

Extortionists active in Tangail cattle markets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Trading of sacrificial animals is yet to gain momentum in different markets of the district.

This is because most of the cattle traders are allegedly facing hassle, including extortion, on their way to various markets due to inadequate security measures taken by the law and order agencies.

Abdus Salam, a cattle trader of North Bengal alleged that he had come to Deohata cattle market in Mirzapur, one of the biggest cattle market in Tangail, with 50 sacrificial animals by river routes. But he had to pay Tk 5,000 to police, river police and local musclemen at five points of Sarja, Sacata, Bahadurabad, Dhudhmari and Chilmari from Ghughubari to Gobindasi.

Another cattle trader of Tangail, Kalam Bepari, alleged that he came to Dewhata cattle market with 10 sacrificial animals by truck from North Bengal. He had to pay Tk 300 to highway police in three points including Sirajganj.

Joyen Miah, another cattle trader of Sanandabari village under Dewanganj upazila in Jamalpur district, told this correspondent he came to Dewhata cattle market buying 10 sacrificial animals from Gobindasi cattle market.

'A gang of musclemen took Tk 500 from him as toll by force at the cattle market,' he alleged.

However, the cattle markets in the district including Gobindasi in Bhuapur; Deohata, Hatubhanga and Taktarchala in Mirzapur,

Rupshi in Delduar, Jugni, Karatia and Aynapur in Tangail sadar, Alenga in Kalihati have started gaining momentum.

But it is believed that despite plenty of supply, this year prices of cattle will be comparatively higher due to market manipulation by middlemen and local hoodlums who are operating silently hoodwinking law enforcers.

This correspondent visited

some cattle markets and found sales of cattle low in comparison with crowds in the markets.

Price of a small size cow is ranging between Tk 7,000 and 12,000 and that of a medium size cow is between Tk 15,000 and 25,000 on average at the cattle markets. The traders demand Tk 50,000 to 1,00,000 for a large size cow. Price of goats are also higher than that of last year.

Cattle trader Mukter Ali told this correspondent this year price of sacrificial animals rose due to increasing price of fodder. This year, price of a 50 kg bag of 'Kura' is Tk 180 while it was price Tk 100 last year.

'Price of sacrificial animals marked rise this year due to reduction in import of animals from India,' he added.



A cattle market at Gobindasi in Tangail. Traders who came here from far flung areas of various districts have complained of extortion and inadequate security measures taken by the authorities concerned at various points on the way.

PHOTO: STAR

AL leader expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An Awami League (AL) leader of Ghatail upazila was expelled from the party on charge of anti-organisational activities on Friday.

Ghatail upazila AL general secretary (GS) Shahidul Islam Lebu was expelled after an emergency meeting of the district Awami League executive committee held at its office with president Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan in the chair.

The meeting also decided to postpone date expired committee of Upazila Awami League and formation of its ad hoc committee.

Transport strike in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Transport owners in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Srimangol called an indefinite strike on the route from today.

They called the strike demanding immediate withdrawal of two additional offices of Mitali Paribahan at Gowainghat and Rashidur. Its buses ply on the Dhaka-Sylhet route.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at its office at Moulvibazar on Thursday night. Leaders of Sylhet District Transport Owners and Sylhet District Transport Workers' Union also expressed their solidarity with the strikers.

Traders observe strike, form human chain in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Traders here on Thursday observed strike for one hour demanding immediate withdrawal of Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner (DC).

They also formed a human chain in support of their demand. Gaibandha District Traders Coordination Council and Political Alliance consisting of workers of various political parties, jointly organised the human chain protesting alleged additional revenue collection and other irregularities being pursued by the administration.

A protest meeting was also held where speakers gave an ultimatum to the administration to meet their demand by January 26, otherwise, they threatened a greater agitation including series of hartals afterwards.

Speakers criticised the administration for imposing fresh dealing license on over 48 items without prior approval of the Commerce Ministry although the ministry imposed dealing license on nine items only.

The meeting was addressed by Shahjada Anowerul Kadir, Convener, District Traders Coordination Council, Mohammed Khaled, President, Gaibandha

Awami League, Abdur Rashid Sarker, President Jatya Party, Moinul Huq Raza President, Gano Forum, Mosedek Hossain Bulbul, of CPB AK Morselin Parvez, former president of Gaibandha Chamber of Commerce

and Industry, Zilur Rahman, President Motor Malik Samity, Abdur Rahman, President, Motor Sramik Union and Azhar Ali, President of Shop Owners' Association.



Detective Branch (DB) of police recovered fake notes of Tk 500 and arrested three persons after conducting raids from different parts of Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

11 bombs found in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Friday recovered 11 live bombs in Muladi upazila and 525 bottles of Phensidyl in Babuganj and Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital here.

Five people were also arrested by them.

On a tip-off, a Rab team recovered 11 live bombs from the kitchen of Rezaul Karim at Sholaghar village in Char Kalekha union of Muladi upazila.

Rezaul Karim, an outlawed party leader, Nurul Islam, a Union Parishad member and their accomplice Abdus Salam were rounded up in this connection.

Rab recovered 520 bottles of Phensidyl packed in bags and cartons from a garden in an abandoned state at Rakudia village near Doarika bridge under Babuganj upazila.

RAB also recovered five more bottles Phensidyl and drug-injections and medicine from a grocery shop at a quarter of fourth class employees of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Grocer Akkas Ali and Abdur Rahim, a cook of the SBMCH were held.

