

DOWN TO EARTH

Sub-standard Meat Sales in City

By A S M Nurunnabi

Nowadays citizens in some areas of the capital welcome certain facilities in their daily life. This refers to the easy availability at their doors of such daily necessities as vegetables and fish through vendors. In line with this development, meat selling is also increasing in local areas through wayside impromptu shops.

But observers allege that in most cases, the meat sold at these places is not up to standard. In fact, sale of sub-standard meat in the city is rampant not only at these wayside selling points but also in regular markets. It has been observed that most of this meat bypass the needed quality check by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials.

According to the Meat Quality Control Law and the 1983 City Corporation Ordinance, a butcher should slaughter animals in an authorised slaughter house and take the meat to markets after getting the quality seal from the corporation's veterinary surgeon. A large number of meat sellers, particularly those at roadside shops and on footpaths do not follow the rules. No adequate mechanism appears to be operative to check due observance of rules by meat sellers. As a result, possibility for sub-standard meat being offered for sale thereby posing hazard to health remains to a large extent.

It is also alleged that meat sellers resort to such malpractices as passing off buffalo meat as beef and selling left-overs of the previous day. Market sources also allege that under-size goats and sick old cows are not spared by some unscrupulous sellers. Also in the observance of meatless days on Sunday, Monday and Thursday, violation of rules is detected in many cases. Drives are sometimes undertaken in city markets to enforce the restriction, but such drives have been found to be few and far between, with isolated pockets in the city remaining out of such drives. Perhaps lack of adequate manpower and vigilance on the part of the city corporation account for such lapses in this behalf.

The DCC has only five modern slaughter houses at Hazaribagh, Koshatull, Gulshan, Mirpur I and Mirpur II. A DCC source admitted that the number of slaughter houses is inadequate to meet the total demand of some eight million residents in the city.

It was understood that a proposal to construct another slaughter house in Khilgaon area had been approved recently. This still leaves four other zones of the city corporation out of ten without a slaughter house. The inadequacy of slaughter houses is a factor which encourages unauthorised selling of meat without

quality control seal. Many of these unauthorised slaughters take place in dirty environment, posing a danger to health.

The DCC has a manpower of more than 100 people including veterinary surgeons to look after the slaughter houses.

According to DCC statistics, more than 2,75,000 animals were slaughtered during the last financial year in the five slaughter houses around the capital. No data are available about the number of unauthorised sellers in the city.

The DCC sometimes launches drives against the illegal meat sellers and during the year 1991-92, realised fines of about Tk. 1,70,000. During this period the DCC served 1,148 notices on the unauthorised sellers and filed 837 cases.

In spite of the punitive measures, observers do not find any effective control of illegal sale of sub-standard meat.

With the growth of the city population, expansion of the meat trade will inevitably follow. What the DCC should guard against is the proliferation of unauthorised meat sellers. To ensure this, observers feel, the DCC officials should be more vigilant, mounting more frequent drives against unauthorised sellers so that the citizens can be assured of good quality meat certified by corporation officials.

She identified communalism, terrorism and authoritarianism as the burning issues before the nation and called upon all to act against these vices.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a discussion on 'Bangabandhu: Spirit of the Liberation War and Today's Reality', organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday. Syed Ahmed, Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder, Prof. Kabir Chowdhury and Poet Sufia Kamal are seen on her left. — Star photo

Hasina

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ernment-backed terrorists. "It was an arranged game that the Prime Minister would open a Janmatsam function in Chittagong while the attackers in Dhaka would not be nabbed," she remarked.

Chaired by the Bangabandhu Parishad chairperson Begum Sufia Kamal, the meeting was also addressed by former Chief Justice Kema-uddin Hossain, Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, MP and Dr Syed Anwar Hossain.

Kemaluddin Hossain stressed the need for educating the new generation about the curse of terrorism in the society.

KM Sobhan said anybody could have proclaimed Bangladesh's independence in March 1971. But the authority of the proclamation belonged only to Bangabandhu.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury noted that the mistakes of Bangabandhu after independence could be criticised but his invaluable contributions to the country's liberation struggle could never be denied.

Col. (ret'd) Shawkat Ali termed those who were obstructing repeal of the Indemnity Act 'enemies of humanity'.

Begum Sufia Kamal, in her presidential speech, urged her countrymen to work for completing the unfinished tasks of Bangabandhu by ignoring unnecessary debates over the great hero.

He used his first news conference as Prime Minister to indicate that he would step down if he fails to pass political reform bills by year's end.

