

Acute fodder crisis forces farmers to sell cattle

They are facing the shortage as the recent floods have damaged all the grass fields in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Farmers in the district are forced to sell their cattle due to acute crisis of fodder as its price is out of reach due to recent prolonged floods and heavy rain.

As a result, most of the frustrated farmers and marginal cattle owners are selling their cows at lower prices.

The farmers are facing the fodder crisis as the recent floods have damaged all the grass fields here.

During a recent visit to different local markets in the district, this correspondent found that a bundle of straw was being sold at Tk 16 to Tk 18 while a pile of straw at Tk 2500 to Tk 3000.

The sellers said they have to buy straw at higher prices from other districts like Naogaon and Dinajpur.

Cattle farmer Rakibul Islam of Govindasi in Bhuapur upazila said at present, it is not possible to keep cows due to the crisis of fodders.

He added that they are now struggling over rearing their cattle due to high prices of fodder. So, they will sell the cows.



Affected cattle farmers buy straws at higher prices as the recent prolonged floods have damaged all the grass fields in Tangail. The photo was taken from Govindasi in Bhuapur upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Another farmer Sohrab Hossain said now the price of milk is lower than cattle feeds.

"I used to buy per bundle of straw Tk 3 to Tk 4 but now I have to buy it Tk 14 to Tk 18. If the prices

go up in this way, cattle rearing will be stopped," he added.

Sohel Miah, a straw seller at Govindasi market in the upazila, said as they have to buy straw from the wholesalers at higher prices, they are forced to sell it at a higher price.

"At present, I am selling per bundle of straw at Tk 16 to Tk 18 while it was sold at Tk 5 to Tk 6 before the floods," he added.

Mokaddes Ali, another seller of straw, said this year, the prolonged flood has severely damaged almost all the grass fields. Due to this, the fodder crisis occurred this time.

Swapn Kumar Debnath, upazila livestock officer in Bhuapur, said cattle farmers are facing fodder crisis as the cultivated lands have been submerged due to this year's prolonged floods and heavy rains.

They are suggesting the affected farmers to feed their cattle wheat bran and rice husk as alternative of the straw, he said.

The crisis will end as soon as harvesting of Aman paddy will start in November, he added.

Men of municipal mayor and Uz chairman face-off over illegal toll collection

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulribazar

Tension has been running in Habiganj town as the supporters of the municipality mayor and Sadar upazila chairman face-off over illegal toll collection at the CNG-run auto-rickshaw stand in the town.

Locals said for the last few days, supporters of mayor Mizanur Rahman and Habiganj Sadar upazila parishad chairman Motachirul Islam have been holding processions and rallies addressing each other extortionist. As a result, there is at risk of a bloody clash at any time.

Auto-rickshaw workers blocked the main road at Muktijoddha Chattar in Habiganj town for several hours on October 7.

Workers allege that the municipality mayor has been demanding money at the auto-rickshaw stand. They sought the cooperation of the police administration to stop the extortion.

Mizanur, also municipal AL organising secretary, said he was not involved with the Habiganj Auto-rickshaw Owners' Association.

He added that Motachirul Islam, president

of the association, is involved with the extortion.

Earlier on Sunday, Habiganj municipality employees went on strike from 11:00am to 1:00pm to protest against 'false' allegations against the mayor.

Meanwhile, supporters of the upazila parishad chairman on Monday brought out a procession in the town to protest the propaganda against him. Later, a memorandum was submitted to the deputy commissioner against the mayor.

Mayor Mizan said a huge amount of money is being extorted from CNG auto stands every month. As he requested the owners

and workers of the auto-rickshaw not to pay the money, Motachirul Islam and his men has brought out a procession against him.

Motachirul Islam, also the general secretary of municipal AL, said "I have been elected as the best chairman among the upazila chairmen in Sylhet division. This has made one quarter unhappy. Mayor Mizan is spreading propaganda against me."

Masuk Ali, officer-in-charge of Sadar PS, said additional police have been deployed in the town.



