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Unscientifically fattened cattle may cause health hazard

Star Report

Cattle fattened with the 'careless' use of artificial growth stimulants could be hazardous for human consumption, several scientists observed.

Officials at the Department of Livestock Services, Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute and the Public Health Institute expressed concern over the excessive use of such stimulants. There are no facility available in the country to measure the extent of 'hazard', they said.

In recent years, most farmers have shifted to artificially fattening of cattle, particularly for the Eid cattle markets. A veterinarian of the Livestock Department said that in many cases it was observed that 'greedy' cattle producers were injecting hormones and other stimulants in order to make a quick profit during the Eid season.

These fattening drugs, especially hormones, if administered without expert advice

could be retained by the meat and eventually can be harmful for human consumption," he said.

Others said that no regulatory act on animal nutrition or such drug administration exist in the country. In developed countries despite regulations on animal feeds which contain hormones and other drugs, various animal diseases are reported.

A top official of the BSTI said that the government has never created any facility to test the affect of drug use in cattle fattening. "We have to develop laboratory facilities to see what can be found in such beef, at the moment our scientists cannot say anything about it," he said.

Another top official of the Livestock Department said that the traditional cattle fattening process existed in the country for a long time. "Earlier, farmers used traditional feeds such as stale and soaked rice, Kholl and hay, but recently the fatten-

ing is done through feeding the cattle urea and drugs widely available in the markets," he said.

He again stressed the need for a regulatory measure on such fattening processes and pointed out that random use of these drugs on cattle could have an adverse effect on public health.

At the IPH an official said that its laboratory was not equipped with any device to check the beef or meat. When asked about her opinion on the matter, she said, "we know excessive use of such drugs on animals for meat could be harmful for humans but we do not know up to what extent."

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) which is authorised to certify every cattle on its fitness before slaughter only checks up the overall condition of the cattle. "Do you think we have a lab to test meat?" asked a DCC official.



A Thai dancer performing at the inauguration of Thai Trade Fair '97 at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Agri research cooperation accord with Iran signed

Bangladesh and Iran have agreed to expand institutional cooperation in the field of agricultural research and technology, reports UNB.

The agreement was reached at a meeting between Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury and her Iranian counterpart Isha Kharantari on Tuesday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

They also pointed out various sectors of cooperation in the field of Agriculture and held a detailed discussion on possible avenues.

Motia is now in Tehran to attend a five-day International Rain Water Catchment Conference. She was accompanied by Dilara Harun MP and Bangladesh ambassador to Iran Syed Moazzam Ali.

Pak NDC team calls on President

The visiting 12-member delegation of the Pakistan National Defence College team made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Rear Admiral Masood M Bani, Chief Instructor of the National Defence Wing of Pakistan National Defence College led the delegation.

The President stressed the necessity of training cooperation between the members of the Armed Forces of Bangladesh and Pakistan and expressed satisfaction that such cooperation is being widely expanded.

The leader of the delegation expressed his gratitude to the President for receiving them.

Police raid RU hall: 24 held

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Apr 23: A huge contingent of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) raided Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall of Rajshahi University last night and arrested 24 students.

According to official sources, 10 platoon police led by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of RMP cordon off the hall at zero hours and conducted the raid.

No arms and ammunition were recovered. Later 5 of the arrested were released and rest 19 were produced before the magistrate's court today.

Proctor Prof M Mukhlesur Rahman and Provost Dr Abdur Rahman Siddiquee were present during the raid.

Meanwhile, Tanaar Thana unit of BNP called a half-day hartal tomorrow to protest against the alleged harassment by police and demanding the release of those arrested.

One succumbs to bullet injuries

By Staff Correspondent
A young man who was shot by an armed gang at Mirpur in the city Sunday night died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday afternoon, hospital sources said.

The victim, Mokbul Alam alias Nadim, 24, came under attack near his house at Mirpur section-2.

UNB quoting, Police said Nadim returned home from Malaysia three months ago. They suspected that the killing might be a sequel to conflict between two local groups.

