

# Saving environ requires public participation

## Bapa, BEN conference told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People's participation must be ensured in the enforcement of environmental regulations and laws, rules and court orders which at present lack implementation, speakers told a conference organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) in the capital yesterday.

Highlighting how difficult it is to implement decisions in the cabinet, Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju said, "If I say I will take the suggestions and recommendations given here seriously, then I will be lying."

Addressing the closing session, he said the mentality to depend on foreign assistance resulted in prioritisation of suggestions of those who fund environmental projects. However on a positive note, he said things were changing.

Recommendations for proper implementation of the numerous policies relating to the environment were made at "Environment Policies and Act's Implementation Problems" at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, Farmgate.

In the plenary session, Nazrul Islam, global coordinator, BEN, presented an "Overview of environmental policies and acts implementation problems".

It highlighted administrative weakness, a lack of specific directions of some laws and conflicting philosophies on protecting the environment as the three main barriers to

implementation of laws. After that, 63 papers were presented in 15 parallel sessions during the daylong conference where various environmental issues, existing laws and barriers to the implementation were discussed.

Specific recommendations were given for implementation of laws and regulations related to water bodies and transboundary rivers, agriculture and food, energy, urbanisation, urban transportation, solid waste management, industrial pollution, forests and indigenous people, and parks and open spaces.

Besides, removal of weaknesses of the enforcing authorities and organisations were suggested.

Suggestions also came on discarding the traditional way of managing rivers by blocking them through embankments and replacing them with open approaches that do not hamper the natural flow.

Other recommendations in the draft proposal of the conference urged limiting the role of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) to that of a regulatory authority only, increasing dependence on public transportation and preventing destruction of natural forests in the name of eco-parks and development.

More than 200 registered participants comprising scientists, environmental experts, activists and government officials took part in the conference with 14 co-organisers including public and private universities and 75 associate organisers.



Farmers of Goforgaon in Mymensingh harvesting the first batch of red potatoes. Last year potato growers suffered losses due to low prices, triggered by a sudden supply glut in the wake of weeks of shutdowns and blockades. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

### Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 21st death anniversary of Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury.



On this occasion a doa mahfil will be held, says a press release. He played a leading role during the Language Movement, and was appointed a Supreme Court judge in 1973.

### Debendra Nath Ghosh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Today is the 16th death anniversary of anti-British revolutionary Biplobi Debendra Nath Ghosh.



He had suffered 27 years in jail for his uncompromising attitude under British, Pakistani and Bangladeshi repressive regimes. Biplobi Deben Ghosh Smriti Sangrakkhon Committee will pay tributes at his cremation place at Barisal Maha Shamshan Ghat. The activist was born on April 22, 1890.

# Cotton crafts make 25,000 self-reliant

BSS, Rangpur

The cotton crafts value chain programme of the "Samridhhi" project has created sustainable employments for 25,000 extremely poor people, mostly distressed women, making them self-reliant in the northern region.

The project beneficiaries have been earning well through mini garment cotton crafts, handloom and embroidery works to lead solvent life as well as contribute to the rural uplift and economy.

Three regional offices of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation under the project have been assisting the beneficiaries since 2010 in the northern region with financial assistance of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Under the project assistance and cooperation between private sectors and local entrepreneurs, various value chain systems, including cotton crafts, have developed opportunities for sustainable jobs and income generation activities locally.

The project has strengthened the local service providing systems enhancing capacity of local service providers and their associations and collaboration among the government agencies, private entrepreneurs, companies and organisations.

Under the cotton crafts value chain programme, 25,000 people of 5,555 extremely poor households of all 16 northern districts in the region have achieved self-

reliance through local employments in their own areas.

Private sector entrepreneur Abu Bakar Siddik has set up mini factory "Students Care Garments" at Dimla town in Nilphamari to promote the programme through skill development of rural women and establishing rural production centres.

The trained men and women have been producing quality school informs for male and female students at the factory and also its the eight other production centres.