Mizanur Rahman



Motachirul Islam

Greetings

FROM PAGE 12
BANGLADESH RESERVE NOW £87 MILLION
The foreign exchange reserve of Bangladesh now, after 10 months of its liberation, stands at 87 million pounds sterling, discloses Bangladesh Bank Governor AN Hamidullah today. Besides, Bangladesh can at any time draw 60 million pounds sterling from the International Monetary Fund. He adds that it only demonstrates the inherent capabilities of the economy of Bangladesh to quickly absorb all shocks it received during the war. As a matter of fact, the country's foreign exchange reserve as it stands today is much higher than that in the Pakistan era, which stood at 35 million pounds during the corresponding period last year.
SOURCES: October 19, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Section 144

FROM PAGE 12
at the Sadarpur upazila administration, the two groups called human chain programmes at the same time in front of Sadarpur Upazila Parishad. The administration made the decision to avoid any untoward incident.
Purabi Goldar, Sadarpur upazila nirbahi officer, said, "We have imposed section 144, fearing that the situation will deteriorate if the two rival groups held programmes on the same venue."
Sattar Hossain Fakir, vice-president of Sadarpur upazila unit AL and also a follower of Zafarullah, said they took permission from the upazila administration to form a human chain, demanding punishment of Nixon Chowdhury as a case was filed against him for violating the electoral code of conduct during the by-polls for the post of chairman of Charbhadrans Upazila Parishad.
But Nixon Chowdhury's supporters spoiled the programme by calling a counter-programme, he added.

Kazi Shafiqur Rahman, chairman of Sadarpur Upazila Parishad and a supporter of Nixon, said, "We wanted to form a human chain for withdrawal of the case against Nixon Chowdhury and we will continue our programme."

The by-election to the upazila for the post of chairman was held on October 10.

On Thursday, the Election Commission filed the case with Charbhadrans Police Station against Nixon for flouting the electoral code during the by-polls.

Housewife gang-raped

FROM PAGE 12
in a village of Char Montaj union around 9:00pm and raped her after tying her hands and feet.
They also looted cash and some gold ornaments from the house, claimed the mother of two.

The incident happened while her husband was out of the house, added the police official.

The woman is undergoing treatment at Patuakhali General Hospital.

The accused have been threatening her to not file a case, she said.

The woman could not file a case yet as she is undergoing treatment at the hospital, said Md Mahfuzur Rahman, additional superintendent of Patuakhali Police.

In Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila, police on Friday night arrested a teenager in a case filed for raping a nine-year-old physically challenged girl.

The arrestee, 16, resident of Bogarpar village under Pugaldigha union in the upazila, is a neighbour of the rape victim's family.

The victim's father, a rickshaw-puller, filed the rape case accusing the 16-year-old boy with Sarishabari Police Station on Friday night.

At around 11:00am on October 13, the boy entered the house and raped the girl in the absence of her parents, said Fazlul Karim, Officer-in-Charge of Sarishabari Police Station.

In Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj, a couple was arrested on a rape-related charge early yesterday, said Aminul Islam, Officer-in-Charge (operation) of Nabiganj

Police Station.

They are identified as Azir Uddin, 40, and his wife Nazma Begum of Gumgumia village in the upazila, he added.

The victim's mother filed a case on Friday night with Nabiganj Police Station for the rape of her 16-year-old daughter.

According to the case statement, the girl went to her aunt Nazma Begum's house to learn tailoring.

On the evening of October 14, Nazma's husband Azir Uddin took the 16-year-old to another room and raped her, with Nazma's assistance, it stated.

In Madaripur Sadar upazila, Rab arrested three men on Friday evening for abducting and raping a housewife.

The accused are Faruk Hossain, 46, of the Panichatra area, and Taiub Ali, 48, and Liton Hawladar, 49, of the Mohisherchar area.

The victim is a housewife, 28, who lives in a rented house in Panichatra.

Md Iftekharuzzaman, company commander of Rab-8 in Madaripur said, "Faruk abducted the housewife from Panichatra area on October 13 and took her to a rented house in the Kalabari area. There, he and two of his friends Taiub Ali and Liton Hawladar raped her."

On Friday morning, the victim managed to inform Rab about her situation over the phone.

Rab conducted a drive and rescued the housewife, arresting Faruk there red-handed. Later, Rab arrested Taiub Ali and Liton Hawladar from the Panichatra area.

The victim filed a case with Madaripur Sadar Police Station on Friday afternoon.

