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JS passes bill on food adulteration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad on Monday passed a bill incorporating several tough provisions in the existing food ordinance to deal with production and sale of adulterated food that endangers public health.

The bill titled Bangladesh Pure Food (Amendment) Act, 2005 provides for a fine of Tk 75,000 and one-year rigorous imprisonment for such offences for the first time.

In case of some offences for the second time or subsequently, the bill empowered the authorities to impose fine of up to Tk 3 lakh, and provided for rigorous imprisonment for three years as well as forfeiture of shop or factory by the government or the local authorities.

The House also passed three other bills increasing salaries of the Supreme Court (SC) judges and lawmakers and the Seeds (Amendment) Act 2005.

TOUGH FOOD LAWS

The government amended the Bangladesh Pure Food Ordinance, 1959, amid widespread media

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Saarc ministers discuss summit preparations

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan on Monday apprised the foreign ministers of Saarc countries of the preparations by Dhaka to host the 13th Saarc Summit scheduled for November 12-13 this year.

The informal meeting took place at a luncheon hosted by Pakistan on

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Mufti Hannan's brother held

BDNEWS, Gopalganj

Police arrested Harkatul Jihad leader Munsir Anisuzzaman, brother of Mufti Moulana Abdul Hannan, at Kotlipara yesterday.

Earlier, he was arrested in July 2000 on charge of planting bomb at the meeting venue of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina. Later, he was released on bail. He went into hiding after August 17 bomb blasts.

The court issued an arrest warrant against Anisuzzaman during his hiding.

Soon after the arrest, police took Anisuzzaman to Gopalganj.

Prayer Timing

September 21

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 4-40 | 5-15 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 6-05 | 6-10 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Meet with donors in Nov on PRSP operation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will have a three-day meeting with the donors, starting from November 15 in Dhaka to discuss how the latter can contribute to the implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The meeting this time has been styled 'PRSP Implementation Forum' instead of the previous the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) as the development partners have been saying that their assistance will be based on the PRSP.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will chair the meet.

The government has framed the PRSP, a three-year (2006 to 2009) development strategy, after a series of consultations with the donors, private sector, NGOs and civil society representatives.

An Economic Relations Division (ERD) source said the meeting will discuss the ways to implement the PRSP in next three years. Besides, it will discuss how to align the national budget with the PRSP, cost assessment of implementation of the PRSP, and mechanisms to monitor the progress of its objectives.

The ERD has already asked the ministries to inform it immediately of the reforms that they have already brought about and also of the pro-

spective programmes for the PRSP.

Meanwhile, the Planning Commission has finalised the draft of PRSP, which would be tabled before the Executive Committee on National Economic Council (Ecne) meeting for approval next month.

The draft PRSP could not be finalised by June last year as the growth rate of FY 2003-04 marked a significant rise from 5.52 to 6.3 points.

A Planning Commission source said the fixing of the country's macroeconomic framework on the basis of previous growth rate might also have been the reason for the delay in finalising the draft. The previous

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MP withdraws cases against 17 journo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

BNP lawmaker of Jhenidah-3 (Kotchandpur-Maheshpur) constituency Shahidul Islam Master at last withdrew the five cases filed against 17 journalists of five newspapers on Monday.

Announcing his decision to withdraw the cases at a meeting with the journalists at the Jhenidah Press Club, the MP regretted the filing of the cases against the reporters, editors and publishers of the national dailies Janakantha, Inqilab, Amar Desh and Manabzamin and the Jessore-based daily Gramee Kagoj.

After the meeting, the ruling party lawmaker, accompanied by the journalists of Jessore and Jhenidah, went to the deputy commissioner of Jhenidah to inform him about the decision. Magistrate of the court concerned was then called in and the cases were withdrawn.

Earlier, some BNP men beat up Dr Imdadul Haque of Chowgachha Upazila Health Complex in Jessore

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20 killed in road crashes in dists

STAR REPORT

Twenty people including five of the same family were killed in separate road accidents during the last two days in Bagerhat, Dinajpur, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Tangail.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna said five members of the family were killed when a bus crashed into a private car at Khajura Bus Stand in Fakirhat upazila yesterday.

Police said the passenger bus rammed into the Bagerhat-bound private car from Khulna around 4:00pm, instantly killing all five passengers of the car.

The deceased were identified as Javed Anwar, 48, general manager of Padma Life Insurance, his wife Shahana Anwar, 32, their school going son and daughter and a peon of Javed's office.

