

COLD WAVE, POLITICAL UNREST

Poultry farms face closure in Tangail, Kishoreganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Poultry farms in Kishoreganj and Tangail districts are facing closure threat due to various reasons including cold wave, price hike of poultry feed and political unrest.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent reports: Farm owners said the production cost of an egg is over Tk 3.50 but it is being sold at Tk 2.75 only.

A fortnight ago each kilogram (kg) Soybean powder, an ingredient of poultry feed, was sold at Tk 13 but now it is being sold at Tk 19. Prices of other ingredients of poultry feed also rose during the period. Previously, one kilogram of 'rice polish' was sold at Tk 11 which is being sold at Tk 18 per kilogram. Earlier, price of one kg maize was Tk 12. Now its price is Tk 19.

Khaled Saifullah Sohel of Berail village in Rashidabad union of Sadar upazila owns 3,500 chickens in his farm. He said cold wave is another factor for which he is incurring losses. He informed that in the previous winters he kept the temperature of his farm at 850 degree Fahrenheit but now the temperature fell down to 400 degree Fahrenheit. Production of egg decreased by 20 per cent during the last few days, he said.

Uninterrupted supply of electricity is a must to keep temperature of farms at desired level. But now the farm owners have to depend on kerosene lamp for at least 16 hours everyday. This is another reason for which they are incurring losses.

Owners said, because of political restlessness buyers from Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet have stopped buying eggs from their farms since the Eid holidays.

While visiting various farms, he found heaps of eggs lying unsold in the farms resulting in losses to owners.

A K Fazlul Huq Dulu who has 2,000 chickens in his farm in Tarapasha said he is unable to sell the chickens or feed them in such

an abnormal period. He said if the situation persists they will have to incur loss at Tk 1,500 each day.

Rafiq who owns 1,500 chicken at his farm at Chaddosata village of

said due to political restlessness and transportation problem, production of poultry feed went down causing its price hike.

Our Tangail Correspondent

terday claimed that the prices of chicken fell down considerably while prices of poultry feed increased to a great extent in the local markets in last few days.



PHOTO: STAR

Unsold chickens at a poultry farm in Kishoreganj. Farm owners incurring loss due to cold wave, political unrest and price hike of poultry feed

Binnati union in Sadar upazila said he is incurring Tk 260 loss every day.

Another Khaled Saifullah Sohel informed that medicine and vaccine which are preserved in refrigerators due to lack of power do not work. He alleged that the concerned authorities are indifferent to their needs.

Farm owners said, they do not want subsidy from government but want smooth supply of all necessary things to run poultry farms.

Al-Amin, a poultry feed trader in Morag Mohal market in the town

reports: At least 60 chickens are dying every day in each poultry farm in Sherpur.

There are about 3,000 small and big poultry farms in the district having 500 to 3,000 in each farm.

Various diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in the poultry farms due to low temperature.

As a result, poultry industry in the district faces closure threat.

Blockade programme of grand alliance has aggravated the situation.

As a result, poultry owners have become frustrated.

Some poultry firm owners yes-

Kamrul Islam, a poultry firm owner at Nabinagar village in Sherpur, said 400 out of 2,000 chickens of his farm died in last few days due to bitter cold. Sale of chickens came down as the wholesalers from Dhaka and other districts are not coming to the district due to blockade programme of the grand alliance, he said.

'I have incurred losses between Tk 50,000 to 60,000 in the last few days, but I invested Tk 1,75,000 in my farm where there are 2,000 chickens', he said.

On 30 acres of land at Enayetur creating job opportunities for hundreds of jobless people in shoal areas in the district and adjoining areas.

A new wholesale market of clothes has been set up by a former law-

maker here at a cost of Tk 30 crore

The people lost jobs and passed hard time following closure of two renowned cloth markets at Enayetur and Shohagpur due to unabated erosion of the Jamuna for the last 15 years.

Many handloom owners, workers and traders are now earning good profit from the market by selling their produces there.

Former lawmaker Major (retd) Monjur Kader who was elected from Chowhali and Shahjadpur constituency in the 2001 parliament set up the market on his own land and taking lease the adjoining lands.

Earlier, the Jamuna devoured croplands, homesteads and different establishments on its western bank one by one for a long period turning hundreds pauper. Most of them earned a living working in the handlooms and doing cloth trade. But they had to lose their business due to lack of good marketing facilities. They were demanding for a long time for establishment of an alternative market in the area. Realising justified demand of weavers and others, Monjur Kader undertook the project of Enayetur hat (market) and built it fulfilling the shoal people's demand.

The market committee had to fill up about 50 metre water body for the purpose.

At present, there are over 1,000

cloth shops, 50 restaurants and over 15 residential hotels in the market. Online banking system was also introduced while telecommunication facilities were provided to the weavers, traders and related people. As a result, marketing facilities increased to a great extent here.

While talking to Sobahan Ali, a handloom cloth trader, he said that there is a great demand for sari and lungi made by local weavers among the importers coming from Dhaka. The importers collect these cloths from this market and export these to different international markets also, he said. As a result, we are being benefited much.

