

'Colours in food cause a wide range of health problems'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Colours used in different foods to make them attractive cause a wide range of health problems, including cardiac diseases, kidney failure, liver cirrhosis and asthma, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

"We should give up coloured food as it is causing harm to us. Only natural colour can be used in food," said Prof Dr ABM Faruk, chairman of pharmacy department of Dhaka University, in his keynote paper.

The Centre for Development Innovative and Practices organised

the roundtable on 'Prevent food adulteration and save the environment' at the National Press Club in the city.

Referring to the use of Zafran, a natural colour, in Polau, Prof Faruk said, "We are not even aware of what are we eating in our homes."

He said the price of genuine Zafran is too high, but what is sold in the name of Zafran at a cheaper price may cause serious health problems.

Testing salt has also a bad effect on children and aged people, he said.

Justice Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, chairman of the Centre for Development Innovative and Practices, presided over the ses-

sion.

Dr Ashraf Siddique, journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, BTMA Chairman MA Awal, Prof Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University, Country Director of Hunger Project Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar and social scientist Dr ATM Farid also spoke.

Appreciating the drive against food adulteration, the speakers said it should continue in order to ensure food safety.

They also stressed the need for strengthening the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) and other government bodies in order to check food adulteration.

They also called for raising awareness among the consumers.

2 killed in city accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two, including a minor girl, were killed in two separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

A bus ran over Meherunnesa Oishi, 4, at Jatrabari as she was crossing the road alone. She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared her dead.

Tension was created in the area as the news of her death spread.

Demra Police Station sources said no case was filed in this regard and the driver along with the bus managed to flee.

In another incident, an unidentified man, 40, was killed when a truck rammed a rickshaw near Shyamoli in the early hours of the day. Police recovered the body and sent it to DMC Morgue for autopsy.

CUJA withdraws agitation

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University Journalists' Association (CUJA), which has been protesting the assault of one of its members by the police since Thursday, withdrew its agitation programme yesterday.

The journalists announced the decision in this regard after Officer-in-Charge of Hathazari Police Station Mahfuz Alam regretted his misconduct due to what he said was a misunderstanding.

In the presence of Proctor Dr Al Amin, the OC also assured that there would be no repeat of such incidents.

Ehsan Jewel, the CU correspondent of the daily Janakantha, was assaulted by the OC during an internal feud of the BCL on the campus on Wednesday.



Left Democratic Front stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting the price hike of essential.

President, PM greet Kyrgyz president

BDNEWS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted newly elected President of Kyrgyz Republic Kurmanbek Salievich Bakiev.

In a separate message President Iajuddin said that the existing fraternal relations between the two countries would reach a new dimension in all areas of cooperation under his able leadership to the mutual benefits of the people of two brotherly countries in the days ahead.

The prime minister, in her message, said the bilateral relations existing between the two countries will further be strengthened, and prayed for good health, personal well-being, and continued peace, progress and prosperity to the brotherly people of the republic.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in day temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:34am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.2	25.5	84	72
Chittagong	30.6	26.0	80	81
Rajshahi	35.3	27.3	77	80
Khulna	34.2	27.2	83	70
Barisal	33.2	26.4	90	--
Sylhet	33.7	26.8	88	80
Cox's Bazar	31.2	25.8	83	87

Teach indigenous children in their mother tongue

Speakers tell seminar

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar said medium of education for the indigenous students should be their mother tongues at least up to class five.

Adivashi Forum organised the seminar titled "The problems in education for Indigenous people" at the YWCA auditorium in the city in collaboration with the Commonwealth Bangladesh Education Fund and ActionAid Bangladesh.

Forum Organising Secretary Shaktipada Tripura, researcher Prof Mesbah Kamal, Prof Saurav Sikder, Narendra Barman (Coach), Bernard Kujur (Orao) spoke at the seminar.

Adivashi Forum General Secretary Sanjib Drong presided.

Drong in his written speech said the Adivashi Forum mainly worked with five ethnic groups - Garo, Hajong, Coach, Khasi and Orao. He said English and Bangla books of class one and two have been translated after discussions at field level to save the language of these five ethnic groups from being extinct.

Drong said the indigenous people have also been neglected in government census. In the 2001 census the total population of 29 indigenous groups were shown as 12 lakh and the number was same in the 1991 census too.

Prof Mesbah Kamal said the indigenous children would make rapid progress if they were taught in their mother tongues at primary level. He also stressed appointing teachers for them from indigenous people. They should acquire efficiency in English alongside getting education in their mother tongues.

He said most of the NGOs collect money from the donors for working for the education of the indigenous

people but the impact of their work is very little.

