

## Shrimps stumble in EU markets for hazardous antibiotics

Exporters call for improving situation before EU FVO team arrives on October 16

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Frozen food exporters call for identifying origin of two hazardous antibiotics that contaminate shrimps and helping the potential sector sustain its growing market.

Nitrofuran metabolites and Choloramphenicol usually contaminate shrimps, the second largest revenue earner after readymade garments (RMG).

Detection of Nitrofuran metabolites and Choloramphenicol prompted re-dispatch of the exported shrimps and caused huge loss to the concerned exporters, they said.

They also urged the authorities concerned to improve skills and process for detecting antibiotics in fishes as well as developing infrastructures around the fish processing plants before the European Union's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission arrives in Dhaka on October 16.

The FVO mission will be

inspecting hygienic compliance at every step from farming to processing of shrimps to allow continuation of import to the EU countries, said the sources at Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association (BFFEA).

The delegation is also likely to examine operation of the liquid chromatography mass spectrometer (LCMSMS) machine at Department of Fisheries (DoF) laboratory to suggest recognition of the tests and certification made here, they said.

Bangladeshi shrimp had been enjoying an increasing demand in the European and the US markets earning \$ 456.98 million in 2006-2007 Financial Year (FY) against \$ 403.82 million in 2005-2006 FY, sources said.

Some poultry feed and chemicals used in hatcheries are believed to have the hazardous anti-biotic when a primary investigation also has revealed presence of anti-biotic in two such feed - Niribili and Diamond, said

the sources.

Department of Fisheries (DoF) at a meeting on August 8 in 2006 formed a residue monitoring team headed by Mokammel Hossain, director general (DG) of DoF, to probe contamination of shrimps.

The meeting decided to take measures as per the findings and suggestions of the monitoring team and provide the fisheries officers at district and upazila levels with training for monitoring the shrimp hatcheries, encircles and processing plants.

The exporters said only the feed and chemicals used in the hatcheries of saline water shrimps might not be the sole agent of the antibiotic as its presence was mostly reported in prawns cultivated in fresh water.

They said different poultry feeds and insecticides also might contain the antibiotic that can easily find way to prawns and shrimp encircles through poultry litter or rainwater.

In this regard BFFEA Senior

Vice-President Maksudur Rahman said, "Origin of the antibiotic, whatever it might be, should be found out first as its detection in a single fish might bring about re-dispatch or destruction of a whole container."

"As such, all the attention should be focused on finding out the origin of the antibiotic to put an end to contamination of fishes as per the suggestion of the residue monitoring team," he said.

Mokammel said preparation of the investigation report is taking time since some tests had to be done in Singapore due to lack of equipment in the country.

Two Dhaka University teachers are now carrying out research and helping prepare the report which will be submitted soon," he told The Daily Star over phone on Monday.

Sources said the buyers at the port of import ask the exporters to take back the dispatch within two months if the antibiotic is detected in the shrimps.

After expiry of the given time they destroy the fishes with antibiotic and the exporters are to bear the expenses of destruction, said the sources.

As such, the LCMSMS machine was installed at the cost of Tk 3.5 crore to test fishes before export. The machine went into operation on an experimental basis in June this year that conducted over 10 tests so far.

The exporters, however, said the buyers might not accept the tests until EU FVO or US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), recognise those. The two bodies allow import of frozen fish to EU countries and US after examining Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) compliance.

They called for enhancing skill and capacity of machineries, technicians and test for authentic reports and proper certification in the country.



**Autumn Sonata (Kashphul) is there to remind the arrival of autumn giving a touch of white to the nature. The children of Charpatharghata on the other bank of the Karnaphuli are seen all in smile getting lost amid the white of Kashphul symbolising the purity they possess.**



**Illegal occupants encroach on the banks of the river Karnaphuli just beside the entry point of Chakta Khal (canal) on the west of Shah Amanat Bridge. The encroachment is going on at a time when Chittagong Development Authority and Chittagong City Corporation are conducting massive drive to recover the Chakta canal.**

## CDA drives against illegal structures go in vain

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The unauthorised portions of shopping malls and commercial and residential structures that were demolished in recent months have gradually been recaptured in the port city.

