

Cattle slaughter dips by 92pc in city

UNB, Dhaka

Traders have said cattle slaughtering in the capital has plummeted down by almost 92 per cent for anthrax panic across the country, with over 500 people and a good number of cattle infected with the disease.

Before anthrax cases were reported, each day 6,000 to 7,000 cows were being slaughtered in Dhaka city. Nowdays in the number has dropped drastically to around 500.

Nearly 8,000 goats were being slaughtered for the daily consumption of city dwellers, which has been reduced by almost half now.

Secretary General of Bangladesh Meat Business Association, Rabiul Alam, provided the statistics, expressing dismay over sluggishness in their business.

Since demand for beef and mutton have plummeted, meat traders chose to sell buffalo meat by displaying safety signs to assure customers that the cattle are free from anthrax, he said.

No buffaloes have been reported anthrax affected, yet slaughter of buffaloes too has also been marked by a slight fall, added Rabiul.

Rabiul, also secretary of Gabtoli Cattle Market Committee, said cattle sales have fallen drastically in the market.

According to him, around 6000 to 7000 cows and 200 to 400 goats had been sold in the market daily, but now 100 to 150 cows and 50 to 60 goats are being sold a day.

The Department of Livestock Services (DLSS) has already set up check posts on the western side of the Bangabandhu Bridge, as well as Aricha and Gabtoli, to ensure that anthrax-affected animals cannot enter the capital.

Two veterinary doctors with six DLSS staff have been on duty in two shifts at Gabtoli cattle market since September 6. But no anthrax-affected animal has been



A butcher shop at Moghbazar in the city remains temporarily closed due to the sudden spread of anthrax in the country. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

detected in the market till yesterday.

Dr Md Muzammel Haq, a livestock officer for Dhaka District, confirmed they are yet to find any anthrax-affected animal in Gabtoli cattle market.

According to Dr Haq, anthrax affected animals are impossible to be transported to Dhaka from northern districts, because animals with the disease die within four hours.

Dr Shakwat Hossain, veterinary surgeon of Dhaka City Corporation, said DCC inspectors are monitoring the situation to resist slaughter of any anthrax-affected cattle in the city.

He admitted to their inability to monitor the situation with desired rigour due to lack manpower.

Dr Musaddique Hossain, deputy director of Dhaka district DLSS, told UNB that cows would get anthrax in previous years, but it drew media attention because of its presence in human this year.

He pointed out that the disease is not fatal for human beings and ready cure is in place.

So far, 45 anthrax affected cows and 56 goats have been detected in eight districts of the country till Thursday afternoon, according to the anthrax control room of Livestock Services Department.

The disease was first identified at Shahjadpur in Sirajganj on August 17. It is now spread in seven other districts -- Pabna, Tangail, Kustia, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Thakurgaon and Kishoregonj.

On September 5, the fisheries and livestock resources ministry issued a red alert to its various departments and officials to check the spread of anthrax across the country.

The government have sent some two lakh vaccines to the affected area in Sirajganj and Pabna and some 5,00,000 vaccines to different parts of the country.

DC OFFICE STAFF RECRUITMENT AL men halt exams, damage 5 vehicles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Awami League (AL) activists forced to halt the recruitment examination for the deputy commissioner's (DC) office yesterday morning.

Leaders and activists of the ruling party and its associate bodies vandalised vehicles of the administration and assaulted the staffs during the attack.

The authorities has postponed the examination for 17 posts under four categories until further notice said official sources.

Some BCL leaders claimed that agitating people carried out the attacks as the examination papers were leaked earlier.

Pabna deputy commissioner's office sources said the examinations started at 9:00am at two centres--Pabna Zila School and Pabna Government Girls High School.

Imam Uddin Kabir, additional deputy commissioner (ADC, Revenue) in Pabna, told The Daily Star that leaders and activists of the ruling party including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League entered the examination centres and forced to halt the examination.

