



Eating dangerously

Food tainted with toxic colours, risky mixings

Adulteration spree poses grave health risks; authorities lack means to check cheating

PINAKI ROY

It has become a matter of luck these days to find pure food products in the market, as wholesalers, seeking to cheat the public, mix everything from brick dust and

soap ingredients with commonly eaten foods. "Now the sellers are even colouring small size poultry eggs and converting it into eggs of local hen as their price is little bit higher. Now it is hard to rely on anything

and trust anybody," said one consumer in Karwan Bazar, when asked about the adulterated food. Sources at the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) admitted that a wide variety of goods - such as soybean oil,

butter oil and mustard oil - are being sold on the market with fake BSTI seals. Many, if not most, of these oils are fake. Wholesalers mix different chemicals like Aliliso Thayo- saiyanailed and Disital

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Two men in Old Dhaka soak mangoes in chemicals used for quick ripening of the fruits.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

PM flies to Doha today with LDC mission

REZAUL KARIM

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia leaves for Qatar today on a three-day visit to attend the second 'South Summit' beginning tomorrow to join hands with the leaders of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to forge a strong coalition on international issues of aid and trade.

Heads of state and government from some 50 developing countries will attend the two-day summit, popularly known as summit of G-77, also to discuss their development challenges, with special emphasis on enhanced aid from developed countries and global zero tariff for all products originating from the LDCs.

"Development Challenges Facing the South" is the theme of the high profile summit that will follow up the Havana Summit Declaration and Havana Plan of Action adopted at the first summit of G-77 on April 11-14, 2000.

Senior officials of the LDCs met

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AL 'extremists' involved in Aug 21 attack

BNP MPs tell JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP lawmakers yesterday in parliament blasted Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and her party Awami League (AL) for "conspiring to destabilise the BNP-led coalition government" with the help of a neighbouring country.

A number of treasury bench members alleged that "extremist elements" in the AL were involved in

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Govt plans to assure Tata of gas for 20yrs

Second round negotiations early next month

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The government is going to take a middle course to finalise the \$2.5 billion investment proposal of Tata Group during the second round negotiations early next month.

Sources said the government may provide Tata with a 20-year guarantee of uninterrupted gas supply, a shift from its earlier proposal of 15 years' guarantee.

The Indian industrial giant in its proposal had demanded a 30-year guarantee of 2 TCF (trillion cubic feet) gas to run its planned fertiliser factory, power and steel plants.

The government negotiators are also contemplating providing Tata with 6 million tons of coal a year and

a special fiscal incentive for their investment, the sources said.

Besides, the two committees formed for negotiating with the Indian industrial conglomerate have agreed to allocate 3,000 acres of land required for Tata's projects.

All the necessary policy changes will be finalised before the next round negotiations and the government is likely to sign a final agreement by November this year.

"We have to take a compact position in the second round negotiations likely to be held early next month," a high government official involved in the negotiations told The Daily Star.

The ministerial committee headed by Industries Minister

Motiur Rahman and the negotiation committee headed by Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan will seek the prime minister's clearance for their changed stance.

The second round of negotiations are scheduled to take place in Dhaka from June 19 but the committees may shift the date to the first week of July to ensure the PM's approval to the sensitive investment deal, sources said.

"We had earlier took some decisions like approving the Korean EPZ without prime minister's clearance and the ventures proved fruitless. So this time we want to have the clearance first," the official said, requesting anonymity.

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Inflation, BoP deficit spike

REZAUL KARIM BYRON

The economy is witnessing a twin shock now - a rising inflation rate and a deteriorating balance of payment (BoP) situation because of domestic price hike and a jump in imports that have become costlier.

Inflationary pressure is now emanating not only from costly food but also from hike in non-food prices.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the annual average inflation increased by 0.06 percentage points in April from March.

In March, it was recorded at 6.18 percent and then it inched up to 6.24 percent in April. This upward trend has been continuing since the beginning of this fiscal year in July when inflation was recorded at 5.88 percent.

Food remained an Achilles' Heel since the year began and food inflation increased to 7.60 percent in April from 7.54 percent in March.

