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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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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,

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

## 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.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## 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 citizens' body in Gouripur, complained Ekram.



Mozibur Rahman

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 Munna, 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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A photo taken last month shows the under-construction Gulshan Centre Point at Gulshan-2 in the capital. The High Court ordered a halt to the work in March.

PHOTO: STAR

## GULSHAN HIGHRISE No respect for HC stay?

North city corporation developer go ahead flouting rules

TAWFIQUE ALI

Brazenly defying a High Court stay order, Dhaka North City Corporation and a real-estate developer are going ahead with the construction of a highrise near Gulshan-2 without environment or height clearances.

Work on the building's interior is on and a basement is being used commercially.

Dhaka City Corporation, before it was split in two, had dubiously approved the 26-story Gulshan Centre Point even though only an authorised officer of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) could approve a building that was within the master plan of the capital.

Dhaka City Corporation approved the highrise without the mandatory clearance of the Department of Environment and height clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh.

The corporation reached a property sharing deal with the real estate developer United Group, giving the latter 75 percent of the built-up property along with the ownership of proportionate land.

The land, however, belongs to Rajuk and is earmarked in the master plan of Dhaka as public facilities.

ATM Shamsul Huda, former chief election commissioner, whose home is near the proposed highrise, and Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) had filed a petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the building following a news report carried by this paper last December.

The court in March stayed the construction work of the building.

The building was up to the 11th floor by the time the court ordered the stay, said Huda, adding that the builder then hurriedly added three more floors.

"Moreover, the developer made frantic attempts to make the building ready for commercial use and in early July opened up one of its basements for a massive departmental store named Unimart," he said.

Construction workers and security personnel there told The Daily Star recently that the building had been constructed up to the 15th floor and that work on the interior was going on day and night.

Abul Kalam Azad, vice-chairman of United Group, said the firm had halted vertical construction on the 15th floor after getting the court order. "We are now going on with the internal construction work," he said, adding that the court did not bar them

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



## Technology keeps young adults from walking

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

A quarter of young adults aged between 18 and 24 only walk an average of five minutes a day, according to Bupa who surveyed 2,000 people.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Cops scuffle with Khaleda's staff, pick Tuku

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Chhatra Dal president Sultan Salahuddin Tuku was detained from BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's convoy during a scuffle between police and her personal staff late last night.

Khaleda was leaving the party headquarters after seeing BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, who was reportedly sick and residing in the office.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7

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**Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with the main opposition BNP that the PM's proposal on polls-time government is a "trick to confuse people"?

Yes (75%) No (25%)

TOTAL VOTES: 276

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think that the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's formula on polls-time government is acceptable?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING October 22**

Fajr	4:50	5:25
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:36	5:39
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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