

Govt restricts open import

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Wednesday.
Earlier, obtaining ministry's permission was not a prerequisite.

In the applications, the importers will have to specify the quantity, country of origin, purposes and other details for importing the chemical. The ministry will verify the authenticity of the applications before allowing any import of the item.

The importers, noted the circular, will have to maintain a register of their sales, which might be checked by the ministry officials concerned.

Kamal said imposing a complete ban on the

import of formalin is not possible as it is an essential item for preserving biological specimens in the laboratories of educational institutions, and some industries like textile, pharmaceutical, chemical, formica and plastic.

If necessary, the ministry will soon hold dialogues with different stakeholders for taking more bold decisions in this regard, headed.

Contacted, Mijanur Rahman Mesbah, an adviser to Bangladesh Chemical Importers and Merchants Association, said they had recommended the government restrict the import of for-

malin to check its widespread sale.

He assumed the restriction would have no negative impact on the business.

The chemical is now being widely used in fruits, vegetables, fishes, milk, beverages, sweetmeats, ice-creams and spices to keep those fresh, making consumers vulnerable to serious diseases like cancer.

According to experts, if people ingest formalin with food, it breaks down the blood cells, causing a lack of blood in the body. It also creates antibodies that react with other blood cells to speed up the

human aging process.

In the 2011-12 fiscal year, the volume of formalin import was 205,096 kgs, while the volume was 269,333 kgs and 544,847 kgs respectively in the previous two fiscal years, said sources in the National Board of Revenue.

Alongside the government's latest move, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in its own initiative has recently declared three kitchen markets -- Malibagh, Shantinagar and Mohakhali -- formalin-free to check the misuse of the chemical.

Hina Rabbani

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was later modified. Hina will arrive at 10:15am by a special flight and leave for Islamabad at 3:30pm.

Hina Rabbani is scheduled to hold a meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at 11:00am at the ministry after which she will call on the prime minister around 12:00 noon.

Dipu Moni will host a lunch in Hina's honour at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

A statement by Pakistan's foreign ministry said "The foreign minister will personally deliver the invitation addressed by the President of Pakistan to the Prime Minister of

Bangladesh, inviting the latter to participate in the forthcoming 8th session of the D-8 Summit being hosted by Pakistan."

Pakistan attaches great value to its relationship with Bangladesh. Both countries are bound by historical links and have been working together to deepen the already existing bonds of friendship and fraternity, promoting trade links and people to people contacts," said the statement.

There will be no formal briefing after the meeting between the two foreign ministers and the media is not invited to cover the meeting, foreign ministry sources said.

Official sources said Dipu Moni and Hina will discuss bilateral issues during the talks. Dipu Moni may raise the issue of seeking apology from Pakistan for the genocide and atrocities committed by Pak army during the Liberation War.

Bangladesh has long been demanding unconditional apology from Pakistan for the crimes against humanity in 1971. In response to a writ petition, the HC yesterday directed secretaries to the ministries of finance and energy and chairman of Petrobangla to form a six-member expert body to investigate the allegation of illegal gas lines.

Stop new gas links

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Companies two weeks' time to report on the blocking of new unauthorised gas lines.

The government on July 13, 2010 decided not to give any new gas connection for either household or industrial purposes.

In response to a writ petition, the HC yesterday directed secretaries to the ministries of finance and energy and chairman of Petrobangla to form a six-member expert body to investigate the allegation of illegal gas lines.

The HC also asked the authorities to report within the period how many illegal gas connections had been given and how much gas had been illegally consumed till date.

Official sources said Dipu Moni and Hina will discuss bilateral issues during the talks. Dipu Moni may raise the issue of seeking apology from Pakistan for the genocide and atrocities committed by Pak army during the Liberation War.

The consumers, who got gas lines legally, were not getting gas due to the illegal supply, Manzil said, adding that corruption was increasing in this sector as the government had not taken any step against the unscrupulous officials and staffs.

Secretaries to the ministries of finance and energy, chairman of Petrobangla, managing directors of Bakhrabad and Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Companies Ltd and chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission have been made responsible to the rule.

Advocate Manzil Murshid submitted the writ petition on behalf of the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, seeking a directive of the authorities concerned to take appropriate action against the corrupt government officials.

He moved the petition after two reports were published in Bangla daily Prothom Alo on illegal gas connections and the corruption involved.

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150kg heroin couriered

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the International Police (Interpol) to nab the gang.

Deeply concerned, British High Commission officials in Dhaka contacted the DB officials and told them that the British government might as well send a team of its secret service to help investigate the gang's activities here.

"If necessary, British intelligence will work jointly with the Bangladeshi detectives to bust the network," said Mashur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of DB.

He added that Immigration Liaison Officer of the High Commission, Shaun Antun, recently met the detectives and talked with those arrested in this connection.

"Upon our request, the High Commission has already given us the passport information of Suman

and requested us to share with it information about the local agents of the gang.

"The High Commission authorities are also willing to send their secret service, MI6, to Bangladesh," Mashur added.

Touhidul Islam, assistant commissioner of DB, said the gang preferred the branches of international courier services in Bangladesh to those in Pakistan, as the branches here lack a rigorous security mechanism.

