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# HC orders test of Pran spices

Asks govt to collect samples, send them to lab in 48 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to find out whether spices marketed by Pran Agro Ltd contain harmful ingredients and report to it in four weeks.

Within 48 hours after the directive, the chairman of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and the director of the chemical wing of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) have to collect samples of Pran chilli, coriander, garlic, ginger and cumin powder from the market and send those for laboratory tests, the court said.

In response to a writ petition, the HC also sought an explanation from government officials concerned as to why their negligence in taking steps for laboratory tests to identify substances, which may endanger public health, in the spices should not be declared illegal.

The health secretary, food secretary, inspector general of police, director general of the Rapid Action Battalion, director general of BSTI and the chairman of BCSIR have been made respondents to the rule.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed the petition with the HC as public interest litigation in December last year seeking those directives on the government.

The petition was filed following some reports published in The Daily Star and Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Inqilab



A child from a homeless family plays with a toy, which is just a cup tied to a stick, in the shivering cold at the trade fair in the capital yesterday around stalls full of goodies they can't afford.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SATKHIRA

## Jamaat man killed in gun battle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Jamaat activist was killed and five cops were injured in a gunfight between Jamaat-Shibir men and the joint force at Ghonapara of Debhata upazila here on Tuesday morning.

The dead is Anwarul Islam, 25, a rokon (full member) of the upazila unit Jamaat-e-Islami, of Nangla village.

Five injured policemen  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Jessore Jubo League leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Unidentified gunmen shot dead a Jubo League leader in Jessore last night.

The deceased was identified as Rafiqul Islam Shipon alias Taak Shipon, organising secretary of town Jubo League, the youth front of the ruling Awami League.

Witnesses said, Shipon was having tea with his friends at Ghope-Beltola area of the town around 8:00pm when seven to

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### Jellyfish drone takes flight

BBC ONLINE

Scientists have built what they say is the first flying machine that hovers in a stable manner by flapping its wings. Previous designs for so-called flapping wing aircraft have mimicked the wing motions of insects, but the new design is

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# 2 killed day after cop murdered

Police claim of 'gunfight', families refute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A day after the killing of a cop, two accused were killed in a "gunfight" between their associates and law enforcers in Halishahar Beribandh area of Chittagong city early yesterday.

The deceased are Md Ismail Rajib, 25, and Md Nasir Uddin, 25, of the city's Double Mooring area.

Meanwhile, around 50 locals yesterday staged demonstration protesting the killing of Rajib in police firing. They tried to put up a barricade on Access Road at Agrabad around 4:00pm, said local sources.

Three police personnel also sustained bullet

injuries during the shooting, said Kazi Matul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Double Mooring Police Station.

On Monday night, nayek Faridul Islam of Dampara Police Lines was stabbed to death while he was on his way home to Agrabad from Oxygen intersection after completing his duty.

Police later filed a case with Double Mooring Police Station against several people in this connection.

Around 4:30am yesterday, police conducted a drive at Halishahar Beribandh following a tip-off that some accused in the case had been staying

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

# Save minority communities

HC asks govt to ensure adequate security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed the government to immediately provide adequate security to the minority communities and other people vulnerable to post-polls attacks.

The HC directive came yesterday in the wake of attacks on Hindus and people adherent to ruling Awami League across the country surrounding the January 5 elections.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Mizanur Rahman and different organisations have demanded justice for the victims of the post-polls attacks.

The home secretary, the inspector general of police, the director general of Rapid Action Battalion and the deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Natore, Jessore, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Satkhira, Jhalakathi, Tangail, Bogra, Pirojpur, Chandpur and Netrokona districts have been made respondents to the suomoto rule of the HC.

"The respondents are directed to take immediate steps to protect life, liberty, property and dignity of the citizens, by deploying forces not only to the specified districts and communities, however [but], all over the country wherever the citizens of the country specially those who are either minority, or are identified as vulnerable group," the court said in the order.


The court also ordered the IGP to submit a report before it in seven days on what measures have been taken for the protection of the minorities and vulnerable group and what



Ashakana Maizbhandary Association brings out a huge procession from Shahjahanpur in the capital on Tuesday to celebrate Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

PHOTO: STAR

## QULKHANI



**Md. Mujibul Huq**  
1930-2014

The Qulkhani of Mr. Mujibul Huq, former Cabinet Secretary, will be held at the Azad Mosque, Gulshan, on 16 January 2014, Thursday, after Magrib prayers. All his Family, friends & well wishers are requested to attend the munazat for his magferat.

Mrs. Arsheda Huq  
Deena, Meena, Puply & Tuply

Tel: (02) 9612725  
Email: mujibul.huq.family@gmail.com

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