Nadim's mother, Jahanara Begum, filed a case with Mirpur thana accusing nine persons of the killing.

Zafrullah made Privatisation Board chairman

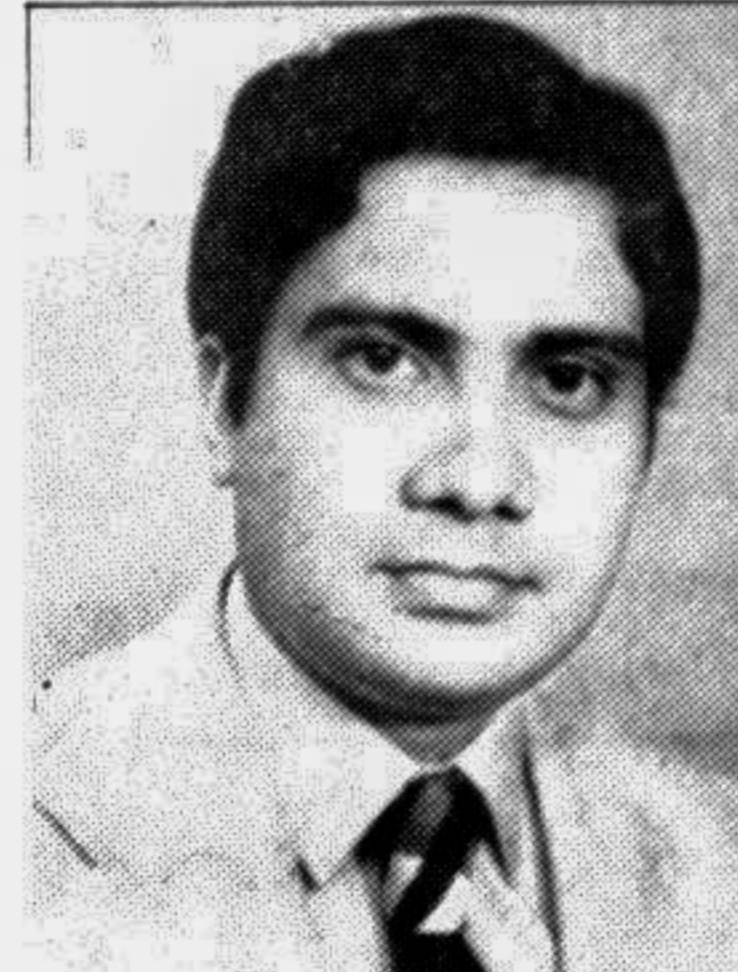
Chairman of Reliance Group of Companies Kazi Zafrullah has been appointed honorary chairman of the Privatisation Board.

According to a gazette notification, the newly appointed chairman of the Privatisation Board will enjoy the status of a state minister, but he would not take any salary, allowance or financial benefits.

Born in 1949 at Bhangra, Faridpur, Zafrullah graduated in 1969 and completed his MA in 1970 from the History Department of Dhaka University.

The Reliance Group currently operates the Reliance Spinning Mills at Kanchpur, the Reliance Textile Industry at Mirpur and is currently implementing a joint venture project for setting up the Hong Kong Shanghai Manjula Textiles at Sreepur.

Kazi Zafrullah is actively involved with the DCCI, MCCI, Foreign Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Textile Mills Association, Inland Ship Owners' Association and the Frozen Food Exporters' Association.



By Staff Correspondent

Hasina meets Shahabuddin

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina, who returned home on Sunday after performing the holy Hajj, exchanged Eid greetings with the President.

Ershad ready to meet '3 rebels' without preconditions

By Staff Correspondent
Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad is ready to meet the 'rebels' in his party only if they came without preconditions, sources close to him said.

The spokesman for the three rebel leaders, however, reiterated that they would not meet Ershad unless Kazi Zafar Ahmed's expulsion was withdrawn. They had also discussed their future strategy.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Shah Moazzam Hossain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed have challenged the leadership of Ershad in the party.

