



## Toxic milk fear mounts as DU sticks to test results

Blames BSTI for confusion over melamine in popular brands; govt sits today for decision; parents in a fix over alternative baby food

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

With mothers worried and confused about what to feed their babies, the chemistry department of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday reconfirmed that the eight popular brands of powdered milk indeed contain toxic melamine.

"We are confident about the results of our tests detecting melamine in the samples of powdered milk provided by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI)," said Dr Nilufar Nahar, who carried out the tests at the depart-

BRAND	FOUND
Nido fortified instant	.45 mg/g
Red Cow	.30 mg/g
Yashili 1 (China)	.29 mg/g
Sweet Baby (China)	.28 mg/g
Diploma	.23 mg/g
Anilma	.20 mg/g
Yashili 2 (China)	.14 mg/g
Dano	.04 mg/g

ment's laboratory. "The results are hundred percent correct," she said.

The DU chemistry department had submitted the test reports to the BSTI on October 15, saying all the samples of eight brands of powdered milk contain melamine which is harmful for human.

Meanwhile, the BSTI and the government are still confused about what to do regarding the matter and have not yet given any clear message for mothers leaving them in a fix as to what to feed their babies. Many anxious mothers are now giving their babies pasteurised

liquid milk of different local brands.

Experts said it would be difficult for some mothers to change their babies' food habits as the babies have become used to powdered milk.

The finance ministry will hold a meeting today at the Secretariat to take a decision on the matter. It had warned people against consuming powdered milk of these eight popular brands until any decision is taken in this regard.

The BSTI and private laboratory

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## Diplomats must not try to dictate elections

BNP tells UN delegation  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday asked the foreign envoys to adhere to diplomatic norms and not interfere with affairs unique to the country.

He, however, added that the diplomats can help ensure a free and fair conduct of the upcoming election.

The BNP secretary general made the remarks when a six-member delegation of the United Nations (UN) met the senior BNP leaders at the party headquarters.

The BNP-led four-party alliance maintains that some foreign envoys, among others, had a hand in staging the 1/11 changeover last

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## EC REGISTRATION DEADLINE ENDS TOMORROW BNP, allies wait for govt talks as time ticks away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will apply for registration with the Election Commission (EC) by tomorrow, the closing date for applications.

Its Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said this to The Daily Star after a meeting with Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office late at night.

Though the extended time limit for submitting applications expires tomorrow, BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami have yet to collect forms.

Earlier in the day, senior leaders of the parties said they are prepared for registration and waiting for a positive response from the government to the seven-point

demand they placed at the dialogue on October 14.

"We will have to apply for registration within October 20," Nazrul Islam Khan told The Daily Star minutes before midnight.

"I have just discussed with the chairperson everything about registration. We are ready and waiting to hear from the government about our demands," he added.

Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), another component of the BNP-led rainbow coalition, collected their application form last week and was working to tailor the party constitution to meet the requirements for registration, sources in the IOJ said.

The IOJ however will not submit its application to the EC until the four-party coalition decides to register, the sources added.

Senior officials at the EC secretariat said the commission might again face difficulties if the BNP and its allies do not apply for registration by tomorrow, which is mandatory for the political parties to contest the parliamentary polls.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda however hoped that the BNP and the Jamaat will file their applications by tomorrow, noting that the commission had earlier extended the time limit only for them.

The deadline was extended by five days to October 20 on request

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## Fresh dialogue with parties soon: Adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government this week will hold a fresh round of dialogue with political parties for "qualitative improvement of electoral environment and politics".

"Dialogue is a continuous process. Issues have been discussed in the dialogues. We are to sit with Awami League (AL) and BNP again. This time the main agenda will be electoral environment and qualitative changes to politics. We will hold the dialogue soon," Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman told journalists after a seminar on "Quality of Education" in Dhaka organised by an NGO.

On AL and BNP's declaration about taking part in the elections without their party chiefs, Hossain Zillur said, "Uncertainty about elections will end a day after election day. There can be issues and those are legal matters... at one

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## AGARGAON LINK ROAD

## Over 100 trees cut down; more may go

PINAKI ROY

Over 100 trees on a Rokeya Sarani pavement have been chopped down for construction of Agargaon-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue link road, though design of the road does not entail felling of the trees.

Some of the trees were around 10 years old.

Just two days back, there were 255 trees on the sidewalk. Now only 152 trees stand between Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and Agargaon intersection.

The authorities concerned chopped down the trees at night or dawn. On Friday, 59 bases of felled trees lay on the pavement. Then yesterday, they were joined by 44 more.

