

Kaptan Bazar now formalin-free

UNB, Dhaka

Traders yesterday declared Kaptan Bazar as the sixth formalin-free kitchen market in the capital, and pledged not to sell formalin-tainted adulterated commodities.

Malibagh Kitchen Market, Shantinagar Bazar, Mohakhali Kitchen Market, Gulshan-2 Kitchen Market and Mohammadpur's Town Hall Kitchen Market are the other formalin-free markets in the capital.

Country's apex trade body --The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) -- arranged a programme at Kaptan Bazar to make the declaration.

Commerce Minister GM Quader inaugurated the formalin-free market by cutting a red ribbon and handing over a formalin detector machine to Kaptan Bazar kitchen market supervisory committee's president M Ziar Uddin and secretary Abdul Mannan Moyna.

From now on, both buyers and traders at the Kaptan Bazaar kitchen market will be able to detect formalin in commodities like fish, fruits and other foodstuff by using the machine donated by Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.

Formalin, a chemical solution, is widely used for preservation in textile and leather industries. But its use in fish and foodstuff has long-lasting effects on public health, which may lead to fatal diseases like cancer.

FBCCI is currently leading a campaign against the use of formalin in foodstuff.

Addressing the programme, GM Quader said the amount of imported formalin has come down to 150 metric tonnes last year from 400 metric tonnes in 2010-11 due to the initiatives taken by his ministry.

FBCCI president Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed attended the programme among others.



These “deep-fried shrimp heads”, however tempting they may be, are a hotbed of diseases. With the least concern to basic hygiene, the country's roadside food vendors continue to prepare savoury snacks out in the open with adulterated food items, harmful chemicals and overused cooking oil. The photo was taken from the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Samson Chy's first anniversary of death today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Today is the first death anniversary of visionary entrepreneur and industrialist Samson H Chowdhury.

On the occasion, daylong programmes will be held in Pabna where he was born in 1926. Prayers will be offered at his farm house in the morning while a commemorative meeting will be held at Pabna Press Club at 7:00pm.

Samson H Chowdhury died on January 5 last year in Singapore from old-age complications. He was 86.

Chowdhury founded Square Group, a leading conglomerate in Bangladesh, and set an example of ethical business, which might inspire generations.

His business career spanned five decades. Chowdhury was educated in Mymensingh, Kolkata and Harvard University.

His business venture started with a small pharmacy at Ataikula in Pabna in 1952. It led him to found Square Pharma in 1958.

Chowdhury was awarded as the best entrepreneur of the country for 2000-2001 by The Daily Star and DHL. The American Chamber in Bangladesh honoured him as business executive of the year in 1998.

He led several business associations and donated many institutions in his lifetime. In 1985, he opened an orphanage for poor Christian children at his ancestral home in Ataikula.

Tazreen Fire Victims' families want compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of the unidentified deceased victims of Tazreen garment fire incident have threatened to lay siege to all garment factories in Ashulia if they are not compensated before January 10.

On behalf of these families, Kabir Hossain, husband of one of the deceased victims, made the announcement at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

Of the deceased workers, identities of 47 have not been confirmed yet though more than a month passed into the fire incident. Kabir's wife Lucky Begum is one such victim.

DNA tests of the unidentified bodies were conducted at Dhaka Medical College Hospital to find their identities. However, the test results are not being published, said Kabir.

As a result, family members of these victims are not getting compensation from the factory owner, he added.

He called for action from the government, BGMEA, and the factory owner Delwar Hossain in this regard.

Kabir also said they will go for tougher movement if their demand was not met.

At least 112 workers were killed and many others injured in the fire at the garment factory of Tazreen Fashions Ltd in Ashulia on November 24 last year.

Khaleda can't save war criminals: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia would not be able to save the war criminals.

Apparently hinting at Jamaat-Shibir, she said, “She (Khaleda) would not be able to save the snakes no matter how loudly she shouts taking the basket full of snakes on her head.”

The prime minister made the remarks when the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders met her at Gano Bhaban marking 65th founding anniversary of BCL.

Pointing finger at the BNP chairperson, Hasina said, “I want to tell her that a shaman (ojha) dies from snakebites. Her situation will turn serious because of them (Jamaat) as she is roaming with the basket of snakes.”

Despite desperate efforts to save the war criminals, the trial of the war criminals is going on in the country, she said.

The trial of those who killed people, looted wealth of people and sexually harassed many mothers and daughters during the Liberation War in 1971 must be held on the country's soil as it is a desire of the entire nation and common people, Hasina said.

Taking a swipe at a section of civil society members, she said, “Whenever any military or military-backed caretaker government assumes power, their importance rises and they get national flags in their vehicles.”