Cloth traders like Shaiful, Jasim, Basir and Keramot Ali of Enayetur and Betil villages said sale of local clothes are on rise following establishment of the market at Enayetur. Production of clothes also increased from that of previous years, he said. The weavers are now earning more profits from the sale proceeds, he said.

On contact, Nur Alam, officer-in-charge of Enayetur police station said police have taken adequate security measures for the traders and customers coming from different districts.

The market committee had to fill up about 50 metre water body for the purpose.

At present, there are over 1,000

8X2

4X2

Move to preserve bio-diversity

Handloom training for indigenous women to reduce their dependence on forest

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

A new move has been taken up here to create job opportunities for indigenous people of forest areas.

Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry and Environment has undertaken the programme funded by USAID.

Trainings are being conducted to indigenous people residing near Lawachhara National Park under Kamalganj upazila under the programme of Nishorgo Support Project (NSP) to create substitute

employment opportunity for them. The programme was taken in a bid to preserve forest and bio-diversity. The programme is part of an infrastructural development programme in Lawachhara park.

Trainings on handloom are being conducted to female members of 63 families at Tiprapara village. At least a female member from each family will be brought under the programme. Fourteen women got training for 30 days in the first batch.

Training on waist-banded system of handloom operation is being conducted to the trainees as it is popular and easy to them.



PHOTO: STAR
Indigenous women undergoing handloom training as part of a programme undertaken by the Nishorgo Support Project of Forest Department to create jobs for them.

Ambalika and Sharmishta, two members of Tipra community having adequate knowledge on handloom are conducting the training.

Practice of waist-banded system of handloom, a symbol of culture and tradition of the Tipra community, was on wane. The new generation of the community has no idea of such type of handloom.

The NSP has created an opportunity to them for restoration of the system thereby helping to preserve the culture and tradition of the community which is now facing survival threat. The community members will earn a living out of the training.

Reserve forests of Bangladesh are now under extinction threat. The NSP is working to preserve the forest and bio-diversity by creating substitute income opportunities and small business initiatives for the people of forest areas. As a result, their dependence on forest will decrease to a great extent.

Tourists who have visited Lawachhara park in recent time highly appreciated the ongoing training programme of NSP.

ON THIRD DAY OF BLOCKADE



PHOTO: STAR
On the third day of nationwide blockade yesterday, (top to bottom) a folk singer performing at Amtoli intersection in Sathkhira, a protest procession of grand alliance in Gaibandha and a demonstration of Jatiya Party in Magura.

POOR NAVIGABILITY 22 fertiliser loaded vessels stranded in Jamuna

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 22 fuel and fertiliser laden water vessels were stranded at Baghabari and Kazirhat points in the Jamuna due to poor navigability of the river channel in the last few days.

The vessels are MV Jahangir, MV Jobber, MV Jerin, MV Karuna, MV Tania, MV Rajhonshi, MV Joloi and other vessels.

According to sources in Bhagabari ghat (terminal), big shoals have been emerged in the river stretching an area from Baghabari to Kazirhat disrupting movement of vessels. Baghabari

port has been facing closure threat, they said.

The big shoals are visible at Mohonganj, Pachakola, Nakalia Harirampur Ramkha and Nagarbari point in the Jamuna. Water level at the points varies from 5 feet to 6 feet. The water level for movement of vessels should be 10 feet to 12 feet, they said.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (Biwta) official Mostafizur Rahman said dredging operation will be conducted along the river channel as soon as possible.

8X3

Hindus campaigning for Jamaat candidate

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Hindus are campaigning for a Jamaat candidate in Bogra-2 (Shibganj) constituency to resist BNP candidate and former whip Rezaul Bari Dina.

Jamaat candidate in Shibganj and former lawmaker Shahadatuzzaman confirmed this to this correspondent over cell phone yesterday noon.

Jamaat sources also said Hindus like Joy Gopal, Dr Mohini, Horis Master, Arun Master of Dewli union and Jiten Master of Gang Nagar union in Shibganj upazila are campaigning in favour of Shahadatuzzaman against ex-whip Razaul Bari Dina.

Meanwhile, Jamaat district amir Shahbuddin said his party is working for former whip Razaul Bari Dina and four other BNP candidates in five constituencies in the district.

Shahbuddin further said that although he submitted nomination for contesting in Bogra-1 (Sonatola-Sharkandi) constituency but now he is campaigning for BNP candidate and former lawmaker Kazi Rafiqul Islam as per party decision. He said that four other Jamaat candidates are also campaigning for BNP candidates as per party decision.

Jamaat sources said Principal Rostam Ali who had submitted nomination in Bogra-5 (Sherpur-Dhanut) constituency to contest former BNP lawmaker Golam Mohammed Siraj but now he is campaigning for him as per party decision.

Jamaat candidate in Bogra-4 (Adamdighi-Dupchancha) constituency Mofazzal Haque was asked by his party to campaign for BNP candidate Abdul Momin Talukder Khaka.

BNP sources said Jamaat candidate in Bogra-3 (Khaloo-Nandigram) constituency Tayeb Ali is campaigning for BNP candidate Dr Ziaul Haque Molla.