

Eateries fined for using toxic colour in iftar items

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mobile court yesterday sentenced three restaurant owners in the old part of the city to two days imprisonment and fined them Tk 1,000 each for using toxic colours, chemicals and stale raw foods in different popular iftar items. The court led by magistrate Md. Rokan Ud Doulah took the punitive measures under Sections 272 and 273 of the Bangladesh Penal Code against Samsuddin Babul, manager of Mohsonia hotel at Samibagh, Mokhlesur Rahman, owner of Café Nizamuddin at Gendaria and Habibullah, manager of Josna hotel at West Jatrabari. During the drive, the court found the restaurants using stale aborigines

AUG 17 BLASTS CASES

Trial starts in Joypurhat

Khulna cops to press charges in a week

STAR REPORT

The trial of the August 17 serial blast case filed in Joypurhat began yesterday, and Khulna police will press charges in a week against leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB).

Meantime, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and detectives yesterday arrested four suspected militants of Harkatul Jihad (Huji) and JMB in Cox's Bazar, Lohagara upazila in Chittagong, Feni and Chandpur.

The trial of the JMB men arrested or accused in the case began at the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Joypurhat, reports BDNEWS.

Earlier on September 3, police submitted the charge-sheet against the accused to a lower court, which sent the charge-sheeted arrestees to the district court.

Judge Narendra Chandra Das denied their bail petition and sent them to jail custody after fixing October 11 for full hearing.

As many as 28 people have been charge-sheeted in the case and 20 among them are now behind bars.

Charge-sheet against the top JMB and JMJB leaders will be submitted in a week in connection with the August 17 bombing case filed in Khulna Metropolitan City, writes our Khulna staff correspondent.

Sources said the charge-sheet will include the names of JMB chief Abdur Rahman, JMJB Operations Commander Bangla Bhai, JMB cadre Shahidullah alias Lokman and four others.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) told The Daily Star yesterday Lokman will be produced before court on September 9 for judicial confession.

"The investigation into the August 17 bombing case is nearing completion and we hope to arrest the remaining JMB cadres before submission of the charge-sheet," the AC said.

JMB cadre Lokman during interrogation on Wednesday said he is an staff correspondent.

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Govt to revise visa policy to restrict overstay of foreigners

UNB, Dhaka

The government has planned to revise the country's visa policy to incorporate into it various provisions, including one that will restrict foreigners to overstay in Bangladesh.

An inter-ministerial meeting on visa policy yesterday discussed the issue, meeting sources told the news agency.

Chaired by State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar, the meeting was told that visa categories would be raised to 23 from the existing 11.

The meeting discussed seven visa categories, including that of tourist and business, the official said. "Under the existing process,

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Islamic scholars meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

19 more down with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen more people diagnosed with dengue fever, a viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquito, were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the capital yesterday.

Among them, 11 were admitted to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, four to Central Hospital and one each to Ibn Sina Hospital, Dhaka Mahanagar General Hospital, Comfort Hospital and Pan Pacific Hospital, said Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) sources.

The DCC has stepped up its drive against mosquito as more people in Farmgate, Green Road, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Tejgaon, Mogh-bazar, Shantinagar, Shahjahanpur, Khilgaon, Mugda, Sabujbagh and other areas are falling victim to the disease, the sources added.

They said the authorities are also collecting addresses of the newly infected patients and conducting

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Fasting Muslims throng Chawkbazar to buy iftar on the first day of Ramadan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Natwar pins high hope on Dhaka summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh on Wednesday expressed his optimism that the upcoming Saarc summit will successfully address impor-

tant

issues

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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
1	6		5-44
2	7	4-33	5-43

Bangladesh troops rule UN missions

More peacekeepers going to Ivory Coast, Sudan this month

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Bangladesh will become the largest contributor to the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, beating Pakistan, as more troops are being sent to Ivory Coast and Sudan this month, sources in the army said.

At present, over 9,000 Bangladeshi troops are stationed abroad on 12 peacekeeping missions under the UN flag while Pakistan's contribution stands at 9,200 troops.

The number of Bangladeshi troops stood at 9,123 after sending a fresh contingent of 288 peacekeepers to Ivory Coast on Wednesday night.

The figure is expected to reach 10,203 by this month as more troops will leave Dhaka to join UN missions, sources said. Another contingent of 119 police officers and 49 soldiers of the armed forces will leave Dhaka on October 9 for Ivory Coast while a troop of 912 soldiers will be sent to Sudan, sources told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, a significant number of Pakistani troops are preparing to leave Sierra Leone following a UN decision. Pakistan had sent a brigade-size contingent of over 4,000 troops to the UN mission in Sierra Leone.

At present, 3,340 Bangladeshi

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Biman to offload 61pc shares

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Revising its previous decision, Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday decided to offload 61 percent share of the loss-incurring national flag carrier.

Earlier, the Biman authorities had decided to offload 51 percent share.

With the latest decision taken at a board meeting, the government will hold only 39 percent share of the

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Prayer Timing		
October 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-34	4-44
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-55
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Britain's Howard bows out as chief of Conservatives

AFP, Blackpool

Michael Howard bowed out as leader of Britain's main opposition Conservatives yesterday, warning his would-be successors there was a hard road ahead if the party was to return to government.

In what he vowed would be his final party conference speech, Howard told delegates in Blackpool, northwest England, to "go for it" in their attempt to turf Prime Minister Tony Blair's New

Labour Party out of office.

Former home secretary (interior minister) Howard will hand in his resignation on Friday, firing the starting gun for the contest proper to replace him.

But the five rivals for his job have already spent the conference slugging it out for support among colleagues, with the favourite, former army tough guy David Davis,

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Internet facilities to go countrywide

Policy guidelines for optical fibre finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday finalised the policy guidelines for laying optical fibre cables across the country by private telecom operators to expand internet facilities at district and upazila levels.

The guidelines will ensure use or ownership of optical fibre facilities to be installed along roads and highways,

railway and road bridges, and embankments by private telecommunication operators.

The Ministry of Communications at a high-level meeting, chaired by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, finalised the guidelines.

According to the guidelines, multiple operators will not be

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