

Toxic poultry feed

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a protein-rich feed, using tannery waste that comes from tanning of skin-cut.
BCSIR Principal Scientific Officer Shafiqul Islam said around 176 tonnes of solid waste is produced every day at 270 tanneries in the country, 90 percent of which are located in Hazaribagh.

Meat-bone contains 2.5 percent chromium, which is only 0.4 percent in imported protein, he said, adding that around 30 types of chemicals like acid, chromium salt and sodium chloride are used in tanning.

USE OF TANNERY WASTE
Previously, tannery owners had to spend around Tk 1,000 each time they cleaned the waste but now, they are earning a fortune selling it, said Naser Ahmed, supervisor of Lexco Ltd, a big tannery factory in Hazaribagh.

He said every day they sell one to five metric tonnes of tannery waste to traders.

Speaking anonymously, an owner of a Hazaribagh feed factory said they pay Tk 5 to 15 lakh in advance to collect skin-cut waste per annum.

He said they boil the waste in big containers and dry it in the sun for five days. "We sell the dried products to middlemen."

"We are capable of supplying up to five maunds of raw products every day to the middlemen, who grind those and sell it to fish and poultry feed factories," he added.

An employee of a grinding mill in Hazaribagh said there are around 10 grinding mills in that area.

Mujibar, a middleman, said feed factories and retailers across the country buy around five metric tonnes of meat bone from him every day.

Abdul Mannan, an employee of a factory in Gajmahal Road in Hazaribagh, said traders used to import a kilogram of meat bone at Tk 10 five years ago, which is now Tk 35 a kg.

On the other hand, meat bone made of tannery waste only cost Tk 20 to 22 per kg, he said, adding that one can manufacture one kg of feed by using half the amount of meat bone compared to the imported protein.

The feed factories prefer tannery waste-turned meat bone to imported protein, he said.

"We can make one kg poultry feed using 60 percent meat bone and 40 percent other ingredients like soya oil cake, ground rice and dry fish. However, for fish feed, we use 40 percent meat bone and 60 percent other materials," Mannan said.

IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENT
Use of tannery waste is severely polluting the environment in Hazaribagh area as the small traders burn it

while boiling skin-cut waste. Plastic items, like sandals, used for fire and burning of tannery waste make huge black smoke putting public health in danger, said Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save the Environment Movement.

Although living in one of the green parts of the capital, the locals of Hazaribagh cannot breathe fresh air because of the smoke and air suffering from different diseases like asthma, said Saifur Rahman of Nawabpur lane in the area.

"My niece has been suffering from asthma for the last two years while my nephew for one year," he added.

Moshiur Rahman, adviser of Poultry Feed Industries Association, said big and medium factories don't use tannery waste as they try to maintain quality to sustain in the competitive market.

There are around 70 big and medium and 300 small feed factories in the country, he said.

Director General of Department of Livestock Sunil Chandra Gain said he does not know anything about the use of tannery waste for preparing poultry feed.

Dr Bidhan Chandra Das, assistant director (health) of the department, said there is a law formulated on January 28 this year on fish and livestock feed keeping the provision of up to one year's imprisonment and a fine up to Tk 50,000 against adulteration of the feed products.

He said a process to prepare two guidelines for manufacturing fish, poultry and livestock feed products is on and it will be completed soon. "After the approval of the guidelines, we will be able to take action against any adulteration of poultry feed," he said.

Department of Environment Director (Monitoring and Enforcement) in Dhaka Munir Chowdhury said, "We will take action if we find evidence of use of tannery waste in poultry and fish feed."

BSF abducts

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Minapur village adjacent to the border.

BDR and local sources said the children set nets in the low-lying areas near on Haripur border Thursday evening for fishing.

On Friday morning around 6:30am the BSF members of Moldakhanda BSF camp entered no man's land and picked up the five children.

Acting Commander of BDR 2 Rifles Battalion Major Korishi told The Daily Star over mobile phone that they are corresponding with the BSF and asked them to attend a flag meeting.

BSF is yet to respond till filing of this report at 4:45pm.

Govt support

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But she asked the concerned officials as well as the local people to ensure appropriate steps to stop intrusion of saline waters in floodplains particularly through severing cyclone or tidal surge protection embankments near the coastlines for shrimp cultivation.

