

Children's protein

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people of the country will face severe protein deficiency, said Fatema Parvin, director of the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN).

Eshaque Ali, secretary in charge of Bangladesh National Nutrition Council under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said poultry and eggs are first-class sources of protein.

He said the body can absorb 100 percent of the protein in eggs and milk while 70, 80, and 75 percent of protein from beef, mutton and fish can be absorbed.

"As milk became pricey, eggs were the best source of protein in the country. Furthermore, the yolk of an egg contains Vitamin A, D, cholesterol and fat. There are 20 amino acids in eggs and 10 of these are important for children and eight are important for adults," said Prof Shah Keramat Ali of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science of Dhaka University.

Even though pulses, beans and peas contain large amount of vegetable protein, the 20 amino acids cannot be obtained from one of them. It is possible to prepare a food item with peas, beans, rice and oil and only with their combination all the amino acids could be obtained, he said.

People should not panic over bird flu as the avian influenza germ and its H5N1 variant cannot survive over 70 degrees Celsius temperature, experts said adding that if eggs are washed with detergent powder or sodium bicarbonate, it is safe and people can have them after properly boiling them.

If the people who process chicken for cooking properly wash their hands with soap in every stage of the cooking, they do not need to be afraid of infections, experts said adding that it is time to overcome the bird flu fear as the H5N1 strain cannot survive in cooked food.

"Consumption of poultry and eggs in our family has almost halved even though we heard that there is nothing to be afraid of," Rumana Afroz, a housewife, said. She said she does not dare to buy chickens and eggs after watching and reading the media coverage of poultry culling.

"Rather, I am trying to buy more fish and fruits as supplement to the family's diet. But I am facing problems as my children still want eggs and chicken. They do not like fish at all," said Rumana who lives in Mirpur in the capital.

The daily requirement of protein for a child is two grams per kilogram (kg) of body weight. For adults, it is one gram per kg of body weight, nutritionists said. They said half the people of the country get 11 percent protein from all the food they consume in a day. However, one-third gets 17 percent

Law secretary

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On July 5 last year, the writ petition challenging the appointment of Awal as acting law secretary was filed by District and Sessions Judge Aftab Uddin Ahmed.

The HC on July 8 last year issued rule on the government asking it to show cause why the appointment would not be declared illegal.

The court also mentioned in its judgment for investigating the issue of Supreme Court (SC) registrar's sending the letter to the law ministry for appointing Awal.

The government appointed Awal as acting law secretary on June 28 last year after consultation with the Supreme Court.

In its judgment, the HC bench said though the law ministry sought opinion from the SC regarding his appointment as current charge for the post of acting law secretary, the letter given by the registrar of SC recommended his appointment as acting law secretary.

The court requested the chief justice initiate an investigation into the matter as the letter contains inconsistency.

The court in its judgment mentioned that Awal could not be appointed as acting secretary in the ministry in accordance with promotion rules 2002 for the promotion of deputy secretary, joint secretary, additional secretary and secretary.

The verdict also mentioned that Awal had been an additional secretary of the legislative drafting wing of the law ministry.

Article 94 of the constitution of SC incorporates all the judges of HC and SC, said the HC judgment mentioning that though the law ministry requested for the SC's opinion regarding the issue, this HC bench did not know anything about the matter.

As a result of the opinion regarding the appointment of Awal was not of the SC, but an individual opinion of the chief justice, the court mentioned in its order.

Barrister Azmalul Hossain and advocate Kamrul Islam Siddique moved for the petitioner while barrister M Amir-Ul Islam for Awal.

Kazi Awal, a law graduate of Dhaka University, joined the government service as assistant judge in 1981 through Bangladesh Civil Service (Judicial). He served as district judge in different districts and joined the legislative drafting wing of the ministry as joint secretary in 2000. He was promoted to the post of additional secretary in 2003.

Govt close

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be unlike commissions in other parts of the world that seek to reconcile ethnic and racial divisions.

While speaking to BBC Bangla Service radio, head of the expert committee to form the commission Anisul Haq said in the draft politicians would also be allowed to seek rehabilitation.

The government had previously said the commission would only apply for corrupt businessmen.

