

industry, this sort of large scale production will not be possible.

Local breeders complain about the hassle they face with the customs while importing exotic birds from abroad. Interestingly, Environment and Forest and Fisheries and Livestock ministries are now at loggerheads over who will take control of the bird breeding sector. Recently an importer was in big trouble when the Forest Department confiscated an imported consignment worth more than Tk 3 lakh. It contained 52 fancy pigeons, each pair worth Tk 10,000 in the local market, three pairs of fancy hens and other exotic birds. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock had earlier issued permission to import these birds. The Department of Forest brushed aside the livestock ministry's clearance and confiscated the stock at the airport and sold the consignment on auction at an 'unbelievable' price of Tk 7,000.

With the frequent tussles between the two ministries, the importers and breeders went to the Environment and Forest Minister, who, in turn, formed a committee to chalk out an official guideline on import and breeding of fancy birds. In the country the wildlife preservation act of 1974 gives a guideline on the import of wild animals but it does not mention anything about exotic birds bred in captivity. Since May 2004, the committee, headed by Joint Secretary (admin) Mihir Kanti Majumdar, has held two meetings without much progress about the establishment of a guideline. Meanwhile, breeders and importers continue to be hassled.



Breeding exotic, caged birds is a legitimate business that makes good money.

DOS

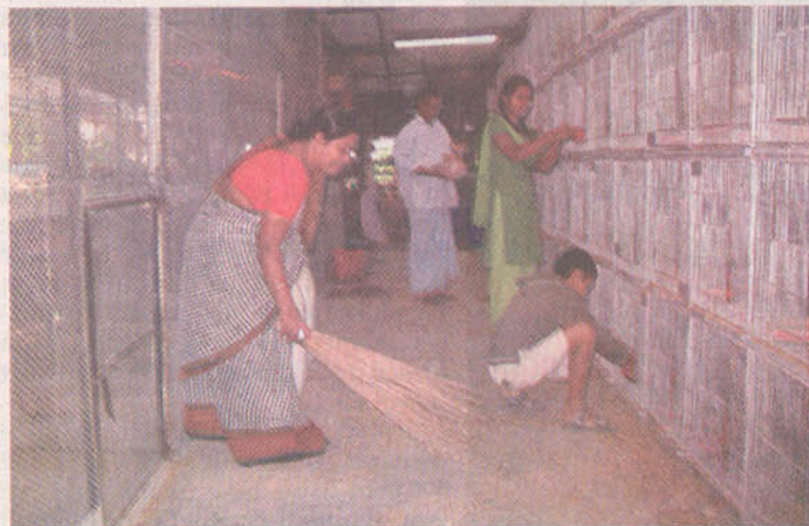
If you are keen on breeding exotic birds the following are the principles to bear in mind. Professional breeder, Azizul Haque Farhad, who is also offering to help anyone interested in breeding, gave these tips.

1. Always buy exotic birds born in captivity.
2. Avoid buying adult birds. An ideal pair should be three month old chicks.
3. Try finding private breeders to buy your birds.
4. Make sure you are buying a male and a female bird for breeding and only experienced breeders could help in this regard.
5. Maintain required space for every different species of exotic bird.
6. Prevention is better than cure -- and always take preventive measures to avoid death of birds.
7. Put a flat bowl with water in it for bathing and keep it only for two hours from 10 am till 12 noon.
8. Take expert advice on food at different stages of breeding.
9. Show your interest during maintenance.
10. Give the birds water that you drink, not water from the tap.

DON'TS

1. Never buy wild birds for keeping or breeding. Remember it is a criminal offence to cage wild birds.
2. Do not leave the food and water unclean at any time. Also never leave the food trolley and water overnight.
3. Do not keep birds where rat infestation is a possibility.

For further information contact Azizul Haque Farhad - 0171544240
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The family at work in the cage shed.