



## STOP!

What are you eating? Do you know what chemicals are added to your food? Do not panic, but work together to change.



Mango  
**ETHION / FORMALIN**  
Respiratory problems, Cancer risk

<p>Banana ● <b>ALDRIN</b> Convulsions, loss of consciousness</p>	<p>Apple ● <b>ALPHA CHLORDANE</b> Blood cancers like leukaemia and lymphoma</p>	<p>Tomato ● <b>ETHION</b> Respiratory problems</p>	<p>Pineapple ● <b>ETHION</b> Respiratory problems</p>	<p>Milk ● <b>ALDRIN / FORMALIN</b> Convulsions, Cancer risk</p>	<p>Bread SUB-STANDARD <b>YEAST</b> Diarrhoea, vomiting, allergy</p>	<p>Rice <b>ARSENIC, CHROMIUM</b> Skin, lung, bladder &amp; kidney cancers, respiratory problems</p>	<p>Egg ● <b>CIPROFLOXACIN</b> Diarrhoea, vomiting</p>	<p>Chicken ● <b>CIPROFLOXACIN, *SULFONAMIDE</b> Diarrhoea, skin rash, vomiting</p>	<p>Fish <b>FORMALIN</b> Bronchitis, cancer risk</p>	<p>Carrot ● <b>DDT</b> Cancers, birth defects</p>
<p>Bean ● <b>BETA BHC</b> Respiratory damage</p>	<p>Lettuce ● <b>GAMMA BHC</b> Cancer, respiratory failure</p>	<p>Dried fish ● <b>DDT</b> Cancers, birth defects</p>	<p>Turmeric powder <b>LEAD AND CHROMIUM</b> Respiratory problems, neurological damage</p>	<p>Capsicum ● <b>GAMMA CHLORDANE</b> Liver, digestive and nervous system damage</p>						

● PESTICIDE/INSECTICIDE \* ANTIBIOTIC

SOURCE: ACCUMULATED FROM STUDIES OF NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY, BANGLADESH FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE & U.S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PART-1

# HARDLY ANYTHING SAFE TO EAT

PINAKI ROY with SHAHTUB SIDDIQUIE ANIK

Gazi Shahab Uddin, a retired government employee, has lived his life. He now worries about his family, especially his six-year-old grandchild.

In his youth, food adulteration meant, at best, watering down milk or tampering with mustard oil. But now almost every food item, from rice to candies, is either adulterated or tainted with toxic chemicals.

The more the grandfather learns about food adulteration from media reports, the more helpless he feels. What will his grandchild eat? What is the future of the next generation?

"There is no food item that can be served without hesitation," said Shahab Uddin, a resident of Monipuripara in Dhaka and a regular shopper at the capital's kitchen markets.

Another regular shopper is Shahana, an NGO employee, whose concern surrounds her daughter as well as her elderly mother.

"My mother is scared of taking many foods as she has come to know about food adulteration from TV and newspapers. She doesn't want chicken, fish and fruit in her meals, though she needs a proper diet at this age," she said.

"Whenever my friends and I meet somewhere, the topic of food safety comes up. We share information about where to get formalin-free fish or fruit. We have

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May 25, 2014. Fish traders are gone. Because a mobile court is here.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## UNITE to STOP this crime

This is not to push the panic button. But as studies suggest, chemicals are recklessly and deliberately added to most of our food items making them harmful, and sometimes fatally so. Slowly but surely, we're poisoning ourselves, day after day.

The government sometimes wakes up to the reality after media reports. Some fruits are destroyed, traders fined and then the government goes back to sleep and the whole affair goes into oblivion, as the media change focus.

Sadly and strangely too, food safety has never been a priority policy agenda of our decision-makers, although it affects the whole population, especially our children.

For far too long we have allowed the situation to continue. Time has come to take some effective steps to change the situation.

In 10 investigative reports, *The Daily Star* will reveal who adulterate food, why and how. We will

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## IMPEACHMENT BILL Misleading preamble

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The preamble to the bill seeking to restore parliament's authority to impeach Supreme Court judges claims that the constitutional amendment is necessary for the revival of Article 96 of the country's charter adopted in 1972.

