

## BNP doubts EC's capacity but hopes for fair polls: Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has expressed doubt over the Election Commission's capacity to hold a free and fair national election, but said it still hopes the polls will be participatory and inclusive.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed made the remarks yesterday after a meeting with two election commissioners at the EC headquarters in Dhaka.

"We have doubts about the Election Commission's capability -- whether the election will truly be free and fair is in question. Because, although the Election Commission is an independent body, at different levels of the administration there are accomplices [of fascists] in place, who are engaged in various tactics and far-reaching conspiracies to obstruct or



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## Death anniv of Nurjahan Murshid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Nurjahan Murshid, a women's rights activist, renowned politician and organiser of the 1971 Liberation War, said a press release.

Marking the day, wreaths will be placed at her grave around 11:00am at Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital today. Besides, food items will be distributed among the destitute.

In 1954, Nurjahan Murshid won as a member of the Provincial Council as a candidate of the Juktifront. She played an active role in the six-point movement in 1966 and the mass movement of 1968-69. She won the 1970 election as a candidate of Awami League.

In independent Bangladesh, she was appointed in 1972 as state minister for health and social welfare.

Nurjahan died in Dhaka on September 1, 2003. She played a significant role in different democratic movements. She was amongst a very small number of Muslim women who entered higher education and obtained her Master's degree in History from Calcutta University in the mid 1940s.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Traders from Paschim Maluhar village in Banaripara upazila transport vegetables, including water lilies and bottle gourd, by boat to sell at Lakutia Bazar. The photo was taken recently in Chandpasha area of Babuganj in Barishal.

## 'Every day, we've to step out taking our lives in our hands'

Prof Samina Lutfa tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Certain political interest groups are deliberately creating unrest in the country to serve their own agendas, alleged Professor Samina Lutfa of the Sociology Department at Dhaka University yesterday.

"The government has completely failed to control this unrest. We have never seen a more appalling law and order situation than this. Every day, we have to step out taking our lives in our hands," she said.

She made the remarks at a rally organised by the University Teachers' Network at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus. The event was

held to condemn ongoing harassment, attacks and dismissals of teachers, as well as the recent assault on Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur.

Speakers also called for ensuring the safety, dignity and justice of citizens.

She said since July, the demand has been to bring the perpetrators of the July killings to justice. However, no investigation or trial has been seen, and as a result, people have lost confidence in the justice system over the past year.

"This has been compounded by the competitive agendas of certain

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