Expressing his resentment, Prof Mesbah Kamal said the lives of the indigenous people were being projected from a negative angle. He said punitive actions should be taken for presenting the lives of the indigenous people negatively in the Banglapedia.

Schoolboy abducted in Kushtia

IU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Kushtia Government High school was abducted from Kushtia town on Friday evening.

The victim was identified as Shafat Bin Saqline Shimul, a student of class VIII and younger son of Golam Saqlaen, Deputy Director of Public Relation Office of Islamic University.

The abductors demanded a ransom of Tk 7 lakh from Shimul's parents for his release.

Sources said, a group of unidentified hoodlums abducted him on gunpoint from Aruapara area of the town at about 7.00pm while he was returning his residence at Housing Estate. He went to his relative's house at Aruapara in the evening.

The abductors informed his parents over telephone at about 9.00pm that Shimul is in their grip demanding Tk 7 lakh as ransom within 24 hours for his release.

Till writing of this report at 5.00pm it is learnt that Shimul's parents were trying to negotiate with the abductors.

FEE HIKE JCD leaders beat up student at Eden college

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday beat up a student at Eden College in the city and threatened to assault other students who went to lay a siege to the college principal's office room protesting fee hike.

Students said their fee has increased from Tk 895 to Tk 1200. They demanded immediate cancellation of the increased fees and lay siege to a bank inside the college premises to press home their demand.

In the face of students' demonstration, the college authorities reduced Tk 100.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) protested the authorities' decision to increase fees. They said earlier the authorities collected hostel charge double from the third year students.

Kidnapped boy rescued

UNB, Bagerhat

A minor schoolboy kidnapped from Gazipur on August 9 was rescued at a remote village of Kachua yesterday and arrested two alleged woman traffickers in this connection.

Sagar Islam, 10, son of Shahful Islam, was kidnapped from Gazipur road juncture when he was going to private tutor. He was rescued from Gintakathi village of Kachua and arrested alleged abductor Laily Begum, 30, and Rehana Begum, 21, two sisters who hailed from Nazirpur of Pirojpur district.

Police said the two sisters came with Sagar to the house of Mahtab Sheikh on Friday night.

BSF yet to return two Bangladeshis

BSS, Satkhira

The two Bangladeshi fishermen, who were detained by Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) on Thursday, are still under Indian police custody, BDR sources said.

BSF personnel, however, assured BDR of returning them to Bangladesh.

The arrested fishermen are Netai Chandra Das, 38, son of Balai Das of village Debhata and Zakir Hossain, 40, son of Naju Mia of village Bhatshala under Debhata upazila.

Sources said three fishermen were arrested by BSF while they were returning home from Debhata Bazar to Town Siprur village by a boat in the border river Ichhamoti on Thursday on the plea that they were not carrying Bangladeshi flag in the boat.

The fishermen argued that it was

a new boat, which they bought from Debhata Bazar and were going home. But BSF caught the three.

One of them, Gokul Das, however, managed to escape and informed the BDR of the incident.

BSF took two other fishermen with their boat to Hasnabad thana in India.

A flag meeting between BDR and BSF was held at Charsripur Wapda Road in the afternoon.

Subedar Shafi Hossain, Company Commander of Debhata Border Outpost (BOP), led Bangladesh side while inspector NK Mondal, Company Commander of Syedpur BSF Company of 106 BSF Battalion, led the Indian side.

BSF expressed their sorrow for the incident and assured BDR of returning the fishermen to Bangladesh.



Gonomukti O Jatiya Sampad Rokkha Sammilita Andolon held a rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting a cabinet decision regarding salary hike for the prime minister, ministers and members of parliament.

1 killed in 'crossfire' with cops

A CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An alleged criminal was killed in "crossfire" between police and his accomplices in Gaborjan area under Tangail Sadar upazila on Friday night.

Police said they arrested Zeennat, chief of the local criminal band "Zeennat Bahini", and his five accomplices at Chhoto Basalia area under Sadar upazila at around 9:00pm on Friday.

The five other arrestees are Majnu Miah, 30, Biplob, 35, Dulal, 30, Mintu, 35 and Suza, 32.

On Zeennat's confessional statement, a team of Sadar Police Station led by its officer-in-charge (OC) set out at about 1:30am to recover illegal firearms, taking Zeennat with them.

When they reached Gaborjan, Zeennat's cohorts opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate.

Police said during the gunfight, Zeennat was caught in crossfire and died instantly. His accomplices however managed to flee, they added.

Police seized two foreign made revolvers with five bullets from the spot.