Ershad is firm not to withdraw the expulsion of Kazi Zafar, sources concerned said.

20 more killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, India, Apr 23: Fourteen Muslim separatists and an Indian army officer were among 20 people killed in five separate incidents in the northern state of Kashmir, a defence spokesman said today, reports AFP.

Four militants belonging to the Harkat-ul-Ansar separatist group were gunned down by Indian troops in a battle Tuesday night in the northern Kashmiri district of Baramulla, the spokesman said.

An Indian soldier was critically injured in the attack, he said. Three other Muslim separatists and an Indian army officer died in a firefight in the southern district of Doda, he added.

Meanwhile, police said Indian border guards, deployed in thousands across the Himalayan state, shot dead four Kashmiri militants in Rajouri district.

In another incident, three Muslim militants and three civilians were killed by Indian troops during a gunbattle at Butwani, on the outskirts of capital Srinagar overnight, they said.

Police today also recovered two bullet riddled bodies in northern Kashmir.

Rape, abduction

From Page 1
M Azizul Haq also instructed policemen to take steps to stop incidents of car lifting and make "special efforts" to recover stolen cars, said the press release.

Dr Nurul Islam of Dhaka University suggested that participation of local governments should be ensured. "The local government should be allowed to develop slums in their respective areas," he said.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, said there was a need for public information on the role of slum dwellers in the economic development.

The meeting was conducted by Sultana Kamal, member of Aino-Salish Kendra.

3 flights forced to land at Ctg airport

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 23: Two domestic flights and one international flight were forced to land at Chittagong airport after being diverted from Dhaka today due to inclement weather there, airport officials said.

The flights were Calcutta-Dhaka, Sylhet-Dhaka and Sheydupur-Dhaka.

The flights were diverted at noon and those left Chittagong airport for Dhaka between 5:30 pm to 6 pm, they said.

Landless people

From Page 1
never solve the problems. Can we house 40 per cent of the population?" he asked.

Justice Naimuddin, a member of the Law Commission, commenting on the draft Bill said it had to be closely seen how far it would be in conformity to the public policy. "I myself was born in a slum in Calcutta, when I went to visit it two years ago I found out that nothing has changed for them in 65 years. Whereas, the government there had enacted so many acts for their protection," Justice Naimuddin said.

Dr Nurul Islam of Dhaka University suggested that participation of local governments should be ensured. "The local government should be allowed to develop slums in their respective areas," he said.

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BNP yet to finalise

From Page 1
Bhuiyan MP told The Daily Star, "Nothing on the nature of a fresh agitation and the announcement for its launching have been planned as yet. It is also undecided if the standing committee will chalk out such a programme."

Replying to another question Bhuiyan said that the standing committee was expected to meet soon after all its members returned to the capital following Eid celebrations in their respective home districts.

The next round of agitation is unlikely to include programmes like hartal or road barricade in view of the HSC examinations scheduled to begin on May 8, and the onset of the rainy season, another influential BNP leader said. The next

Mannan Bhuiyan condemns arrest of party workers

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday condemned the arrest of party activists in different parts of the country and demanded withdrawal of the 'false' cases filed against them, reports UNB.

In a statement, he alleged that leaders and workers of the BNP and its front organisations of Senbag, Charfashion, Gouranadi, Jhenidah, Shaalakupa, Laxmipur and Iswardi were arrested, or being harassed with false cases.

People in power live in 'fool's paradise' if they think that they can rule the country in '72-75 style through torture and repression," Bhuiyan said.

He demanded unconditional release of the detained party activists.

Sounding a note of warning to the government, the BNP leader said befitting reply would be given through intensified agitation against the government if the leaders were not released from jail and the cases not withdrawn immediately.

Japan to provide Tk 30m for expansion of MTP

Japan is likely to provide Tak 30 million for extension and expansion of the Mohara Water Treatment Plant in Chittagong, a senior official of Economic Relations Division (ERD) yesterday said, reports BSS.

The official said the government of Japan will conduct the feasibility study of the plant in response to the request of the government of Bangladesh.