But analysts have predicted internal divisions within his diverse coalition, over political reform and other issues, will tear

Intellectuals meet Hasina

A group of noted intellectuals, academicians, poets and litterateurs yesterday met with Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina and exchanged views with her on the observance of 'National Mourning Day' on August 15, reports UNB.

Shawkat Osman, Justice K M Sobhan, Dr. Mazharul Islam, Dr A K Azad Chowdhury, Dr. Mostafa Chowdhury, Rafiq Humayan, Anis Ahmed, Dr Hossain Mansur, Dr. Zahurul Haq, Prof. Syed Ahmed, Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Harunur Rashid, Prof. Selina Akhtar Jahan, Belal Chowdhury, Rafiq Azad, Robiul Hussain and Tridib Dastidar were present in the meeting at 29 Minto Road.

The intellectuals expressed their grave shock that the anniversary of death of the country's founding leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was not being observed at the state level and extended support to all programmes on the mourning day, including the hartal on August 15, according to a party press release.

On this tragic day, offices, courts, schools and colleges, mills and factories should remain shut to show respect to the slain leader whose dedication and contribution helped the nation achieve her independence, they said.

They called for scrapping the Indemnity Ordinance to facilitate trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and ensure democracy and rule of law.

In an oblique reference to Dr. Kamal Hossain's political initiative with factions of the CPB, NAP and other groups, they said the pro-Liberation forces would be weakened in the name of a 'third force.' This move will benefit the anti-Liberation elements, they observed.

BMA

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where the doctors declared him dead.

The BMA observed a three-hour token strike at all the hospitals and medical institutions of the city on August 7 in protest against the tragic incident. Doctors of the Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet Medical College hospitals, also struck work to register their protests.

The Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association held a meeting at the PG Hospital premises on Thursday to condemn the killing.

The leaders of the association called upon the authorities to give compensation to Dr Rafiq's family. They also held a rally and delivered a memorandum to the Home Minister.

New Tokyo govt will be short-lived, experts say

TOKYO, Aug 13: Japan's unhappy experience with short-lived coalition governments after the war has prompted many political analysts here to speculate that the new seven-party cabinet will be short-lived, reports AFP.

"It's not a cabinet which can last long," prominent political commentator Hsiayuki Miyak said flatly in the latest edition of Shukan Yomiuri, a popular weekly magazine.

"It may collapse in the first half of next year," Miyak warned. "I think the lower house will be dissolved in the spring for general elections."

Other analysts are even more pessimistic about the life expectancy of the new government, which ended 38 years of one-party rule by the corruption and scandal-tainted Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"It will stay alive only for four months," said Yoshiya Kobayashi, another top political commentator.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who became Prime Minister last week after the LDP lost its majority in July 18 elections, has staked his political life on his ability to stamp out political corruption.

He used his first news conference as Prime Minister to indicate that he would step down if he fails to pass political reform bills by year's end.

But analysts have predicted internal divisions within his diverse coalition, over political reform and other issues, will tear

Film awards

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read the citations of the awards.

Following were some of the awards:

There were no best film or best story awards for the year 1992.

Best Director: A J Mintu for Satya Mithya; Best Actor: Alamgir for Kshati Puran; Best Actress: Shabana for Ranga Bhabhi; Best Music Director: Ali Hossain for Byatbar Daan; Best Playback Singer: Andrew Kishore for Kshati Puran; Best Female Playback singer: Runa Laila for Accident.

1990
Best Film: Gariber Bou; Producer Wahid Sadeque; Best Story: None; Best Director: Kamal Ahmed for Gariber Bou; Best Actor: Alamgir for Maraner Pare; Best Actress: Shabana for Maraner Pare; Best Music Director: Alauddin Ali for Lakhe Ekta; Best Playback Singer: Syed Abdul Hadi for Gariber Bou; Best Female Playback Singer: Shahnaz Rahmatullah for Chhutti Faadey.

1991
Best Film: Padma Meghna Jamuna; Best Story: M Mohiuddin, Padma Meghna Jamuna; Best Director: A J Mintu for Pita-Mata-Santan; Best Actor: Alamgir for Pita-Mata-Santan; Best Actress: Shabana for Achena; Best Music Director: Khondoker Nurul Alam for Padma Meghna Jamuna; Best Playback Singer: Andrew Kishore for Padma Meghna Jamuna; Best Female Playback Singer: Sabina Yasmin for Danga.

Special Award of Jury Board: Late Zafar Iqbal.

