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But as the controversy is going on regarding only eight powdered milk brands- Yashili-1, Yashili-2, Sweet Baby-2, Nido Fortified Instant, Anlene, Diploma, Dano Full Cream Milk and Red Cow- people have switched to other powdered milk brands and liquid milk. But, how safe are these milk products?

Bangladesh imported 42,587 tonnes of milk powder from 11 countries in the last fiscal year, 4,747 tonnes of which were from Chinese companies. On top of that, a few companies also import cheap melamine contaminated Chinese powdered milk illegally through unregistered channels.

Recently many newspapers have published reports of individual milk suppliers mixing cheap Chinese powdered milk with liquid cow's milk. Moreover, a few newspapers published reports of mechanism of making 'artificial milk' in the dairy production zone of Pabna and Sirajganj. The reports also reveal that local offices of leading pasteurised milk companies are purchasing such 'milk emulsion' from the individual milkmen.

"It's not milk, rather poison and the toxic ingredients used in the emulsion are more harmful than melamine. Drinking such emulsion liver and kidney will be damaged. It'll create hepatitis A and E in the human body", says Professor Faroque, a teacher of Department of Pharmaceuticals Technology.

He added, "I believe a few corrupt scientists have given such mechanism to the milkmen. With highest priority it should be controlled. Otherwise, we have to face an even worse toxic milk scandal than China."

On top of everything, because of the ongoing melamine issue no drive has been taken against melamine contamination. Corrupt milkmen are selling randomly formalin-contaminated milk in the cities. And the random use of formalin in milk is harmful for both the person who handles the chemical while mixing it in milk and those who drink formalin contaminated milk.

"The vapour of formalin during mixing creates conjunctiva irritation in eye and subsequently affects cornea. Ultimately the user suffers from cataract in the eyes. Moreover, formalin has an adverse impact on lungs of those who mix toxic formalin in milk and face respiratory problems. Besides, formalin creates chronic acerbating in hands which might cause cancer. And drinking formalin-contaminated milk one will face hyper acidity problems, which may turn into ulcer. Moreover, it will affect liver and intestine", said professor Faroque.

Experts are even suggesting avoiding milk products such as formula milk, candies, cheese powder, biscuits, ready-made desserts, and chocolate. As for infants below two years, child specialists suggest avoiding powdered milk altogether and opting for mother's milk. Until all powdered milk is properly tested, this everyday drink will remain suspect in the eyes of the consumers. ■