

INCREDIBLE EGG... Marking World Egg Day, Department of Livestock Services and Bangladesh Poultry Industries Central Council distributed eggs -- a comparatively inexpensive source of quality protein -- among commuters in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Abrar Murder

# Home minister slams Buet administration

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said incidents like Abrar murder might not have occurred had the Buet administration been

He came up with the remark while replying to reporters' questions after inaugurating the newly-built main entrance of Bangladesh University of Textiles -- commonly referred to as BUTEX -- in the city's Tejgaon area.

The home minister hoped that the administration will pay more attention to students in future. Abrar, 21, a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering

department, was beaten to death on Monday, reportedly by Chhatra League leaders at Buet's Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

Responding to another question, the home minister said almost all perpetrators involved in the killing have been identified and arrested. Åbrar's father Barkatullah filed a case at Chawkbazar Police station on

Monday evening accusing 19 people. Police have arrested 17 suspects and

one of them has confessed to his crimes. The case was transferred to the Detective Branch on Tuesday. 'MURDER-SUICIDE' IN MIRPUR

# Primary report suggests poisoning, hanging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deaths of a woman and her son were caused by poison, while her husband died from hanging, according to primary medical report after conducting autopsy.

Police on Thursday recovered the bodies of SM Bayezid (45), a businessman, his wife Kohinur Akter Anjana (42) and son Farhan (16) from a flat in the capital's Mirpur area.

We found odour of poison from the mouths of all three bodies, though cause of death in the man's case is hanging," said Dr AKM Moinuddin, lecturer of Forensic Medicine Department of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital morgue.

Dr Moinuddin said they have kept necessary organs of the bodies for conducting viscera tests and will be certain of the reasons of death after getting the viscera report.

Police suspect that Bayezid died by suicide after poisoning his wife and only child.

Officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station Selimuzzaman said they have filed a case of unnatural death.

He said they were informed primarily that Bayezid was overburdened with debt. "We will investigate whether there are other

reason behind the deaths," the OC said. Mohammad Hasan, a friend of Bayezid, said

they were a happy family. Neighbours said they could not believe it after the news broke.

"Bayezid was in debt. He was forced to shut down his loss-incurring knitting factory,'

# >> Death of parents' dreams

## Fathers of Abrar murder suspects in shock, want justice

STAR REPORT

Fathers of three suspects of Abrar murder have demanded exemplary punishment if the allegations against their sons are found true through free and fair investigation.

"Abrar is like my son. I want justice and exemplary punishment of the killers," said Ruhul Amin, father of Mehedi Hasan Rasel, one of the suspects.

A resident of Rangardia village of Faridpur district, Ruhul Amin told our local correspondent, "If law enforcers find my son's involvement in the killing, he [Mehedi] will get punishment. I will never request anyone to forgive him.

He, however, urged the government to identify the reason why a meritorious student of such a prestigious institution got involved in unhealthy politics.

Following Abrar's death, law enforcers arrested several Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) students, including Mehedi of civil engineering, for their alleged involvement in the brutal murder.

Mehedi was secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Buet unit.

Among other arrestees are: Ifty Mosharraf Shakal of biomedical engineering and Moniruzzaman Monir of water resources engineering departments of Buet. Ifty and Monir were respectively deputy social welfare secretary and library affairs secretary of BCL's Buet unit.

The trio were expelled from BCL have

been suspended from Buet. Ifty's father Fakir Mosharraf Hossain lives

in Dhunchi village of Faridpur district, is a trader and private tutor. Ifty is his eldest son.

He said, "If I were Abrar's father, I would've died from the shock of receiving the news of his death.'

"If my son was involved in Abrar's murder, he must face just punishment. I will provide all kinds of cooperation for this," he said, seeking fair and free investigation.

Another murder suspect Monir is son of Mahatab Ali of Bhagirpara village, under Birganj upazila in Dinajpur.

Talking to the local correspondent, he said that his son never came second in any examination at school. Monir apparently qualified in both medical and engineering admission tests but decided to pursue his higher education in the latter field.

An English teacher of Amrokanan High School at Karimpur village, under the same upazila, Mahatab said, "I could not believe my son was involved in such brutality.'

"I cautioned him not to get involved in politics but he did not pay heed to my words," said Mahatab, adding that they came to know about Monir's involvement in politics when their son visited home last August during Eid vacation.

'Getting involved in politics became a curse for him," lamented the visibly frustrated father.

Sehaz Uddin, a primary school teacher of the village, said Monir's parents were heartbroken and desolate since they heard of the incident. "He was an obedient boy. Villagers were proud of him after he got enrolled in Buet," he said.

## Nat'l startup camp for young entrepreneurs

Bss, Dhaka

A three-day "National Startup Camp 2.0" of Student to Startup: Chapter 2 entered into the 2nd day yesterday with a view to finding out young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas so that they can contribute to the country's

With the slogan "My innovation, My Dream", the national contest was inaugurated at Sheikh Hasina National Youth Centre in Savar on Thursday, said a press release yesterday.

Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (iDEA) project of Bangladesh Computer Council under the Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) is organising the competition for the second time.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant Barrister Shah Ali Farhad joined a session on "government polices to promote youth entrepreneurs".

