The concerned authorities will have to submit the report to the HC in 15 days.  
  
The court came up with the order following news reports published in The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Kalerkantho today on adulteration of raw cow milk, curd and cow fodder.  
  
The High Court today directed the authorities concerned of the government to conduct a survey to determine how much raw cow milk and curd supplied across the country are mixed with lead, antibiotic and bacteria, which are harmful for human health.  
  
The concerned authorities will have to submit the report to the HC in 15 days.  
  
The court came up with the order following news reports published in The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Kalerkantho today on adulteration of raw cow milk, curd and cow fodder.  
  
The court issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why their inaction to prevent adulteration of raw milk, curd and cow fodder should not be declared illegal.  
  
In the rule, the court asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) chairman to show cause why it should not be directed to take action against the persons responsible for this adulteration.  
  
The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam came up with the order and rule on a suo moto (voluntary) move following the newspaper reports.  
  
The court said food adulteration is a “corruption” but no appropriate action was taken against the responsible persons.

**What was in the news reports?**

The news reports were based on a government-commissioned study, revealed yesterday, found that raw cow milk contains excessive levels of lead, regular consumption of which is harmful to human health.  
  
Conducted by the National Food Safety Laboratory of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the study also detected high levels of chromium in cow feeds.  
  
Besides, it found excessive presence of pesticide, antibiotic and bacteria in raw cow milk.

[**READ more: Lead, pesticides in milk**](https://www.thedailystar.net/health/lead-pesticides-residue-found--in-cow-milk-1700089)

“Heavy metals found in milk basically came from cattle feeds, while pesticide is present because of its excessive use in grass and other agricultural feeds,” Prof Shahnila Ferdousi, head of the National Food Safety Laboratory (NFSL), told The Daily Star yesterday.  
  
“This happens mostly due to the lack of awareness among farmers and feed manufacturers,” she said.  
  
The study was conducted after collecting 96 samples of cow raw milk, 30 of cow feed, 33 of curd and 31 of packed milk -- randomly from 18 places in Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj between August and December last year.  
  
It was aimed at providing baseline data about the contaminants in milk and milk products and cow feed in the country and raising awareness among consumers and stakeholders and suggesting appropriate remedies.

**Related Topics**