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BNP upbeat about Saturday's rally

Party to organise public event in port city after 6 years

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

BNP leaders and activists in Chattogram have become much enthusiastic as the party is going to hold a rally under its banner in the city after around six years.

The party declared to organise the "Chattogram divisional grand rally" on Saturday, demanding unconditional release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

It wanted to arrange the event at Laldighi Maidan but the ground is reserved for a month-long tree fair. So, they have chosen two alternatives -- the space in front of Chattogram Zila Parishad Market in Laldighi and Nur Ahmed Road in Kazir Dewri.

An application has been submitted to the Chattogram Metropolitan Police commissioner in this regard, said Abul Hashem Bakkar, general secretary of BNP's Chattogram city unit. "We are yet to get permission," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

On October 27 last year, a rally was held under the banner of Jatiya Oikyafront, an alliance formed before the 11th parliamentary polls comprising BNP, Gonoforum and some other political parties, where Dr Kamal Hossain was present as chief guest.

BNP central leaders including its Secretary

General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addressed the rally on Nur Ahmed Road.

The party, however, held its last public rally in 2012 at Polo Ground, where Khaleda was the chief guest, said Abu Sufian, vice president of BNP's port city unit.

As Saturday's gathering will take place after so many years, party members are not only enthusiastic, but also determined to make it a success, said Shahadat Hossain, president of BNP's Chattogram city unit.

"As part of our preparation, we have organised meetings in 15 thana and 43 ward units," he said.

Harun-ur-Rashid, BNP central assistant organising secretary (Chattogram division), said it is their democratic right to hold a rally and they hope that police would give them the permission soon.

"In our previous experiences, we saw that the administration gave us permission to hold rally at the eleventh hour," he said. "This way, they [administration] want to discourage people not to join the rally," he alleged.

"We hope this event would be jam-packed with participation of people from all strata of life," he said.

He said they have already had meetings in different districts under Chattogram division. "Leaders and activists from seven

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Petition challenges rickshaw ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court, challenging Dhaka South City Corporation's (DSCC) decision to make three streets of the capital off limits to rickshaws.

Advocate Aynunnahar Siddiqua submitted the petition as a supplementary to a pending writ petition filed in 2012.

In the petition, she sought a stay order from the HC on the decision and requested to know what transports the authorities have arranged as alternatives.

Citing the petition, the

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Nusrat achieved A in only subject she could take exams for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pall of gloom descended over the campus of slain Alim examinee Nusrat Jahan Rafi as results published yesterday showed that she achieved an "A" grade for two exams that she could sit for before she was killed.

Many of her classmates at Sonagazi Islamia Fazil Madrasa in Feni were seen weeping, seeing the results. Nusrat got A in Quran Mazid and Hadith subject.

"Nusrat was a meritorious student," said teacher Mohammad Hussain.

Mahmudul Hasan Noman, elder brother of Nusrat, said their mother broke down in tears hearing about the results. Nusrat also scored A in Dakhil exam two years back, Noman said.

Nusrat was set afire on April 6 for refusing to withdraw a case filed against then principal of the madrasa Siraj Ud Doula for sexually harassing her late March.

She lost her battle for life on April 10. Her death triggered a huge public outcry across the country.

The wonders of taro stolon

Taro stolon, commonly known as *kochur loti* in Bangladesh, is a common item in Bengali cuisine. Several exotic Bengali dishes are made with this scrumptious vegetable. One of the most common dishes is *kochur loti* with *narikel* and *shorshe*. This is a strongly flavoured curry made with taro stolon, coconut and mustard paste. Taro stolon curries are also cooked with shrimp and *macher muro* of different types of big fish such as Rui and Hilsha. Besides enhancing the taste of Bengali cuisine, taro stolon also plays a significant role in keeping us healthy.

It is interesting to note that taro stolon contains more calories than potatoes; 100 grams of taro stolon can provide upto 112 calories. Their calorie value is largely derived from complex carbohydrates namely, amylose and amylopectin. Their protein levels can be compared to other tropical food sources such as yam, cassava, potato, plantain, etc. However, they are a minor source of fat and protein compared to cereals and pulses. Taro stolon is one of the finest sources of dietary fibre; 100g flesh provides 4.1g or 11 percent of the daily requirements of dietary fibre, thus playing a vital role in protecting the digestive system. Along with slow digesting complex carbohydrates, the presence of adequate amounts of fibre in the vegetable helps maintain a steady rise in blood sugar levels. Taro stolon can also help reduce high blood pressure. Moreover, it protects the skin, prevents different types of cancer, increases blood circulation, prevents heart diseases, improves vision, boosts the immune system, and strengthens muscle and nerves. It also prevents diarrhoea, cramping, constipation, bloating, excess gas, and improves the overall health of the body.

Beauty Begum, a taro stolon farmer from Kaliganj, Jhenaidah, shares her experience of cultivating this vegetable.



Initially, irrigation is done after ploughing the land. The saplings are then planted and a week later, organic fertilisers as well as inorganic fertilisers such as TSP and urea are applied. Pesticides are applied after a week of planting the sapling. Measures are also taken to avoid the growth of grass around the stolons. Irrigation is done once every week. Once the taro stolons start growing, they are harvested twice a week.

Beauty Begum, along with many farmers of the area, provides vegetables for Shwapno under the Shuddho project. According to her, this initiative has helped her adopt the right agricultural practices for growing taro stolon, especially in terms of learning about how much fertiliser or pesticide should be used. Farmers also have an opportunity to learn about the interval period between pesticide application and harvesting, known as the Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI).

