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No fitness test paper, no fuel

BRTA proposes to ministry about CNG-run vehicles to prevent cylinder blasts

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Drivers of CNG-run vehicles may have to show that the CNG-cylinders have been tested and certified before being allowed to refuel.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has proposed making this mandatory since a large number of vehicles are on the road and their cylinders have not been retested in years.

According to international guidelines and CNG rules 2005, the cylinders must undergo fitness tests every five years. But cylinders of only 91,771 out of 5,03,864 CNG-run vehicles have been tested, officials said.

According to them, most of the rest have exceeded the five-year deadline to have their cylinders tested but are on the road.

In a letter sent to the road transport and bridges ministry on March 7, the BRTA proposed making cylinder retest certificate a must at filling stations.

It said a limited time could be given to owners to have their cylinders certified before the proposal is implemented.

"We received some proposals from the BRTA on March 11 but no decision has yet been made," an official of the ministry told this correspondent yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



People crammed on a boat ferrying them across the Buriganga near Sadarghat in the capital yesterday. Many cross the river risking their lives this way. A little over a week ago, a boat sank in the river killing seven people.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BFF women chief in jail for remarks about Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

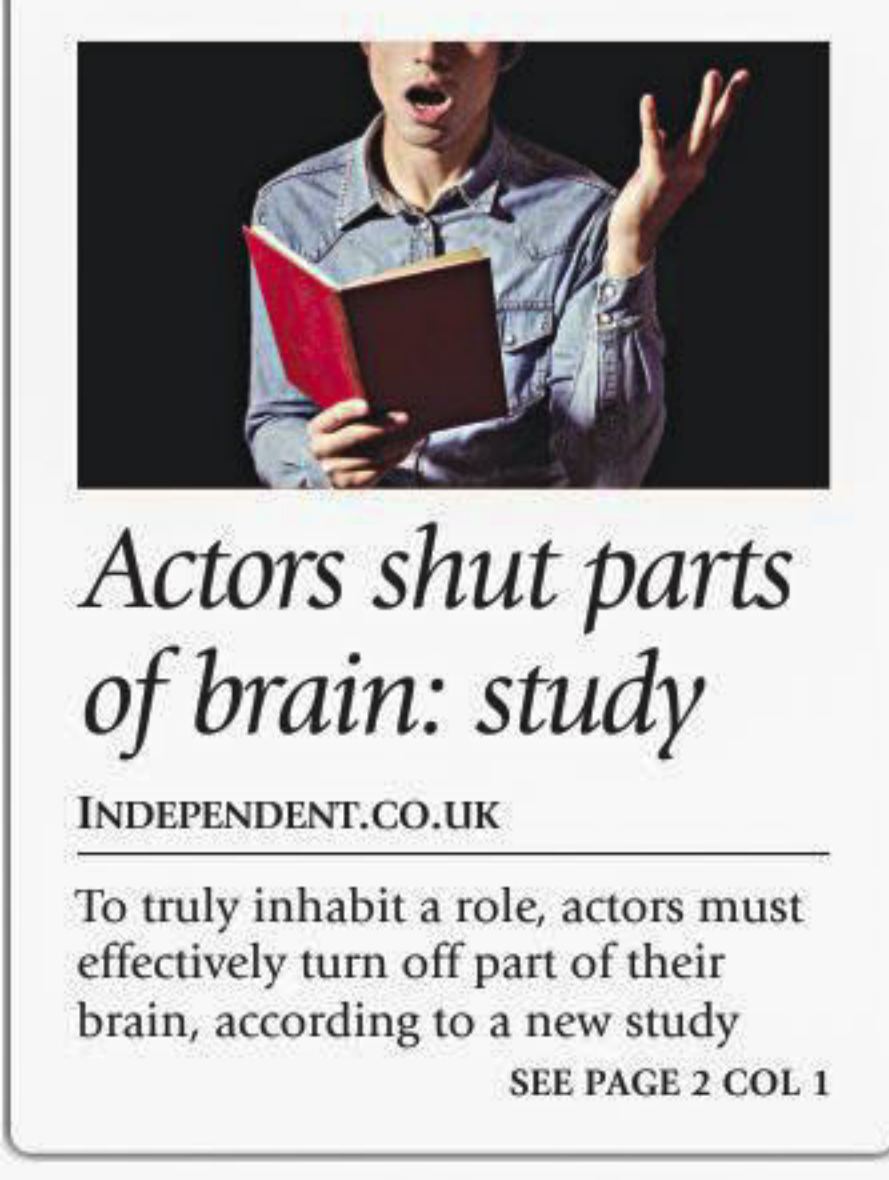
A Dhaka court yesterday sent Bangladesh Football Federation's women wing Chairperson Mahfuza Akter Kiron to jail on charges of "making derogatory comments on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina".

Abul Hasan Chowdhury Prince, permanent member of Mohammedan Sporting Club and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, filed a defamation case against Kiron on Tuesday under "CrPC 500".

Police arrested Kiron, also a FIFA council member, yesterday after Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Sarafuzzaman Ansari issued an arrest warrant against her on Wednesday.

Omar Faruk, officer-in-charge, said Kiron was arrested after she made derogatory comments about the prime minister during a press conference.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Actors shut parts of brain: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

To truly inhabit a role, actors must effectively turn off part of their brain, according to a new study

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Stop 'evil race' on roads

Says PM as she opens second Kanchpur bridge, flyover at Bhulta

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to take steps to stop drivers from being engaged in "evil races" on roads and highways, which often cause fatal accidents.

The PM came up with the order while inaugurating the four-lane second Kanchpur Bridge on the Shitalakkhya River, four-lane flyover at Bhulta and a railway overpass at Latifpur on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway through a videoconference from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said modern technologies, including cameras and speed-guns, needed to be installed in order to prevent drivers from getting involved in racing.

"Accidents on roads have come down as we've taken many steps, but we've to take more steps," she said.

Hasina said sometimes exhausted drivers hand over the steering to their helpers, which is very inappropriate. "If you [drivers] hand over the steering to your helpers then they must have the driving licence."

The PM sharply criticised the people of the country for showing reluctance to the traffic rules. "I

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Saviours turn 'rapists'

2 held in case for gang-rape of mother, daughter in Narsingdi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A mother and her daughter were allegedly gang-raped in Sristygor area under Shibpur upazila in Narsingdi on Friday evening.

The 48-year-old mother filed a case against six people with Shibpur Police Station yesterday morning.

Accused Delwar Hossain, 30, Md Shafique, 25, Md

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 17

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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