Police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies and sent them to Sadar Hospital Morgue for autopsy.

Angry people set up barricade on the road leaving a large number of vehicles stranded on the road for two hours.

Our correspondent in Dinajpur said at least four people including an infant were killed and 22 others injured in a road mishap on Dinajpur-Bogra highway yesterday.

Dinajpur police sources said a Barga bound mini-bus was involved in a head-on collision with a truck at Bhabainagar area. Four people on board the bus were killed on the spot including the driver of the bus.

The deceased are bus driver Tapan Kumar Adhikari, 50, Champa Rani Roy, 45, Shafuddin Ahmed, 60, and a seven month old Asha.

Locals rushed the injured 22 to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital and they are undergoing treatment there. Seven of the injured are in a critical condition, hospital sources said.

BDnews from Tangail reports: At least four people were killed and 30

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All acquitted in SI Farhad murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Monday acquitted a Jubo Dal leader, despite having specific allegations against him in the Sub-inspector (SI) Farhad murder case.

Judge Mohammad Rabiul Hassan of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka acquitted Jubo Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Kajol and 38 others.

The court gave the verdict at a packed courtroom in the presence of 21 accused who were on bail. They brought out a procession outside the court premises following the verdict. Accused Kajol and 17 others were tried in absentia.

There were murder charges against the accused but the prosecution failed to prove the allegation against them, so all the accused are acquitted of charges, the judge said in the verdict.

SI Hasnain Haq Farhad, 30, was killed during a gun battle between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Jagannath University

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9 Americans killed in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Tension ran high in southern Iraq yesterday after British troops freed two undercover soldiers taken hostage by a Shia militia, as the American death toll in bomb attacks rose to nine over a two-day period.

In northern Iraq, four American security agents were killed in a suicide bomb attack on a US diplomatic convoy in Mosul on Monday.

And a US military policeman died in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad on Tuesday, the military said, after four US soldiers were

killed in the western town of Ramadi on Monday.

British forces stormed a police station late Monday where its two soldiers were initially detained, after troops were firebombed by angry crowds in Basra, an area usually free of the violence that rocks much of Iraq.

The pair were later freed from a house where they had been taken by militiamen from the police jail, triggering concern in Britain about possible collusion.

The Iraqi government tried to play down the incident, saying there was "no crisis" with London.

14 soldiers die in Manipur ambush

AFP, Guwahati

Fourteen soldiers were killed in an ambush by heavily-armed militants in one of the deadliest attacks in India's restive northeastern state of Manipur in years, officials said yesterday.

The militants ambushed a security patrol near the village of Nariang, about 35km southwest of Manipur's capital Imphal, late Monday, an army spokesman in the capital said.

"Unidentified rebels using automatic weapons ambushed a road

patrol of the army's Gorkha Rifles killing eight on the spot," the spokesman said.

Six of 12 soldiers wounded in the attack died on their way to hospital.

"The rebels numbering about 20-odd and equipped with AK-56 rifles and carbines launched the attack from a hilltop. There was hardly any reaction time for the soldiers to retaliate," the spokesman said.

"The condition of the injured is stated to be critical."

The troops were returning to their base by truck after search

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A mother and her child cross a slippery road at Shantinagar during rain in the capital yesterday. The daylong intermittent rain caused by a depression in the Bay disrupted life.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Basundhara chairman granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Monday granted bail to Basundhara Group Chairman Akbar Sobhan in a case filed against him and his staff on charge of accosting the wife of Sarbajit Chakraborty, Indian deputy high commissioner in Dhaka.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shafiq Anwar passed the order when Sobhan along with his lawyer Iqbal Ahmed appeared before the court seeking bail.

Moving the bail petition, the lawyer of the accused said the allegations brought against his client

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Motijheel OC seeks bail

UNB, Dhaka

A petition was filed with the vacation bench of the High Court (HC) on Monday, seeking an anticipatory bail for the officer-in-charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station in a murder case.

Wife of OC Rafiqul Islam filed the petition, which is yet to be taken up for hearing, court sources said.

Rafiqul Islam, now absconding, was closed in the afternoon of September 15 as he is the prime accused in the FIR (first information report) filed after the murder of Kamrul Islam Momin, a student of Mirpur Commerce College.

Momin was gunned down in

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On this day we remember



Heavenly Rana Pratap Roy Chowdhury (Shuvo)

Son of Mr. K R Chowdhury & Mrs. J R Chowdhury

Born on: 14th October 1980

Left for eternal peace on: 26th March 1986.

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