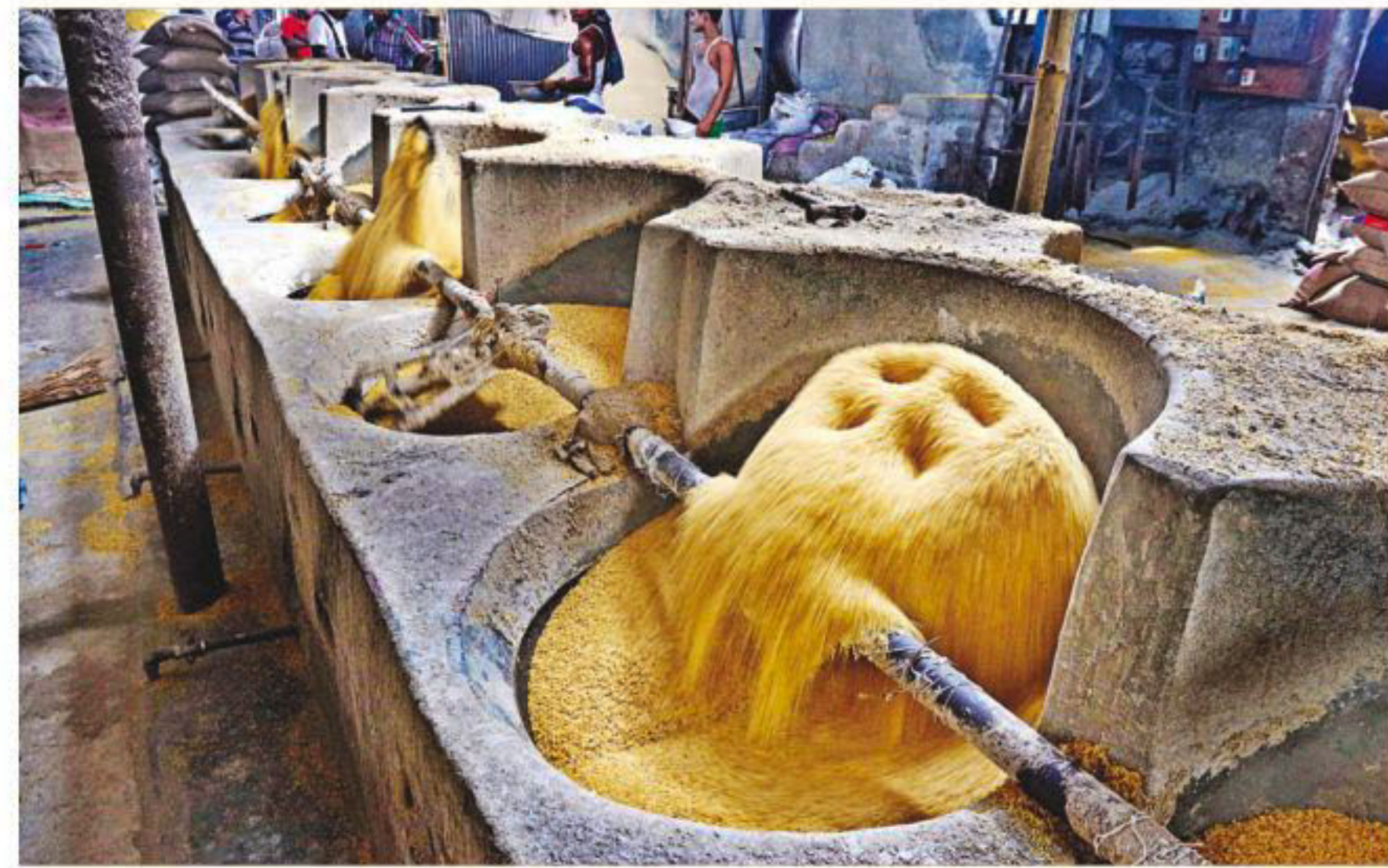


# PUFFED RICE PRODUCTION ON RISE FOR RAMADAN



Without the hot spicy taste of the muri (puffed rice) mixture, the iftar menu is incomplete in most households of Bangladesh in Ramadan. Over the time, its consumption, hence demand, has increased so much that muri factories have grown up in many places in the country like this one in Narayanganj's Pagla Dhapa area, which produces around 2.5 tonnes of muri a day. The factory sells it for Tk 45 per kg, while it is Tk 60 at retail markets. Factory workers say muri production increases 20 times during the fasting month, and special rice varieties like Salki and Shishumoti are brought from Natore and Thakurgaon for this. The photos were taken last week. PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN



## PM shocked at British MP murder

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday expressed deep shock at the killing of British Labour Party MP Jo Cox.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened at the tragic killing of Jo Cox, the young and promising Labour Party MP from Batley and Spen," she said in a message sent to British Prime Minister David Cameron. "In her death, Britain has lost a champion political campaigner who stood firm for the disadvantaged and marginalised communities ... her compassion for voiceless and dispossessed earned hearts of many," she said.

Jo Cox will be remembered for her selfless commitment to global peace and tolerance, Hasina added.

"On behalf of the people and government of Bangladesh, I extend our heartfelt and deepest condolences to you and through you to the bereaved family and friends..." she said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the grieving family and the friendly people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland at this tragic hour," she added.

## Girl murdered, buried in neighbour's room

Police say the 7-yr-old might have been raped before killing; suspect arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The body of a murdered seven-year-old girl was found buried in her neighbour's house in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday, three days after she had gone missing.

Police caught Riyad Proadhan, 20, son of Motin Proadhan, as they suspect that he killed Tanzila Khatun Chumki, daughter of Shahjahan Mia, of Ramnathpur Uttarpara in Pirganj after rape.

Family said the girl had been missing since she went out of home on Tuesday to collect mangos from trees surrounding their house.

Later on Wednesday, her father announced through loudspeakers that the girl went missing and sought locals' help to find her.

Some of the villagers suspected Riyad as they saw Chumki with him.

Afterwards, Pirganj police recovered the body from Riyad's bedroom and sent it to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

A process to file a case was going on last evening, said Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Karim.

## Two BCL men of SBMC held with sharp weapon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police on Thursday night arrested two activists of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Sadar Road-Fakir Bari Road check point with a sharp weapon.

The arrestees Saba Bin Majid and Abdullah Al Mamun were sent to jail yesterday, said Shah Md Awlad, officer-in-charge of Barisal Kotwali Police Station.

After searching their motorbike, a large knife, hammer and some empty bottles were recovered from their possession, he said, adding, police also seized the motorbike.

The arrestees were accused in another case lodged over a recent factional clash of BCL over formation of a SBMC unit youth Red Crescent committee, the OC informed.

## Pay salaries, bonuses 10 days before Eid

Warn RMG organisations to avoid possible unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different garment organisations yesterday demanded that RMG factory owners must pay workers' salaries and Eid bonuses by the 20th Ramadan to avoid unrest in the sector.

The demand was placed from separate human chains formed in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club by Garments Sramik Oikya Forum, Bangladesh Garments Workers Alliance, and Garments Sramik Odhikar Andolon, said press releases.

Leaders of the organisations reminded the pledge made by the State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnun to pay the gar-

ment workers' salaries and bonuses by that time.

If the workers are not paid within the period, workers' unrest will take place, they said, adding that the workers would not accept any delay.

If the workers take to the streets, the government and BGMEA will have to take the responsibility, they further warned.

On May 22 at a programme, Mujibul Haque Chunnun said the owners must pay the workers' Eid bonuses by the 21st Ramadan.

Garments Sramik Oikya Forum president Moshrefa Mishu, Garments Workers Alliance leader Taslima Akhter, among others, spoke at the programmes.

## 63,000 water sources in rural areas by 2020

Says LGRD Minister Khandker Mosharraf

UNB, Dhaka

The government will set up 63,000 water sources in rural areas to ensure safe water and sanitation system for all by 2020.

Some 952 ponds will be re-excavated, while 200 new ones will be dug to increase the use of groundwater, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD) Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told the news agency. He said every house will be brought under sanitation system, and safe water will be ensured for all.

Water supply coverage in both rural and municipal areas will be increased to 100 percent and the current safe water source and sanitation coverage will also be increased to 100 percent, he added.

According to the sources, 13,665 water sources and 6,643 Wasa blocks will be set up to ensure safe water in government primary schools.