The PM also urged the concerned officials and the shrimp cultivators to find alternative ways and explore sustainable technologies for cultivating shrimps in an environment friendly way.

The premier was briefed through a power point presentation on the post-Aila rehabilitation activities at both the places where she also distributed some solar panels to the villagers.

The Aila had ravaged Koira and Dakop upazilas of Khulna and Shyamnagar and Ashashuni of Satkhira on February 25, 2009 and since then 48,000 people took refuge on the "Bheribandh" or embankment and they were being given 20 kilograms of food grains every month under a Taka 96 crore rehabilitation programme.

Hasina told the rally that Taka 20 crore was allocated as grant to extremely affected 10,000 families for rebuilding their houses.

She also noted the government succour campaign offering special house building grants, deep and shallow water pumping tube wells and construction of cyclone shelters.

"The government will always stand by you in facing the disasters," she said also listing the government measures for a comprehensive development and safety net programme for farmers, fishermen, elderly people, widowed and husband-

abandoned women.

Hasina said besides the house building grants, the miseries of Aila and Sidr victims would also be addressed under the government's Asrayan Project, aimed at providing homes to homeless.

She said as part of her government's Digital Bangladesh campaign, initiatives were taken to provide computers including laptops to every educational institution with internet connections while E-centres were being set up at each of the Union Parishad office complexes while the employment bank was engaged to extend hands to youths in their efforts for self-employment.

The premier, however, acknowledged economic disparity caused by huge income gap to be a major challenge and attributed the phenomenon to the post-1975 governance following the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members.

"We are trying to reduce the disparity," she said. "We will celebrate the golden jubilee of our independence implementing the Vision 2021 in line with the dreams of Bangabandhu's Sonar Bangla," Hasina said.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak and Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque also spoke at the rally while PM's Economic Affairs Adviser Moshiur Rahman and BM Mozammel Haque MP were present in both the rallies chaired by Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary Mukhlesur Rahman. State Minister for Labour and Manpower Munnunjan Sufian joined the second rally at Koira.

QUESTION LEAK Remand plea for 3 accused rejected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A Rangpur court rejected remand prayers for three arrestees in the question leak scam case.

Police sought five-day remands for assistant teacher of Lalmonirhat Government High School Motiar Rahman Sajju, assistant teacher of Nawdabash High School in Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat Anisur Rahman and his brother Amzad Hossain on Thursday to interrogate them. They were arrested Wednesday at Lalmonirhat and Hatibandha upazila.

Rangpur Superintendent of Police Saleh Mohammad Tanvir said Sajju, Anisur and Amzad acted as middlemen of the question-paper syndicate. They enticed the candidates to buying the question papers leaked from Bangladesh Government Press.

"They took money from 30 candidates preparing to take the written test for the posts of assistant teachers in public schools. We need to thoroughly interrogate them to get more information about the leak," Tanvir said.

A total of 174 people were arrested in connection with the stealing of question papers. Among them, 167 were arrested on July 08 from a guesthouse at Gangachara upazila. Later police arrested seven people from Lalmonirhat and Dhaka.

Police got 19 of the arrestees on remand.

Police have so far found a total of Tk 2.35 crore in bank accounts of the suspects.

Hotel, house

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attackers from Badiur's licenced double-barrel gun.

The injured, identified as Sarwar, Shukkur and Borhan, were undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested six persons - Hossain, Shamsul, their aides Shahadat, Badsha Mia, Morshed and Alamgir - and recovered a huge number of hammers, crowbars and the licenced gun after the incident that left 62 rooms of the hotel, seven rooms of the house and a car severely damaged.

Yesterday's violence was the consequence of Badiur not handing over the land that Hossain and Shamsul bought six years back, Hossain claimed.

Hossain, proprietor of Md Hossain Trade Developer, and his partner Shamsul, owner of Mohanagar Electric Shop at Shah Amanat Market, claimed to have purchased around 27.6 kathas of land from Badiur for Tk 4.40 crore in 2004 and paid Tk 3.79 crore by 2005 as per the agreement.

But Badiur is yet to hand over the land to them, they said.

"Badiur was dilly-dallying over handing over the land. So we took legal action and removed the top two floors of the hotel with the help of police," said Shamsul and Hossain while talking to The Daily Star in the afternoon.