Accordingly, he said, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the official agency responsible for the implementation of the technical cooperation programmes of the government of Japan, would undertake the study in close cooperation with the ministry concerned.

He said a five-member preliminary study team, led by Haruo Iwahori of JICA, visited Bangladesh from March 30 to April 21 and held a series of meetings with the senior officials of the ministry concerned to discuss extension and expansion programme of the project.

Three objectives have been set for the feasibility study, which include formulation of a basic plan for improvement of extension and expansion of Mohara Water Treatment Plant (MTP) for the target year 2010, conducting a feasibility study on the priority projects selected from the basic plan and transferring technology on planning methods.

Meanwhile, Japan has asked the government to take some measures to facilitate the smooth conduct of the study.

They are, ensuring safety to the members of the Japan study team, allowing them to enter, leave and sojourn in Bangladesh for the duration of their assignment and exempt them from foreign registration requirements and consular fees, exemption from taxes, duties, fees and any other charges on equipment, vehicles and other materials brought into Bangladesh for conduct of the study, providing necessary facilities for the remittances as well as the utilisation of the funds introduced into Bangladesh from Japan in connection with the implementation of the study, securing permission for the team to enter into private property or restricted areas and providing medical services.

GDP growth

From Page 1
country's economic performance would register the above GDP growth in the next two years.

Giving an elaborate account of the reform programmes taken up by the present government the report said the government has identified over 50 SOEs including textile factories, sugar mills, chemical industries and steel plants for privatisation by the middle of 1997.

Incentives for build-operate-transfer schemes and other investments to attract private investment in the power sector includes 15 years of exemption from corporate income tax and allowed to import plant and equipment without paying customs duties, value added tax and surcharges.

The growth of the industrial sector is likely to be seven per cent in 1997 and 9.5 in 1998, the report added.

In the agricultural sector, the country is set to improve long-term prospects, the report said, adding, the sector would expand by over two per cent in 1997 and 1998.

'72 BB order

From Page 1
ment and maintenance of sound economic discipline for survival in the competitive market-driven economy.

He also stressed the role of non-banking institutions in nation-building activities and their responsibility to give necessary momentum to the economy.

The representatives of the non-banking institutions were unanimous in their view that the 1993 Act which now governs them and monitor their activities had made a fundamental departure from the basic principles of Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972. In that Order, they asserted, a clear distinction was drawn between non-banking institutions accepting deposits and those which do not accept any public deposits. For those accepting deposits, a special chapter was added in the Order laying down the norms and parameters for their guidance and the role of Bangladesh Bank monitoring their activities to protect the interest of the depositors. For those not accepting deposits from the public, no monitoring role of the Bangladesh Bank was envisaged, they maintained.

The representatives of foreign investment companies also favoured restoration of the 1972 Act pointing out that their investments in Bangladesh are governed by certain agreements signed between them and the Government, which are protected under the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Act and that the 1993 Act unilaterally changed this fundamental protection of their right.

The Governor assured the meeting that he would raise these issues with the Government and the Standing Committee for their consideration.

AL presidium reviews preparations for council

A meeting of the presidium members of the Awami League yesterday reviewed the progress of different sub-committees constituted to make the coming party council a success, reports UNB.

The meeting held at Ganobhaban with Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in the chair decided to take all-out measures for successful holding of the council.

The ruling party council session will be held in the capital May 6-7.

One killed, 50 hurt as villagers clash in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Apr 23: A young man was killed and 50 people were injured in a clash between the inhabitants of two villages in Kotwali thana here today, reports UNB.

The youth was identified as Mominul Hossain, 22. But identity of the seriously injured five, who were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, could not be immediately known.

Police said villagers of Adarshapara and Babulka of the thana locked in a two-hour-long clash with lethal weapons over a trifling matter.

Mominul was killed and 50 people were injured in attacks, when the villagers of Babulka swooped on the neighbouring Adarshapara at about 10 am.

An altercation between two boys of the two villages over a seat in local Shapla Cinema on Tuesday led to the clash.

