Iftar on the go at Sadarghat

Shaheen Mollah

By the time Abdur Rahman and his family reached Sadarghat launch terminal it was almost 4pm. Though they have to board a launch to Barishal in the evening, the family of four decided to get there early.

MAKA

They knew how erratic and chaotic the situation may become at Dhaka's maritime gateway, as thousands of people are leaving the city to spend Eid with their loved ones back home.

The terminal is quite a sight with passengers -- exhausted, 5 excited and worried -- trying to get onto vessels to secure $\ddot{\circ}$ seats, and boats of different shapes and sizes arriving from southern districts, ready to depart again with homegoers.

Amid the constant pushing and shoving, complaints of being charged extra for tickets and delay in service, Rahman, a hawker by profession, somehow managed to secure seats for his family. They sat on the deck of "MV Achal-6" and waited patiently for the journey home to start.

It was 6pm already.

"How are we going to break our fast?" his wife asked. Rahman decided to get some iftar for the family from shops beside the terminal but quickly discarded that line



of thought as he knew he will not be able to get back in time due to the crowd.

But he need not worry.

Vendors carrying iftar items (chhola, piyaju, beguni, muri, alur chop, dates, fruits etc.) walk around the launch decks and sell those. Upon request, they serve a concoction of iftar items in a small plastic bag to passengers. There are also vendors who sell bottled water, a must-have.

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Most militants on bail gone into hiding: Rab DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 300 out of 512 militants arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) since the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in 2016 were released on bail, and most of them have gone into hiding, Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed said yesterday.

"The militants who went into hiding are trying to regroup. But we want to assure all that they will not be able to continue their attempts for long," the Rab DG said while exchanging views with reporters on security measures for Eid at Rab's media centre.

The Rab chief also said there is risk of militant attacks at global and national levels. "We have taken measures coordinating our intelligence with that of other agencies," he said. "We are ready to face any challenge," he added.

Benazir also requested lawyers not to

advocate for militants.

The Rab DG said those who are working to help secure bail for militants might become victims of militant attacks themselves. "It will be suicidal to give legal assistance to militants," he said.

Regarding security during Eid, he said Rab has enforced its security arrangement so that people can go home and come back at peace.

The elite force has already set up 15 temporary camps at bus, train stations and launch terminals in the capital. Besides, the force is monitoring 42 vulnerable areas across the country. Moreover, Rab will ensure security at around 500 venues including Jatiya Eidgah where the main Eid congregation will take place, the Rab chief said.

Rab has also chalked out a separate plan to ensure security in cities and towns which will be comparatively empty during the Eid holidays.

6 Ukrainians arrested over ATM fraud

The Daily Star | 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested six Ukrainian nationals over their involvement in withdrawing cash from an ATM through illegal means.

They were arrested from Hotel Olio Dream Heaven at Panthapath on Saturday, Shahidur Rahman Ripon, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Police's Metropolitan detective branch (east), told The Daily Star.

The detainees are: Valentine, Oleg, Dennis, Sergei Nazari, and Volobihain. They were taken to DB office on Minto SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



ANYTHING FOR THE PERFECT SHOT... A group of Chinese photographers find their vantage points -- squatting and kneeling on rail tracks -- as they photograph a hand-fan seller. The photo was taken at the Airport Railway Station yesterday.

BCL dilly-dallying on revealing names of 'controversial' leaders

Protesters say, continue demos at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League is yet to disclose the names of the 19 "controversial" leaders it dropped from its recently-announced central committee, as a faction of the organisation -- the student wing of ruling Awami League -- continued its protests over the matter yesterday.

On May 15, two days after announcing its 301-member central committee, BCL President Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and General Secretary Golam Rabbani promised to expel 17 "controversial" members of its central committee within 24 hours, as per a directive of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

On May 28, they vacated 19 posts, though the controversial leaders were not named, nor were it disclosed which posts were vacated.

A faction of BCL leaders who body. been demonstrating since announcement of the committee, alleged that top leaders of the organisation are deceiving a group of dedicated leaders by violating commitments repeatedly, and said they have no faith in any assurance anymore.

They staged a sit-in at Raju eighth consecutive day yesterday, and vowed to continue it.

dropped as per the prime minister's directive. Otherwise, we will launch tougher movement and will celebrate Eid at the Raju sculpture without our parents," said Iftekhar Ahmed

Chowdhury Shajib, former deputy environmental secretary of the student

Tanvir Hasan Saikat, a former BCL member and an incumbent member of Ducsu, alleged that president and general secretary of the organisation are trying to back those controversial leaders, and that is why they are violating commitments and directive of the PM repeatedly.

When asked why the 19 were not sculpture on the DU campus for the named, Golam Rabbani said, "Some of the central committee members in question are trying to prove "Controversial leaders must be themselves innocent. Out of respect for their image, we are not publishing their names yet. We will discuss these issues with apa (PM Sheikh Hasina) when she returns to the country, and will act according to her instructions."

The Versatile TOMATO Healthy There is a long-lasting debate on what tomato should be categorised as: a fruit or a vegetable? Although from the perspective of botany, it is a fruit, tomatoes are eaten and prepared like a vegetable. You can preserve it and use it round the year; you can add it in curries, slice them up and toss them in a salad, roast them and make chutneys and if you're feeling a little adventurous, you can even make desserts out of it. The possibilities of this vegetable are endless! The health benefits of tomatoes are diverse.

Tomatoes contain Vitamin A, which boosts immunity and helps improve vision and skin health. They also contain Vitamin K, which is good for bones, and potassium, a key nutrient for heart function, sandy loam soil to grow. Fertilisers such as TSP, muscle contractions, and maintaining a healthy potash, urea are applied on the land before planting blood pressure and fluid balance. Tomatoes are also the seeds. Pesticides are applied later on tomato a great source of Vitamin C which, along with other leaves. Initially, irrigation is required daily after components, helps fight the formation of free transplanting the seedlings. The interval for irrigation radicals. Tomatoes possess an antioxidant called may gradually increase, ranging from 3-4 days to lycopene, which gives them their red colour. 10-12 days. Tomatoes can be harvested on alternate Lycopene also protects against different types of days, approximately three months after plantation. It cancer. Consuming tomatoes helps reduce blood is important to cover tomatoes with nets as they are glucose in people with diabetes. Tomatoes are also prone to be eaten by birds when they become ripe. considered among the best foods that contribute Sirajul Islam Pintu, along with many farmers of towards maintaining healthy teeth and bones. the area, provides vegetables for Shwapno under the

> Shuddho project. According to Sirajul, this initiative has helped him adopt the right agricultural practices for growing tomatoes, especially in terms of learning about how much fertiliser or pesticide should be used. Farmers also have an opportunity to learn about the interval period between pesticide application and harvesting, known as the Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI).

Tomatoes aren't merely condiments you add to dishes. They are powerhouses filled with nutrients that one needs for a healthier life.





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Topical application of tomato juice plays a role in

curing severe sunburns. Tomatoes keep the digestive

system healthy by preventing both constipation and

diarrhoea. They also prevent jaundice and effective-

Sirajul Islam Pintu, a tomato farmer from

Kollapara, Jhenaidah, shares his experience of

ly remove toxins from the body.

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