The tide turned for non-food

inflation, which steadily dropped since the beginning of the fiscal year from 4.39 percent to 4.15 percent in January, as it again raised its head since then. It kept on inching up to reach 4.21 percent in April.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in its pre-budget report identified five major reasons for increase in inflation - a devastating flood, global price hike of food, oil, fertiliser and steel, increase in price of utilities services, imports becoming costly as taka weakens and an expansionary monetary policy.

The government had expected that a bumper boro paddy harvest this year will dampen the inflation pressure.

The finance minister in his budget speech said, "I firmly believe that with growth trend in agriculture along with other sectors continuing, the inflationary pressure will ease and inflation will remain within tolerable and manageable limit."

But economists fear the inflated budget for FY06 and an increase in

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RAB 'CROSSFIRE' Court to record statement of Sumon's mother

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned Jubo League leader Sumon's mother for deposition on June 29 in the murder case filed for her son's death in 'Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) custody'.

Accused in the case include the

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Rab rescues 5 children from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Sunday rescued five children from being trafficked to India in the bordering village of Baikari in sadar upazila.

The children are Suman, 11, son of Abdus Sattar of Rasulpur, Ashraf, 11, and Shariful, 9, sons of Shahjahan of Palashpole, Mehedi,

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Bidisha not freed after granted bail

Shown arrested after Ershad sues her for keeping two husbands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former military ruler HM Ershad's estranged wife Bidisha was not released from the jail despite her obtaining an ad-interim bail in the passport forgery case yesterday, as the authorities showed her arrested the same day in a cheating case.

Ershad filed the case with the Court of First Class Magistrate, Dhaka on June 5 on charges of her hiding her marriage with a British Peter Stuart Wilson from him and marrying him without divorcing Wilson. Yesterday, Ershad's lawyers filed a petition with the Court of First

Class Magistrate, Dhaka for showing Bidisha arrested in the cheating case and sending a custody warrant to the Dhaka Central Jail. Later, Magistrate Rehana Yasmin issued the warrant, which was sent to the jail.

The news of the case broke yesterday afternoon when relatives and lawyers were waiting for Bidisha's release at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital (BSMMUH) where she was undergoing treatment under police watch.

Ershad, a former president and

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Bangla Bhai men lynch former cadre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangla Bhai's men yesterday lynched a former cadre of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) at Bagmara, calling him an outlaw.

The victim, identified as Mazzal Hossain, 26, son of Layebullah of Piruli Senpara village, was tortured overnight to death by Abdul Barik, Bangla Bhai's top associate and a block supervisor of the Agriculture Extension Department, and his men.

The reasons for the killing are

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Two robbers killed in cop 'encounter'

Another lynched by mob

UNB, Comilla

Two robbers were killed in an encounter with police and another was lynched by a mob at Gouripur bus stand under Daudkandi upazila on Sunday night.

Police said a gang of seven robbers, who were travelling in a Comilla-bound bus in the guise of passengers, swooped on the passengers as the bus reached Gouripur

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খৈতানের নতুন চমক

Flair

বাংলাদেশে জনপ্রিয় ফ্যান

একমাত্র পরিবেশকঃ ইন্সট ওয়েস্ট ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন, ৭/২২ (নীচ তলা), ব্রকিং, লালমাটিয়া, ঢাকা-১২০৭, ফোনঃ ৮১১৩৫৩০, ৮১১৩৫৪১, ০১৭১-৩২৮৫৫৭, ০১৭১-৪৪৩৫৪৯

