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Much ado about nothing

Equipped with inadequate chemical testing kits, police embark on adulterated fruit drive

STAR REPORT

Instead of taking any initiative at the orchards and wholesale markets outside Dhaka, the government has started a drive for checking formalin in fruits with a kit called Formaldehyde Metre Z-300 at the entry points of the capital.

Though the drive conducted by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) officials created much hype, doubts also surfaced in the media whether it would yield any result.

The farmers and orchard owners use four to five types of toxic chemicals, including insecticides, ripening hormones and preservatives from the flowering process of fruit till harvesting. But the Formaldehyde Metre is only able to detect formalin and some gases.

Out of 1,925 trucks which entered the city from around 8:00pm Wednesday till 6:00am yesterday, a total of 208 trucks were found loaded with fruits and samples from them were tested. But the DMP did not say how many of those 208 trucks were carrying formalin-soaked fruits.

In a briefing at noon yesterday, DMP Joint Commissioner Manirul Islam said the fruit traders had changed strategy. They might have been unloading fruit trucks on the city outskirts and bringing the fruits by other modes of transport, such as buses or covered vans.

The Daily Star visited Aminbazar on Wednesday night to see the arrangements for the drive.

There was a dais in front of a tent set up just after Aminbazar bridge. A

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Police at a checkpoint at Gabtoli in the capital late Wednesday night. They were checking to see if fruits entering the capital on trucks were tainted with formalin. They did not have the equipment to check for other toxic substances. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

FOREIGN FRIENDS Ministry says no decision on giving new crests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The liberation war affairs ministry would decide on replacing the sub-par crests, given to foreign friends for their contribution to the country's Liberation War, after parliament completes its probe on the matter.

In response to a legal notice, the ministry on Wednesday had sent a letter to Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid saying that the ministry had no jurisdiction to make such a decision.

It said the issue of the shields being substandard was under investigation by a parliamentary sub-committee. After getting the probe report, necessary steps would be taken for recovery of the money the supplier companies took for the shields, producing new shields, and sending them to the recipients through Bangladesh high

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NGOs worried

Call for more talks before enacting foreign grants regulation act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen leading non-governmental organisations yesterday voiced concern over some provisions in the proposed Foreign Grants (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act 2014.

In a joint statement, they urged the government to hold further discussions with representatives of NGOs and experts before having it passed in parliament.

The government had involved representatives of NGOs in the drafting of the law, and agreed to provide them with copies of the final draft before it was presented to the cabinet, the NGOs said.

But the government had gone back on its promise, and

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AL draws flak

Allies in 14 parties blame AL infighting for worsening law and order

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Some components of the Awami League-led alliance yesterday blamed the ruling party's infighting for worsening law and order in the country.

They recommended the party check corruption in different sectors or face the prospect of being isolated from people.

Speaking at a meeting of the 14-party combine at AL president Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office, they expressed frustration at the state of the trial of war criminals and the Jamaat-e-Islami. The government's attitude to the trial has evil indications, they

added.

Meeting sources said Zakir Hossain of Gonatantrik Majdoor Party, Nazmul Haque Prodhan of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Saidur Rahman of Gono Azadi League blamed AL infighting for deterioration in law and order. In this regard, they referred to the recent abductions and killings in Feni and Narayanganj.

The alliance partners asked the ruling party to resolve its internal feuds saying that the AL's infighting has put the government's credibility into disrepute and was making people aggravated.

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Cambodian PM arrives on Monday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Cambodia have decided to set up a joint commission to boost bilateral relations and conclude bilateral agreements on agricultural and cultural cooperation, investment promotion and protection.

The agreements will be

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BUILDING DEEP-SEA PORT Dhaka looking at other options

Talks with China to continue

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is considering offers from interested countries for building a deep-sea port in Sonadia.

"There are offers from other countries [apart from China] on the table and the country with the best offer will be accepted. It will take some time," said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday.

Addressing a press conference on the outcome of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's six-day official visit to China, Shahriar said there was no decision on the signing of any deal with Beijing on the deep-sea port but Bangladesh would continue talks with China.

In response to a question whether Bangladesh needs India's consent to build the port, Shahriar dismissed the notion and said there was no "influence" from other countries.

