



Unsafe Bottled, Jar Water

# BSTI acts against 10 brands

Scraps licence of 3, suspends operations of 7

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) has cancelled the licence of three bottled and jar water brands and suspended operations of seven others after finding their water unsafe.

The brands that lost their licences are Ananda Plus (jar), Real First (jar) and Best One.

And the companies whose operations have been suspended are Canny (jar), Aqua Mineral (small bottle), Alma (small bottle), SFB (jar), Osma (jar), Epic (jar) and Yummy Yummy (small bottle), according to a BSTI report.

The state-run quality control watchdog submitted the report to the High Court yesterday along with its test report on the water quality of these brands.

Talking to The Daily Star, Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman said all the ingredients of safe water were not present in the water sold by these companies.

The court is expected to pass further orders on the matter.

The court is expected to pass further orders on the matter on March 5.

The development comes just weeks after a BSTI drive found that 40 percent plastic bottles and water jars sold commercially in Dhaka are laced with microorganisms, SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Chemical experts from Buet collect perfume cans from Haji Wahed Mansion in the old town's Chawkbazar area yesterday, six days after a fatal chemical-fuelled blaze ravaged the building.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 2 minor girls 'raped' by father and neighbour

STAR REPORT

Two minor girls have allegedly been raped, one by her father and another by a neighbour, in Narayanganj and Moulvibazar.

Police yesterday arrested a man on charges of raping h is daughter in Shiddhirganj area of Narayanganjon Monday.

The 11-year-old girl shared the rape incident with her mother on Monday night and accused her father of the crime. Knowing the incident, locals beat up the father and handed him over to the police on the same night.

Later, the girl's mother filed a case with local police station on Tuesday.

Shaheen Sha Parvez, officer-in-charge of Shiddhirganj Police Station, said the girl was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital.

Elsewhere, another man was sent to jail yesterday on charges of raping a five-yearold girl in Madhabpur

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### Chinese schools use robots to teach kids

MAIL ONLINE

With cute appearance and plenty of patience, Bingo has become a popular teacher among Chinese children. And it's a robot. The humanoid, powered by

artificial intelligence, has appeared in kindergartens across China to teach pupils as the country faces serious shortage of teachers.

Bingo, one of the first robotic kindergarten teachers in the country, has been designed to specialise in various subjects, from science to English to golf, according to its developer.

Ming Haibo, who has a PhD degree in computer science from SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

road, inset, often leads to accidents.

### The good doctors

Two doctors brave pain to serve hundreds in Dinajpur's Birganj upazila



Dr Somoresh Das examines patients at Birganj Upazila Health Complex in Dinajpur on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Only two doctors have been tending to patients round the clock for the last three months at the 50-bed Birganj Upazila Health Complex in Dinajpur.

Of them, Dr Afroz Sultana, who is six-months pregnant, was supposed to be on her maternity leave while Dr Somoresh Das should have been on medical leave after fracturing his left collar bone in a bike accident last

Wednesday.

Still, they have been defying the challenges for the great cause of their noble profession.

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#### Two killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Two alleged criminals -- a drug dealer and a robber -- were killed in "gunfights" with police in Kushtia and Barishal yesterday.

Besides, a murder case accused was shot in Jamalpur.

In Kushtia, an alleged drug dealer, Emdad Khandokar, 35, of Ranjitpur in Kushtia Sadar upazila, was killed in a "shootout" in Adabaria village of Kumarkhali upazila.

AKM Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kumarkhali Police Station, said a team of law enforcers raided Chechua Beel area on information that some drug traders were holding a secret meeting there around 3:30am.

Sensing their presence, the drug traders opened fire, triggering a "gunfight" when police retaliated, the OC claimed.

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SECOND NUCLEAR SUMMIT

### Trump, Kim to meet in Hanoi today

REUTERS, Hanoi

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump both arrived in Vietnam yesterday, the eve of their second summit at which they will tackle how to implement a North Korean pledge to give up its nuclear weapons.

Trump flew into the capital Hanoi on Air Force One, touching down just before 9:00 pm (1400 GMT).

Kim arrived by train early in the day after a three-day, 3,000 km (1,850 mile) journey from his capital, Pyongyang, through China. He completed the last stretch from a border station to Hanoi by car. The two leaders, who seemed to strike up

a surprisingly warm relationship at their first summit in Singapore last June, will meet for a brief one-on-one conversation this evening, followed by a dinner, at which SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



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PHOTO

**PALASH KHAN** 