ঢাকা-নবাবপুরঃ আর,আর, এটারগ্রাইজ # ৯৫৬৬০৭, সুব্রী ইলেকট্রিক # ৭১৭৫৯০১, এনামেজ ইলেকট্রিক # ৯০৬৬৭৭৪, রহমান এটারগ্রাইজ # ৭১৬৬৪০০, রাজিব ইলেকট্রিক # ৭১৬৬৪০০, রাহিম এটারগ্রাইজ # ৭১৬৬৪০০, ভয়ালি স্টাট ইলেকট্রিক # ৯০৬৬৭৭৪, এইচ রহমান এড কোং # ৯৫৬০৭০১ নিউ সার্বিয়া ইলেকট্রিক # ৯৫৬০১২৬, ফুলাবাড়ীয়া # যমুনা ট্রেডার্স # ৭১৬৬৪০১, কাশী এটারগ্রাইজ # ০১৭১৬৬৪০০, তেজপালা ব্রো # ইলেকট্রিক শশি সেক্টর # ৭১৭০১৪৮, নিউ মার্কেট # বাপারী ইলেকট্রিক # ৮৬৫০৫৮৮, মেঘনাডল্লার # বিনাম ইলেকট্রিক এড সাজহার # ৯১৬৬৪০০, অসাদসেইট # আই গ্যাং সেক্টর # ৯১২৩৭০৪ কলমার ১ # বিনাম ইলেকট্রিক শপ # ৮৬২৪০০৩ কলমার ২ # এম, রহমান ইলেকট্রিক # ৯৮১১০০৯ উত্তরা # নিউ এস, এম, ইলেকট্রিক ওয়ার্কস # ৮৯১৬৭৭৬ মিরপুর ১০ # ইলেকট্রিক সোল # ৮০৫৪৫৭৮, সাধী ইলেকট্রিক # ৮০১০৫৫০, উদাপুর ইলেকট্রিক হাউস # ০১৭১-৭০০০৩০, উদারনার ইলেকট্রিক এড পাশ হাউস # ৯০১৬৫৬২, রয়েল সিটি ইলেকট্রিক # ৮০৫২৬১৮, মিরপুর-১ # পাবলিক ইলেকট্রিক # ৯০০৫৬১০ টাঙ্গাইল # ০১৭১-৭০০০৩০, সাজহার # ৯৮১১০০৯, সাজহার # ৯৮১১০০০, সারাদল্লার # হক ইলেকট্রিক # ৯১১১৯৯৪ চট্টগ্রাম # বিদ্যুৎ কানন # ৬১৫৮০০০ সিলেট # সুব্রা এটারগ্রাইজ # ৭১২৭৫৮, হক ট্রেডার্স # ৭১৬২৩৫, খুলনা # এইচ কবীর ইলেকট্রিক # ৭২২২৫০ রাজশাহী # মোমা ইলেকট্রিক কর্ণার # ৭৭২৭৫৫ বরগুনা # ইলান ইলেকট্রিক # ৭২৪৫৫ নওগাঁ # সাহা ট্রেডার্স # ০২৬২৭ জয়পুরহাট # হাইট হাউজ # ৬২৪১০ রংপুর # বনি ইলেকট্রিক # ৬২৫৫২ দিনাজপুর # প্রৌদী ইলেকট্রিক # ৬৪৫৫০ ঠাকুরশীত # কিলি ইলেকট্রিক # ০২৭০৩ পাবনা # মডার্ন ওয়াচ কোং # ৬৫৬৮৫ সুফিয়ার # বিজলী সের # ৬১৪৪৬ গাইবান্ধা # স্বপনাল বানিজ্যার # ৬১৬০৬ লেয়ারপুর # আজকেরা ওয়াচ এড ইলেকট্রিক # ৬২৪০৪ ময়মনসিংহ # জামান রেডিও সার্ভিস # ৫৪৮৮১, দিনতা রেডিও সার্ভিস # ৫০৩৭০ টাঙ্গাইল # আলো ভবন # ৫৪৬৯২ জামালপুর # বিদ্যুৎ রিসেল # ৬২০৮৪ কিশোরগঞ্জ # বেতার ভবন # ৬১৪৫০ যশোর # রোনা ইলেকট্রিক # ৬৫০০ মাতরা # আজিজ ইলেকট্রিক # ৬২৫৯২ কুষ্টিয়া # রশ্মি ইলেকট্রিক শপ # ৫৪৬১৬ রাজবাড়ী # নারায়ন চন্দ্র সূত্র # ৬৫০৬২ গোপালগঞ্জ # সুনর ইলেকট্রিক # ৫৫৬২৮ টেকেরহাট # ল্যানাল ইলেকট্রিক # ০১৭১০৯০০০ বি-বাড়িয়া # আল ইলেকট্রিক সেক্টর # ৫২৫৮৮ নরসিংদী # ডব ইলেকট্রিক # ২৪৭২, মৌলভীবাজার # টার ইলেকট্রিক হাউস # ৫২৭৭১, শ্রীমল্ল # জৌমিক ইলেকট্রিক # ০৮৬২৬-৭০২, খবিগঞ্জ # আকনা ইলেকট্রিক # ৫২৪১৫, চৌমুহনী # নেহা এটারগ্রাইজ # ০১৮৯৮০০২৬৮

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