Police arrested 20 people from the spot.

30 injured in N'ganj clash

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 23: Thirty people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between police and a group of villagers in Fatulla thana here on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Seriously wounded police personnel habilder Ibrahim, naik Mojibar, constable Moinul Mia and Abdus Samad were admitted to Narayanganj General Hospital. Critically wounded naik Shahabuddin was sent to Dhaka's Rajarbag Police Hospital.

The clash occurred when local police went to the residence of Momen Sikder of village Kashiipur in Fatulla at 11 pm upon a complaint lodged by co-villager Fazar Ali on Monday.

Police discharged 10 round of rubber bullets and lobbed one tear gas shell to bring the situation under control and picked up three people from the spot.

Banks

From Page 1
The Banking Division Secretary said the government was trying to improve the banking system and reduce the percentage of overdue loans. "The government is keen to realise loans within shortest possible time."

Besides, he said, the banks were thinking of more stringent measures against defaulters to realise loans.

Amir-ul-Mulk said the Law Commission had recommended certain measures to deal with the cases relating to financial matters. Setting up of a separate court for disposal of financial cases is under consideration, he disclosed.

Managing Directors of Sonali, Agrani and Janata Banks, and high officials of the Banking Division of the Ministry of Finance were present during the briefing.

Reception to cricketers

From Page 1
Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka MP has been made convenor of the reception committee while Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed the joint convenor and Mosaddek Ali the member-secretary.

The committee was formed at a joint meeting of BNP and its front organisations at the party central office yesterday morning.

The meeting decided to give warm reception to all players, coach and officials of the cricket team, and others concerned.

Meeting sources said the committee would invite all former and current players, coach, asst coach, umpires, physicians, groundsman, cricket clubs and people involved in cricket from top to bottom.

Those with outstanding contributions in the development of country's cricket from the very beginning will also be invited at the reception.

The invitees to the function will also include leaders of different political parties, professional organisations, institutions and federations.

The meeting decided not to deliver any political speech on the occasion, they added.

The members of the reception committee are: Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Goyeshwar Chandray Roy, Major (ret'd) Kamrul Islam, Khurshid Jahan Haq MP, Saaded Hasan Kanon, Golam Faruque Apu, Wasimul Bari Rajib, Meshabuddin Sabu, Habibun Nabi Sohel, Lutfor Rahman Binu, Abu Sayeed Khan Khokon, Nasiruddin Asim, Giasuddin Chowdhury Khokon, Bazul Basit Anju and Saiful Alam Nerob.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the reception committee will be held today at 7 pm at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

Peru

From Page 1
suspension of negotiations in early March.

Moments later, the sunny afternoon calm in the upmarket neighborhood was shattered by the sound of automatic gunfire and a series of explosions that left a thick black pall over the compound.

Local television broadcast the operation live and as the raid unfolded it became clear that many of the hostages were emerging from the residence, many crawling on hands and knees as the chaos continued around them.

Roughly 40 minutes after the operation began, jubilant soldiers appeared on the rooftop of the residence, flashing the 'V' victory sign and indicating that the battle was over.

Soon after that President Alberto Fujimori — who ordered the operation despite the fact that his brother Pedro Fujimori was among the 72 high profile hostages appeared on the scene.

In what at times looked almost like an orchestrated campaign appearance, Fujimori toured the grounds of the residence and embraced the freed hostages as martial music blared out over loudspeakers.

Fujimori announced that one of the 72 hostages, supreme court judge Carlo Giusti Acuna — died of a heart attack during the rescue operation.

In addition, two members of Peru's security forces were killed including a member of his son's security detail, and all 14 of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) hostage-takers were killed, he said.

Twenty-four Japanese nationals including ambassador Morihisa Aoki were freed,

BCL leader

From Page 1
cal College Hospital (DMCH) at around midnight, hospital sources said.

Shamim's uncle Motiar Rahman Talukder filed a case with Tejgaon thana in this connection. None was arrested till last night, police said.

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