



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

**LIFE**  
Style**ELECTRONICS SALES**

Retailers offer generous discounts to cash in on Eid shopping frenzy

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**GOODBYE GORDIMER**

The voice against repression and apartheid falls silent

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# Chickens, eggs made risky

*Studies suggest poultry feed contains toxic tannery waste, fowls given excessive antibiotics; govt crackdown, awareness drive can stop the menace*

**EFFECTS ON HUMAN BODY****CHROMIUM**

Cancer, ulcer, liver cirrhosis, kidney damage

**ANTIBIOTICS**

Major health risk due to antibiotic resistance

PORIMOL PALMA

Poultry and egg -- two popular and easy-to-afford protein sources -- are not safe anymore as chickens are fed highly toxic tannery waste and excessive antibiotics, two studies have found.

Use of tannery waste makes poultry feed cheap while antibiotics help reduce deaths of chicks. But the practices pose serious health risks to consumers already worried at reports of formalin and other chemicals in food.

However, experts say, there is no reason to panic yet as the public health disaster due to transport of chromium from poultry feed to the human body can easily be avoided.

But the government has to clamp down on tannery waste traders and launch awareness campaigns on a proper use of antibiotics, they add.

Recently, a Dhaka University study found chromium ranging from 249 microgram (mg) to 4,561mg per kg in chickens that consumed feed manufactured with tannery waste. The permissible limit is 10-60mg.

Prof Mohammad Abul Hossain of Dhaka University chemistry department along with his student Zubair Hasan conducted the study in 2008 and this year. Their findings were published online by International Journal of Civil, Structural, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering Research and Development on June 28.

Acknowledging support from Bangladesh Council of Science and Industrial Research (BCSIR), the researchers in the journal said they had collected samples of tannery waste from Hazaribagh, Dhaka, and poultry feed from a city market and Development on June 28.



**SOURCE OF CHROMIUM:** A man in Hazaribagh boils tanned leather off-cuts -- the first step of manufacturing poultry feed. For tanning hide, industries use chromium. This is why poultry feed prepared from tannery waste contains the toxic chemical. More photos on Page 2.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Tk 47.5 lakh

Total minimum illegal payments a day at Chittagong Customs

Tk 36.5 lakh

For imports a day

Tk 11 lakh

For exports a day

Total daily illegal payment at Chittagong Port to release

imported goods: Tk 17.2 lakh

**EXPORT-IMPORT DOCUMENTS**

## Genuine or not, bribe is must

*Businesses pay Ctg port syndicate Tk 6,500cr a year for hassle-free service; TIB study finds corruption goes unabated as system not fully automated*

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businessmen are forced to pay huge bribes to a section of customs and other officials at Chittagong Port to complete the process of overseas trades and clear goods from the port, a Transparency International Bangladesh study has found.

Importers and exporters have to make undue payments at different stages totalling Tk 47.5 lakh a day for duty assessments and other formalities at the Customs House and Tk 17.2 lakh for clearing goods from the port, the study shows.

Businesses have to pay the money despite

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## Gaza airstrikes toll hits 177

*US warns against Israeli ground invasion; Hamas lays out truce terms*

AFP, Gaza city

The death toll from Israel's seven-day air campaign against Gaza militants rose to 177 yesterday, as a UN official said more than a quarter of those killed were children.

In the latest bloodshed, an Israeli missile struck a motorcycle east of the south Gaza city of Khan Yunis, killing 17-year-old Ziyad al-Najjar, emergency services spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said.

His death came shortly after another strike in the same area, which killed a

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**NEWS ANALYSIS**

## Netanyahu's terrorism

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Palestinians are not statistics. That is how a United Nations official put it the other day even as Israel's air power rained down on Gaza. Palestinians are certainly not statistics. They are innocent people who have, in the past eight days, been murdered in their

houses by forces unleashed by Benjamin Netanyahu. For the Israeli prime minister, civility and respect for the dignity of the individual, especially if the individual happens to be a Palestinian, has never mattered.

He has now vowed to continue his mission

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As the clock ticks down to 3 O'clock in the morning in the background, Germany fans are out on the streets of Berlin to celebrate their country's World Cup triumph in Brazil on Sunday.

## Messi remains Club King



SYED ASHFAQUEL HAQUE

Too near, yet too far. Lionel Messi came so close to what was required to surpass Diego Maradona, the football god of his country. But the World Cup, tragically for the Albiceleste, remains elusive for a player considered one of the greatest of all time.

Little Leo could have done it this time in his third World Cup appearance. He could have emulated his country's legend by winning the Cup for Argentina, a feat that is needed for his critics to place him in the same bracket with Pele and Maradona.

The stage was all set for the little magician, who has won every possible glory for his club Barcelona. And there was no better place

**CUSTODIAL DEATH**

## Custodian of law or killer of law?

*5-year-old begged cops for life of his father in vain*

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and JAMIL MAHMUD

Rabbi saw everything -- how police raided their home and the brutality with which they tortured his parents leading to the death of his father Mahbubur Rahman Sujan.

When they were torturing his father, five-year-old Mosharraf Hossain Rabbi went down to his knees and begged Sub-Inspector Jahidur Rahman Khan to let go of Sujan.

He had seen his mother do the same and figured pleading with the policemen would help.

The men in uniform, who reportedly went there to take money from Sujan, gave him false hope. They told him his father would be safe.

"When I asked why they were beating up my father and what his fault was, they promised me that nothing would happen to him," said Rabbi, showing The Daily Star correspondent how he knelt down before the SI.

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Rabbi, 5, sits next to his mother and shows The Daily Star correspondent how he pleaded with policemen for his father's life.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Thank you, Brazil

THE GUARDIAN, London

Thank you Brazil, and goodbye. It's been ... emotional. After 32 days, 64 matches, 171 goals, 182 yellow cards, 48,706 passes, 2,124 tackles, 4 billion dollars in revenue for FIFA, plus of course an unceasing spume of digital opinion, a tsunami of public weeping

and a mountain of deep-fried cheese pasties, the 2014 World Cup has now left the building.

Quite a bit has happened along the way. A European nation has become world champion on Latin American soil for the first time. Germany joined Italy as Brazil's nearest all-time World Cup challengers. Miroslav Klose has

dethroned Ronaldo as the most doggedly devastating goal-scorer in World Cup history. And the World Cup's hosts and holders have never been so soundly thrashed as Brazil and Spain were here, and this at a World Cup that still managed to produce the most classically old-school semifinal

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