He said the government wants to make the country a regional hub through the establishment of the deep-sea port and cater for neighbouring countries.

According to shipping ministry officials, three Chinese companies -- Merchants Holdings International Company Ltd, China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd, and China Harbour Engineering Ltd -- have shown interest.

The Rotterdam Port Authority of the Netherlands held a presentation before the committee on the port last year. Maersk Line, one of the top shipping lines, had also

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



This male wild elephant died at Trishkura of Sreebardi in Sherpur close to a forest office yesterday. The Sreebardi upazila livestock officers after examining the carcass said the elephant had most likely died of diarrhoea-related reasons.

PHOTO: STAR

2 shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A group of armed miscreants gunned down two members of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at Atharo Mile area of Naniachar upazila in Rangamati yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Satya Chakma alias Brata, 30, of Barkal upazila and Bishu Kumar Chakma, 42, of Laxmichhari upazila in Khagrachhari.

UPDF, in a press release issued yesterday, held the members of Santu Larmal Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) responsible for the killing.

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ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

৮১, গুলশান এভিনিউ, নগর ভবন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

সাইনবোর্ড, বিলবোর্ড, ব্যানার ইত্যাদিতে ইংরেজি বিজ্ঞাপন ও মিশ্র ভাষার ব্যবহার বন্ধকরণ সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল সাইনবোর্ড, বিলবোর্ড, ব্যানার স্থাপনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান, কর্পোরেটসমূহের (ব্যাংক, বীমা, ইন্স্যুরেন্স, টেলিকমিউনিকেশন, বেভারেজ ও নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যাদি বিজ্ঞাপনদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ) অবগতি ও প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সাইনবোর্ড, বিলবোর্ড, ব্যানার ইত্যাদিতে ইংরেজি বিজ্ঞাপন ও মিশ্র ভাষার বিজ্ঞাপন ব্যবহার বন্ধ করার বিষয়ে মহামান্য হাইকোর্টের সদয় নির্দেশনা রয়েছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকায় বিদ্যমান সকল সাইনবোর্ড, বিলবোর্ড, ব্যানার ইত্যাদিতে ব্যবহৃত ইংরেজি/মিশ্র ভাষার বিজ্ঞাপন আগামী ০৩ (তিন) দিনের মধ্যে সরিয়ে নিয়ে বাংলা ভাষায় লিখন নিশ্চিতকরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সূত্র নং: ৪৬.২০৭.০১৮.১৮.০০.১১৩.২০১৪

তারিখ: ১১/০৬/১৪

জিডি-২৫১৪

কর্তৃপক্ষ

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

The helmet that cures hair loss

MAIL ONLINE

Around one and a half billion people across the globe are bald or have some form of hair loss.

Now a company in California has come up with what it claims to be the solution -- a helmet that fires cool lasers at the wearers scalp to stimulate hair

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government would respond to the call of TIB to immediately disclose the detailed information of the Defence Budget?

Yes

No

(19%)

(81%)

TOTAL VOTES: 247

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with some educationists that the exams and evaluation systems at primary and secondary levels are flawed, and those should be reformed immediately?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING June 13

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

4-05

4-40

Juma

12-30

1-15

Asr

5-00

5-15

Maghrib

6-50

6-55

Esha

8-15

8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় ভোক্তা অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তর

১, কারওয়ান বাজার (টিসিবি ভবন-৮ম তলা), ঢাকা

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

ফরমালিনের বিরুদ্ধে সোচ্চার হোন

ফরমালিনকে না বলুন

ফলে ও মাছে ফরমালিন মিশানো ভোক্তা অধিকার বিরোধি দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ

এ বিষয়ে জাতীয় ভোক্তা অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তরে অভিযোগ দায়ের করুন

অভিযোগ দায়েরের ঠিকানা

মহাপরিচালক

জাতীয় ভোক্তা অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তর

১, কারওয়ান বাজার, টিসিবি ভবন (৮ম তলা), ঢাকা

ফোনঃ ০১৭১৫২০৫৯৩০

ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৮১৮৯৪২৫, ৮১৮৯০৪৫

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মোঃ আব্দুল বাতেন মিঞা

পরিচালক

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