"Anyone charged with corruption can approach the commission to confess their crimes or the commission can call them if they wish," Anisul said.

Anisul said if the corruption suspects make a confessional statement to the commission and return the wealth they collected through unfair means, some of their citizen rights might be taken away instead of them getting jail sentences.

The new draft may also extend the five-year ban on seeking public office for those who have just finished their jail sentence.

"Our constitution states that if someone receives a two-year jail term for criminal misconduct, then they cannot run in elections or be a public representative," said Anisul, adding the draft would include something similar but the term may be extended.

18 killed

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recovered after the encounter," inspector general of police R K Vij told AFP.

Another 10 insurgents were killed after they fled the area, police sources said.

The violence in Chhattisgarh broke out as security forces clashed with Maoist guerrillas for a third day in neighbouring Orissa state where the rebels killed 13 police and a civilian during the weekend.

At least 20 rebels and three security forces have died so far in retaliatory attacks in Orissa.

Police also recovered 115 rifles, one carbine and a truck full of ammunition which the rebels had looted from police posts during their weekend attack, Orissa's director general of police Gopal Chandra Nanda said.

At least 600 troops, backed by army helicopters are engaged in the gunbattle in Orissa's remote jungles, around 250 kilometres (150 miles) from Bhubaneswar.

Orissa is one of India's poorest states and part of an eastern swathe of the country where the Maoists, who say they are fighting for the rights of neglected tribal people and landless farmers, appear to be gaining ground.

The insurgency grew out of a peasant uprising in 1967 and has hit half of India's 29 states.

Hasina verdict

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Within an hour of delivery of the HC verdict, the government filed a provisional leave petition with the SC seeking a stay. After a hearing on February 12, the apex court asked the government to file a regular application by February 19.

Businessman Azam J Chowdhury filed the case last year against the now detained former prime minister and her cousin Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim.

Meanwhile, hearing on charge framing in the Tk 3 crore graft case against Hasina and seven others is scheduled to be held today at 2:30pm in a special court set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

Firoz Alam, judge of Special Court-1, on February 13 deferred the hearing as the detained AL chief failed to appear before the court due to illness.

He is expected to rule tomorrow on Wednesday's petition seeking bail for Hasina in the case filed for alleged graft in awarding work to set up a barge-mount power plant.

Finance adviser

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The adviser was talking to the newly elected committee of Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) who met him at his office.

The ACC prepares list on the basis of information it collects from different sources while the National Board of Revenue (NBR) also searches for information about individuals if they dodge taxes, Mirza Aziz said.

He also said no investment proposal linked to use of coal will be considered until the coal policy is finalised.

Price hike of rice, edible oil and fuel in the global market has a serious impact on the national economy. Fixed-income people are under tremendous pressure in this situation, the adviser mentioned.

The issue of dearness allowance for public servants will be considered in the next budget, he said. The government's budget, like people's family budgets, is also under pressure.

Mrza Aziz noted that adjustment of administered prices with those in the international market has become difficult forcing the government to give more subsidies. This has created additional pressure on the budget.

ERF President Nazmul Ahsan in a written statement at the meeting proposed formation of a continuing committee comprising people from both public and private sectors to prepare a roadmap for checking price hike.

40 injured

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The coffin out of the capital for burial in his village home at Elenga in Tangail.

Veteran actor Razzak, FDC Managing Director ANM Badrul Amin, film directors Kazi Hayat, Chashi Nazrul Islam, Nasiruddin Dilu, actors Riaz, Zahid Hassan and Afzal Hossain attended the janaza, among others.

Manna suffered a heart attack and died at United Hospital in Gulshan on Sunday.

MANNALAIT TO REST
Our Tangail Correspondent adds: Manna was buried beside his father's grave at Elenga under Kalihati upazila in Tangail yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, a namaj-e-janaza was held at the Central Eidgao in Tangail town at 3:30pm.

Thousands of admirers and others gathered to pay tribute to the actor there.

His body was then taken to his village home where he was buried at 5:15pm.

Another namaj-e-janaza was held at Elenga High School ground.

Born in 1964 in Tangail, Manna acted in around 300 movies during his career.