ISPs suspend shutdown

FROM PAGE 12
MA Hakim told The Daily Star yesterday.
Besides, he said, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) invited the internet service providers and cable operators tomorrow (Sunday) to meet the mayor for a discussion to resolve the issue. So, they hope there will be a positive discussion, Hakim added.

Jabbar said in the meeting that the principal secretary to the prime minister will brief the PM on the matter today, adding, therefore that the strike should be suspended until a decision is taken by the PM.

"Internet service providers have made significant contributions towards digital Bangladesh. So, the government will take their logical demands seriously," the minister said.

Jabbar said that the DSCC has verbally assured the two associations that they will not remove wires from Sunday till there is

an alternative arrangement.

Earlier, on October 12, Internet service providers and cable operators threatened to shut down their services across the country for three hours -- from 10:00am to 1:00pm -- every day from October 18 if their demands are not met after DSCC started removing overhead cables.

Their other demands include fixing the "last mile cable" issue permanently; setting the prices of internet and cable TV services by the ministry concerned at each level including homes, offices, and banks; setting the prices of NTTN by the government to provide low-cost internet and cable TV services; and measures to ensure that NTTNs have the capability for uninterrupted service delivery to customers.

ISPAB and COAB claimed DSCC started removing overhead cables from all roads from August without serving any prior notice to internet service providers and cable TV operators.

The mosque of harmony

FROM PAGE 12
"We don't have any divisions between us. We are living here year after year, sharing our joys and sorrows and helping each other," said Indian citizen Khaybar Ali, 79, a resident of Jhakuatari village.
He also demanded initiatives to renovate the mosque.

Currently, there are legal complexities over constructing any infrastructure adjacent to the border but necessary steps should be taken through the officials concerned of both countries to renovate the mosque, he added.

Indian national Ahmed Ali, 67, of Jhakuatari village, said, "We don't violate

the rules and never cross the barbed wire fence to enter into Bangladesh.

"We only use the border road to go to the mosque. After offering prayers and exchanging greetings, we return to our village in India."

Contacted, Humayun Kabir Mithu, chairman of Pathordubi Union Parishad in Bhurungamari, said, "People of both the villages are relatives of each other. After the Partition in 1947, some of them are now Indian citizens and some are Bangladeshis.

"All of them share the same culture, tradition, and lifestyle. Even the border forces of both the countries have never made any trouble with this issue."

Ardern scores landslide

FROM PAGE 12
when a volcanic eruption at White Island, also known as Whakaari, killed 21 people and left dozens more with horrific burns.

"There's no doubt the strong, great leadership we've had from Jacinda Ardern has been a massive factor in all this," Labour Party president Claire Szabo said of her party's win on broadcaster TVNZ.

Yesterday's vote marked the first time any leader won an absolute majority since New Zealand adopted a proportional voting system in 1996 and was the party's strongest showing since World War II.

Opposition leader Judith Collins conceded an "outstanding result" for Labour and congratulated Ardern on her win.

Telescopes

FROM PAGE 12
"The idea of a black hole 'sucking in' a nearby star sounds like science fiction," said Matt Nicholl, a lecturer and Royal Astronomical Society research fellow at the University of Birmingham, lead author of the study.

"But that's exactly what happens in a tidal disruption event."

When a star strays too close to a supermassive black hole, it is subjected to the phenomenal strength of the black hole's gravity.

The star can be physically torn apart and its matter pulled into long strings, a process known as "spaghettification".

"When these forces exceed the star's cohesive force, the star loses pieces that rush into the black hole," Stephane Basa, a researcher from the Marseille Astrophysics Laboratory, told AFP.

"This exceptional influx of matter produces intense electromagnetic emissions, which last for several months while the debris is digested."

Basa said that around half of the star remained after the tidal disruption event.

"Only' half of its mass has disappeared," he said. "That's already titanic."

Biden

FROM PAGE 12
Instead, Trump tossed the large, loudly cheering crowd red meat on immigration, race, and his conspiracy theory that Biden is steeped in corruption.

Spicing his stump speech with lurid exaggerations, Trump claimed that the "Biden family is a criminal enterprise."

