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'EXCESSIVE' LEAD IN PRAN TURMERIC

Govt chooses to wait on proof

Superstores put it off shelf on consumer concern

SOHEL PARVEZ

Supermarkets have started to voluntarily pull out Pran's turmeric powder from the shelves in the wake of detection of excessive lead in the product by the US authorities.

"We have decided to remove Pran's turmeric powder for the time being given the consumers' concerns," Sabbir Hasan Nasir, executive director of Shwapno, which has 43 outlets in Bangladesh and one franchise in London, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The retail chain, run by ACI Logistics, also plans to test the product on its own at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and

Industrial Research (BCSIR). "Based on the test result, we will take our next decision," Nasir added.

Shaheen Khan, chief operating officer of Meena Bazar, which has 18 stores in the country, said the supermarket chain has stopped selling the product from yesterday after customers' voiced concerns.

"If the US authorities have found something wrong in a Pran product, the matter must be taken up seriously. And this isn't the first time that allegations of food adulteration have come up against Pran," said Nazim Ahmed, who regularly purchases

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Scope for talks now created

US envoy says after meeting Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena yesterday said both Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia had opened the doors to a dialogue.

"We all heard the honourable prime minister just a couple of days ago make a statement in which in my view she opened the door to dialogue and we just heard a few hours ago the honourable leader of the opposition's statement,

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Nizami favoured

War crimes tribunal allows questionable witness to testify for him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Allegedly intentional but definitely sloppy defence work almost led to the testimony of the first defence witness expunged from the war crimes case against Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday.

Much to the dismay of the prosecution, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 later accepted the witness even though the defence had twice "made mistakes" in mentioning the witness's name on the witness list.

As per the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, the defence have to submit a list of witnesses they would use and Nizami's counsel submitted a list of 10,111 witnesses during the trial.

Earlier this month, the tribunal cut the number of defence witnesses to four.

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Lawmaker or lawbreaker?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh



Supporters of State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mozibur Rahman Fakir entered a village home in Gouripur upazila on Friday afternoon and filmed a septuagenarian woman for not hanging the photos of Bangabandhu and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the wall.

Waiting outside in a car with a police escort, the state minister hurled abuse at the woman's son Ekram Hossain, convener of the Sachetan Nagorik Samaj (SNS), a citizen

communications manager at the Institute of Governance Studies at Brac University, Ekram was not at home during the incident.

In a written complaint to The Daily Star, Ekram said local Awami League activist Abdul Munnaif, along with another person, entered the house in Gabhishimul village and filmed his elderly mother.

Sachetan Nagorik Samaj in the last five years has revealed many incidents of

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