"We gave him [Badiur] time to vacate the building, but to our surprise he reconstructed the top floors," they continued.

During the last Ramadan after a number of social arbitrations, Badiur promised to vacate the land after the festival.

Since then a few employees of the developer were staying in three rooms of the hotel, but Thursday evening, the hotel authorities beat them up and drove them out, which prompted them to go on the rampage, Hossain claimed.

However, Badiur's son Mostafa Kamal alleged that Hossain and Shamsul with the help of Ahmadul Haq Chowdhury alias Ahmadya, a Shibir man killed in a "shoot-out" with Rab in 2004, had made some documents and forced his father to sign on it.

"And now they claim they own the land with those documents," he said.

While talking to journalists, Badiur alleged that police came to the spot long after they were informed about the incident.

Even the attackers ransacked the buildings in presence of the law enforcers, he said.

Officer-in-Charge of Chittagong Police Station Shakhawat Hossain refuted the claim.

The OC said the land dispute was the reason behind the attack.

"We can give details about the dispute after an investigation," he said.

Ramadan

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the market stable," the commerce minister said, urging the people to stay vigilant against dishonest means for increasing prices of essentials.

He said district and upazila level market monitoring committees' functions will also be strengthened, and activities of mobile courts will be boosted to check artificial price hikes.

In the letter, the commerce minister told the MPs that TCB already built a buffer stock of edible oils, pulses, sugar, and chickpea to fight against attempts to create an artificial supply crisis.

According to the commerce ministry's decision, TCB will take steps to ensure supply of goods across the country through its dealers before the Ramadan begins.

Initially each dealer will be given around 5 metric tons of sugar, 10 metric tons of edible oils, and a metric ton of chickpea, says the commerce minister's letter.

"Your vigilance is imperative to ensure that dealers collect the allocated commodities from nearby TCB warehouses on time, and distribute those properly among consumers of your constituency," the letter told MPs.

The commerce minister in the letter hoped that the MPs will play a role in keeping prices stable by closely monitoring daily essentials traders in respective constituencies.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday AL lawmaker Asaduzzaman Khan of Dhaka-11 said on receiving the letter last week, he collected a list of dealers of his constituency from TCB, to check their authenticity.

He said he will forward the names of the dealers to local ward level AL leaders for monitoring.

He said he will have to be extra careful as the capital's one of the biggest kitchen markets is located at Karwan Bazar in his constituency.

"If we remain vigilant, people may not experience the sufferings they had experienced last year due to unusual price hikes of sugar and oil," the AL lawmaker said.

Workers Party chief Rashed Khan Menon, who is also the Dhaka-8 MP, said he already talked to the commerce minister for increasing the number of dealers in his constituency.

He also talked to ruling alliance local leaders for preparing them for monitoring, he said.

Another AL lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder of Dhaka-15 however expressed his frustration, as TCB had not entertained his recommendations for awarding dealerships in his constituency.

He said he will nonetheless cooperate with the government's move as the commerce minister sought this assistance.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Hafizuddin Ahmed of Thakurgaon-3 said he also got the letter last week. But he was in the capital to attend the parliament session, and returned to his constituency

Hindus in city

FROM PAGE 16
the one established in Sabujbag some 10 years ago is maintained by Sabujbag Borodeshwari Kali Mandir.

Postogola Mahashman, recognised as the national cremation ground, was set up on some 180 kathas of land. It has now been reduced to only 40 kathas as some re-rolling mills and iron sheet cutting factories have encroached a large portion of the land, said the general secretary of Postogola Jatiya Mahashman Committee Babul Das.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka knows about the encroachment problem. Talking to The Daily Star, he said DCC also recovered parts of the encroached land during the last caretaker government's tenure.

"A committee was also formed with Major General (ret'd) CR Dutta as the convener to recover the rest of the encroached land. But the committee didn't continue its work," he added.

The one in Lalbagh was originally established on 100 kathas of land but now only half of it remains because of gradual encroachment over the years.

Sabujbag ground also faces similar problem with its burial ground. However, in general, it is in a better condition in terms of other facilities, Hindussay.

The burial ground at Postogola has capacity to bury only 70 bodies. Due to the space constraints, graves are replaced within three months and the authority is no longer permitting bodies of adults to

be buried there.

"The main problem is to bury children as every single inch of the burial ground has already been used," said Babul Das.