He said Democrats "have nothing but disdain for your values" and "want to turn America into a communist country" -- a reprise of his successful 2016 message tapping into white, working-class resentment.

"It's time we sent a message to these wealthy liberal hypocrites," he told the cheering crowd in Macon, Georgia on Friday night.

Trump also dived into racially charged comments on Latin American migrants, saying Democrats will "flood your communities with illegal aliens, drugs, crime."

And he lashed out at one of his most outspoken critics, the Somali-American Democratic congresswoman Ilhan Omar, saying "she hates our country" and "comes from a place that doesn't even have a government."

Trump had still more venom for journalists, whom he called "the enemy of the people."

And he seemed to acknowledge things might not go his way in the end.

AL runners win Dhaka-5, Naogaon-6 by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League candidates have secured their places in both Dhaka-5 and Naogaon-6 constituencies in the by-polls amid noticeably low voter turnout.

According to unofficial results, Kazi Monirul Islam got elected from Dhaka-5 whereas Anwar Hossain was elected from Naogaon-6, defeating their rivals by vast number of votes.

Monirul got 45,642 votes in Dhaka-5 whereas his rival Salahuddin Ahmed, candidate of the BNP, bagged 2,926 votes.

The voter turnout in the constituency was 10.43 percent.

In Naogaon-6 by-polls, Anwar Hossain defeated his archrival, BNP's Md Rezaul Islam, by 100,917 votes.

The voter turnout in the constituency was 36.4 percent.

The by-polls in both constituencies started at 9:00am and continued till 5:00pm without a break.

In Dhaka-5, not a single vote was cast in several polling stations, including the one at Barnamala Adarsha High School and College, till 2:00pm.

In different polling stations, supporters of Kazi Monirul Islam were seen trying to cast votes in groups with the assistance of polling officials and in presence of law enforcement agencies.

They, however, finally failed as the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) did not recognise them as valid voters.

Members of law enforcement agencies -- police and ansar -- and the Election Commission officials were seen inactive while people were entering polling booths wearing badges with boat symbols, the

electoral symbol of the ruling party.

A correspondent of The Daily Star was also barred from entering the polling station at Sheikhdi Abdullah Molla High School (college building) by the AL men.

The correspondent was told that the polling officials were taking lunch.

While arguing with them, this correspondent saw that some five to six people, wearing badges of boat symbol, were asking the polling officer inside that booth to make arrangements for them to cast their votes.

They later forced this correspondent to leave, threatening dire consequences if they did not.

The total number of voters in Dhaka-5 constituency is around 49,500 but only 3,011 votes were cast till 3:30pm.

Polling agents of Salahuddin Ahmed, candidate of the BNP, were not seen in any of the 18 polling stations in the constituency.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Rejaul Islam, the BNP candidate of Naogaon-6, rejected the voting, alleging different irregularities in the election.

He made the announcement around one-and-a-half hours before the by-polls ended.

During a press conference at 3.30pm, Rejaul said his voters were barred while his agents were driven out at most of the total 104 centers.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda told reporters that the by-polls were held in a free and fair atmosphere as they did not receive any allegation.

He also pointed out that the coronavirus situation could be the reason for the low voter turnout in the by-polls.

Police hold anti-rape

FROM PAGE 12
torture of a woman in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila -- which was the spark for widespread protests across the country -- has embarrassed the nation, Chattogram Range Deputy Inspector General of Police Anwar Hossain said.

"There are no words to condemn the incident," he said while addressing a police rally against rape and violence against women at Begumganj upazila as part of the nationwide police programmes.

The police officer said law enforcement agencies should be more vigilant so that such incidents do not recur in future.

Citizens need to be more aware and report any incident to police immediately. Then no one will get a chance to escape after committing a crime, he said.

On September 2, the woman in

Noakhali was gang-raped but police apparently came to know about the incident only after a video of the woman being stripped and beaten was circulated by the rapists had gone viral.

The incident triggered condemnation, leading to continuous street protests and forcing the government to incorporate the death penalty for rape in the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

DIG Anwar said nearly 95 percent of people are oppressed by only 5 percent of people and that police have to come closer to people. They will have to restore people's trust through their actions.

Several lakh people across the country watched the rallies through social media, added the release from Police Headquarters.

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