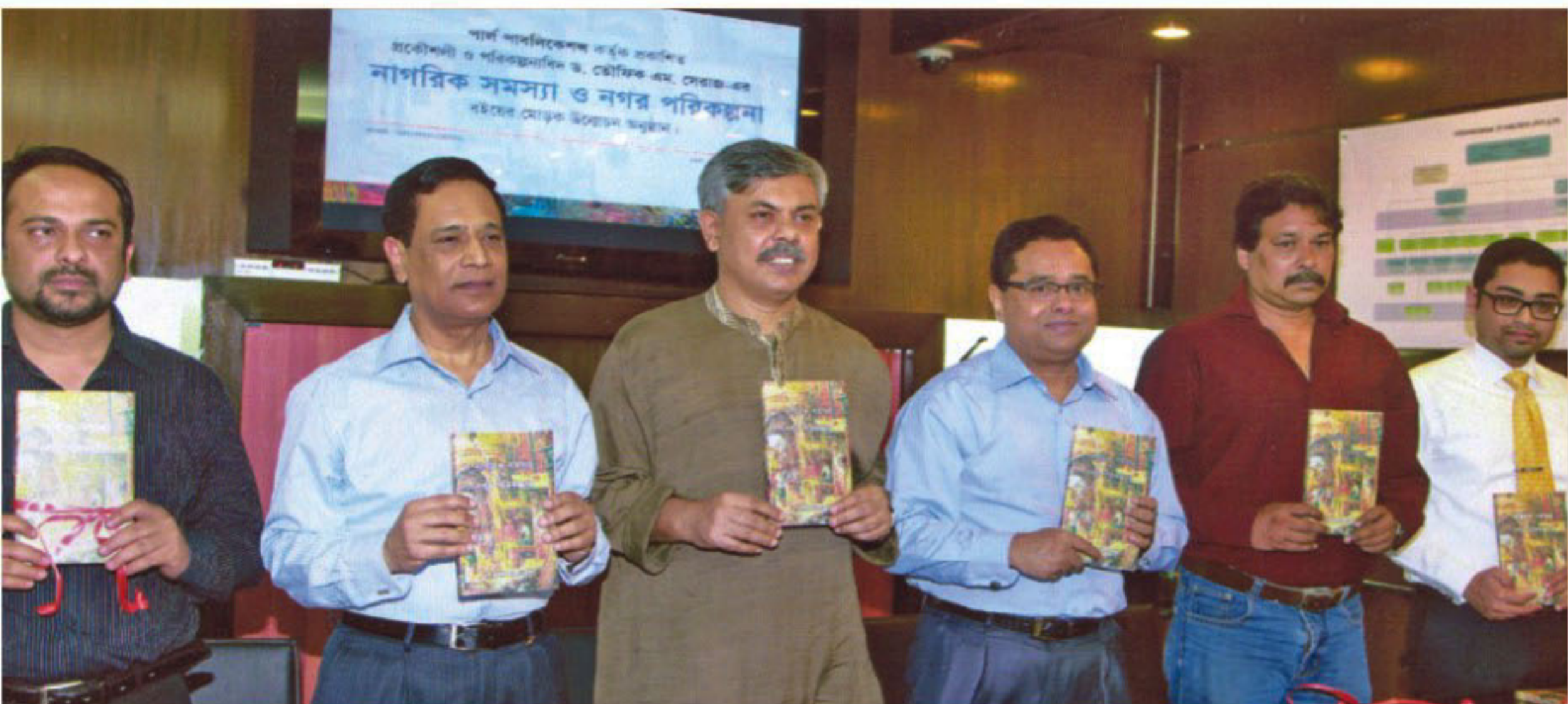


PHOTO: COURTESY

The publication ceremony of a book titled "Nagorik Samsya O Nagor Parikalpana," written by engineer-planner Dr Toufiq M Seraj, held at Sheltech office at Panthapath in the city on Tuesday. Writer Anisul Haque and Bangladesh Olympic Association General Secretary Amir Kutubuddin Ahmed unveiled the cover of the book. Sheltech Director (Development) Tanvir Ahmed and Pearl Publications CEO Hasan Jaedi were also present on the occasion.

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Make sure to get hold of the next issue of Star Campus, a weekly supplement of The Daily Star. This week's issue will offer readers with articles on some of the important topics that the young people are talking about. The spotlight is a six page story on how today's youths are in a dilemma when it comes to choosing a job, either due to the fact that their interests do not correspond to their goal or because of the lack of job opportunities in unconventional areas. Also read our article on CP chicken, which is the current favourite eat-out of students nowadays. This week's star chat will be an exclusive talk with pianist Ehsanul Haque, who will inspire you with his words. Star Campus comes out every Sunday so make sure you grab your copy tomorrow! And as always, have a good read!

**MISMATCHED DREAM**

# Woman 'burnt by husband' dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A housewife succumbed to her burn injuries yesterday, thirteen days after she was set on fire allegedly by her husband for dowry in Khagrachhari.

Rohima Begum, 18, died around 5:30am at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, where she was admitted on March 1 with more than 50 percent of her body covered in burn injuries, said her father Abdur Rahman.

Rohima's husband Mohammad Jamal Hossain and in-laws allegedly set her ablaze at their residence at Pilotfarm in Panchhari upazila of Khagrachhari on February 25 as she refused to pay Jamal Tk 50,000 as dowry.

She was rushed to Panchhari upazila health complex and then shifted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

Panchhari police said they arrested Jamal and Jahanara, Rohima's sister-in-law, from their house on the night of incident. Rohima's mother Rufia Bagum filed a case in this regard with Panchhari Police Station.

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