Gas supply from Well No 5 of Jerin Tea Garden begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Gas supply from Well No 5 in Jerin Tea Garden to the national grid began on Thursday.

Advisor to Energy Ministry Mahmudur Rahman formally inaugurated its supply.

It has been learnt that from now on 130 MMCFD gas will be supplied to the national grid from this well daily.

About 115 MMCFD gas had been supplied from the well daily after its production on March 21 last year. The gas will be processed at the processing plant and then it will be supplied to the national grid of Petrobangla at Rashidpurin Habiganj.

Poaching of deer up in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Poaching of deer is going on unabated in the Sundarbans in the ongoing winter season.

Hunting of deer is going on in collaboration with unscrupulous forest officials and staffers, local people alleged.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Forest officials recovered at least 18 pieces of deerskin in last two days from Sora, a village near to the Sundarbans in Shyamnagar upazila.

BDR and Forest officials launched a joint drive at the house of Rabiul Islam at Sora and recovered 12 pieces of deer skin on January 4, according to Forest officials.

In another drive, 6 pieces of deer skin were recovered from the house of Ruhul Amin at the same village yesterday.

But the law enforcers failed to round up the poachers, sources said.

On contact, Shyamnagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Zahid Hossain confirmed the incidents.

IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS

Fattening of cattle by banned Indian drug poses a threat to health

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Fattening of cattle by banned Indian drug has posed a threat to health in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Hundreds of cattle traders in the northern region are allegedly engaged in fattening their cattle to get a windfall profit by selling them in about 100 big markets before Eid-ul-Azha.

Instead of following proper method, most of them take a short cut way to fatten cattle. They reportedly feed their cattle harmful and banned Indian tablets named 'Pump.' Sometimes, they use Decavit and Decason for the purpose.

As a result, the cattle become bulky within the shortest time by using the banned items, sources said.

It also increases brightness of fur and skin. So the cattle become attractive to prospective buyers who ultimately become eager to

purchase them at higher prices.

It has been learnt that just before a month of Eid-ul-Azha, most of cattle traders start feeding their cattle 800 to 1,000 tablets in over dose to fatten medium size cattle within the period.

They allegedly use 1,500 to 2,000 tablets to fatten a big size cattle. After a month the cattle become fat and become ready for sell in markets at exorbitant rate.

Although the cattle look bulky and attractive, yet they are not lively. They usually do not like to move, rather they remain gloomy and static most of the time.

The tablets generally damage their liver and kidney, according to veterinary doctors. As the waste fluid can not get out of their bodies, it is transmitted to the entire body and absorbed by cells of their flesh. The cattle become very fat. A kind of bacteria is formed within the body which may cause serious harm to human body.

When contacted, Abdul Majid, a

senior medical officer of Nilphamari Civil Surgeon's office said by consuming beef of such cattle, people are most likely to suffer from kidney trouble. It damages the cardiovascular system. It might prevent internal functioning of body and increase blood pressure, he said.

Upazila Livestock Officer Dr Anil Kumar Pal said to this correspondent, indiscriminate use of such tablets may harm both the cattle and people.

He said the scientific method of fattening cattle is de-worming fast and then use mixture of urea, molasses and straw (UMS).

'We use steroid for treatment of inflammation, swallowed legs of cattle'.

'We also prescribe steroid and calcium for treatment of too much weak cattle for a certain period (not more than one week) at a dose of 2cc or slightly higher dose per day according to size and weight of the cattle,' he added.

School boy killed over Tk 50

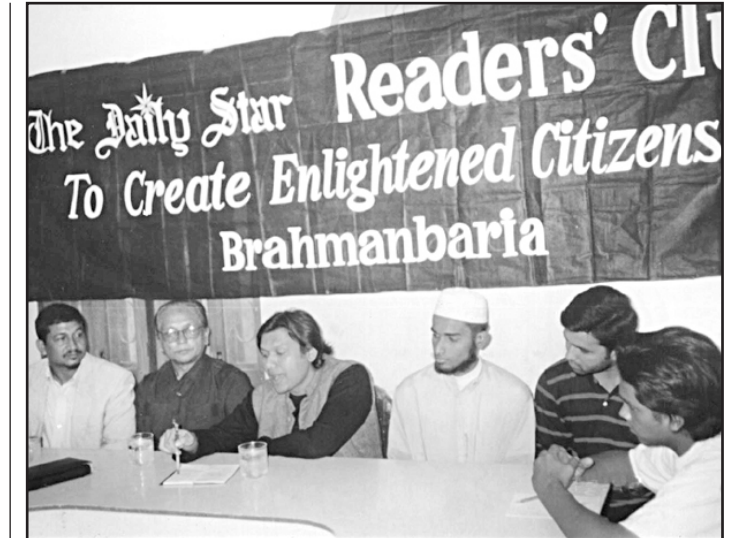
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A student of Shamsnagar High School lost his life for Tk 50 only Thursday night.

Siddiqur Rahman Sumon, 15, a student of the school had a quarrel with a few youths residing on the Chatlapur Road in Shamsnagar of Kamalganj upazila over Tk 50.

On the fateful day, they exchanged hot words among themselves. Local people solved their dispute.

But the ill-fated boy was stabbed by the youths while he went to Chatlapur at night which resulted in his instantaneous death.



Rafi Hossain, In-Charge, The Daily Star Readers' Club, addressing a meeting during formation of the club in Brahmanbaria recently. He is surrounded by elite of the town.

PHOTO: STAR

6X3

6X2

10X3