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ADULTERATED FRUITS

Worry is not over

Traders call off strike upon assurance of no harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fruit traders in Dhaka and Chapainawabganj yesterday called off their strikes after assurances from the authorities concerned that they would not be "harassed" and their goods would not be destroyed.

Meanwhile, the police are now checking fruits with two types of kits to see if they have formalin in them.

"We have withdrawn the indefinite strike, considering the losses we are facing ...," said Julhas Uddin, general secretary of the Metropolitan Fruit Traders Association.

The association had been on strike since June 19 protesting the government drive against "formalin-tainted" fruits.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries Vice-President Helal Uddin yesterday convinced wholesale fruit traders at the city's Badamtoli to call off protest programmes. The traders had enforced a half-day strike yesterday.

The Chapainawabganj Chamber, which had declared a strike in the district for today (Sunday), also postponed its protest programme until June 26. The deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of the district in a meeting on Friday assured traders their fruits would not be destroyed.

Abdul Wahed, president of the chamber, told The Daily Star that the administration would from now on check fruits in the district and issue a certificate.

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Wholesale fruit traders keep their market closed in Badamtoli yesterday during their half-day strike protesting the police drive that led to the destruction of tonnes of fruits for being "tainted with formalin".

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



Sushma due Wednesday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will pay a goodwill visit to Bangladesh from June 25 to 27.

This will be the first visit to Dhaka by a cabinet member of the newly formed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government headed by Narendra Modi.

Announcing the visit, the Indian external affairs ministry said in a statement that Swaraj would hold discussions on bilateral issues with Bangladesh's Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali.

She will also call on President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her stay in Dhaka.

The repatriation issue of Nur Hossain, prime suspect in the sensational 7-murder incident in Narayanganj, may also come up in these meetings, reports our Delhi correspondent citing diplomatic sources.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Drug peddling goes on

Addicts find little or no difficulty in getting drug despite police watch at Karwan Bazar slum

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ZYMA ISLAM

The Karwan Bazar railway slum has been the epicentre of the drugs trade in the country, which has seen the crime flourish even amid frequent police raids in recent months.

Law enforcers of nearby Tejgaon and Tejgaon police stations in fact safeguard the illegal trade in exchange for bribes, local people and some drug peddlers have said.

Police cases and jail terms are perceived by traders as merely financial burdens -- not as the deterrent they are meant to be, they added.

The crime spot stretches over around half a kilometre on both sides of the railway tracks from Tejgaon rail gate to Karwan Bazar Christian Para.

The illegal trade has been going on here for more than 20 years. Before the raids began in March, traders had been seen selling drugs in the open just

beside the rail tracks.

Now the trading takes place secretly in the alleys of Christian Para, Mollah Para and Shutkir Arot, several drug peddlers said.

"Those alleys are often avoided by the patrolling police because many of these areas remain waterlogged [throughout the year]," said a female drug peddler, apparently in her late 30's, who lives right beside the tracks.

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183 Brotherhood men to die in Egypt

THE GUARDIAN

An Egyptian court yesterday confirmed death sentences against the leader of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and at least 182 of his supporters.

The court's decision came two months after it referred the case against the Brotherhood's "general guide", Mohamed Badie, and hundreds of others to the state's highest religious authority, the grand mufti, the first step towards imposing a death sentence.

They were charged over violence that

erupted in the southern Egyptian town of Minya in July, in the aftermath of the army coup that ousted then president, Mohamed Morsi, a senior Brotherhood member. One senior police officer was killed in the violence.

Lawyers say the ruling can be overturned on appeal. It was not immediately clear how many sentences had been confirmed, with the lawyers giving estimates ranging from 182 to 197. In either case, it would be largest mass death sentence to be confirmed in Egypt in recent memory.

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Debris are left on the fast lane and there is no warning for motorists about the huge holes in the road near Shantinagar intersection in the capital where a flyover is being built. The construction work results in traffic jams almost throughout the day and appalling condition of the road in Malibagh intersection, inset, compounds the problem.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



ARREST FOR BIHARI CAMP VIOLENCE Caught red-handed?

Families differ with cops

ZYMA ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The accounts given by family members differ starkly from that of police, who claim the seven Biharis arrested over the Kurmitola Bihari camp violence were all caught red-handed on June 14.

At least nine members of a family were burnt to death when eight homes at the camp for stranded Pakistanis were torched as the culmination of clashes between Biharis and locals, the latter allegedly joined by the police.

Another person, hit by bullets, died in hospital.

Nasima, wife of Arif, 35, one of the arrested, claimed that her husband was taking his mother-in-law to safety when he was arrested on the morning of that day.

"We were all sleeping at the time of the commotion. We woke up to the noise," she said.

"As we went out to see what was going on, our neigh

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Painting by football!

WWW.ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Shanghai-based artist Hong Yi, aka 'Red', has combined her love for football and art in a very unique way -- she recently painted a massive portrait of three superstars of the 2014 FIFA World Cup -- Ronaldo, Neymar and Messi -- by dribbling a paint-covered football on a canvas.

Red didn't use a single paintbrush to create her amazing portraits of the three popular

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for fruit wholesaler and importers to threaten not to sell or import any fruits during Ramadan if the use of formalin detection device was not stopped immediately?

Yes

18%

No

82%

TOTAL VOTES: 175

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that confessional statements of 3 RAB officials in Narayanganj seven murders prove that the force has become involved in abductions and killings institutionally?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

June 22

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4-05	4-40
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 5-00	5-15
Maghrib 6-52	6-55
Esha 8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

বিজিএমইএ

সমৃদ্ধির পথে, একসাথে

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বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১ পান্থপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

৩১তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা

বিজিএমইএ'র ৩১তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা আজ ২২ জুন ২০১৪ তারিখ (রবিবার) বিকাল ০৪:৩০ ঘটিকায় নুরুল কাদের অডিটরিয়াম, বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১, পান্থপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ তে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে উক্ত বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মহাসচিব

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