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DRIVE AGAINST ADULTERATION

Destruction of fruits goes on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in drives against formalin-laced fruits destroyed over three tonnes of mangoes, 43 kilos of blackberries and 4.47 lakh litchis yesterday.

Among other fruits, 55 kilos of malta, 205 kilos of apple, 100 kilos of guava, 100 kilos of sofeda and 1650 pineapples were destroyed in the capital and at the eight check points set up around the city to prevent entry of adulterated fruits.

DMP also fined some traders and jailed two people for three months each for soaking fruits with the hazardous chemical, said DMP Assistant Commissioner (operations) Noor Alam.

Police set up the check posts on Wednesday at Postogola bridge, Waisghat in Sadarghat, Abdullahpur bridge, Dhaur bridge in Ashulia, Babubazar bridge, Gabtoli, Jatrabari Police Station and the intersection near Kamal bridge at Demra.

"We have learnt that traders are also using formalin after transporting fruits to Dhaka. So, we have decided to conduct drives within Dhaka city from Friday," Alam told The Daily Star.

Mobile courts conducted drives in the city's Kalabagan, Hatirpool, Mohammadpur Town Hall Bazar and Karwan Bazar yesterday.

Apart from police, representatives from Bangladesh Standards Testing Institution, Dhaka City Corporation, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Consumers Association of Bangladesh were present there, Alam said.

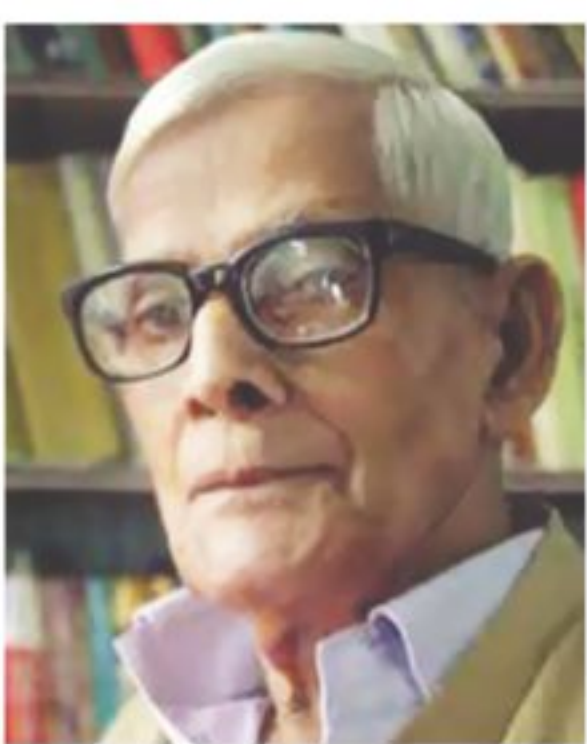
Nayek Ali, a mango trader in Dhanmondi, said police at

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Crushed mangoes litter Mirpur Road at Kalabagan in the capital yesterday afternoon after a mobile court destroyed the chemical-tainted mangoes by running them over with a truck. Roadside shops there, on the right, were selling the mangoes, claiming them to be chemical-free.

PHOTO: PINAKI ROY



Sardar Fazlul Karim passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent scholar Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim breathed his last at a city hospital early today. He was 89.

Suffering from old age complications, he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of Samorita Hospital last evening. He died at 12:45am, said hospital sources.

One of the more prominent of teachers of Dhaka University and a foremost intellectual of the country, Prof Karim left behind a host of admirers and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Born in a lower-middle

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TROUBLE-TORN IRAQ

Govt stops workers' migration

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to suspend sending workers to Iraq until safe and secure environment is established there.

A few thousand more Bangladeshi workers are waiting to go to Iraq for jobs, but the government has decided to suspend sending these workers for security reasons, said the foreign ministry.

According to a foreign ministry press release issued yesterday, Dhaka is closely observing the evolving situation in Iraq and has been in close touch

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DHAKA-CTG EXPRESSWAY DESIGN

ADB-chosen group may get the job

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is likely to go ahead with the six-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway by appointing a consultant to prepare a detailed design of the project with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank.