These are happening due to the indifference and lack of proper monitoring by the authorities concerned.

The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) knocked down the unauthorised portions of the malls or buildings for not keeping parking spaces in the underground or for violating the design.

The shop and building owners occupied the demolished portions of the structures in few days after the CDA eviction team had left the sites in question. Many of the owners have hanged banners that read "Construction of parking space is going on as per order of CDA" to camouflage the CDA.

A shop owner at the six-story shopping mall Munni Plaza on Bayezid

Bostami Road hung a banner within few days of demolition saying 'work for parking space is on.'

But in reality there was no parking space. The owner occupied the cleared space and extended his shop to that portion again. When asked, shop owner Mintu Chowdhury said he didn't recapture the parking space at all.

The CDA in the posh OR Nizam Road area in July demolished all the underground structures, including departmental shop and pharmacy of nine-storied Royal Hospital & Clinic for violating original design. After few weeks, both the shop and drug store started again their businesses on the space, albeit in reduced scale.

"We never violated the original design, rather we had taken all necessary permission during construction of the floors and spaces of this hospital building," said one of the building owners seeking anonymity.

Some high-rise commercial buildings at GEC Intersection, Agrabad, Sheikh Mujib Road and Nasirabad

have also shown disregard to the CDA drive by occupying demolished portions.

Traders at the ever-busy New Market and its adjoining areas, taking advantage of CDA's indifference, recaptured the open spaces and are doing their business without any problem.

After present caretaker government assumed power in January, the CDA strengthened its drive against the illegal structures and the violation of CDA design. As of yet, they demolished or cleared over 1,500 structures across the city.

CDA Authorisation Officer Ashraful Islam said they face difficulty in continuous monitoring and updating of their drives due to the shortage of manpower. He said the CDA won't spare the owners who have recaptured the demolished space.

CDA Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhtaruddin said they will launch a fresh drive against the violators of rule soon.

## the week that was

### Workshop on rural photojournalism

Speakers urged the photojournalists to work with more responsibility as photography is the most important part in the media.

They were addressing the closing ceremony of the three-day workshop on 'Rural Photo Journalism' organised by Drik News International Photo Agency at Tahir Memorial Hall of Lions Eye Hospital on Saturday.

Chittagong Press Club (CPC) President Ali Abbas, Lions Club Governor Kabir Uddin Bhuiyan, Jahangir Mia and Shaukat Ul Islam were present at the ceremony among others.

Photojournalist Azizur Rahim Piu, Abir Abdullah, Maniruzzaman and Monem Wasif conducted the workshop where practical aspects and tactics of photojournalism were discussed.

A total of 26 photojournalists working in different news media houses including a few freelancers participated at the workshop.

### Three books launched

Speakers at a publication ceremony of three books emphasised the need for reducing distance between the readers and the writers with a view to making the readers acquainted with the creations of the writers.

The publication ceremony of the books of three female writers of the port city was held on Saturday.

Chittagong Academy organised the discussion on Farida Farhad's poetry book titled 'Nadi O Naree, Noro O Bar', Morshed Nasrin's book titled 'Grahan' and Nishit Hasina Shirin's poetry book titled 'Kakkano Shebhabe Bhabini Bole' at the academy auditorium.

Academy Director General Rashed Rauf presided over the discussion while Chittagong University (CU) teacher Prof Dr Md Abul Kashem, Principal of Patharghata Mahila College Dr Prakrity Chakrabarty and Agrabad Mahila College Principal Anwara Alam took part in the discussion.

Ayesha Hoque Shimu, Professor Bikran Barua and SM Abdul Aziz read the biographies of the writers.

