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DSE'S INCOME FALLS

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TAMIM CONFIDENT

The Bangladesh opener believes the Tigers can surprise a young Sri Lankan outfit
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FORMALIN TEST IN FOOD ITEMS

Simple solution, minimum cost



Buet researchers have developed a kind of strip to test formalin in food items. Purple colour of the strip indicates presence of formalin in a particular item.

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Consumers can now be assured of food safety themselves just by using a litmus-like paper designed by Buet researchers to determine the presence of formalin in food items.

A drop of a drink on the paper can help learn whether it is safe. To know if any fruit, vegetable or other solid food item is adulterated with formalin, a small amount of water from washing them can be used.

And this simple test will cost just Tk 1 each strip.

Circles on the chemically-treated paper will turn purple to show that the liquid sample has formalin in it. The deeper the colour becomes, the more formalin is there in the food item.

The diagnostic paper can detect formalin concentration as low as a few ppm to as high as 1,000 ppm.

Formalin, though naturally found in certain food items at a very low level, is illegally added at times to preserve food for longer, putting public health at risk.

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A policeman of a Dhaka South City Corporation mobile court stops a bus at Motijheel in the capital yesterday. While going through the vehicle's documents he discovered the driver had no driving licence and the bus had outstanding fines.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Mobile court cracks down on errant buses, dodgy drivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of commuters travel by buses in the capital every day without knowing that many of the drivers don't have driving licence.

For instance, Aminul Islam, who had no driving licence, was given the task of driving a bus of Bihanga Paribahan yesterday. He started for Mirpur-10 from Sadarghat with around 20 passengers in the morning.

An accident could have occurred any time, as he isn't a professional driver. But luckily for the passengers, a mobile court of Dhaka South City Corporation caught him near the Bangabandhu Avenue around noon.

When the magistrate, Abdus Salam, asked him to show driving licence, he failed to do so.

The court then sentenced him to one month's imprisonment, said Mukdom Hossain, conductor of the bus.

"He [Aminul] was driving the bus as a replacement for the regular driver," said Mukdom, adding that such practice is common in the transport sector.

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Govt bans Ansar Al Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday banned Islamist outfit Ansar Al Islam, which is said to be the Bangladesh chapter of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, as its activities "already posed a threat to public security".

The ban circular said the militant organisation's activities went against peace and order in the country.

The radical group was earlier known as Ansarullah Bangla Team, which was banned on May 25, 2015, for militant and anti-state activities.

It is allegedly responsible for the killing of several secular writers, bloggers and online and gay rights activists critical of religious bigotry.

The victims include Ahmed Rajib Haider (February 15, 2013), Avijit Roy (February 26, 2015), Oyasiquir Rahman (March 30, 2015), Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Tonoy (April 25, 2016), Ananta Bijoy Das (May 12, 2015), Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy (August 7, 2015), publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan (October 13, 2015) and Nazim Uddin Samad (April 6, 2016).

Ansar Al Islam also claimed responsibility for attacks on publisher Ahmedur Rashid Tutul and his two blogger friends on October 13, 2015.

Major (dismissed) Syed M Ziaul Haq, who made headlines by trying to engineer a military coup in 2012, is said to be its

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4 YEARS SINCE TAQI MURDER

'Killers known, motive clear, yet no action'

Laments the mother of the gifted N'ganj boy

SANAD SAHA, Narayanganj

The room is still neatly kept the way Taqi would want it.

On one side stands a showcase where novels and different other books are stored. He had a passion for books, especially science fictions.

Several prizes and crests he had received for poetry recitation and other cultural activities are perched atop the showcase. His computer is next to a reading table with his textbooks on it.

Taqi's mother Rawnak Rehana kept all these items as mementoes of her son in their rented house on Shaista Khan Road in Narayanganj.

"Taqi wanted to be an army officer in his childhood. His father bought

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Taqi's parents in his room. It has been left like this since he was murdered in 2013.

PHOTO: STAR

First 3rd gen nuke plant in service

Rooppur to get same reactors as the one in Russia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Russia began the commercial operation of the world's first third-generation-plus nuclear power reactor, the same ones that would be installed in the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

According to a press release of Rosatom that is building the Rooppur plant, the generation 3+ Water-Water Energetic Reactor (VVER reactor) has been installed in the unit-1 of Russia's Novovoronezh Nuclear Power Project (NPP)-2. It started commercial operation on February 27.

The unit was first connected to the Russian grid and started the electricity generation on August 5 last year. Testing was successfully completed on February 23 after 15-day

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