

Despite fertile land loss, weather stresses and depleting irrigation water, Bangladesh's agriculture keeps contributing a fifth of the GDP each year. Along with other factors, government's policy support in the form of fertiliser subsidy plays a big part here. But misappropriation of the key agro input by a syndicate involved in shipment and transport, and mismanagement by the authorities, in this case Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, have tainted this otherwise commendable effort. If such large-scale corruption is outrageous, the culture of impunity within the corridors of the BCIC and elsewhere is worrisome. This systematic graft has cost the state about Tk 100 crore each year since 2009. In this four-part report, HASAN JAHID TUSHER exposes the corruption in the fertiliser sector.

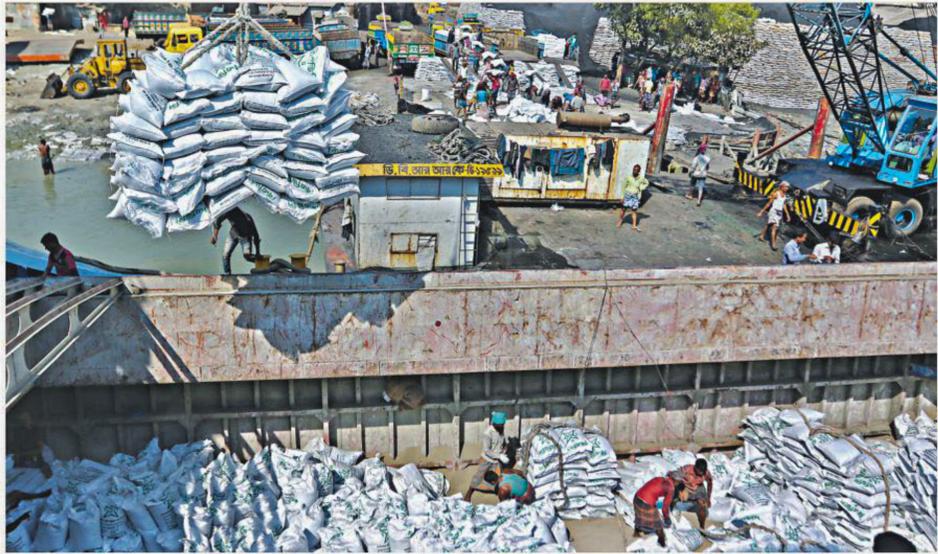
**FERTILISER RIDDLE 3**

# Even a ship full of fertiliser vanishes

Some importers, transporters, BCIC officials amass huge wealth by stealing the agro input from vessels

Mongla Port is no Bermuda Triangle, also known as the Devil's Triangle in the Atlantic Ocean, where several ships and also aircraft are said to have mysteriously vanished. But when it comes to ships full of fertiliser, they can disappear under equally mysterious circumstances from this port in southern Bangladesh, about 14,000km east of Bermuda Triangle. In FY 2011-12, a ship named Maheswari anchored there with 16,500 tonnes of urea. M Trading Company Pvt Ltd, a Chittagong-based importer and carrier, had imported the fertiliser from a Middle East country after getting the contract from Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation. The company informed the BCIC about the vessel's arrival and collected the bill. But then the ship vanished without unloading a single bag of fertilisers, according to documents and BCIC sources.

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Sacks of imported fertiliser being lifted from a lighter vessel by a crane at Banglabazar Jhuthrally Ghat in Chittagong on Wednesday. After the unloading, such sacks are taken to different warehouses from where those are distributed across the country.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## BNP wants to see how EC search panel works

AL hopes BNP won't make it controversial

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP would "neither accept nor reject" the newly formed search committee for constituting the Election Commission though the party is "frustrated and aggrieved" over the committee, say party insiders. A number of party leaders said they would keep a close watch on the committee's activities. "We are now looking forward to see what kind of Election Commission is constituted. We will see whether a really independent and political influence-free Election Commission is formed or not," BNP

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# Police pounce on campaigners

Use tear shells, water cannon, batons; 20 injured as 8-hour hartal against controversial Rampal plant enforced in capital; pro-Rampal human chain formed in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Rampal power plant activists were met with tear gas, water cannon and batons when they took to the streets in the capital yesterday to enforce eight-hour hartal. Demonstrators led by student bodies of left-leaning political bodies, around

6:30am began marching towards Shahbagh from the Dhaka University campus. Police put up barricades as they reached near the DU Fine Arts faculty. Law enforcers fired tear gas canisters and used water cannon every time protesters tried to go past them to Shahbagh. At one point pro-hartal activists of the National Committee to

Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports began throwing brick chips at police who then hurled those back. Eventually chase and counter-chase ensued foiling what was meant to be a peaceful protest. Some 20 activists were injured at

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COPS BEAT UP 2 JOURNOS - PAGE 2



Protesters amid clouds of tear gas fired by police near the capital's Shahbagh intersection during yesterday's hartal against the construction of Rampal power plant.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## SNAPSHOT of reality

SHAHTUB SIDDIQUE ANIK

He is a good friend of mine, not just a companion from my university days. He is an honest man and he never indulged in corruption as far as my knowledge goes. He has been in the civil administration for quite a few years now. The last time we met, our discussions somehow centred around corruption in the administration. As a journalist (also as

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## Cops wary of 'IS link' of some Rohingyas

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Field-level police officials have been instructed to keep an eye on the Rohingyas following allegation that some of them are being motivated to join the Islamic State. Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque issued the instruction after a top police official raised the matter at a meeting yesterday, said sources at the meeting. "We have information that some Rohingya refugees staying in Bangladesh are being motivated and tricked into joining the IS. Again,

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## In memory of Md. Afzalur Rahman (Jitu Miah)

Our deep respect on 3rd. Anniversary of passing away of our beloved guardian and founder Chairman of **Cosmic Medical Center, Mymensingh** and **Cosmic Medical Center** Members of bereaved family. January 27, 2017



"Those we love, do not go away, They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, Still loved, missed and very dear."

(1924-2014)

Courtesy : ARS Foundation, +8801993-081822

## দেশের সব জেলা/উপজেলা শহরে সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক নিয়োগ

সকল বিভাগ/জেলা/উপজেলা শহরে স্বেচ্ছা সেবার ভিত্তিতে আপনি কি সাংবাদিকতাকে শক্তিশালী করতে ভূমিকা রাখতে আগ্রহী? আপনি কি আর্থিকভাবে স্বচ্ছল? এবং অন্তত: এক বছর স্বেচ্ছামূলক কাজে সময় দিতে সক্ষম? ভাল করে ভেবে দেখুন। আপনার মূল্যবান সময়ের বেশ কিছুটা এই সাংগঠনিক কাজের নেতৃত্বে দিতে পারবেন? আপনার শহরের ব্যাপক মানুষের সাথে আপনার জানাশোনা আছে? অনেক মানুষের কাছে পৌঁছাতে পারবেন? নিজ নিজ উপজেলা, জেলা ও বিভাগীয় শহরে সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক-এর দায়িত্ব নিতে পারবেন? শক্তিশালী গণসংগঠন গড়ে তুলতে পারবেন? বিসিডিজিসি-সভাপতি, সাংবাদিক **নাঈমুল ইসলাম খান** আপনার সাহায্য চাচ্ছেন। আপনি আইনজীবী, চিকিৎসক, প্রকৌশলী, সরকারী-বেসরকারী চাকরীজীবী, ব্যবসায়ী, শিল্পী, রাজনীতিক, নাগরিক সমাজের প্রতিনিধি ইত্যাদি যে কোনো পেশার হন তাহলে বিসিডিজিসি আপনাকেই খুঁজছে। প্রকৃত আগ্রহীরা চিঠি লিখুন, ই-মেইল করুন, ফোন অথবা এসএমএস/টেক্সট করুন এমনকি মিস কল দিলেও চলবে। চিঠি লিখুন, ১৯/৩ পশ্চিম পাছপথ (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), (কয়ার হাসপাতালের পূর্ব পাশে), ঢাকা ১২০৫। অথবা, জিপিও বক্স নং ২৯৯৫, ঢাকা, এই ঠিকানায়। মোবাইল : ০১৭৮৪৩৯৯৯৩০, ০১৭৮৪৩৯৯৯৩১, ০১৮২৬২০০৬২১ ই-মেইল : info@bcdjci.com



বাংলাদেশ সেন্টার ফর ডেভেলপমেন্ট, জার্নালিজম এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন (বিসিডিজিসি)

## MITU MURDER IO talks to parents

Victim's mobile SIM still in use, claims her mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former police superintendent Babul Akhter's father-in-law Mosharrif Hossain yesterday said he wanted to see his daughter Mitu's killers get punished, be it Babul, his father or someone else. However, his wife Shaheda Mosharrif said she did not believe that her son-in-law could be behind the murder. She claimed her daughter's mobile phone SIM card was still in use. The two were talking to reporters on the premises of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters around 4:30pm after meeting with the investigation officer of the Mitu murder case. The couple talked to Md Kamruzzaman, additional deputy commissioner (north) of the CMP's Detective Branch and also the investigation officer of

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