Banks given 2 weeks

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another meeting with top officials of the commercial banks tomorrow to discuss the matter.

"We are not imposing anything on the banks respecting the climate of free market economy," he said adding, "But at the same time we are alert so that none can take any irrational opportunity."

BAB Chairman Nazrul Islam Majumder, however, defended the current rates saying that running private commercial banks requires higher expenses as they need skilled staff on high pay.

"It will be difficult for us to reduce the lending rates unless the interest on savings certificates and treasury bonds are slashed," Majumder said, talking to the reporters.

"The governor has assured us that the central bank will set the interest rate spread after discussion with all stakeholders," he said.

According to a BB report placed in the meeting, the average interest spread of commercial banks in Bangladesh is 6.16 percentage points, whereas the average international spread ranges between 4 and 5 percentage points.

In the government-owned commercial banks the spread is 5.88 percentage points while 6.17

and 8.98 percentage points in private and foreign commercial banks.

The BB list shows that BRAC Bank has the highest spread rate at 13.47 percentage points. Its average interest rate on deposit is 6.51 percent and lending 19.98 percent. BRAC Bank is followed by Standard Chartered Bank with a spread of 11.60 percentage points. Its average interest rate on deposit is 3.31 percent and that on lending 14.91 percent.

The spread of the Islami Bank Bangladesh, an Islami Shariah bank, is 7.29 percentage points as its average interest on deposit is 6.86 percent and on lending 14.15 percent.

Pointing to the high charges by private and foreign commercial banks, the BB report observed a government-owned bank does not charge clients for account closure while private commercial banks charge from Tk 300 to Tk 500 and the foreign commercial banks from Tk 300 to Tk 1000.

The commercial banks also take negotiation commissions in case of opening the letter of credits for export purposes, it noted.

The BB proposed that the banks withdraw all charges relating to accounts operation and stop taking handling costs from the clients.

another wounded when they were caught in a blast while on foot patrol in the 'Kajaki area, the Ministry of Defence said.

The new casualty took to 16 the number of international soldiers killed in Afghanistan this year. Most of them have been US nationals but the toll also includes Canadian, British, Dutch and Italian troops.

Isaf and the United States, which heads a separate force in Afghanistan that focuses on counterterrorism, have been calling for more troops for the country ahead of an expected surge in the unrest in spring.

"We told him a week ago that a suicide bomber was looking for him," he said.

Afghan officials blamed the extremist Taliban for the attack. But a spokesman for the movement, Yousuf Ahmadi, rejected Taliban involvement, suggesting the motive was fighting against pro-government commanders.

Sunday's bombing was condemned by the United Nations and several Western countries which have a military presence in the war-ravaged country.

The UN Security Council underlined in a statement "the need to bring perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism to justice."

The British Ministry of Defence announced meanwhile Monday that one of its soldiers was killed Sunday in a separate explosion in the southern province of Helmand, which sees some of the worst violence of the Taliban-led insurgency.

The soldier was killed and

the lack any proper sewer system in the area, the adviser urged the Wasa authorities to prepare a plan for setting up a sewage treatment plant for these areas.

Adviser Iqbal said in order to protect the Turag River from pollution during Jitema, the government has already taken a Tk 10 crore project for building a multi-storied toilet facility on the Jitema ground.

Dhaka Wasa now serves about 2 lakh customers. It earned Tk 271 crore in revenue in fiscal year 2006-'07 and it earned another Tk 25 crore from other sectors, he said.

He urged all to come forward and turn Dhaka Wasa into a corruption-free, transparent and profitable service provider.

Jafirin Hossain, senior system analyst of Dhaka Wasa, said the Dhaka Wasa website, www.dhasa.org.bd, contains contact details of high officials of Dhaka Wasa, tender information, forms and guidelines for water and sewerage connection, customer billing information, download and print option for water and sewerage bill of any specific month, option to lodge a complaint and view the action taken by Dhaka Wasa following a particular complaint.

Besides, customers will also be able to lodge their complaints directly to the top management of Dhaka Wasa through this site, Hossain said adding that after the banks that collect Wasa bills are integrated with the online billing system of Dhaka Wasa, customers will be able to pay their bills online.