Activists also vandalised at least five vehicles, including the official vehicle of Rajshahi divisional commissioner's office, additional district magistrate, additional deputy commissioner and Pabna sadar thana nirbahi officer (TNO).

The attackers also assaulted the officials during this time. They snatched the examina-

Bangladesh-US air exercise begins

UNB, Dhaka

An eight-day joint exercise, code-named "Ex-Cope South 2010", between Bangladesh Armed Forces and Pacific Air Force of USA began in Sylhet and Dhaka on Friday, an ISPR press release said.

The exercise aims to develop inter-operational ability between Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) and US Pacific Air Force, impart and share cross-training, update the existing procedure of aerial delivery system in co-ordination with US Pacific Air Force and Bangladesh Army.

The objectives also include to train BAF pilots while carrying out low level night vision goggles with US Air Force during day and night, assess the functional suitability of various equipment used for the exercise and receive suggestions for their improvement.

The exercise will ascertain the request for various equipment, the BAF may need for the conduct of such operations in future, strengthen friendship between the forces and general citizens of Bangladesh, and enhance the capability of maintenance and procedures related to C-130 aircraft.

Para commando battalion from Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force, 65 personnel from US 36 Airlift Squadron and Pacific Air Force are taking part in the exercise.

Initiative on to reduce mortality rate by 2012

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken an initiative to reduce morbidity and mortality by controlling vitamin A deficiency under a project by fortifying edible palm and soybean oil with the vitamin by 2012.

In the first phase of the project, the government is expecting to fortify 300,000 metric tonnes of edible oil with vitamin A.

The industries ministry will implement the project in partnership with Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiner's Association and Unicef.

Sources at the ministry said a total of 90 million children and women would be brought under the project. Of them, 16 million are under the age of five, 42 million aged 6-19 years and 32 million women of reproductive age.

The government has procured the required fortification inputs (premix and equipment) and already distributed those to edible oil refiners.

In the first phase of the project, the government will support 4-5 refiners to fortify nearly 300,000 metric tons of edible oil. Later, phase two and three of the project will be carried out to achieve the desired goal.

Training will be provided to edible oil refiners on fortification process and quality control. Besides, the government will also provide necessary technical assistance for the refiners.

In this regard, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) will formulate a law to ensure quality. The quality assurance and control of the fortified edible oil will be ensured through three levels of testing.

Firstly, Unicef with the assistance from external agencies will prepare a detailed protocol for refinery level quality assurance. The government will provide quality control kits for the laboratories at the refineries.

A central laboratory will be set up at BSTI that will provide external quality control support to the participating oil refineries.

Monitoring of the quality by a third party will be placed at different levels from production to consumption.

A baseline survey will also be conducted to determine knowledge, attributes and practices of the population, the consumption pattern and oil usage in Bangladesh and clinical and biochemical status of vitamin A nutrition.

A communication strategy will be developed and used for consumers' education on fortified oil and its benefits.

Sources at the industries ministry informed that it would cost a mere Tk 0.26 per kg to fortify edible oil with vitamin A.

RU reopens today

BSS, Rajshahi

The sixteen residential halls of Rajshahi University (RU) reopened yesterday after 17 days Eid vacation while the classes and offices will reopen today.

RU authorities has deployed a number of police at seven entrance gates of the university to bar outsiders and avoid untoward situation.

Rajshahi University authorities closed the sixteen residential halls from September 7 to 16 for Eid vacation to avert untoward situation at campus.

The students had to sign hall register book and show residential identity card before entering hall.

The authorities also asked teachers, officials, students and employees to keep their identity cards with them while they stay on the campus.

Rajshahi University Proctor Prof Chowdhury M Zakaria said, "RU authorities imposed restriction on movement of outsiders on the campus. Only residential students will be allowed to stay on the halls showing their valid identity cards".