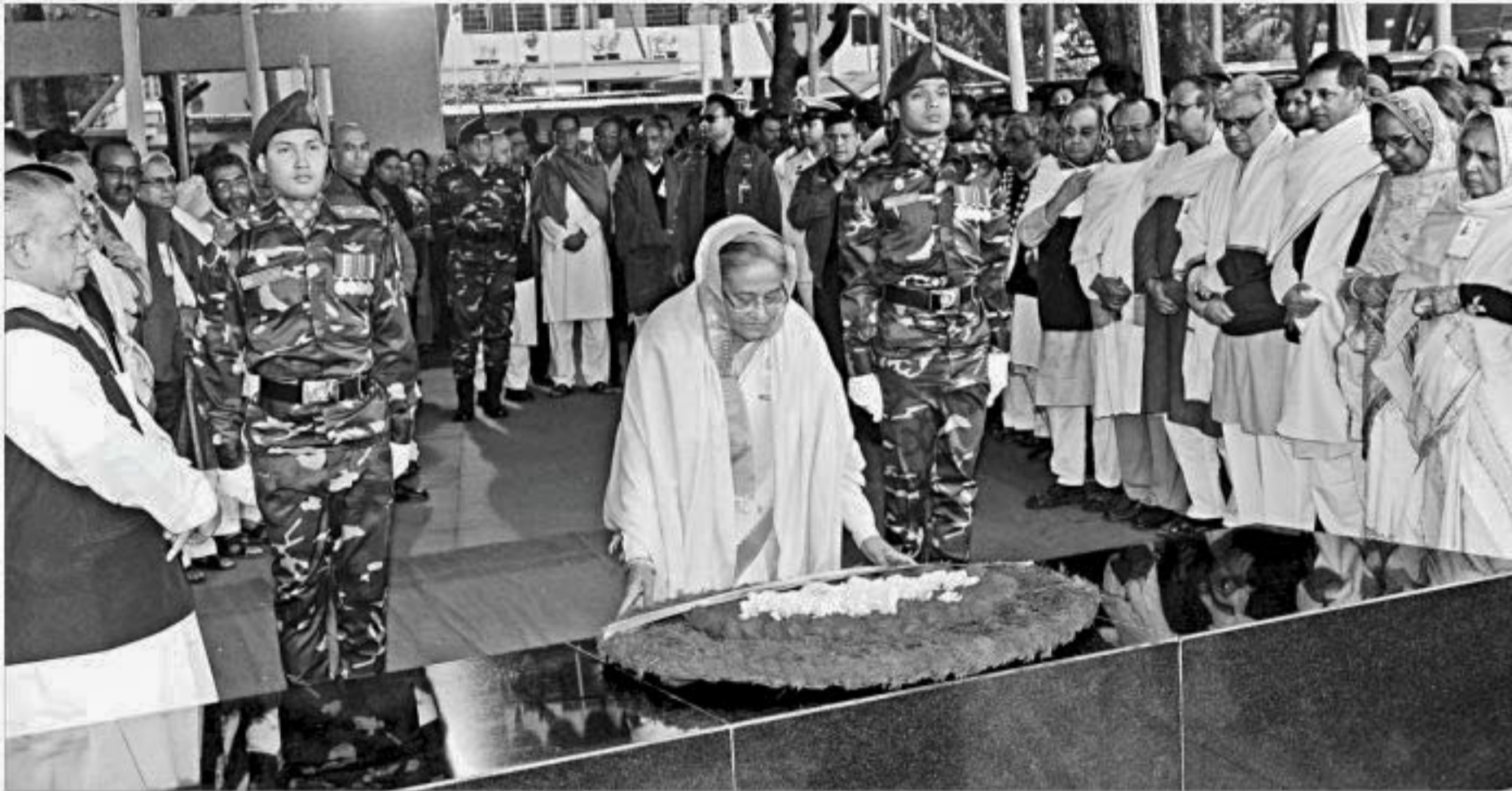
Proprietor of "Students Care Garments" Abu Bakar Siddik told the news agency that the products were being supplied to the 'Students Care Garments' from where those are being marketed for students of 1,500 schools in 27 upazilas of 13 districts throughout the country.

Besides, the trained have been producing other garment products at these centres for marketing through local traders and entrepreneurs with the assistance of the programme under the project.

Like other garments producer women, Basiron, 46, Rasheda, 36, Lipa, 22, Rafia, 39, Ambia, 36, Samina, 33, and Minaki, 30, said that they were earning Tk 5,500 to Tk 6,500 every month now to lead a solvent life with their family members.

Similarly, Proprietor Hazrat Ali of "Bhai Bhai Handloom" of Baliandangi upazila in Thakurgaon, Yahhiya Iqbal of "Azmal Sajhor and Iqbal Zorry House" of Syedpur

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Marking the historic Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at his portrait at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

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H	Steel Furniture, Iron Safe, Locker, Strong Room Door etc.
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### Obituary

CITY DESK

Razia Sultan Neelu, wife of Maj Gen Muhammad Ghola Mowla, died at CMH Dhaka on Thursday.



She left behind her husband, two sons and a daughter to mourn her death.

She completed her MA in Islamic History from Dhaka University in 1964 and worked as a lecturer at Rangpur Women's College.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held after Asr prayers today at 901 Central Workshop Mosque, Dhaka Cantonment.

### Kamrun Nahar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kamrun Nahar, an associate professor of Dhaka College, died of heart diseases at a hospital in the city yesterday. She was 46.



She left behind her husband and a son. Nahar was buried at Azimpur graveyard after Magrib prayers, says a press release.

### Road crash kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A pedestrian, Nurul Islam, 55, was killed when a truck hit him from behind near Bheduria ferry ghat area in Bhola sadar upazila yesterday.

**DHAKA TODAY**  
**Workshop**  
Asia Pacific Culture Centre for UNESCO, Nara Japan and Directorate of Archaeology will organise a workshop for "Protection of Cultural Heritage at Dhaka in Bangladesh." Venue: Directorate of Archaeology, Agargaon, Time: 10:00am  
**Exhibition**  
Bengal Art Lounge will organise a solo exhibition of paintings by Bishwajit Goswami. Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Time:

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Contact Centre 16259  
Senior Vice President