



A mobile court of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) checks food items at Royal Restaurant in Lalbagh during an anti-adulteration drive in the capital yesterday. The restaurant was fined Tk 1 lakh for using illegal food colourings, poisonous chemicals and used cooking oil.

PHOTO: STAR

BSTI fines 7 restaurants Tk 5.95 lakh in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two mobile courts of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution yesterday fined seven restaurants Tk 5.95 lakh for using illegal food colourings, poisonous chemicals and used cooking oil to manufacture Iftar items.

The restaurants are Alauddin Sweetmeat Ltd in Chawk Circular Road (Tk 2 lakh); Royal Restaurant in Harinath Gosh Road, Lalbagh (Tk 1 lakh); Star Hotel and Kabab in Dhanmondi (Tk 1.75 lakh); Voot Restaurant in Dhanmondi (Tk 45,000); and Ambala Sweetmeat, Iftari

Bazar and Dominous Pizza in Dhanmondi (Tk 25,000 each).

Magistrate Rahima Khatun conducted the drive in Alauddin Sweetmeat Ltd and Royal Restaurant while Magistrate Saiful Azam conducted the drive in the remaining restaurants, said a BSTI press release.

The Daily Star could contact only the authority of Ambala Sweetmeat. The company proprietor, Iqbal Khan, said they had not used any harmful chemicals and the mobile court carried out the drive in Ambala Inn in Dhanmondi, not Ambala Sweetmeat.

'Harmful' energy drinks flood northern region

Lax monitoring blamed

UNB, Pabna

Energy drinks laced with drugs that stimulate sex have flooded the market in the northern region, including Pabna district, posing serious health risks for the young generation.

Locals said the producers of these drinks were especially luring the youth, taking advantage of nonexistence of an effective law or strong monitoring system to curb the production, marketing and distribution of such soft drinks.

They demanded the authorities concerned take effective steps immediately to stop the production of these soft drinks, toxic beverages and juices and clear them off the market.

They alleged that a section of businessmen were manufacturing such harmful drinks under the brand names like "Ruchita Feelings", "Hot Feelings", "Super Power Feelings", "Super Drinks", "Triple X", "Horse Power", "Horse Feelings", "Fast Horse" and "Power, Manpower" without obtaining valid documents or permission from the authorities concerned.

These illegal companies supply their products on credit to department stores, grocery shops, cigarette and betel leaf shops, and roadside makeshift shops to make them available to all.

Each bottle of the drinks or can contains instructions like "Mixed Fruit Drinks", "Only for Adults" and sells at Tk 45-60.

Sources at the Narcotics Control Department (NCD) said narcotic ingredients had been found in the drinks under those brand names. The drinks were found to be containing "opiate" and "Sildenafil Citrate" in laboratory tests, they said.

"Opiate made from opium and Sildenafil Citrate is an aphrodisiac, which is listed as deadly narcotics," a NCD chemist said.

Capt (ret'd) Sarwar Jahan Faiz, a noted physician of Pabna, said these drinks and beverages contained M Fitamin, toxic chemicals. "Regular intake of these beverages will lead to heart, lungs, liver and kidney failures."

Shop owners at Bypass Intersection, Afria and Chadmari in Pabna town, preferring anonymity, said young people, including female, consumed these beverage and juice items. Addicted youths often crowd the shops to buy the soft drinks, they added.

KM Tanvir Anwar, company commander of Rab-12 (Pabna), said they have raided a fake soft drink-making factory in Afria area and seized 40,000 bottles of stimulant drinks and toxic beverage of different brands recently.

In another drive, Rab-12 sealed off Fast Food HBD Ltd, an unlicensed beverage and stimulant juice manufacturing plant at Chadmari Intersection, and fined its owner Tk 50,000.

Rab-12 also raided a warehouse of a soft drink-manufacturing factory and seized 888 bottles of syrup and juice items of "Horse Feelings" brand and arrested one person from the spot on July 10.

Fix number of defence witnesses to be allowed

AK Khandker urges ICT judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum Chairman Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker yesterday urged the International Crimes Tribunals judges to fix the number of defence witnesses to be taken into cognisance during the trial.

His call came against the backdrop of the submission of the names of 15,000 defence witnesses in four cases against four top Jamaat leaders recently.

Khandker, also the planning minister, said, "In parliament, we are directed to complete our speech within a specific period. Similarly, the judges can issue a direction on the number of witness whose depositions it would take into cognisance."

The lawmaker was addressing an Iftar party organised by Sector Commanders Forum-Liberation War '71 in the capital's Shaheen Hall auditorium. "If the depositions of thousands of witnesses are taken into cognisance, the trial will be prolonged," he said, adding that the provision providing war crimes convicts the opportunity to appeal against their conviction should be cancelled.

"I will urge the government, especially the law minister, to scrap this provision because it will cause the trial's completion to take double the time," he said. "The war criminals are spending crores of taka to spread propaganda against the trial across the world. But we could not do anything against this," he said.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim attended the function.

Workers block road in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Labourers blocked the Dhaka-Narayanganj old road in Fatullah upazila for an hour yesterday protesting an attack on a labour leader that left the leader injured.

Piash Ahmed Sohal, 35, general secretary of Load-unload Workers' Union, was shot by unidentified miscreants in Aliganj Rail Line area in the upazila Friday night, said witnesses and police.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Protesting the incident, hundreds of agitated workers took to the street near Aliganj around 10:00am and put up barricades on the road disrupting vehicular movements.

The workers withdrew the blockade around 11:00am when police assured them of arresting the culprits soon.

They also suspended their work for the day.

No case was filed in connection with the attack.



Society for Alternative Sustainable Activities (SASA) along with three other organisations forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding strict enforcement of the ban on hydraulic horns.

PHOTO: STAR

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