



Protein for poultry found harmful

Govt bans import, sale of widely used 'Meat and Bone Meal' as it causes health concern

PORIMOL PALMA

The government has banned import and sale of meat and bone meal, a protein concentrate for poultry, because of its health risks to human and livestock.

Commonly known as MBM, it can cause anthrax, antibiotic resistance, and even cancer, said officials at the Department of Livestock Services.

It comes in powder form, and is made from bones of animals, including cow and goat and the small amount of meat attached to the bones.

In most part of the world, it is no longer allowed in poultry feed. The EU banned it in 1994, India in 2001 and Thailand in 2017, officials said.

"The MBM is now considered a risky element in poultry feed because it can carry harmful virus, bacteria and other ingredients harmful for human and animal health," said Kazi Wasi Uddin, additional secretary at the fisheries and livestock ministry.

Poultry is a major source of protein in the country and it needs to be safe, he added.

About 36 percent of human protein intake come from poultry, according to the ministry data.

Early this month, the fisheries and livestock ministry issued a circular on the ban, and would write to the commerce ministry for action to implement the decision.

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority has already instructed the customs authorities to enforce the ban on import, sale, storing and any other use of the feed.



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A RIVER ON THE RAMPAGE

A portion of the Pirojpur-Gopalganj-Dhaka road in Bagerhat's Chitalmari upazila collapsed due to erosion by the Madhumati river. The erosion continues despite various government measures such as placing of sand banks and wooden pillars to act as a temporary embankment. The road sees thousands of commuters every day, signifying its importance. The water development authority has begun temporary repair work in the damaged area and is planning to build a permanent embankment. River erosion has been a recurring phenomenon in the area for 20 years but has intensified in recent years, according to locals.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



Uproot graft, drug menace

PM asks home ministry

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the home ministry officials to work to uproot corruption, drug and militancy for building Bangladesh as a peaceful nation in South Asia.

"Corruption, drug and militancy gripped the whole society like deadly diseases as the military dictators ruled the country for a long time," she said while visiting the home ministry at the secretariat.

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UPAZILA ELECTIONS

Frantic lobbying in AL for tickets

All quiet in BNP

STAR REPORT

Local leaders of the ruling Awami League are hectically lobbying party high-ups and lawmakers to secure party nominations for the upcoming upazila parishad elections.

Boosted by the party's success in the recent parliamentary polls, they have already started informal campaigns for the local body polls to be held in a partisan manner for the first time.

They are also holding meetings with party men and carrying out mass contacts in their upazilas.

But the picture is completely different in the BNP camp. The grassroots leaders of the party are in confusion over their party's participation in the polls.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, has decided to take part in the polls.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, acting JP chairman GM Quader said the party high-ups have asked the nomination aspirants to submit their curriculum vitae.

The Election Commission may announce the schedule for the elections

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JS SEATS FOR WOMEN

Transgenders enter the fray

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in history, eight transgender persons have collected Awami League nomination forms to vie for seats reserved for women in parliament.

The constitution, however, doesn't allow them to occupy the women's seats.

According to article 65 of the constitution, there shall be 50 seats reserved exclusively for women.

But transgender persons are categorised as "hijra" on their national identity cards. "Since I consider myself a woman, I bought and submitted the nomination form for a seat reserved for women," said Ohidul Islam Parboti, 29, one of the transgender aspirants.

Asked for comment, a central AL leader, wishing anonymity, said the nomination forms were sold considering everyone as an aspirant. "When they submit the filled out forms, we will categorise them."

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Ershad flies abroad, rifts in JP widen

RASHIDUL HASAN

A crack over the Jatiya Party helm has widened among several top leaders in recent times, especially after HM Ershad decided that his younger brother GM Quader will be the acting chairman in his absence.

Formed in 1986, the Jatiya Party may face a spilt for the fourth time if the battle for leadership further intensifies with Ershad remaining out of the top position for long, said insiders.

Also leader of the opposition in parliament, JP Chairman Ershad yesterday flew to Singapore for "medical checkup", leaving the rank and file speculating over what lies ahead in the party.

Quader told this newspaper that Ershad is suffering from multiple health complications but liver problem is the serious one. He is also suffering from malnutrition as he couldn't have proper food due to the liver complication.

A JP presidium member, who is close to Ershad, talking to this correspondent admitted that some JP leaders were locked into a brawl recently over who should take the party helm in the absence of ailing Ershad.

Divisions in the JP first emerged in recent times following Ershad's going against JP Parliamentary Party's decision to become part of the Awami

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Boats carrying winter vegetables arrive on the banks of the Sangu river in Chattogram's Chandanaish upazila. The greens -- aubergine, radish, beans, among other vegetables -- are popular seasonal delicacies with high demand in the capital. Inset, farmers from nearby areas gather here and take their goods to Dohazari bazar, where these fetch good prices.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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