Narrating the contents of the two poetry books, the speakers said contemporary topics like patriotism, liberation war and romance have been depicted in the poems that would inspire the readers.

About the collection of stories, they said the author tried to tell about the thoughts of the women community in her writings.

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Dr Koh Chung Fai, a senior gynaecologist consultant at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, said the patients can easily get proper and effective treatment of different uterine cancers as the Singaporean hospital is offering it with its latest upgraded technical support.

He said this while he was presenting the keynote paper at a seminar on 'An Update on the Diagnosis and

Management of Endometrial Cancers' at Dahlia Banquet Hall of Hotel Peninsula on Saturday.

Obstetric and Gynaecology Society of Bangladesh (OSGB) of Chittagong and Parkway Hospitals Singapore PTE Limited jointly organised the seminar.

OSGB Chittagong President Dr Shamsunnahar chaired the seminar while Prof Dr MA Taher Khan, Prof Dr Nasima Begum, Dr Raushan Morshed and official of Parkway Healthcare Information Centre Chittagong Kenneth Roy were present on the occasion.

Prof Dr Chandan Kumar Nath was the chief guest at the seminar while Dr Maleka Begum presented the keynote paper.

Speakers put up necessity of the proper registration and history of diseases for better homeopathic treatment.

The Parishad Central Education and Cultural Secretariat Dr Sadhan Chandra Pal, central leader Dr AMM Humayun Kabir, Dr SM Saleh Jahangir, Dr Mohammad Abdur Rahman, Dr Parimal Chandra Saha and Dr Jahar Lal Bhattacharya spoke.

Kamruzzaman, superintendent of police (SP) of Chittagong, emphasised the need for collective efforts alongside the police to curb crimes in the society.

"Government is committed to ensure the accountability of the policemen," Kamruzzaman said.

He was addressing as the chief guest the "Open House Day" programme of Patiya Police Station under Patiya upazila of the district on Thursday.

Patiya Officer in-Charge Nazrul Islam presided over the programme while former Police Super (DB) Shah Alam Faruqi, Union Parishad Chairman Idris Mian, Patiya Press Club General Secretary Harunur Rashid Siddiqi, Journalists' Association General Secretary MA Hakim Rana and former chairman of Kachuyia Union Abdul Khalek also spoke.

They were speaking at the citizens' condolence meeting in memory of Prof Abdul Karim, organised by Nagorik Shokshabha Committee at Muslim Institute

Hall on Saturday with committee convener Yusuf Chowdhury in the chair.

Acting Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mayor Manjurul Alam, revolutionary veteran Binod Bihary Chowdhury, eminent scientist Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, renowned economist Hossain Zillur Rahman, member of Planning Commission Abdul Mazid, former CU Vice Chancellor (VC) Badul Alam, Dr RI Chowdhury and Prof Fazli Hossain, Chittagong Medical College (CMC) Principal Dr Abdul Wahab, VC of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Dr Nitish Chandra Devnath, Prof Shamsuddin Chowdhury and former state minister Jafrul Islam Chowdhury spoke.

Ispahani School football match held

The team of Class X clinched the title in the inter-class football match of the Ispahani Public School and College on Monday.

They defeated Class IX by a solitary goal in the final played at the school ground. Salman scored the goal in the evenly contested match, witnessed by the teachers, students and guardians.

Later, former national football and captain Ashish Bhadra gave away trophy as the chief guest. School Principal Hasina Zakaria chaired the prize giving ceremony, while Bureau Chief of The Daily Star Shahidul Islam (Bachchu) was present as the special guest.

Ashish urged the students to involve themselves alongside studies in extra-curricular activities like football, cricket and debate.



**Chittagong Press Club (CPC) President Ali Abbas inaugurates the new show-room of HOQ's Door & Furniture Pvt. Ltd. at Agrabad Excess Road recently.**



**Former national football player Ashish Bhadra hands over trophy to the winners of inter-class football competition at the Ispahani Public School and College on Monday.**