Criticising the government's move to keep the BAEC test results hushed up for a week, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad told The Daily Star, "It's a violation of the Right to Information Act which the government recently enacted. The persons responsible for hiding the information from the public should be put on trial according to the law."

"The government's role in such a complicated public health issue infers its lack of care for it. In fact, the government was hiding the facts for the welfare of the corrupt business community," he said.

Prof Nilufar Nahar, under whose leadership melamine was detected in the eight brands of powdered milk through a test in the DU chemistry department lab, said, "As a scientist I have a global reputation. The government should know my work before dismissing our department's abilities. I invite them to visit our laboratory and urge them to stop talking nonsense."



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"The man who conducted the tests in Plasma Plus and the two others who tested the samples in BCSIR had been researchers under my supervision. I know the mistakes they made in their tests. The government should be ashamed of its blatant kowtowing to the interests of the unscrupulous industry, and for pitting novice chemists against the nation's top scientists."

She also questioned the authenticity of the test results from the Thai laboratory, saying, "It's a FAO recognised private laboratory, not FAO's own lab, moreover the report is incomplete." The report of the Thai lab did not elaborate on the methodology of its tests, she explained.

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"Local distributors of powdered milk brands should apologise to the public instead of trying to hide the facts, and at the same time they should ask the Chinese company Sanlu to compensate them for the loss of their business," she suggested. .

In fact, the fact that the official of Plasma Plus, who is basically a supplier of equipment and trains people on how to operate the equipment, was given the responsibility of conducting tests for the private lab has also raised eyebrows . He advocated for BCSIR and the Thai based private laboratory test results at the press conference and even during the 12-member expert committee, which was formed by the government to monitor the test results.

Meanwhile, following the propaganda by the local distributors of multinational powdered milk companies government agency BSTI has been briefing the media on the 'safe level of melamine contamination', instead of warning the public about its disastrous impact on health, especially on children's health.

However, the counsel of HRPB Advocate Manzil Murshid showed satisfaction at the latest HC verdict. He told The Daily Star, "After the verdict all of the available powdered milk brands will be tested. It has also ordered for the involvement of the experts of DUCD and BAEC in the sample collection committee for the third round of tests, which will make the sample collection process transparent."

"For public health concerns the HC has ordered that all the test reports at six laboratories be published in newspapers. So that people can decide whether to purchase these milk products", he added.