

# Qawmi madrasas protest militancy

Teachers and students of Qawmi madrasas yesterday formed an anti-militancy human chain at different places in the country, demanding identifying perpetrators of the militant activities and bringing them to book.

Qawmi Madrasa Education Board organised the one-hour long programme in front of their respective schools and areas in the capital and other districts, said the organisers.

In Dhaka, several thousands of students and teachers of the madrasas took part in the rally holding placards that read "no terrorism, we want peace to save the country", "we want a society free from



Midland Bank Ltd (MBL) donates over Tk 58.76 lakh to Bangabandhu Chair of Dhaka University. Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique received the cheque at his office from MBL Vice Chairman Nilufer Zafarullah MP at a ceremony on Tuesday. Sponsor shareholder Kazi Zafarullah, the bank's Audit Committee Chairman Dr Kazi Shahidullah, its Managing Director and CEO Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, DU pro-VC Prof Nasreen Ahmad, Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin, arts faculty Dean Dr Akhter Kamal, social science faculty Dean Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed and history department Chairperson Prof Sonia Nishat Amin were also present. Bangabandhu Chair was set up at the Department of History of DU in 1999 to carry out research, among others, on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# ARREST OF RAJUK OFFICIALS FOR GRAFT TIB concerned over colleagues' demo

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed deep concern over a demonstration that the staff of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) staged protesting the arrest of two Rajuk officials over allegations of corruption.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) arrested the two for their "involvement in misappropriating" about Tk 3.46 crore from the government fund. TIB urged the authorities concerned to take effective steps preventing the protesters from favouring the arrestees, as their demonstration contradicts the government's anti-corruption stance, said a TIB press release.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "Despite the specific allegations, the Rajuk employees are demonstrating. It is contrary to the government's anti-corruption stance. This cannot be expected anyway..."

Steps could be taken if they have questions about the impartiality and objectivity of ACC, but such unexpected movement humiliate the judicial process, added the press release.

Earlier, a case was filed against 12 people including Sydur Rahman, superintendent engineer of Rajuk Uttara apartment project and Monwarul Islam, project director of Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara and Uttara lake development project, in connection with the graft.

# South-East Asia health ministers meet Sept 5-9

Health ministers of the 11 member nations of WHO South-East Asia Region are meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 5 to 9 this month to set the health priorities for the region, home to nearly a quarter of the world's population.

Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, which kill nearly 8.5 million people every year and are the leading cause of deaths in the region, will be a key agenda at the 69th WHO Regional Committee meeting, said a WHO press release.

Tackling anti-microbial resistance (AMR) will be deliberated at the meeting, the release said.

In the run-up to the

# Noorelahi made first secy (press) to UN

Noorelahi Mina, assistant press secretary to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been appointed as the first secretary (press) to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York.

Ministry of Information published a gazette notification to this effect yesterday. His appointment will be for four years.

Mina, a 24th batch BCS information cadre and deputy director of Bangladesh Betar, joined the PMO as PM's assistant press secretary on September 5, 2010.

# Govt's no generates

FROM PAGE 3 conveyed that existing laws do not permit it and added that foolproof security has been ensured in the diplomatic zone.

Highly placed sources at the home ministry said a taskforce formed in July after several rounds of meetings decided not to amend existing laws to entertain the request.

However, the government provided the option of hiring auxiliaries from Bangladesh Ansar, whose personnel carry firearms.

Contacted, diplomats of two influential Asian countries said they have not yet received any proposal or notification regarding this option. "This decision (not to allow armed private security) is made by Bangladesh government according to their regulations. We have no comment," said another diplomat seeking not to be named.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, several diplomats said despite the government's stringent security measures for diplomats and foreigners, many still feel insecure and have taken up initiatives, including sending families back home.

The US, Australia, Germany and European Union have authorised voluntary departure of family members of their personnel while Canada made it mandatory.

