

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

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Your Right to Know

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KNOWING IS SURVIVING

By 2050, the number of adults with diabetes will reach one in three

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'DESH' IN DHAKA

Akram Khan will present his award-winning dance production

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'A FAREWELL TO ARMS'

Pope visits WWI site linked to his grandfather and Hemingway novel

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CONFUSING BATTLE

fought so far

PORIMOL PALMA with SYED ABDUR ROUF

Confusion reigns over the way formalin is detected, and permissible level of the chemical in food, as adulteration goes on unabated with no food safety standards in place.

The situation is hurting growers, traders, consumers, and above all the country's image internationally as a food exporter, said experts.

Take, for example, the anti-formalin drive launched by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) at eight entry points in the capital in early June. It used imported Formaldehyde Meter Z-300 to detect formalin in fruits, mostly mangoes and litchis.

Within a few days, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Barc) came up with the view that the device could also identify chemicals from aldehyde, ketone or hydroxyl groups that are abundant in nature.

Imported by the Department of Fisheries two years ago without any scientific assessment, the

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KIT ITSELF UNFIT

PART-6
ANTI-ADULTERATION
DRIVE MISDIRECTED



RESULTS

- Tonnes of foods and fruits destroyed in confusion
- Growers, traders hit hard
- People turning away from fruits

Equipped with unfit gear for detecting formalin in food items, law enforcers embarked upon a massive drive in June and destroyed mainly truckloads of fruits, achieving next to nothing.

PHOTO: FILE

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

- ➔ Safe food must top govt's priority list
- ➔ Food safety standards need to be set first
- ➔ Massive awareness campaign has to be launched
- ➔ Extensive research can find out extent of chemicals in foods and fruits, and right kits to detect those
- ➔ Govt should learn from other countries about food safety mechanisms
- ➔ Effective enforcement of laws has to be ensured
- ➔ Maximum punishment must be meted out to culprits

BNP learns from its mistakes

Khaleda tells professionals loyal to party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chief and former prime minister Khaleda Zia yesterday admitted to making mistakes in running the country.

Khaleda, also a former leader of the opposition, at a rally of engineers, said her party, learning from the mistakes, had taken an "elaborate work plan" to build a prosperous Bangladesh and solve the country's existing problems and crises.

She, however, did not elaborate on what mistakes they had made and what lessons she had learned.

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PHOTO: STAR

Prof Mahbubullah, a pro-BNP former teacher of Dhaka University, after his assault on Supreme Court premises.

Pro-BNP teacher assaulted on SC premises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified persons assaulted Prof Mahbubullah, a pro-BNP former teacher of Dhaka University, on the Supreme Court premises yesterday.

The 68-year-old economist came under attack near the east gate of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Auditorium around 1:30pm.

He was leaving the

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NEWS ANALYSIS

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REMARK

Surprising indeed

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam has now joined others in insulting the opponents of the proposed constitutional amendment to empower parliament to impeach a Supreme Court judge on grounds of misbehaviour or incapacity.

While the AG has accused two eminent jurists of reversing their stance, the fact is it is he who has moved away from what he had said about the same issue three years back.

Joining a gathering of the pro-Awami League lawyers who staged a showdown on the SC premises on Thursday to counter the campaign by another group of lawyers against the proposed constitutional amendment, the AG accused

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PM wants unity across Bay

Opens BIMSTEC Secretariat

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Putting emphasis on pragmatic and realistic approach for achieving overall development and progress, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for greater cooperation among the BIMSTEC members.

"The BIMSTEC provides a formidable platform for developing deeper understanding and cooperation between our neighbours and work for progress and prosperity of the people of the region," she told the inauguration of the

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Hasina holding the BIMSTEC stamp. PHOTO: BSS

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