Abdullah Harun Pasha, chairman of Dhaka Wasa and Raihanul Abedin, managing director of Dhaka Wasa, also spoke at the ceremony.

Earlier, leaders of Jatityabadi Tanti Dal including its General Secretary Humayun Islam Khan met Delwar at his flat in the afternoon on the occasion of its 27th founding anniversary.

At the meeting, Delwar urged the party men to remain united at any cost. Party Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Rizvi Ahmed and Sohrab Uddin were also present.

Tanti Dal leaders also sent a bouquet to the detained party chairperson through jail authorities.

At the meeting, Fakhruddin reminisced about his childhood days at his native village Nagorkandi in this upazila.

He said following construction of Mukterpur bridge, which he inaugurated earlier in the day, a long-cherished dream of the inhabitants of Munshiganj was fulfilled. In this context, he narrated his experiences in crossing the Dhaleswari River by ferry, wasting time.

Referring to production of good-quality potatoes in Munshiganj, which constitutes about 35 percent of total potato production in the country, the head of the caretaker government urged his compatriots to produce maximum amount of good potatoes and assured the producers of all necessary supports.

Responding to the demands of the locals, the CA said he will talk to the authorities concerned for giving two-kilometre new connection for gas supply to Tongbari.

He further said steps have been taken to upgrade Munshiganj Sadar Modern Hospital from 100-bed to 200-bed one involving a cost of Tk 12.50 crore. Instruction has been given to the authorities concerned to immediately accomplish the task.

Regarding other demands, he said those demands will be actively considered by the government.

Representatives from different professions, including potato farmers, fishermen, teachers, journalists, traders, and cold-storage traders, union parishad chairmen and Munshiganj pourasava chairman and UNO also spoke at the exchange-of-opinion meeting conducted by Munshiganj DC Md Moniruddin.

Govt advancing

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certainly come out of the vicious cycle gradually.

"People's cooperation is necessary to eliminate the corruption...people have to nurture such an attitude that they won't commit and tolerate corruption," he told his audience.

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During the rule of BNP-Jamaat coalition, the investigation officials from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had arrested Joj Mia who said top criminals Joy and Subrata Bain orchestrated the grenade attacks.

Later, it was found that some of the CID officials influenced by the then government forced Joj Mia to give the statement.

The newly appointed investigation officers also revealed that Harkat ul Jihad al Islami (Hujji) was behind the grenade attack.

Acting on the confessional statement of Hujji leader Hannan, held in October 1, 2005, BR members arrested another Hujji leader Zandal and recovered 41 grenades in Satkhira.

If Zandal is brought to Dhaka for interrogation, important information can be extracted from him, the IGP said.

The law enforcers violate human rights in many countries due to lack of knowledge about it, he said adding that the police are trying hard to regain its image.

Dr Purna Sen, chief of the human rights unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and police personnel from South Africa were present at the function.

A total of 30 police officials will attend the training programme sponsored by the Commonwealth.

In response to this, Delwar said, "We are working under tremendous pressure but I can assure you that good day will come soon."

Referring to the reported call from Khaleda for unity in the party, Delwar said she made the call so that the party can face the present crises. "She [Khaleda] sent the message not to bring back persons who betrayed the party," he said.

The view exchange meeting was also attended by, among others, acting Office Secretary of the party Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, former lawmaker Sohrab Uddin, former student leaders Habib ul Nabi Sohel and Forhad Azad, Kurigram district BNP leaders Tahminul Haque, Mostafizur Rahman and Abdul Khaledque, presidents and secretaries of nine upazila units and leaders of district units of the party's front organisations.

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Delwar kicks

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standing committee active in party politics which, they said, will inspire grassroots level leaders and activists.

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President of Pakistan

FROM PAGE 1
was close to the past turnouts. More than a dozen people sacrificed their lives for democracy on Election Day.

In the evening on February 18 it was clear that Pakistan People's Party, PML of Nawaz Sharif and ANP swept in three provinces and PML-Q performed well in Baluchistan.