Several countries have instructed diplomats to relocate to Baridhara from elsewhere. Diplomatic sources said most diplomats of India and Japan have complied vacating their rented houses in Gulshan and other areas as the countries take Baridhara to be a bit more secure.

# Technology saves rice growers money: Study

Using modern technologies and machinery can reduce the cost of cultivating and processing rice, thus benefitting farmers and rice mill owners, according to a study released yesterday.

The rice processing cost can also be reduced by upgrading processing factories into automatic rice mills that contain modern rice processing technologies, including rubber-roll huller, rubber polishing and paddy separator, said the study conducted by Agro Mech Development Initiatives Foundation (ADI) in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi and Sherpur Sadar upazila between March and April.

Traidcraft funded the study.

Dr Monjurul Alam, a professor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, who led the study, presented its findings at a meeting at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

To use the modern technologies, the farmers need to farm in a planned way and adapt to the conservation agriculture that significantly reduces irrigation cost, Monjurul stressed.

"The existing husking mills need to be upgraded into automatic rice mills to survive in business competition as the automatic mills produces comparatively better quality rice that gets better price in the market," he said.

He added that the government needs to provide financial support to the factory owners to do the upgrades.

Infrastructural development is also needed to use the modern technologies, Monjurul viewed.

Shahed Ferdous, country director of Traidcraft, said small rice farmers were the main target of the study, adding, "So we need to focus on the farmers in terms of technological advancement."

Emphasising the use of technologies, Abdul Khaleque, executive director of Grameen Manobik Unnyan Sangstha, said the rice value chain will not be well maintained if the farmers fail to produce rice in low cost.

"We also need to ensure good pricing for the farmers," he stressed.

The rice mill owners cannot offer good price to the farmers during the Boro season as mill owners have some limitations to dry and process the rice as it has been harvested during rainy season, said Enamul Haq, a rice mill owner in Sherpur.

"The farmers, too, face difficulty to dry and store their rice in the season. So they have to sell their paddy to the mills at low prices," he said.

# HC verdict on

FROM PAGE 3 asking authorities concerned to freeze the three's bank accounts with Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong, will remain in effect until the verdict, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The HC on that day had also asked Morshed, his wife Nasrin Khan and son Faisal Morshed Khan to refrain from transferring the 16 million Hong Kong dollars in the accounts elsewhere till further orders, he said.

Khurshid said ACC filed the case in 2013 and gave a final report to a Dhaka court in July 2015 saying they did not launder money. The court accepted the report on April 15 this year and exempted the three.

Hong Kong police, who had frozen the accounts in 2008 under an administrative order, sent a letter to ACC asking if legal proceeding were ongoing as they planned on opening the accounts, he added.

ACC then submitted two petitions to the Dhaka court seeking to revive and reinvestigate the case. The court rejected the petitions on June 2 and ACC moved the revision petition on June 5 challenging the rejection, he said.

# Bangalee culture

FROM PAGE 3 Bureau of Investigation sources, told The Daily Star that forensic examination revealed that the Gulshan attack militants had not taken drugs.

Monirul, however, said police were yet to know for sure as the test results had not arrived.

"The viscera test did not find evidence of drug use. Since the viscera test cannot detect drugs taken over 12 hours before death, samples were sent abroad for examinations," he said.

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The Market Development Domain of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)/ Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh has published an invitation to tender on [www.simap.ch](http://www.simap.ch) for a 'Managing Agent' of Bangladesh Agricultural and Disaster Insurance Programme (BADIP). This is an open procedure (one-step) and hereby SDC invites organizations to submit bids according to the Tender Document.

For detail information, please visit [www.simap.ch](http://www.simap.ch) Invitation to Tender, Service, Open procedure (Notice number:928805).

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**\*\* N.B. Last date of submission of Application Form for Admission has been extended at the request of various institutions.**

Director  
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E-33, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207, Mobile: 01774651570, 01558187064, 01720986972, 01716170855, 01913453693, E-mail: [info@csc.edu.bd](mailto:info@csc.edu.bd)  
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