Interestingly, high value trees

like mahogany and acacia were felled and young deodar trees, with immature wood, were left untouched.

The designers of the road at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said felling of the trees was not at all necessary as per the design approved for the road through Old Airport.

"Tree felling was not in our plan. They do not need to cut down trees to build the road. Maybe they are doing this for some other reasons," said Zubair Bin Alam, chief of the designing team.

While making the announcement of the link road, the authorities did not say a word about the need for trees to be felled.

It was observed that only five to six trees were required to be

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Authorities have cut down trees on Rokeya Sarani pavement up to Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, left, for constructing a road. An elderly woman walks on the pavement near the centre under the shade of trees that might disappear within a few days. (Map on page 5)

## 6 Shakib wickets clip Kiwi wings

MOHAMMAD ISAM in Chittagong

For the second day in a row, a smiling Bangladesh team marched out of the Chittagong Divisional Stadium after Shakib Al Hasan's virtuoso six-wicket haul put them in command after suffering a morning jolt against New Zealand on Day Two of the first Test yesterday.

At stumps, the visitors were reeling at 155 for nine in their first innings in reply to the Tigers' modest 245 all out, no thanks to yet another collapse that saw the last five wickets fall for just 16 runs.

Even then a lead of 90 runs is in the kitty and the Tigers could own a first innings lead for the seventh time in their history.

Shakib bowled 24 consecutive overs starting an hour after lunch, from the pavilion end, to vindicate his place as a bowling all-rounder for this game. Accurate throughout, the left-arm spinner tied the

Black Caps up in knots with his subtle variations that accounted for the top-order, who groped to fuller length balls and did not use the full face of the bat, a crime on a cracking surface.

Only skipper Daniel Vettori showed grit under fire, scoring an unbeaten 48 off 68 balls that had six boundaries. He shared 26 with Kyle Mills (4) and added 29 more for the ninth wicket although there was no contribution from Jeetan Patel, who fell to Shakib's stunner in the final over of the day.

Shakib also found good support from the close-in fielders who took everything that came their way.

Jamie How (16) gave a leading edge to silly mid-off where Rajin Saleh took a low catch near his left boot and in his next over, debutant Jesse Ryder (1) gave a bat-pad chance to the same fielder at short-leg. Abdur Razzak nailed Ross

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## RE-DEMARCATION Final HC hearing today on petition against EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) will hold today the final hearing on the petition challenging the Election Commission's (EC) re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies.

The court will also hear the petitions for quashing proceedings against former premier Sheikh Hasina in the Niko and barge-mounted power plant corruption cases.

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## Talking polls and beyond

## Ershad for emergency until polls over

RASHIDUL HASAN and SURANJITH DEABNATH

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad has once again said the state of emergency should continue till the December 18 national election is over.

He said it would help avert violence, ensure voters' safety and prevent ballot rigging.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the former military strongman said if the caretaker administration opts to withdraw the emergency curbs before the



election, thugs and their godfathers will get back to their usual self and try to ruin the electoral climate.

He however said he has no doubt that the election would be held on schedule. He said he is determined to run

for three constituencies-- Rangpur-3, Dhaka-17 and Habisganj-3.

Describing 1/11 as a real eye-opener to the political leaders, he observed that the changeover in January last year has altered their

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Find details of the interview on page 11

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## Police hunt for Mojahid Raids on his house see no result

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police conducted several raids at the residence of Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid at Uttara in the capital yesterday but failed to arrest him.

But sources said Mojahid went to the daily Sangram office at Moghbazar 9:00am yesterday and stayed there for two hours.

Earlier on October 6, a Dhaka court issued arrest warrant on the Jamaat leader, an accused in Barapukuria coal mine corruption case.

Witnesses said yesterday a 10-member team from the detective branch (DB) of police and a five-member team of Uttara police raided Mojahid's residence between 4:30pm and 5:30pm.

About 200 Jamaat activists were present in front of the house during the raids. They tried to resist the law enforcers from entering the house, and did not also allow any journalist to enter it.

Contacted, Saiful Islam Chowdhury, officer-in-charge (OC)

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## In Gratitude

To the numerous well-wishers who have conveyed their condolences for the poignant passing of our esteemed and admired father **Al-Haj Abdul Kader Miah**, we are sincerely thankful. We are truly grateful for the profound sympathy and emotional support you have expressed through your letters, e-mails, fax messages, phone calls and for attending Doa Mahfil and Kul-khani.

On behalf of the bereaved family members,

M. Sahabuddin Ahmed  
Mohammad Kutubuddin Ahmed  
Md. Mohsinuddin Ahmed