"We have spoken with the authorities of the branches of six courier services that operate globally. They said they did physical checking before sending a parcel abroad as most of them had no scanner. A few others do not even bother to open the parcels," he said, "Physical checking cannot detect

illegal objects hidden, say, in a shoe case."

He claimed that they never received any complaint from the receiving end about finding drugs in those packages.

After his arrest, Tuhin told detectives that Suman used to call him over the phone to give him a code and a location to meet Pakistani agents. Every time, he would be asked to go to a new location where he would meet new agents.

Tuhin used to get Tk 20,000 for receiving and then couriering each package of 250 grams of heroin, detectives said, quoting Tuhin who had been with the gang for five years.

During interrogation, he named a number of the gang members -- Liton of Sunamganj, Ali of Feni and Zakir of Noakhali -- but claimed they all worked

separately. Police are yet to arrest them.

The law enforcers first came to know about the gang after the arrest of Imran Hossain Jitu, an accused in a murder case, with some heroin in August.

Jitu told the police that he had bought the drug from an employee of Aramax Courier Service in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

On information gleaned from Jitu, police detained four Aramax employees -- Sadekul Alam, Md Shohag, Sreebashed Poddar and Mohsin Sarder. They told the police that they found the drug in a packet of shoes to be couriered to Suman in the UK.

"The employees sold half the heroin and returned the other half to its sender, Tuhin. We arrested Tuhin from the address mentioned on the package," said Nibaran Chandra Barman, an inspector of the DB.

"We submitted the formal charge sheet against the arrestees and they all gave confessional statements before the court. If we can arrest Suman, his name will be included in the case," added Nibaran, also the investigating officer of the case.

According to the package seized from Tuhin, Suman's address is 150, Fernley Road, Spark Hill, Birmingham, UK. But the police are yet to be confirmed about the address and his whereabouts. Detectives in Dhaka are still awaiting an update from the Interpol.

In the wake of the arrests and the revelation, the international courier services in Bangladesh and the government postal service department last month decided to work together with the police to curb drug trafficking, said Enayet Hossain Khan, financial manager of Aramax Courier Service.

"The police have advised us to introduce electronic checking system and keep detailed information of the customer, including a photo

copy of his national identity card, before booking a parcel," he told The Daily Star.

He added though courier services do not scan the parcels for themselves, all the packages are scanned twice or thrice by the airports authorities before they are finally delivered to the recipients.

"Maybe the gangs have some unique systems of packing goods to dodge scanners at airports or simply they maintain strong networks to 'manage' officials at airports," he said.

The courier services that operate internationally and have offices in Bangladesh include Aramax, DHL, FedEx, TNT Express and UPS.

Asked about the present status of investigation into the matter in the UK and Suman's whereabouts, a British High Commission spokesperson in Dhaka said in an email, "The UK works with a variety of close international law enforcement partners in the region in order to tackle the threat of drugs to the UK. We are unable to comment on specific cases though."

The spokesperson would not like to be named.

In his email to this correspondent on October 19, he also did not comment on Immigration Liaison Officer Shaun Antun's conversation with the detectives and the arrestees.

It may be mentioned that the UK customs in May 2005 accused five Bangladeshi business firms -- BD Foods Ltd, Emdad Traders, Jamil International, MM Enterprise, and Green Haven Enterprise -- of smuggling 75.5kg of heroin to that country in the name of food, toiletries, cosmetics and tiles.

ইস্পাহানী ইসলামিয়া আই ইনসিটিউট এন্ড হসপিটাল সোসাইটি

ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা - ১২১৫

টেলিফোন: ৯১৯৯৩১৫, ৮১১৮৫৫৬, ফ্যাক্স: ৯১৪২১০০

ই-মেইল: ich1960@islamia.org.bd

তারিখ: ০৭/১১/২০১২ইং

নং আইআইএইচ/ইটি-৪৩/০১৯৬৫/২০১২

বিজ্ঞতি: ৪২৫ তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা-২০১২

এতদ্বারা ইস্পাহানী ইসলামিয়া আই ইনসিটিউট এন্ড হসপিটাল সোসাইটির মাননীয় সদস্যবৃন্দকে জানান যাইতেছে যে, আগস্ট ২৩ শে নভেম্বর ২০১২ইং মোতাবেক ০৯ই অগ্রহায়ন ১৪১৯ বঙ্গাব্দের রোজ শুক্রবার সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকায় হাসপাতালের পুরাতন অভিটোরিয়ামে (২য় তলা) বর্তমান প্লাকোমা ওয়েটিং রুমে ইস্পাহানী ইসলামিয়া আই ইনসিটিউট এন্ড হসপিটাল সোসাইটির ২৫তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। উক্ত সভায় সম্মানীত সকল সদস্যকে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

ডাঃ স্টেভেন রয়

সদস্য সচিব

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The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00, 23 November 2012.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces the vacancy for the following posts for the **Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh' Project**.

1. Legal Reform Expert
2. Training & Capacity Building Expert

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For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00, 23 November 2012.

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