FBCCI President AK Azad speaks at a view exchange meeting on law and order with newly appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker at FBCCI auditorium in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Man held for shaving off wife's head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested the man who shaved off his wife's head at Jatrabari in the capital on Thursday allegedly over dowry.

Mohammad Ali, a resident of Shaheed Faruk Sharak in Jatrabari, shaved off the hair of his wife, Amena Akter Anny, in the afternoon after beating her, said the First Information Report (FIR) filed by Amanullah, father of Anny.

"Mohammad Ali beat his wife and then shaved her head as he did not get Tk 2 lakh and a motorcycle as dowry," said Officer-in-Charge of Jatrabari Police Station Mohammad Moniruzzaman.

Amanullah filed the case yesterday with the police station after his family brought Anny from her husband's house on Thursday night following the incident.

Police arrested Ali in the afternoon.

Ali has been torturing Anny since their marriage about a year back, said police.

"I did not make the demand of dowry. I beat her as she did not cook any curry for lunch on Thursday," said Ali.

One dies in electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A man died and another injured after they got electrocuted by a live electric wire in a house at Monkosair village of Kasba in the district yesterday morning.

The deceased, Md Kamrul Islam, 35, was son-in-law of Md Abduz Zaher Mia of the village.

According to locals and police, a snapped electric wire fell on the house of Md Abduz Zaher Mia and started to burn the house.

The two people were injured as they came in contact with electric wire.

With critical burn injuries, they were sent to Brahmanbaria Modern Hospital where Kamrul died.

Explosive coal dust found at US mine

AP, Charleston

The explosion was the deadliest at a U.S. coal mine since 1970 and is now the subject of civil and criminal investigations. Mine owner Massey Energy Co. criticized MSHA for releasing the test results.

"This is not the first time MSHA has attempted to use unproven or faulty coal dust claims in their investigation efforts," the Richmond, Virginia-based company said in a statement.

MSHA contends that samples taken after an explosion contain less coal dust than they would have before a blast. "The explosion has had the opportunity to eat up or use up, burn up some of the combustible materials," Stricklin said.

Inspection logs filled out by Massey employees before the blast showed problems with coal dust as well. MSHA has collected 1,803 dust samples so far and 79 percent contained too little inert material to comply with the law, Stricklin said. Most of the samples came from parts of the mine affected by the explosion, with a minority taken just past the spot where seven of the victims were found.

Investigators still need samples from two areas that had been flooded in the 12-mile underground complex, Stricklin said. One of those areas is now drained, which will allow investigators to enter it and begin mapping, sampling and searching for clues. Stricklin expects pumping will begin shortly in the second area.

Investigators have conducted 235 interviews and the plan is still more, Stricklin said. The agency is still considering whether it needs to interview Massey Chief Executive Don Blankenship.

Following the investigation, MSHA may cite Massey for violations that investigators determine contributed to the explosion and deaths. The agency also could fine the company. The criminal investigation is being handled separately by the U.S. Department of Justice.

CU gets five new buses

BSS, Chittagong

Five double-decker buses for the students, officials and employees of Chittagang University (CU) will start plying on different routes from today.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) provided the buses to the CU authorities -- two for the students and three for the officials and employees.

Of the five buses, three will ply on Hathazari-Nazirhat-Raozan routes while two others will shuttle between the city and the university on a rental basis.

CU sources said the first bus would start for the university campus at 8 am from Hathazari College gate while the second and the third buses would ply for the campus at 7.15 am from Hathazari and Raozan respectively.

Of the staff buses, one will start from New Market area at 7 am and another from Agrabad area at 7 am and leave the campus for Chittagang city from Shaheed Minar at 2.30 pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees at Mymensingh.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	25.2	81	72
Chittagong	32.3	25.2	73	83
Rajshahi	29.6	24.9	87	89
Khulna	32.0	26.6	76	95
Barisal	30.6	25.5	83	90
Sylhet	34.0	25.0	83	81
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.0	69	90