

## TAWFIQUE ALI

This is a structural failure apparently because of poor quality of building materials, said a top civil engineer of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).



Poor quality building materials caused structural failure and cracks in the walls and columns of the newly built six-storey building in Dayaganj sweeper colony in Sutrapur.

Structural weakness and geotechnical fault are on the list of probable reasons behind failure of the building, said Prof Sekender Ali, head of civil engineering department of Buet and leader of an expert team assigned

There are several reasons that might have triggered the failure, said Prof Md Zoynul Abedin, a

One can get a soil test done at a cost of around Tk 2,500 to 3,000 per boring in the market. But it costs Tk 30,000 if carried out at Buet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

**SHAHNAZ PARVEEN**

In bananas, calcium carbide is used for quick ripening, Dr Mowlah said. After 5 to 6 hours of applying the chemicals, the green bitter bananas look delect-

However, another fruit seller said use of chemicals has decreased to a certain level due to recent drives of mobile courts.

Sobhan said that all ripe fruits produce ethylene oxide naturally. But the chemicals used for quick ripening of fruits are very harmful. Calcium carbide is extremely hazardous to human

Ethylene enters the bloodstream if someone breathes air containing mists or vapours with the compound. It can also enter bloodstream through skin. So the traders or sprayers who spray the chemicals can also get lung cancer, damaged eye membrane and also asthma.

The magistrate said that use of chemicals and toxic colour in fruits can be punished under Bangladesh Pure Food (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Highest penalty under section 44 (7A) is Tk. 50,000 fine or one-year rigorous imprisonment or both. For the same offence second time punishment is Tk 2 lakh fine or 2 years' jail or both.



### Green fruits look ripe and delectable after using chemicals.

The footpath on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Bangla Motor intersection has been dug up to install underground fibre optic cable of a private mobile company. Thousands of pedestrians are risking lives every day walking on the city's busiest thoroughfare. The authorities could temporarily demarcate the stretch of the road for facilitating pedestrians for a safe passage.

STAR PHOTO

## DURDANA GHIAS

“Very often when we do not have supply of Wasa tap water we have to wash those in the river. But the drapers used in Operation Theatre are washed

"Especially during the four months of lean period when water level decreases the pollution is at its worst. Sometimes the sluice gates are opened after an interval of a few days bringing in more polluted water. We are left



**Workers dry mops and cleaning rags used in Mitford Hospital.**

with no alternative other than using that contaminated water. Sometimes we buy water at Tk 5 per pitcher to wash. We desper-

ately need the reservoir," said Rahman. On an average around 500 pieces of clothes are washed at the hospital every day.