



PHOTO: STAR

Police rescued this deer from Chowmohoni in Tojumoddin upazila under Bhola district on March 23.

Deer enter localities for food, water

Four rescued, one dies in Monpura upazila of Bhola

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Scarcity of sweet water and food often forces deer from different reserve forests in Bhola district to enter human habitations.

Four deer came to Pachakorali village in Hazir Har union under Monpura upazila of Bhola after crossing the river from Nijhum island under Noakhali district on March 20 afternoon when locals chased to catch them but in vain.

Later in the evening the same day, a team from local forest office

rescued the four deer from the spot and freed three of them at Badner Char in Monpura upazila. The other deer died.

Informed by locals, Tojumoddin police rescued a deer from Chowmohoni area under Tajumoddin upazila on March 23 morning. Later forest officials released it to the reserve forest after primary aid.

The deer may have left the forest in search of food and sweet water, said Masud Rana, assistant forest conservator in Bhola.

Deer always drink sweet water but it becomes less available especially in February and March as salinity increases in the coastal areas, said Md Mizanur Rahman, divisional forest officer (DFO) in Bhola.

Sweet water ponds should be dug inside the reserve forest areas as at least 15,000 deer now live in different reserve forests like Char Kukri-Mukri, Char Patila, Dhal Char, Moupura, Sakuchia and Hazir Hat areas in Bhola, he said.

Deer in these areas are also facing food crisis, he said.

Deer often come to habitations in search of sweet water and food by crossing rivers and a good number of deer are killed by a group of hunters who sell venison privately among locals, said Masud Rana, assistant conservator of forest in Bhola.

Local forest officials and employees said they often rescue deer that come to human habitations and feed them in the reserve forests.

They have to do it with their own expenses as there is no allocation from the government for the

purpose, they said.

Deer usually eat nut, different types of leaves, twigs and low growing of plants that are available within their range and the creature need balanced diet, said DFO Mizanur Rahman.

On an average, a deer consumes five to eight pounds food for every 100 pounds of body weight per day, he said, adding that it takes food early in the morning and just before the dark in the evening, and sometimes in a moonlit night.

ABDUCTION FOR RANSOM

2 more youths held in Jewel killing case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police arrested two more youths in connection with the abduction and killing and abduction of Panchagarh primary school student Jewel.

The two were picked up from Badupara village under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila early yesterday. They are Irfan Khan alias Shaju, 19, son of Raihan Khan and Md. Biplop Hossain, 18, son of Aktar Ali of Badupara area.

Police said, the arrestees confessed to their involvement with the killing.

Quoting their confessional statement, sub-inspector of Panchagarh police station and also investigation officer of the case, Rezaul Islam Basunia, told this correspondent over cell phone that main accused Munna, 22, also tenant of Abdur Rahim (victim's father) took Jewel, 10, on Sunday morning out of home to 'visit different places'.

Then they traveled to Thakurgaon first on a passen-

ger bus. As per previous plan, Shaju and Biplop joined them at Thakurgaon bus stand.

Before start of journey to Rangpur, the abductors kept Jewel's school bag at a shop at Kalibai in Thakurgaon municipality.

In Rangpur, on Monday, when the boy started crying to return home, the three kidnapers decided to kill him.

As the area was lonely, they took Jewel to an under construction building in front of Rangpur Cadet College and strangled him.

On Tuesday, police arrested Munna from in front of Boda Hospital and went to Rangpur as per his statement.

SI Rezaul Karim said that the criminals kidnapped Jewel on Sunday on his way to school in Panchagarh town for ransom.

Police brought the body of the victim yesterday afternoon from Rangpur on completion of legal formalities and later handed it to victim's family at 4:30pm.



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