Three policemen, including Sub-Inspector (SI) Shamsul Alam, were injured in the gunfight. They were admitted to Tangail Police Hospital.

Police said Zeennat was an accused in 13 criminal cases including seven for murder.

3 crashed under train, 2 killed in road mishap

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Five people were killed in separate road accidents in at Gazipur, and Faridpur yesterday.

Three road addicts were killed as a train rammed them at the rail crossing at Mariali of Gazipur on Dhaka-Shimultali highway. The dead were identified as Qaium, 25, Rashidul Haque Roshawn, 20, and Mosharrif, 22.

Police and sources said, three heroine addicted people were lying on the Shimultali rail line after taking the drug in the morning. 'Ekota Express' train coming from Dinajpur ran over them.

Their head was smashed and body torn into pieces.

After recovering the bodies Joydevpur police sent those to the Gazipur Hospital morgue.

Local people alleged that Amzad were seriously addicted and sold heroine in the area but police turned a blind eye to the crime.

Two people were killed when a Dhaka bound passenger bus of Sohag Paribahan collided with a private car on Bahiridia bridge at Sadarpur under Faridpur district

at 12:00am yesterday.

Babul Mia, 42, a passenger of the car who lived in Mirpur and the driver of the car died on the spot. The identity of the driver could not be known immediately.

Police recovered the bodies. A case has been filed in this regard.

3 electrocuted in Mymensingh

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Three people were electrocuted at Fulpur of Mymensingh yesterday.

The incident occurred at 10:00am Saturday. The victims were identified as Dr. Fazlul Haque of Ramchandrapur village under Tarakanda thana, his daughter and a neighbour.

Police said, Dr Haque, 50, was electrocuted while trying to straighten an electric pole beside his home. His daughter Moyna, 12, and a neighbour were electrocuted when they tried to rescue him.

A case has been filed on regarding the incident.

DHAKA TODAY

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book 'Chokher Jal Anek Katha Baley' by Md Abdul Qaiyum Thakur will be held. Venue: Sugandha Community Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 7:00pm.

Workshop

workshop on 'Advocacy fellow development' will be held and the 'Advocacy Action Guide - Primary Education' will be launched. Venue: NILG, 29 Agargaon. Time: 9:30am.

Memorial meeting

Gono Forum organises a memorial meeting to mark the 30th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Prize giving ceremony

Adhunik, an anti-smoking campaign body, will distribute its lottery prizes. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:30am.

JP meeting

The Jatiya Party will hold a party meeting, with its Chairman HM Ershad as chief guest. Venue: Party Central Office, Tophkana Road. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

The Awami League organises a discussion on the occasion of the National Mourning Day, with AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Kakrail. Time: 3:00pm.

Training programme

The inaugural session of a training-

Attack on Narsingdi AL meeting: 30 injured

UNB, Narsingdi

At least 30 leaders and activists of Monohardi upazila unit of the Awami League (AL) and its front organisations were injured in an attack allegedly by the BNP cadres on a party meeting yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured, 14 were admitted to Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka and the remaining 16 to upazila health complex.

Police quoting Awami League sources said the upazila unit of the AL called an extended meeting at Majhibari Noorani Madrasa ground to chalk out programmes for the "National Mourning Day" on August 15.

The sources said some 100 BNP cadres, led by their local leader Abul Kashem, attacked the AL meeting at about 5:30pm.

A tense situation was prevailing at Monohardi upazila headquarters following the incident.

Additional police forces have been deployed in the area to avert further trouble.



Gen Mashhud joins as adviser to Group 4 Securitus

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, former army chief, has joined as an adviser to Group 4 Securitus Bangladesh Ltd., a subsidiary of Group 4 Securicor Plc. UK, says a press release.

Gen. Chowdhury, who had a distinguished career in Bangladesh Army, held very important appointments in the army, went to the Army War College in the USA and did his Defence Service Command from Mirpur Staff College.

He also led Bangladesh Military Contingent to KSA during the Gulf war.

Gen. Chowdhury also served as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates before his assignment as the chief of army staff.

Obituary

Brig. (Retd.) Syed Abdur Rob passed away at Rangpur CMH due to a cardiac arrest on August 12 at the age of 57, says a press release.

He was commissioned in the Corps of Signals in 1968.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Dhaka Cantonment Garrison Mosque at 9:00am today. He will be buried at his family graveyard in Juri, Moulvibazar.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Syeda Sultana Haq, wife of Md Azizul Haq and mother of Prof M Zahidul Haq of Sher-e-Bang-la Agricultural University, will be held at Party Palace Community Centre at Shyamoli after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away on August 11 at the age of 65. She left behind two sons and one daughter.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.