Mongol Ghosh, secretary general of Lalbagh Smashan Unnayan Committee, gives a grimmer picture. "The situation in Lalbagh is so depressing that shovelling up to just one foot brings out bones of previously buried children," he said.

To add to the sufferings of the Hindus, the cremation grounds are too far away for many residents across the city's newly developed residential areas.

"This grave problem has been overlooked in the city plan," said Kajal Debnath, a presidium member of Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad.

Community leaders said they have time and again raised the issues like establishment of new burial grounds, modernisation of funeral pyre with gas furnace and ensuring hygiene of the people living around the cremation grounds to the authority but did not receive much response.

Khoka, the city mayor, however says the Hindus never brought it to him that the issue of burial ground is so severe.

He also said an electric incinerator worth Tk 3 crore was installed in Postogola to modernise it but is now lying idle because it is not cost effective for the users.

The DCC is now thinking of a gas burner, he said.

RMG VIOLENCE 620 workers sued over vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities of Nassa Basic Ltd, a garment factory, yesterday filed a case with Ashulia police station against 620 of its workers on charges of vandalising the factory and assaulting its officials Thursday.

Seeking anonymity, an official of the factory said some 109 workers were temporarily suspended for fueling workers' unrest.

It could not be confirmed whether any of the accused was among the suspended workers.

Ashulia Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sirajul Islam said Nasa Manager Asaduzzaman filed the case against the workers.

Nassa factory workers were demanding suspension of its seven officials for their ill conduct towards them.

They also wanted that the cases filed against them during the workers' unrest in June at Ashulia be withdrawn.

Earlier on Thursday, at least 40 people, including policemen, garment workers and officials, were injured in a clash at Nasa factory in Ashulia.

Meanwhile, Ashulia police yesterday arrested Nurjahan Apparels owner Zahid Hossain from his factory in the Nayrhat area on different charges including not paying dues to the workers.

The OC said Zahid was accused of eight cases filed with labour court by labour ministry official.

Islam said he was produced before the court yesterday.

Menon

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announced by July 28.

He said the garment factory owners would be held responsible if any disorder took place.

The warning came from a discussion organised by National Garments Workers Federation at the Jatiya Press Club to mark the federation's 26th anniversary, says a press release.

Menon also criticised the garment factory owners for their unsound proposals and stubbornness that made the wage fixing impossible even after 11 meetings of the wage board. It took only two to three meetings to fix minimum wage in other sectors, he mentioned.

Menon, also chairman of parliamentary standing committee on education ministry, urged the government to announce the wage in time.

Speakers at the discussion demanded Tk 5,000 be set as minimum wage. Israfil Alam, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment ministry, said the government would announce it by time. He also urged the workers to keep patience.

Presided over by Amirul Haque Amin, president of the federation, the meeting was also addressed by Abdul Matin Master, president of Jatiya Sramik League; Patrick, general secretary of International Textile-Garment-Leather Workers Federation; Steve Grinter, former leader of Trade Union Congress in UK; and Shafia Parveen, central leader of the federation.

BNP

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He claimed that people participated in the opposition's June 27 hartal spontaneously, but the government spread propaganda against the programme using an incident of death by fire.

Lambasting the government for not permitting them to hold their hunger strike at Paltan Maidan, he urged all to raise voice against the Awami League led government's "fascist attitude".

The BNP leader said the government obstructed their peaceful human chain and arrested a number of leaders during hartal.

"[They] [government] want to eliminate the opposition by adopting different strategies to establish one-party rule in the country. Their initiative to amend the constitution is part of the plan," he added.

Mirza Alamgir, also a former state minister, requested all to join the protest rally at the city's Muktangan on July 25. He threatened to announce further action if law enforcers obstruct their rally.

BNP joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and party chairperson's advisory council member Abdul Quiyum were present at the briefing.

Mirpur erupts

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road in front of the eight-story factory building at Kalwala Para.

A rickshaw-van puller, Abdul Jalil, said he saw the girl falling down from the building-top. He, along with other passers by and shopkeepers, found her lying dead on the road.

"As we informed the security guards and other workers of the factory, they came forward," Jalil said.

A number of protesting workers alleged Jharna Begum, 32, a line-in-charge of the factory, was one of the five employees who killed Beauty following a quarrel between Jharna and the girl.

