

Fast food poses health risk
Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fast foods tend to increase obesity which is primarily responsible for high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer and arthritis, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

which is responsible for obesity. "This biological urge associated with social motivation is creating an alarming situation in the society. Obesity associated with depression reduces the productivity of the children. It also reduces the power of concentration," he said, adding that it is time to fashion alternative behaviour for the children.

vegetables, water and curd in diet in lieu of high calorie food items. "The fast food items should contain the quantity of trans fat on its packet so that people can know how much harmful fat they are receiving through their food," Prof Dr Subhagata Chowdhury of Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre said, adding that it needs legal steps to control trans fat in food items used to preserve the items as well as to increase its flavour and test.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed speaks at a 14-party opposition combine meeting at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

Five killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed and 59 others injured in separate road accidents in four districts in last two days. Our staff correspondent reports: At least one person was killed and three others were injured when a passenger bus skidded off Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Demra yesterday.

mishap on the Hati Kumrud-Bonpara highway at China camp area in Sirajganj on Thursday night. The injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital and Tarash Health Complex. Police and witnesses said the mishap took place at around 10.00pm when a Bonpara-bound tempo turned turtle on the road after the driver had lost control over the steering.

Rahman, 36, the driver of the private car. The injured were admitted to Dumuria Health Complex and local clinics in Khulna city. Police recovered an Indian passport from the brief case of Ashraf Hossain. His body is now lying in the morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Job seekers stage a demonstration in front of a Police Box at Paltan in the city yesterday after their written tests for jobs under the water resources ministry were postponed without any notice. The examinations were scheduled to be held at Shegunbaghica High School yesterday.

Petrobranga goes for gas reservoir study

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Petrobranga, the state-run oil, gas and mineral corporation, is going for reservoir study for gas fields of its three production companies. Officials concerned said Petrobranga on Thursday signed an agreement with British Exploration Consultant Limited (ECL) for carrying out the study.

Under the Tk 14-crore agreement, the ECL will conduct study to determine the current actual gas reserves in the fields under Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited, Sylhet Gas Fields Company Limited and Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX).

Extortion Injured UP chairman dies

BDNEWS, Comilla

Union Parishad (UP) chairman Nuruzzaman Munshi injured on Wednesday in gunshot by miscreants died on Thursday night at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Police and locals said the terrorists demanded Tk one lakh from Nuruzzaman as toll from him as he was the contractor of an under-construction bridge. As he refused to give the toll, the terrorists opened fire on him.

Eight houses gutted in Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj

A fire broke out at Nagerhati village in Nigri upazila yesterday, burning down eight dwelling houses. Police said the fire originated from the kitchen of Zulhas at about 4:00pm and soon engulfed the nearby houses.

Kabita Utsab begins in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A two-day Bangla Kabita Utsab (Bangla Poetry Festival) began in Tangail yesterday amid a festival mood. Eminent poet Al Mahmud inaugurated the festival organised by Tangail Public Library at Bhasani Hall in the town with Tangail Deputy Commissioner Saifuddin Ahmed Majumdar in the chair.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar and Deputy Minister for information Abdus Salam Pintu met the leaders of Photo Journalists Association at its office in the city yesterday to express sympathy for the recent police attack on photojournalists in Chittagong.

West Bengal, Kerala all set for polls today

LDF sitting pretty, UDF hopeful in Kerala

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kolkata/Thiruvananthapuram

Four more southern districts of West Bengal go to the polls today in the second round of staggered assembly elections the ruling Left Front hopes to win hands down. Of the total 294 constituencies the second phase would involve 66 in Howrah, Hooghly, East Midnapore and Murshidabad districts where 348 candidates, including 28 women, are in the battlefield.

districts is 11.3 million. Shibpur in Howrah is the largest constituency with 269,646 voters. A total of 122,99 polling stations have been set up in the four districts. The total electorate in West Bengal is 48.9 million. The five-phase elections end on May 8.

the Trinamool Congress of Mamata Banerjee. Ambika Banerjee, the Trinamool candidate who has won from Howrah Central five times, alleged that the Left had treated the district shabbily. But of late Howrah has been in the limelight with upcoming projects like a food processing park, an IT hub and a motorbike factory by the Indonesian giant Salem besides a modern township by the same group.



PHOTO: STAR

Citizens' Rights Movement forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday protesting hike of BTB land phone call charge.

One stabbed to death in Barguna, two arrested

UNB, Barguna

A gang of criminals stabbed a man to death and took away his motorcycle at Pochakoralia in Amtali upazila on Thursday night. The victim was identified as Panu, 32. He carried passengers in his motorcycle in Taitali river port area to earn a living.

Memorial meeting for DU teacher

Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit organises a memorial meeting for Syed Imtiaz Ahmed, assistant professor of International Relations, Dhaka University. Venue: Conference Room of the Faculty of Business Studies, DU. Time: 11:30am.

Lecture

Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities organises a lecture on 'Post-modernism and its impact on contemporary literature'. Venue: Lecture Theatre, DU. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion on Lenin

Communist Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion to mark the 136th Birth Anniversary of Comrade Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Venue: Party Central Office. Time: 5:00pm.

IT fair

The opening ceremony of Brac Bank IT Fair will be held with ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: UTIS

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion on prophet

Bangladesh Muslim Party will hold a discussion on 'Siratunnabi' with Monthly Madina editor Muhiuddin Khan as chief guest. Venue: Madina auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Roundtable

A roundtable discussion on 'Election 2007: Our expectation' will be held with ASM Shahjahan, former adviser of caretaker government. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Reunion

The Annual General Meeting and reunion of Salimullah Muslim Hall Old Students Association will be held with President Iajuddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 9:00am.

'Many types of cancer curable if detected early'

Experts at a discussion urged all to work together in order to ensure good service networking to fight cancer, says a press release. They said one third of all types of cancer are curable if those are detected at the early stage. The discussion on 'Information Exchange and Service Networking to Fight Cancer' was organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at the Narshingdi District Hospital recently.

Expert urges SE Asia to close terror camps

REUTERS, Mactan Island

The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia must act jointly against the regional militant network Jemaah Islamiah (JI) to dismantle its camps and limit its movements, a security expert said on Friday. Rohan Gunaratna, head of the political violence and terrorism centre at Singapore's Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, said Indonesia must ban JI as an organisation and oppose moves to free the group's spiritual leader, Abu Bakar Bashir, in June. "Everything must be done to make sure that he is not released," Gunaratna told reporters on the sidelines of a counter-terrorism forum in the central Philippines.

"JI has gained very significant strength because it is now working with so many other groups in Indonesia. The Indonesian government must be encouraged to ban JI," he said. "JI is still a legal organisation in Indonesia. JI must be criminalized," he added. He warned that JI, al-Qaeda's franchise in Southeast Asia, continued to pose a serious threat despite the arrests of senior leaders such as Bashir and Isamuddin Riduan, alias Hambali. Noordin Mohammad Top, a Malaysian suspected of masterminding bombings on the Indonesian holiday island of Bali last year, is believed to have taken over JI's operational leadership.