MD Waliullah, chief engineer (in-charge) of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), said the activity of setting up different types of water sources, water refineries, water supply through pipelines and setting up low-cost latrines under 13 projects of the DPHE is underway.

The process of increasing water supply and increasing coverage of sanitation system under sustainable water supply and sanitation project is also underway, particularly in haor, char and hard-to-reach hilly areas, he added.

The DPHE sources also said the department has chalked out a master plan for water supply and developing sanitary systems in 160 new municipal areas.

"There will be no water crisis in the upcoming days. We'll do whatever we need to ensure safe water and sanitation systems for all," said the minister.

## Pro-Jamaat lawyer held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested a pro-Jamaat lawyer in Rajshahi city's Kajla area on the charge of being involved in subversive activities.

Hasan Al Banna Sohag, 32, is a lawyer of Rajshahi Judge Court, said Ashok Chowhan, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station.

He appeared for Jamaat leaders facing war crime charges. Sohag is a brother of Shahadat Hossain, a leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir who was killed in a "crossfire" in 2013.

Our Benapole correspondent adds: Tariqul Islam Tareq, office secretary of Jessore Union of Journalists, was arrested in the town on Thursday night in a case filed over subversive activities, said police.



Garments Sramik Odhikar Andolon brings out a procession in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding that RMG workers be paid their salaries and Eid bonuses by the 20th Ramadan. PHOTO: STAR



A truck unloads electric polls blocking one side of the Barisal-Khulna Highway with the help of a crane truck, while a bus drives carefully to avoid collision in Protap area of Jhalakathi yesterday morning. This blatant disregard for the safety of others not only hampers smooth traffic movement, but also can cause fatal accidents on this busy road. PHOTO: M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

## Int'l conspiracy

FROM PAGE 4 with the government if the ruling Awami League wished.

He said the government was talking of zero tolerance for militancy but it did not try any accused of the recent killings.

"It proves there is a lack of the government's honesty," he said.

Responding to Moudud's remarks at an iftar programme, Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said those involved in secret killings were calling for national unity now.

Meanwhile, Dhaka city unit of BNP will stage a protest rally at the Institution of Engineers on Monday instead of Saturday to protest the "wholesale arrests" of people and "opposition leaders and activists" in the name of a combing operation to tackle militants, says a press release.

## Two killed in Jamalpur

FROM PAGE 3

report at 4:00pm.

Meanwhile, a man was killed and 10 others injured in a clash between two groups amid arbitration over a disputed land in Nizampur village of Habiganj district on Thursday night.

The deceased was Abdus Salam, 40, of the village.

Quoting locals, police said there was a longstanding feud between Abdus Salam and Afshar Ahmed over the ownership of a piece of land. A local arbitration team tried to solve the dispute but the two neighbours and their cohorts locked into an altercation, they added.

At one stage, equipped with homemade arms, they attacked each other, leaving Salam dead and 10 others injured, said Nazim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Sadar Police Station. The injured were taken to hospitals, he said, adding, the body was sent to Habiganj Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. A case was filed and police arrested two in this regard, he added.

## Nityaranjan's son demands

FROM PAGE 3

Mohammed Nasim, Land Minister Samsur Rahman Sarif Dilu, and central leaders of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance. Speaking as the chief guest, Nasim said, "The killers of Nityaranjan will be punished on this soil."

Against the backdrop of the recent secret killings, he urged the leaders and activists of the 14-party alliance to form anti-terrorist committees across the country.

Nityaranjan, 60, a sebak at Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra Satsang ashram in Hemayetpur of Pabna, was hacked to death by unidentified people on June 10.

## WB to lend

FROM PAGE 3

The project is part of a Regional Connectivity and Integration Program supported by the World Bank for the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) countries.

"High transport costs, low efficiency and delays in the logistics chain increase trade costs and reduce the competitiveness of Bangladesh's products," said Diép Nguyen-van Houtte, World Bank team leader for the project.

The project will make movement easier for traders, producers, passengers and cargo on multimodal transport networks, and help those who rely on inland waterways as a mode of transport, he added.

The credit from the World Bank's International Development Association, which provides grants or zero to low interest loans, has a 38-year term, including a six-year grace period, and a service charge of 0.75 percent.