Husband kills wife in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: A husband's nightmare led to the killing of his sleeping wife in the city early today.

One Abu Musa this morning surrendered to the Port thana police after strangulating his wife Fatima Begum, 18, at the Port Colony here.

Both husband and wife used to work in a garment factory where Fatima developed friendship with a young colleague, Port police said.

Musa was aware of the affair. But last night he dreamt his wife had eloped with her lover, and when his sleep broke at around 3 am, he suddenly strangled Fatima, who was fast asleep, killing her instantly, Musa confessed to the Port police.

Police said a case was filed and Musa was forwarded to the court.

The Midnight File

20 Azeri soldiers killed

MOSCOW, Aug 13: Nagorno-Karabakh officials said today up to 20 Azeri soldiers were killed in fighting with Karabakh forces from late Thursday around Mardakert in the north of the enclave, Interfax reported. The news agency report, quoting the Karabakh self-defence headquarters, said the Azeri forces also lost a tank and two armoured vehicles in an attack on the region that was repelled, reports AFP.

Break in Bosnian talks

GENEVA, Aug 13: International mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg called a weekend break in Bosnian peace talks today as UN peacekeepers monitored a Serb pull-back on a strategic mountain over Sarajevo. Their spokesman said the pause followed UN reports of a further Serb pull-back from Mount Igman, where a UN and a Serb general were inspecting a disputed ceasefire line, reports Reuter.

India-US talks on NPT next month

NEW DELHI, Aug 13: India and the United States will discuss next month bilateral irritants over Nuclear Non-Proliferation and disarmament, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Thursday, says AFP.

Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit will lead the Indian delegation to the talks scheduled in Washington, a month before Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao is expected to visit the United States, the news agency said.

The discussions will include disarmament, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and regional security issues which are emerging as major irritants in bilateral relations, PTI quoted official sources as saying.

Pakistani, Afghan beheaded in Riyadh

RIYADH, Aug 13: The government on Friday beheaded a Pakistani and an Afghan convicted of smuggling heroin, reports AP.

The Interior Ministry identified the men as Mohammed Shahid Mohammed Sheriff of Pakistan and Abdul-Reheem Khan Abdul-Qayoum of Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia is ruled by Islamic law, which demands the beheading of convicted murderers and certain other offenders. Since the early 1990s, drug smugglers and dealers have also faced executions because drug abuse soared during the nation's oil boom.

More than 80 men, mostly Pakistanis, have been convicted by Islamic courts on drug charges and beheaded. The beheadings are often conducted on Fridays, including last week's execution of a Yemeni for heroin smuggling.

Taka

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commercial banks will not be allowed to purchase less than 50000 dollars from the central bank. The difference between the buying and selling prices of the dollar has also been increased to 20 paisa from the previous 10 paisa.

The provision of forward cover by the central bank for dollar transactions has also been withdrawn, thereby forcing the commercial banks towards a free market.

Aideed ready for talks with UN

MOGADISHU, Aug 13: A close aide to Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aideded said Thursday the fugitive leader was ready for talks with the United Nations, which has posted a 25,000 dollar reward for his capture.

An Aideded advisor, Mohamed Awale, told AFP that the General, who has been in hiding for two months, wanted to negotiate a settlement with the UN forces.

Aideded has been on the run ever since his Somali National Alliance (SNA) was blamed for a June 5 attack which left 24 Pakistani peacekeepers dead.

"We would love so much a peaceful settlement of this conflict," said Awale, who heads the international section of Aideded's Somali National Alliance (SNA).

"It is never too late to talk peace," he added.

Thai hotel

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additional storeys had been added, officials said. An additional floor was being put on when the building collapsed.

There were people on each floor when it happened and they are now either trapped or buried in debris," said Pornchai Chitsuwannin, a spokesman for the Ruan Katanyu Foundation.

The gas smell and the fear of triggering further collapse have slowed rescue workers as they try to do their job," he said. More than 270 people were injured, officials said as hospitalisations peaked for blood donations.

Police estimates of the number of people trapped inside the rubble ranged up to 500.

The foundation spokesman said people being rescued and bodies retrieved at dusk had been on the third floor of the hotel when it collapsed on Friday morning.

Those on lower floors remain trapped inside.

Medical emergency rooms were set up in tents around the hotel to deal with casualties.

"All cranes in the area are being used to remove debris," a senior policeman said.

Local radio reports said the engineer in charge of the construction of the additional storey was being detained by police.

Dr Kamal

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Siddiqui, BU.