Taro stolon is a very effective source of nutrients and vitamins for our health and wellness. So the next time you see taro stolon in the vegetable section, do include it in your basket to reap its optimal benefits.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Identify the infiltrators in AL: Hasan Mahmud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday urged Awami League activists to identify infiltrators that joined the party for personal gain.

"We don't need opportunists. We need dedicated people willing to work for the party's development," he said.

The minister was addressing a discussion as chief guest in port city's Jamal Khan area, organised by Chattogram Mahanagar Awami League. He said not everyone who supported the party have the right to hold a post.

The minister termed the death of an accused stabbed by another suspect in front of a judge at a Cumilla court on Monday an isolated incident. "BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi claimed that the incident took place due to decline of law and order situation. But it was an isolated incident," he said.

Madrasa girl's hanging body found in Ctg

CUI CORRESPONDENT

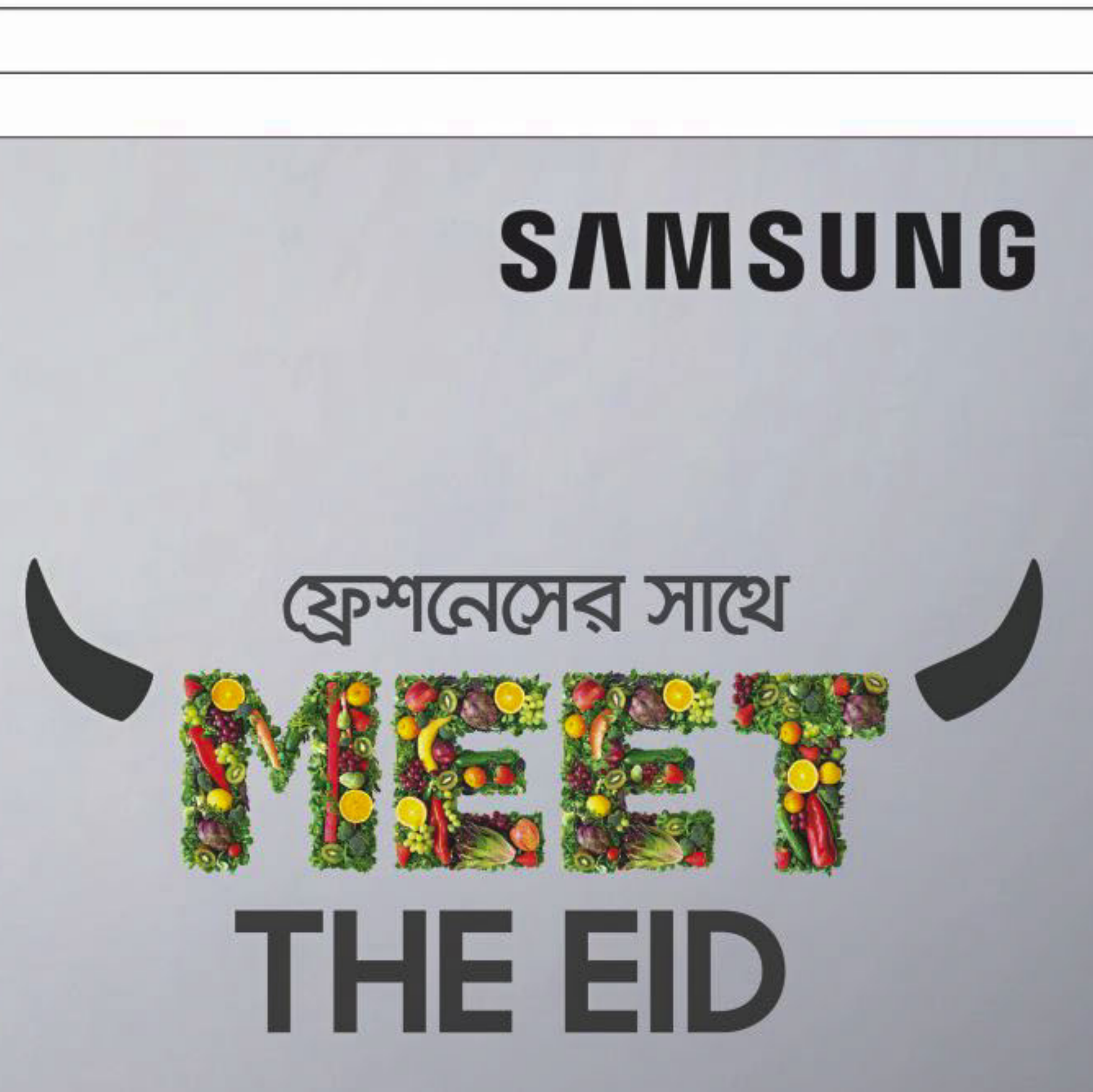
Police recovered the hanging body of a madrasa student from Mirsharai upazila in Chattogram yesterday.

The deceased is Samina Akhter, 19, from Jorarganj in the upazila. She was an Alim student at Korherhat Goniatul Ulum Hossainia Alia Madrasa.

Locals found the body hanging from a tower of a poultry farm near her house.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body, said SI Sirajul Islam of Jorarganj Police Station.

The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.



ফ্রিশেঞ্জ অফার

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ক্যাশব্যাক

৳৫০,০০০ পর্যন্ত*

ফ্রি

টিভি/ওয়াশিং মেশিন/মাইক্রো-ওয়েভ ওভেন*

ফ্রি

গিফট বক্স*

ফ্রিশেঞ্জ অফার

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