He said the government is working to encourage the youths in innovative activities and entrepreneurships to

# in the hearts of people speedy trial of

Says Prof Anisuzzaman at book launching ceremony



National Professor Anisuzzaman (centre), Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi (second from right) and other dignitaries hold copies of the book on Bangabandhu during its unveiling ceremony at National Museum. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those who wanted to erase Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's name from history through his assassination in 1975 failed miserably and its proof is everywhere in the present-day Bangladesh, said National Professor Anisuzzaman

"Bangabandhu remains in the hearts of people... Across the globe, he is recognised as an undisputed leader of the liberation movement," he said.

Prof Anisuzzaman was addressing an unveiling ceremony of the book "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Janmoshatobarshiki: Antorjatik Smarokgrontho" National Museum.

The book was published by a committee formed in the Indian city of Agartala, marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary. Another committee, formed in Dhaka, comprising of leading cultural personalities and organisers, arranged the unveiling ceremony.

Recalling Agartala's role during Bangladesh's Liberation War, Prof

Anisuzzaman said it is not surprising that a memoir on Bangabandhu was published from Agartala. Essays and poems from both sides of

the border have been incorporated in the book. Sign of sincerity from the publishers is evident in the book, he said. Addressing as chief guest, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser

Dr Gowher Rizvi said people of Agartala played a significant role in 1971, which speeded up Bangladesh liberation. The book's editor Debabrata Devroy said

some 200 writings on Bangabandhu have been incorporated in the book. He said they would arrange several programmes this year and the next in India to celebrate the birth centenary. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury,

chief coordinator of Bangabandhu's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee, said the government has declared March 17, 2020 to March 17, 2021 as "Mujib Year".

The committee is working to celebrate the Father of the Nation's birth centenary through holding various programmes, he

# Abrar's killers

Awami League (AL) led 14-party alliance yesterday demanded holding Buet student Abrar Fahad's murder case in a speedy trial tribunal.

"Trial of Abrar's killers should be held in a speedy trial tribunal," said Md Nasim, 14-party spokesperson and AL presidium member, at a press conference at AL central office on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Condemning the murder, he urged Buet administration to take stern actions against such acts.

The 14-party spokesperson came down heavily on Buet's vice-chancellor (VC), questioning why he did not go to see Abrar's body after the killing. He said such behaviour from

Nasim is optimistic that the trial will be completed as soon as possible. He said proper trails of all murder cases are being held under the tenure of the present government. "We appreciate different opinions, but some wrongdoers

carried out the killing," he said. Replying to a question, the 14-party spokesperson said

the alliance does not support banning student politics rather it wants student politics to properly follow rules and

Speaking at the conference, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

## DHAKA TODAY

#### DIALOGUE Third Party Consultation Meet

Organiser: Rastrachinta Venue: Ibrahim Mansion, Paltan Time: 10am

#### **CELEBRATION** Marking World Hospice and

Palliative Care Day Organiser: Centre for Palliative Care Venue: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Time: 9am

### **TRAINING**

**Programme on Quality Problem** Organiser: Bangladesh-Japan Training Institute Venue: Eastern Plaza, Hatirpool Time: 9am

#### **SEMINAR** Robotics and IOT

Organiser: WUB Research Society Venue: World University of Bangladesh, Panthapath Time: 9:30am

#### **WORKSHOP** Arduino: Essentials

Venue: EMK Center Time: 4:30pm

### SESSION

Jamano Kotha: Exploring Parent-Child Relationships Venue: EMK Center Time: 3pm



# Bangabandhu lives on 14-party demands More efforts needed to empower girls

Dev partners say marking Int'l Girl Child Day

Unb, Dhaka

Though Bangladesh has made significant progress in improving lives of adolescent girls over the last 20 years, more opportunities have to be ensured for them so that they can reach their full potential.

Development partners said this in a joint statement yesterday, marking International Day of the Girl Child.

"We know that unlocking the potential of girls is critical in view of the demographic window of opportunity in Bangladesh and [it] will generate substantial benefits not just for the girls, but also for their families and communities," reads the joint

UK Aid, USAID, Australian High Commission in Bangladesh, ActionAid, Save the Children, Unicef, UN Women, Brac, Plan International, UNFPA, OXFAM, World Vision and Food and Agriculture Organization were among the 23 organisations who issued the statement.

Since 2012, October 11 has been marked as International Day of the Girl Child. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

The theme of this year is "GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable".

The development partners, in the statement, mentioned that more girls are

enrolling in schools and accessing better health care services in the country. The achievement in girls' secondary education has started to transform the social fabric and is providing girls with greater opportunities.

"Bangladeshi girls are inspiring, innovative and eager to take charge of their own future. They are using the internet and mobile technology to expand their learning opportunities and intensify their voices. Also, 30.7 percent of girls (aged 15-19) own mobile phones," the joint statement noted.

Girls are breaking barriers posed by gender stereotypes through getting involved in outdoor sports, as demonstrated by the recent success of Bangladeshi Girls' U-15 football team.

Despite progress, significant challenges exist in many areas, said the joint statement.

While Bangladesh has done well on the maternal mortality indicator, data show that adolescent mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 are still twice as likely to die due to pregnancy and childbirth complications as women between the ages of 20 and 24.

In education, according to the statement, there are fewer girls, compared to boys, in the higher secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels.

Child marriage is a major cause of SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