The cabinet committee on purchase will consider the proposal of the communications ministry on Sunday to award the job to a consortium chosen by ADB.

If it approves the proposal, Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation International, of Australia; Oriental Consultants, of Japan; Associated Consulting Engineers Consultants Ltd, of Bangladesh, and Castalia Ltd, of New Zealand, will carry out a feasibility study to

project various ways of building the expressway. They will then make the detailed design of one, among the options, finalised by the government, and estimate the cost.

Meanwhile, the planning commission has already had a Tk 97.87 crore technical project approved in December last year for consultancy services. ADB will provide Tk 73 crore and the remaining portion will be contributed by the government.

In the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, the expressway is among the priority projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiative.

When the detailed design is at its midway point, the consultant firms will recommend a PPP investor for the mega project.

Earlier, a joint venture of SNC-Lavalin, SAI Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd and

MAGURCHHARA GAS FIELD BLOWOUT

Environment loss claim forgotten for 17 years

SHARIER KHAN with MINTU DESHWARA in Moulvibazar

The Ministry of Environment has apparently forgotten to collect its claim of Tk 600 crore for the environmental loss caused by the Magurchhara gas field blowout 17 years ago.

On the night of June 14, 1997, a massive blow-out rocked the Magurchhara gas field in Kamalganj upazila due to faulty drilling operation by American oil company Occidental, which was drilling the well under a production sharing contract (PSC) for blocks 12 and 13.

A PSC gives Petrobangla a free share of gas, in case of discovery, which is typically 55 percent to 70 percent of the production. The oil company gets the remaining share in addition to recovering its investment on a priority basis.

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PHOTO: FILE

Flames rising high on the night of June 14, 1997, due to faulty drilling operation by American oil company Occidental.



Cricket in the time of football

BISHWAJIT ROY

Amid the frenzy surrounding the FIFA World Cup, a Bangladesh-India three-match ODI series will kick off in unfamiliarly low-key fashion today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from 1pm.

At any other time the home series would be the centre of attention among a usually cricket-crazy nation, but football has been dominating discussions at every corner and sports lovers have been spending sleepless nights watching the biggest show on earth.

For broadcasters, a series involving India always brings a large share of fortune but the time is not ideal for Gazi TV, which will carry live telecast of the matches, as they were bemoaning the lack of interest and had a meeting with the

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PRAYER TIMING June 15		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Muslims offer special prayers at Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the capital on Shab-e-Barat early yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

SEVEN-MURDER IN N'GANJ

Tareque remanded for sixth time

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Former commanding officer of Rab-11 Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad was remanded for the sixth time yesterday since his arrest last month in connection with the gruesome seven-murder in Narayanganj.

Senior Judicial Magistrate KM Mohiuddin of the district placed the arrestee on a four-day remand in the case filed for killing senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar, one of the seven victims.

With the fresh remand, Tareque's remand period in two cases has totalled 34 days.

Police produced him before the magistrate in the afternoon seeking a five-day remand.

Tareque along with Maj Arif Hossain and Lt Commander MM Rana of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-11 was fired on May 6 for his alleged involvement in the incident.

PROBE TEAM IN RAB OFFICES

A government-formed probe body yesterday visited the headquarters of Rab-11 in Narayanganj as part of its investigation into the seven-murder.

Members of the committee reached the office in Adamji on the outskirts of the city around 10:30am and stayed there for around two hours.

Later, they went to the Rab camp office in the town's Puration Court area, said Lt Col Anwar Latif Khan, commanding officer of Rab-11.

The government in line with a High Court order formed the seven-member committee on May 7.

A Rab official, wishing not to be named, said the probe team visited the Rab office due to media reports that the sacks and

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The night US nearly nuked itself

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Only dumb luck saved America from a nightmare scenario in January 1961 when an Air Force B-52 carrying two nuclear bombs broke apart in flight

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