

Mobile courts fine food shops, hotels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile courts in the capital yesterday fined a number of food manufacturers, a restaurant, a hospital and a kerosene seller for a range of irregularities.

A mobile court led by Magistrate Abdur Rauf Khan raided Yakub Foods and Agro Ltd in Shyampur area, issued arrest warrants against its two owners and fined three of its officials Tk 50,000 each for violating of Pure Food Ordinance.

The violations included operating without BSTI approval, manu-

facturing substandard juice and pickles, employing child workers, workers handling foods without gloves, chemical ingredients stored in unlabeled containers and for not having any chemist.

The same mobile court fined Hirajhil Hotel in Motijheel Tk 20,000 after it found unhygienic condition, date expired vinegar and a type of banned sauce/ ketchup in its kitchen.

Another mobile court led by Magistrate Noni Gopal Biswas fined Tk 30,000 to River Side Hospital at Kamrangirchar for storing date-

expired medicine.

The same court fined Fatema Bakery Tk 20,000 and Ridoy Bakery Tk 50,000 in the same area for preparing poor quality bakery items.

Meanwhile, a mobile court led by Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula fined VIP Traders at Karwan Bazar kitchen market Tk 50,000 for selling fake Tang brand drink powder.

Earlier, the same court fined Janata Trader, a retail kerosene seller, Tk 15,000 for not having BSTI licence and fire licence, for not renewing its trade licence and for failing to maintain any sales register.

Top JMB man held in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a top leader of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Pabna on Wednesday night.

The arrestee identified as Md Mostafizur Rahman Shaheen, 35, of village Gopalpur in Pabna Sadar Upazila, is an operation commander of the outlawed Islamist outfit in this region and one of the most wanted criminals, Rab sources said.

Pabna Cognizance Court-1 placed the JMB leader on a five-

day remand for interrogation after he was produced in the court yesterday.

Rab sources said a team of the elite force, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Shaheen and arrested him at about 11:30pm on Wednesday. They also recovered a huge number of leaflets, books and letters.

They said Shaheen was allegedly involved in August 17 serial bomb blasts and other bomb blasts in Meherpur district. The law enforcers had also announced a reward for his arrest.



PHOTO: STAR

Adviser to the caretaker government Tapan Chowdhury visits a stall at 'Science Fair 2007' on Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) premises in the city yesterday. BCSIR organised the science fair.

AL would legitimise

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Parliamentary election was held as early as possible to save democracy.

"Delaying election in a democratic process is not a good sign...the caretaker government should hold the polls earlier to save democracy," she said, adding that it would not be good to keep the election postponed for an indefinite period.

Talking to reporters at Zia International Airport (ZIA) prior to her departure for US, Hasina said people had waged movement for free, fair and credible polls to elect a government of their choice.

"Frustration may generate among the people for delaying the polls...frustration leads to agitation, but we don't want any further agitation," she said.

Hasina left here by a British Airways flight to see her ailing daughter-in-law Christina who has been suffering from gall bladder complications. On way to Washington, Hasina may stay a couple of days in London to see her younger sister Sheikh Rehana.

Terming the caretaker government an "outcome" of the Awami League-led alliance's movement, Hasina said it would be shameful and also a failure for them, if the caretaker administration failed to hold free and fair election at the right time.

Referring to the current anti-graft operation, the AL president said people are appreciating the drive and they will applaud the caretaker government if it assists to run the country under democratic process.

"Don't be afraid of the drive by the joint forces. There is nothing to fear as this drive is being conducted for catching big thieves and curbing corruption," she said and vowed that she would intensify the anti-graft drive if voted to power.

Hasina urged the caretaker government to continue the drive against thieves, corrupts and those who grabbed and smuggled out people's wealth. "But some innocent people had been arrested during this drive. Why Obaidul Quader and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir were arrested? How much wealth they have?"

She said: "When I spoke against the corruption of the coalition government, everybody thought it was due to political vindictiveness. But the current drive has proved that BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are really corrupt."

About the search at her Sudha Sadan by the army-led joint forces, the AL chief urged the caretaker administration to conduct similar search at Khaleda Zia's house at

Dhaka Cantonment. "Let the people see the lifestyle of Khaleda Zia's family and what they possess."

Describing speculations over her visit to America for uncertain period as rumour, Hasina said some people are spreading such rumour only with bad intention. "Where shall I go? I am begging just 30 days out of 365 from the people for my son," she said.

She said political activities have been restricted and Joy's wife gave birth to a daughter recently. "I should have gone earlier, but only for the people's interest, I deprived my only son," she said, adding that she would return home at any moment to help solve the people's problems.