“That is why they do not want continuation of the democratic process in the country; rather they always try to destroy democracy. Conspiracy will be there but we will have to ensure the continuation of democracy,” she added.

BCL president HM Badiuzzaman Sohag and general secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam also spoke on the occasion.

N'GANJ COP's DEATH OC withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Bandar Police Station's officer-in-charge (OC) was withdrawn on Thursday over the death of a Narayanganj sub-inspector (SI) who suffered 90 percent burns on December 13.

Former Fatullah Police Station OC Abdul Matin will replace Nur, said District Superintendent of Police Sheikh Nazmul Alam.

Police earlier said SI Md Shahjahan Miah of Bandar Police Station suffered the injuries in an “explosion” before his quarters inside the police station.

He died in DMCH on December 17 and an unnatural death case was filed. On Thursday, the case was shifted to the Detective Branch of Police and the case investigators received the autopsy report. The report stated the cause of death to be from dehydration and infections resulting from the injuries.

A judicial magistrate's court had asked for the report after Shahjahan's wife sought permission on December 23 to file a murder case with it accusing four people. The four are Nur, SI Binoy Krishna Roy and two unidentified men. Shahjahan's brother said Nur, over a previous feud, was behind an attack in which the two unidentified men threw an object at Shahjahan, causing him to suffer the burns.

Floating garbage covers most of the lake situated in Ramna Park of the capital due to lack of maintenance and indifference of the authorities concerned. The photo was taken yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Govt to promote science edn: Nahid

BSS, Sylhet

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the government has stepped up all efforts to promote science education for economic prosperity of the country.

"Science education is playing a unique role in this modern world that's why Bangladesh students should learn time befitting science education to deal with the challenges of the 21st century for overall development of the country," he said.

The minister said this while addressing as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a three-day "International Physics Conference" at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (Sust) yesterday.

Sust Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Salah Uddin was in the chair.

Some 300 scientists, researchers and science teachers from the USA, India, Nepal, Japan and Bangladesh are taking part in the conference.

"Science education is focal point of overall development of all sectors," the minister said adding, "Science education is necessary in promoting information and other technologies for the betterment of the people through application of new various science techniques."

11.2pc families suffer food insecurity: Survey

UNB, Dhaka

Although Bangladesh has achieved food autarchy, the country's 11.2 percent households suffer from food insecurity for their limited access to resources, said a survey.

About 15 percent households sometimes and 11.2 percent either always or often face food shortage, it said.

The Institute of Nutrition and Food Science of Dhaka University conducted the study titled "The Nutrition, Health and Demographic Survey of Bangladesh-2011."

With financial support from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Prof Dr Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Dr M Nazrul Islam Khan and Prof Sheikh Nazrul Islam of the institute carried out the survey in seven divisions of the country.

According to the study, there is a significant difference in nutritional status of adult population in the country.

At the national level, about 48 percent of women and 60 percent men are suffering from chronic energy deficiency, while there is no significant difference in rural and urban settings in case of men, it said.

But, the prevalence of chronic energy deficiency in rural women is higher than that in urban women.

It reveals that the prevalence of underweight at the national level is about 45 percent in both girls and boys.

The survey shows that in case of random blood glucose level, nationally 21 percent men and 25 percent women (age above 40) were detected with diabetic but from fasting blood glucose level, the rate in case of men is 10 percent while 13 percent in case of women.

7 held for hijacking microbus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested seven persons from different districts in connection with hijacking a microbus in Chittagong city on December 21 last year.

They are Mohiuddin, Iqbal alias Shamim, Alamgir, Zakiul Islam alias Jewel, Shahjahan, Abdul Aziz, and Abdur Shukkur.

The police arrested Mohiuddin from Barodighir Par in Hathazari of Chittagong on Tuesday, said DB Sub-inspector Santosh Kumar Chakma.

On Thursday, Shamim, Alamgir and Zakiul were arrested from Feni and the other three from the port city, he said.

On their information, the microbus of one Amjad Hossain was recovered from Parkir Bazar area in Anwara upazila of Chittagong on Thursday night.

The Daily Star

Star Camps

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some interesting articles for the readers. The Spotlight focuses on how students can manage their time efficiently to accomplish their tasks. This week's Post Campus is about Tony Grei(1946-2012): The Larger than Life, Cricketer. There will be a Campus Trends section on combination of traditional clothes with chic western winter wears. The Star Chat this week is with Actor Mostafiz Shahin, where he shares his memories from school and future plans. Do not forget to grab this week's Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow. And, as always, have a great read!

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