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## FAKE FREEDOM FIGHTER CERTIFICATES ACC finds ex-state minister at fault

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Former state minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam abused his powers to illegally issue freedom fighters' certificates to five government officials last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission has found.

Irregularities were rife in the process and Tajul unilaterally issued the certificates, bypassing the relevant law and the Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council,

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## BCL men go berserk

Vandalise 40 vehicles over internal issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists vandalised around 40 vehicles in front of Government Titumir College in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday evening,

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## COOKED UP STORY OF JOJ MIA Mother seeks justice for son's harassment

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The mother of petty criminal Joj Mia, who was falsely implicated in the August 21 grenade attack cases, appeared before a Dhaka court yesterday and sought justice for the harassment of her son.

Jobeda Khatun broke down in tears as she gave deposition to Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 for more than one and a half hours.

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SAFE FOOD SAFE LIFE We pledge to keep people Safe

## Life's Good With Safe Food

### Aarong Dairy

**BRAC Dairy and Food Project** has been established in 1998 as a social business to ensure fair price to rural farmers and to complete the dairy value chain in the country. In line with BRAC's core vision to bring positive change in the lives of underprivileged through self-employment opportunities, BRAC Dairy's vision was to become the medium through which urban consumers will get the freshest & safest milk possible produced by the rural farmers.

### Helps meet the shortage of milk in the country-

BRAC Dairy and Food Project is supporting the dairy farmers since 1985 to improve the breed of their cows through an artificial breeding and insemination program where over 2,600 highly skilled and independent workers are currently working relentlessly to ensure healthier cows and better yield at farmers level. This initia-

tive has revolutionized the dairy movement in the country and inspired thousands of poor and marginally poor farmers to raise high yielding varieties of cows and bulls for economic independence.

### Helps dairy farmers receive fair price-

BRAC Dairy has for the first time introduced published price for milk collection at every chilling center it operates. This now has become the norm for collecting milk from the farmers for all other industry colleagues. Also, BRAC Dairy is the only dairy processing organization with Digital Fat Testing (DFT) machines across its milk collection centers where percentage of milk fat is digitally analyzed. As farmers are paid based on the fat content of the milk, these machines are ensuring fair price by eliminating possibility of human errors. These DFT machines detect different types of adulteration at

collection level so that unsafe and adulterated milk collection can be avoided and farmers' rights are being protected.

### Producing high quality milk and milk products-

Every single drop of milk before being accepted goes through a series of rigorous tests which are designed and internationally accepted to detect different types of Adulteration. Failing a single test results in the milk being rejected to ensure no unsafe milk goes through for production. Second set of tests are also carried out when the raw milk reaches the production facility to ensure quality production.

BRAC Dairy is the only dairy processing facility in the country with ISO:22000 certification signifying that strict quality control is maintained and supervised throughout the entire value chain.

### BRAC Chicken

**BRAC Chicken** was established in 2004 as poultry processing plant to create market access for rural poultry farmers and meet growing demand for good quality processed chicken meat in large metropolitan area. Currently it is the biggest supplier of processed chicken products in Bangladesh operating one of the largest poultry processing plants. The control over the entire production process with integrated supply chain of One-Day-Chicks (DOC), poultry rearing, and poultry feeds ensures healthy and hygienically processed chicken products. It also sources chicken from a large number of independent farmers who purchase DOC and poultry feed from BRAC ensuring healthy live birds for BRAC Chicken.

The processing plant operating in compliance with the HACCP and ISO 22000:2005 made it a trusted and reliable source of compliant processed

chicken for any international food chains coming to Bangladesh and to the local communities. It is the key source of Bangladeshi chicken products for both local and international food chains, hotels, restaurants, prominent hospitals and retail customers serving products from dressed chicken meat, ready-to-cook, and ready-to-eat. BRAC Chicken recently launched its first quick service restaurant called "eat@" located at Jamuna Future Park to ensure quality chicken based foods directly to consumers' plate.

