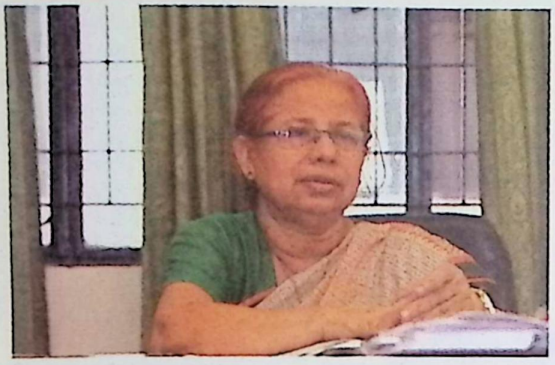
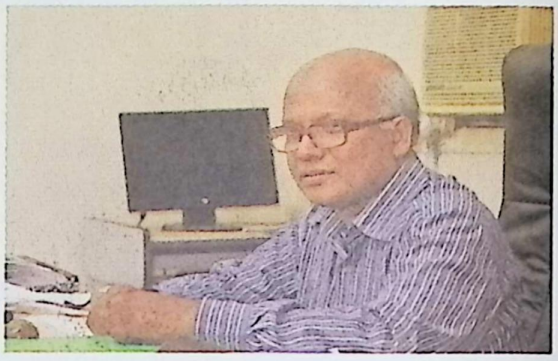


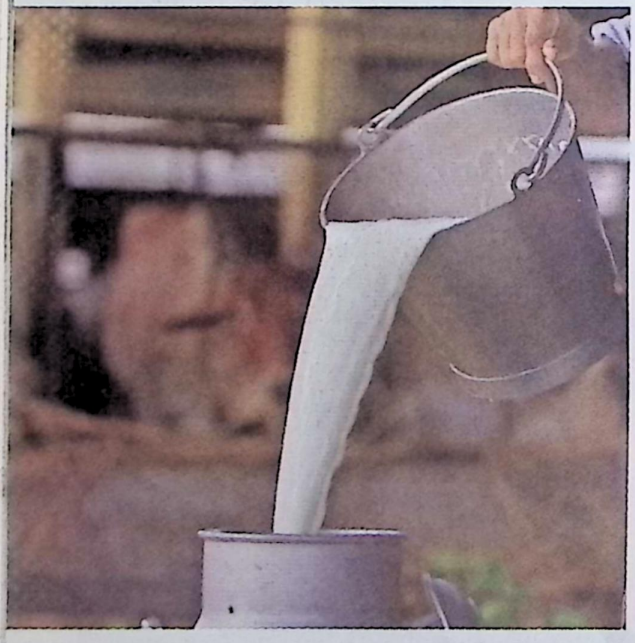
Dr Khursheed Jahan

> In order to reach our genetic potential—both physically and mentally, there is no alternative to drinking milk.



Kamal Prashad Das

> In 2013, Safe Food Law was passed in the parliament. When it is implemented, the food inspectors will be able to work freely; adulteration in all food items including milk will be reduced.



Bangladesh Milk Producers' Co-operative Union Ltd popularly known by its brand name Milk Vita, was established by the Government in 1973 with the goal to provide inputs to farmers at low cost and to reduce the income gap between rich and poor. Over the years, the organization has become riddled with corruption and anomalies, according to news reports. Its market share of liquid milk is 70 percent. "We need nationwide campaigns to popularize the habit of drinking milk," says Md Mustafizur Rahman, DGM, Planning, Development and PR, Milk Vita. "For grazing cows, the government must allocate khas land which is often left unproductive. Farmers should have access to easy loans. Animal feed is being made of waste produced from tanneries and rotten rice. On the roadsides, on the river banks and in chars, animal fodder can be cultivated. Cooperatives may be developed by the government. If production increases, dependence on milk powder can be reduced. Corruption must be eliminated in the government dairy sector."

> For grazing cows, the government must allocate khas land which is often left unproductive. Farmers should have access to easy loans.

Milk has a shelf life of 3 to 4 hours. If it is not collected within that time, farmers have no other choice than to sell it in the local market at lower prices. Natural disasters and political turmoil disrupt the supply chain. Nour-E-Alam, Regional Manager, BRAC Dairy and Food Project says, "BRAC has 101 chilling centres all over the country and we always collect on time."



Md Mustafizur Rahman