Fatema Begum and Mamtaj Begum -- two of the victim's colleagues -- told The Daily Star that after an altercation around 9:30am, Jharna took Beauty to the production manager. Since then, the girl remained missing.

According to witnesses, after the death news spread the factory workers took to the street leaving work.

After the lunch break, workers of at least 10 nearby factories joined the protest.

Police arrested Jharna around 2:00pm. Workers swooped on the woman while she was being taken to police van.

As police tried to protect Jharna, the workers also attacked the law enforcers triggering a battle.

Mirpur police said Jharna denied the allegation. She

JCD general secy

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microbus," Babul added. He said Rab later released all but Aminul Islam Mamun after a few hours.

The other people who were detained: Siddiqui Rahman Paplu, Sayeed Ahmed, Azahar Ali, Mohammad Fakhru Islam, Abdul Malek, and Syed Zahid Bin Khayer. They were identified as leaders of JCD Sylhet region.

Aminul Islam Mamun was photographed during a factional clash of BNP in Sylhet town on May 6 with firearms in his hand. The photos were published in different dailies the next day, a Rab official said.

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Referring not to be named, the Rab official told The Daily Star's local correspondent that they stopped the microbus at a checkpoint in Satgaon and identified a criminal inside the vehicle.

The Rab team then picked up the JCD general secretary and seven others and took them to their Srimangal camp for interrogation, the official added.

Prachanda falters

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over the communists and an ethnic bloc of four Terai parties despite frantic parleys after a similar snub Wednesday.

The Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (UML), the third largest party in the house after the Maoists and the Nepali Congress with 109 MPs abstained from voting once again, saying it would support a candidate only after he succeeded in getting the support of most of the parties.

On Wednesday, the communists had withdrawn their candidate and abstained from voting after a last-minute poll alliance with the Maoists fell through and the obduracy is regarded as part of their revenge.

The bloc of four parties from the Terai plains, who have 82 MPs, disclosed an agenda ahead of the poll, saying they would support the contender who helped them implement it.

The controversial agenda includes the formation of a separate autonomous state in the plains with the right to self-determination, and the inclusion of plains people in the army.

With nearly 200 of 599 MPs refusing to vote, the result was a foregone conclusion even before the election started.

Now Prachanda and Poudel have 10 days to sway the alienated parties. If they still fail on Aug 2 to get the magic number, the electoral process will be continued till one of them succeeds or backs

had refused to allow Beauty to work anymore, as the girl used to make mistakes, said police quoting the detainee.

Jharna claimed she took Beauty to the production manager's office and came back to work leaving Beauty in the room. Later she (Jharna) came to know about the death.

Jasim Uddin Mollah, Mirpur zone senior assistant commissioner of police, said according to the factory authorities the girl committed suicide by jumping from the building top.

He said police were looking into the matter and Beauty's father filed a murder case accusing Jharna and four other staff.

Talking to The Daily Star, victim's uncle Golam Mostofa ruled out suicide. She was killed and her body was dropped, Mostofa said.

Police also said after the unrest among the workers, authorities of at least 15 factories closed their operation since the lunch break.

Ex Navy chief

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Tk 15,000 and \$600, a diamond ring, two digital cameras and a laptop.

Kafrul Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anisur Rahman said the robbers left with the booty around 4:00am.

Mirpur division Deputy Commissioner Intiaz Ahmed said the former Navy chief filed a case in this connection.

Jamaat

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leaders in connection with anti-state activities.

Detective Branch of police preyed before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court seeking to show the top Jamaat leaders arrested. Magistrate Tania Kamal granted the prayer.

The DB personnel also sought a 10-day remand for each of those Jamaat leaders mentioning that they have involvement in an attempt to destabilise the situation of the country and carrying out subversive attacks.

After the hearing, the court fixed tomorrow for the hearing about the remand of Nizami and Mojahid and July 28 for Sayedee.

DB officials said they appealed for the remand of the Jamaat leaders following information extracted from detained JMB chief Saidur Rahman.

Earlier on June 24, police filed a case with Kadomtoli Police Station after the recovery of nine grenades from a JMB den in Kadomtoli.

A top DB official told The Daily Star that Saidur said Jamaat and JMB activists were collecting grenades and other explosives for subversive operations across the country to foil the trial process of war criminals.