Musharrafis no more in a position to change the victory of the opposition into defeat. Army will not help him rigging. People are ready to resist. Pro-Musharraf PML-Q has vanished in at least two provinces. Sindh and North West Frontier Province rejected PML-Q outright.

PPP and PML-N created cracks for PML-Q in Punjab which was a political fort of pro-Musharraf forces. PPP and PML-N have already decided to cooperate with each other against Musharraf.

Now the most trusted friend of the USA in Pakistan has no other choice than to leave his office. February 18 is the beginning for the end of Musharraf Raj in Pakistan. The credit of this victory goes to the great sacrifice of Benazir Bhutto on December 27.

PPP got votes out of a big sympathy wave. Nawaz Sharif did well because of a very offensive and organised election campaign. He emerged as the champion of independent judiciary and free media. Musharraf was rejected by masses mainly due to his bad strategy in

war against terror. He killed more Pakistanis in this war than the Indians killed in the wars of 1965 and 1971. He is heading towards a very bad and painful end.

Now the question is that who will be the next President of Pakistan. PPP and PML-Q can agree on a new prime minister but it would be great challenge to agree on a new President. Some diplomats in Islamabad were stunned few days ago when Kalsoom Nawaz Sharif announced that Dr AQ Khan will be their presidential candidate.

It will not be acceptable to the USA and the whole west. PML-N sources said that party has not formally nominated Dr AQ Khan as their candidate for presidency.

Wife of Nawaz Sharif, Begum Kalsoom expressed her personal views few days ago about the detained scientist. PPP and PML-N have to face many challenges in coming days. Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif will meet each other soon and they will try to resolve all issues, including the names of new prime minister and president.

It is expected that if PML-N will support the prime minister of PPP then PPP will support the President of PML-N. There are no doubts that both the parties will restore the real parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. President will have no power to dissolve the national assembly.

Padma Bridge

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The CA said Padma river training work for the construction of the bridge will cover some parts of Munshiganj, reducing the intensity of flood due to erosion by the river as well as sufferings and miseries of the people of this region.

The 1.52-km-long sixth Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge (Mukhtarpur Bridge) was constructed at a cost of Tk 208.35 crore of which Tk 129.20 crore came from the Chinese government as grant and interest-free loan, while the rest, amounting to Tk 79.15 crore, was provided by the Bangladesh government.

The construction work on the bridge begun on July 2005 and completed on January 2008, six months ahead of the schedule. The 10-metre wide bridge has two lanes.

The CA said opening of the bridge will give a momentum to socioeconomic activities of the district and help improve the standard of living and socioeconomic conditions of the people through generating employment.

"Vegetables, potatoes, fruits and various agri-produces can be easily supplied from Munshiganj to Dhaka, and the supply cost of various goods, which are sold here, will also come down," he said, adding that it will also cast a positive impact on the market prices of agricultural items in the country.

Recalling China's immense contribution towards infrastructural development of Bangladesh and appreciating Chinese government for their financial and technical cooperation in constructing the Sixth

Friendship Bridge, Fakhruddin said the new bridge will be considered as a milestone in the historical and friendly relations between the two countries.

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Golam Kader, Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zheng Qingdian, Communications Secretary Mahbubur Rahman and Executive Director of Bangladesh Bridge Authority Khan M Ibrahim Hossain also spoke at the function held near the south end of the new bridge.

"We see Saudi Arabia as one of our closest friends and ally and I am sure if there are any issues, they can be amicably resolved," he told the daily.

The death sentences were awarded following a clash last year between the Bangladeshi workers and a group of men who allegedly were stealing electric wire in a factory in Riyadh. The confrontation led to the death of an Egyptian national.

According to the relatives of the workers, a total of 14 Bangladeshi expatriates were accused in the case. Three were sentenced to 12 years' rigorous imprisonment, while two fled home and one remains on the run.

Six of the expatriate labourers who have been awarded death sentences are Mamun, 25, Shafigul, 23, Masud, 25 -- all from Tangail, Faruk, 28, from Comilla, Matiar, 28, from Faridpur and Sumon from Kishoreganj. The names of the other two could not be known.

At least eight bombs exploded in Pakistan's insurgency-hit northwest and southwest but caused no casualties, officials said. A rocket also hit a polling station in