



## Veg output grows fast

*Production doubles in a little over a decade; experts put it down to quality seeds, policy support, technology; per capita consumption still low*

REAZ AHMAD

Vegetable production has more than doubled in just over a decade, making Bangladesh one of the fastest-growing vegetable producers in the world.

The growth in recent years stems from better seeds and technologies as opposed to the growths in the 80s and early 90s when more agro land was dedicated to vegetable farming.

With rice and other cereals occupying over 75 percent of the country's 8.5 million hectares of arable land, the land for vegetable cultivation is shrinking.

And yet, its production is growing thanks to policy support, farmers' adoption of hybrid seeds, home gardening and cultivation of off-season and all-season vegetables, experts said.

Another reason for this boom is that farmers get a higher return from vegetable farming than that from the low-incentive rice production.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) credited Bangladesh for posting the highest year-on-year increment in vegetable production after Uzbekistan and Nepal during the first decade of the 21st century.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A farmer tends to red amaranth in his field in Savar on the outskirts of the capital. Vegetable production in the country has greatly increased over the last one decade. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Doctors must write their prescriptions clearly: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

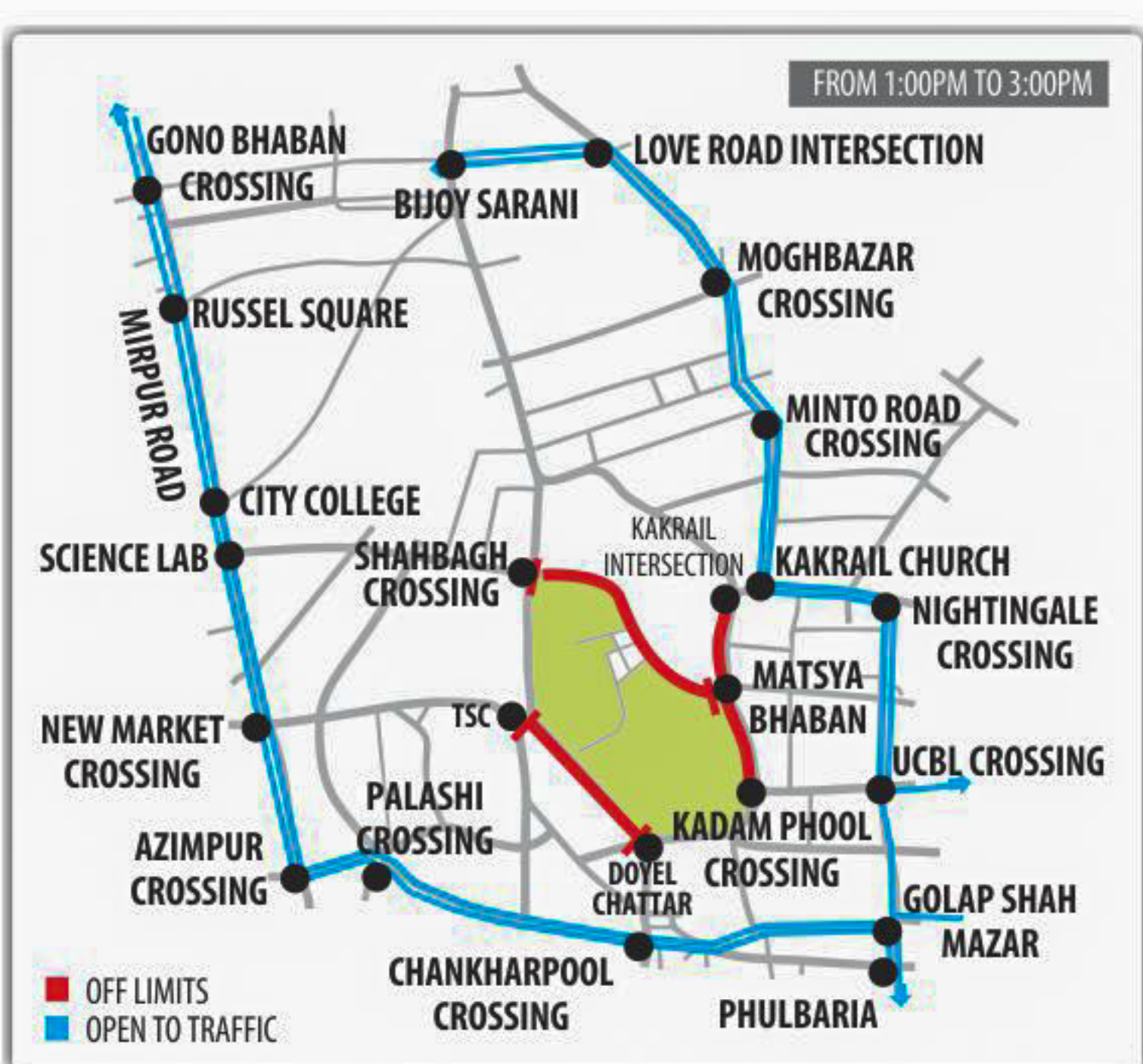
The High Court yesterday ordered the government to issue a circular in 30 days asking doctors to write prescriptions clearly so that the names of the medicine can be understood easily.