Meanwhile, the delegates at the 'mini-convention' of Kamal Hossain and his allies yesterday unanimously expressed their opinion in favour of floating a new political party during the NGC scheduled to begin August 27.

On the second day of the mini-convention, being held at a Motijheel restaurant, discussions on a draft document on national issues were held. The meeting, that began Thursday afternoon, ends today after the finalisation of the draft, to be placed at the Grand Convention.

At a press briefing yesterday evening, Dr Kamal, the convenor of the preparatory committee for the NGC, said the delegates who took part in the discussions unequivocally stressed the need for taking united initiatives and action for solving the problems faced by the nation.

When asked whether the launching of a new political party from the forthcoming NGC has been finalised, Kamal said, "Just wait for another 13 days — you will get the answers at the National Convention".

Meeting sources said that some of the delegates insisted on making an immediate announcement regarding the launching of the new party, but Dr Kamal and others strongly maintained that such an important declaration should come during the Grand Convention.

Organisers of the party in office said they will keep striving 'until the eve of the NGC to mobilise more political persons and forces in the new organisation.

Dr Kamal informed newsmen that 179 delegates from the districts and various political parties and organisations were participating in the mini-convention and 44 of them had taken part in the discussions till Friday evening. Eighteen working papers prepared by the experts are being discussed in the meeting.

In reply to a question regarding Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman's comments against him at a meeting at Tungipara last week, Dr Kamal said that it was very unfortunate that such comments were passed at a solemn function arranged to pay tributes to Bangabandhu.

Civil disobedience in Nigeria continues

LAGOS, Aug 13: Workers appeared to be staying at home in Lagos on Friday, the second day of a three-day protest against the military government for refusing to honour election results two months ago, reports AP.

Most major bus and train terminals in Nigeria's largest city were virtually empty, with only a few people going to work.

The government had warned on national television Thursday night that it may sack those who failed to go to work on Friday.

The general strike led by Nigeria's pro-democracy movement has transformed Nigeria's usually bustling commercial capital into a ghost town of shuttered shops patrolled by armed troops.

The military government on Thursday pretended it was not a success.

Information Secretary Uche Chukwumerije broadcast a statement claiming Lagos returned to normal midday Thursday.

Naga rebels kill 6 soldiers

NEW DELHI, Aug 13: Tribal guerrillas ambushed an Indian army convoy in the northeastern state of Manipur, killing six soldiers, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, reports AFP.

The troops were on their way to reinforce a paramilitary post in the district of Ukhrul when they came under attack by guerrillas of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland late Thursday, the news agency said.

The rebels, who are waging an insurgency for an independent Naga tribal nation in the state of Nagaland and parts of neighbouring Manipur, raked the convoy with gunfire as it travelled on a mountainous road.

Six soldiers were killed and five injured and hospitalised, PTI said.

Naga insurgents have stepped up attacks on security forces in recent months. In late June, they killed 36 people by blowing up Indian army trucks transporting explosives in Manipur.

ROK's 'no' to Jackson's concert

SEOUL, Aug 13: The Ministry of Culture has rejected an application by US pop star Michael Jackson to stage a South Korean concert because it could have a negative effect on Korean society, a promoter said Friday, reports AP.

Tae-won Chung, president of Los Angeles-based Tae Won Entertainment, said culture ministry officials told him a concert in Jackson's world-wide 'Dangerous' tour would reflect badly on the frugality policies of the new civilian government.

"They said the timing was not good," he said.

South Korean President Kim Young-sam has championed austerity and led a campaign for reform against corruptive influences in society since he assumed office earlier this year.

Conspicuous consumption is discouraged, and symbols of opulence, such as golf, foreign cars or name-brand goods, are frowned upon.

Chung said supporters had urged him to reapply and he would do so, but that time was running out to make arrangements for a scheduled Sept. 7 show at Olympic Stadium. He said he was pessimistic that the ministry could be persuaded to change its mind.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The second issue of *The Daily Star Computer Special* will be published on Wednesday, 18 August 1993.

Following the enthusiastic reception of the first issue of the *Star Computer Special*, we have decided to expand the membership to our Computer Forum. Please call us to find out how you can enroll as a Forum member, and become a major actor in the information technology revolution in Bangladesh.

Limited space still available for advertisement — both display and classified — in the August issue.

Advertise in the *Star Computer Special* and reach the homes and the offices of the current and future computer users in Bangladesh.

Forum members are reminded to send all relevant news, articles and "company news" as soon as possible.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R. A., Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.