The health secretary and registrar of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) have been asked to issue the circular instructing doctors to write the names of medicine in block letters or provide them a printed copy.

In response to a writ petition, the HC ordered the two officials to submit a report before it in six weeks after complying with the directive.

The HC also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain in four

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



### DMP INSTRUCTIONS

Vehicles plying from Bijoy Sarani to Fakirapool/UCBL crossing can take Love Road-Moghbazar Flyover-Rajmoni Crossing route, while those going to Bijoy Sarani from Gulistan or Motijheel can ply Nightingale

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day today

AL holds rally in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will hold a rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan to mark the Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## BNP won't take tough line now

*Despite govt 'high-handedness', it will stay focused on EC formation, say party insiders*

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP will not go for tough street programmes anytime soon although the government continues to deny the party any "democratic space".

Instead, the opposition party will keep its focus fully on the new Election Commission to be formed next month, party sources say.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of BNP leaders alleged that the government was trying to "provoke" them in various ways, such as denying them their constitutional and democratic right to assemble and protest.

"But if we take a hard line in response, it may backfire," said one leader.

After forming government thrice since 1991, the BNP is now out of office for a decade since 2006.

Party leaders believe if they counter the government's "rigid stance" through waging a tough movement, it will only serve to divert people's attention from the formation of the EC.

For the BNP, which boycotted the 2014 national polls and now has no representation in parliament for the first time in 25 years, an independent EC is much more

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### 3 YEARS OF AL GOVT: FINANCIAL SECTOR

## Signs of improvement but mess yet to clear

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Governance in the financial sector is showing signs of improvement as the government has taken a number of initiatives over the last three years to pull the sector out of a major crisis.

However, big challenges still remain in ensuring discipline in the banking and non-banking sectors vital for the country's development.

The state-run commercial banks fell prey

to political influence after the Awami League government assuming office in 2009 appointed its chosen people as directors of boards of the banks.

On several occasions, Bangladesh Bank wrote to the finance ministry regarding the appointments on political consideration, but the practice continued till the end of 2013.

Moreover, the government's lax handling of the state-run lenders paved the way for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## 'No seditious element in my speech'

*Says Manna about his leaked phone conversations*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna yesterday claimed that there were no seditious elements in his phone conversations with BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka and another unidentified person.

"I was never involved in

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## 27<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary

DEATH: 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother Late **"Masuda Begum"** wife of Late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.). Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to the Almighty for His divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS.



TOP!  
QUOTE

"Disrespect invites disrespect, violence invites violence. When the powerful use their position to bully others we all lose."

AMERICAN ACTRESS  
**MERYL STREEP**  
AT THE GOLDEN GLOBES, CRITICISING  
US PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP

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