

Border areas in SW region see influx of Indian cattle

Demand up ahead of Eid-ul-Azha

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Jessore

Different border areas of south-western region sees influx of Indian cattle, mostly cows, ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the Muslim festival observed with sacrifice of animals.

Although there is no provision for import or export of cattle between Bangladesh and India, unofficially a one-sided business is running between the two countries where Bangladeshis are buyers and Indians are sellers.

The number sees gradual rise as both the parties find the business highly profitable while Bangladesh authorities 'legalise' a large portion of the virtually smuggled cattle through taking Tk 500 as customs duty.

A total of two lakh 49 thousand 785 cattle were brought to Bangladesh in September this year and Tk 12 crore 48 lakh 92 thousand 500 was realised as duty while the number of cattle and duty realised in the same month last year were one lakh 29 thousand 514 and about Tk 6.5 crore, said sources at customs offices in Jessore and Satkhira.

In August this year, two lakh 26 thousand and 128 cattle were brought to Bangladesh and Tk 11 crore 30 lakh 64 thousand was realised for it.

Custom sources said, in the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2013-2014 from July to September six lakh 83 thousand 873 cattle were brought to Bangladesh and customs authorities



PHOTO: STAR

Indian cows kept for sale at bordering Putkhali village, a large cattle market in Sharsha upazila under Jessore district.

earned Tk 34 crore 19 lakh 36 thousand 500 as duty. In the same period of fiscal year 2012-2013, the number of such cattle was three lakh four thousand 497 and Tk 15 crore 22 lakh 48 thousand 500 was earned as duty.

The number of cattle brought in 2012-2013 and 2011-2012 fiscal years were six lakh 27 thousand 707 and seven lakh 60 thousand 24 respectively.

South-eastern districts Satkhira, Jessore, Jhenidah, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Kushtia share border with India.

Cattle are smuggled from India through hundreds of points across the 475 kilometre land border from Shyamnagar of Satkhira in the south to Daulatpur of Kushtia in the north, said sources of Border Guard Bangladesh.

Authorities legalise a portion of the smuggled cattle taking Tk 500 as duty at 13 customs corridors including Basantapur, Kulia, Satani and Sonabaria of Satkhira, Navaron and Salkona of Jessore, Kusumpur and Bhairab of Jhenidah, Dariapur, Ujalpur and Bamundi of Meherpur, Karpasdanga of Chuadanga and Mohishkunda under Bheramara of Kushtia in

south-western region.

SM Shamsuzzaman, assistant commissioner of Jessore Customs Commissioner's Office, said, "Cattle trade in bordering areas has risen to meet the huge demand ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Laxity about cattle smuggling in the Indian side of the border areas also contributes to the rise in the number of cattle coming from there."

Makeshift stalls under transformers pose risk

KONGKON KARMAKAR, Dinajpur

Makeshift tea stalls and other shops just beside electric pillars holding the transformers of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) pose risk of fatal accident any time.

Due to such an accident a few days ago, two people were electrocuted at Shalbahon village in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh district, police said.

There are 310 transformers under Dinajpur PDB to ensure electricity supply in the district, official sources said.

But many poor people erected makeshift structures under the roadside transformers, and selling tea and other things there.

The spots often see thronging of people who go there for having tea or to buy different things.

During a visit to different areas of Dinajpur municipality, this correspondent saw tea stalls and other shops under the electric transformers at Baluadanga, Lilymore, Jail Road, Modern More, Charubabur More, Borabandar and Balubari areas under Dinajpur municipality.

"I do business here as I don't have to pay any rent

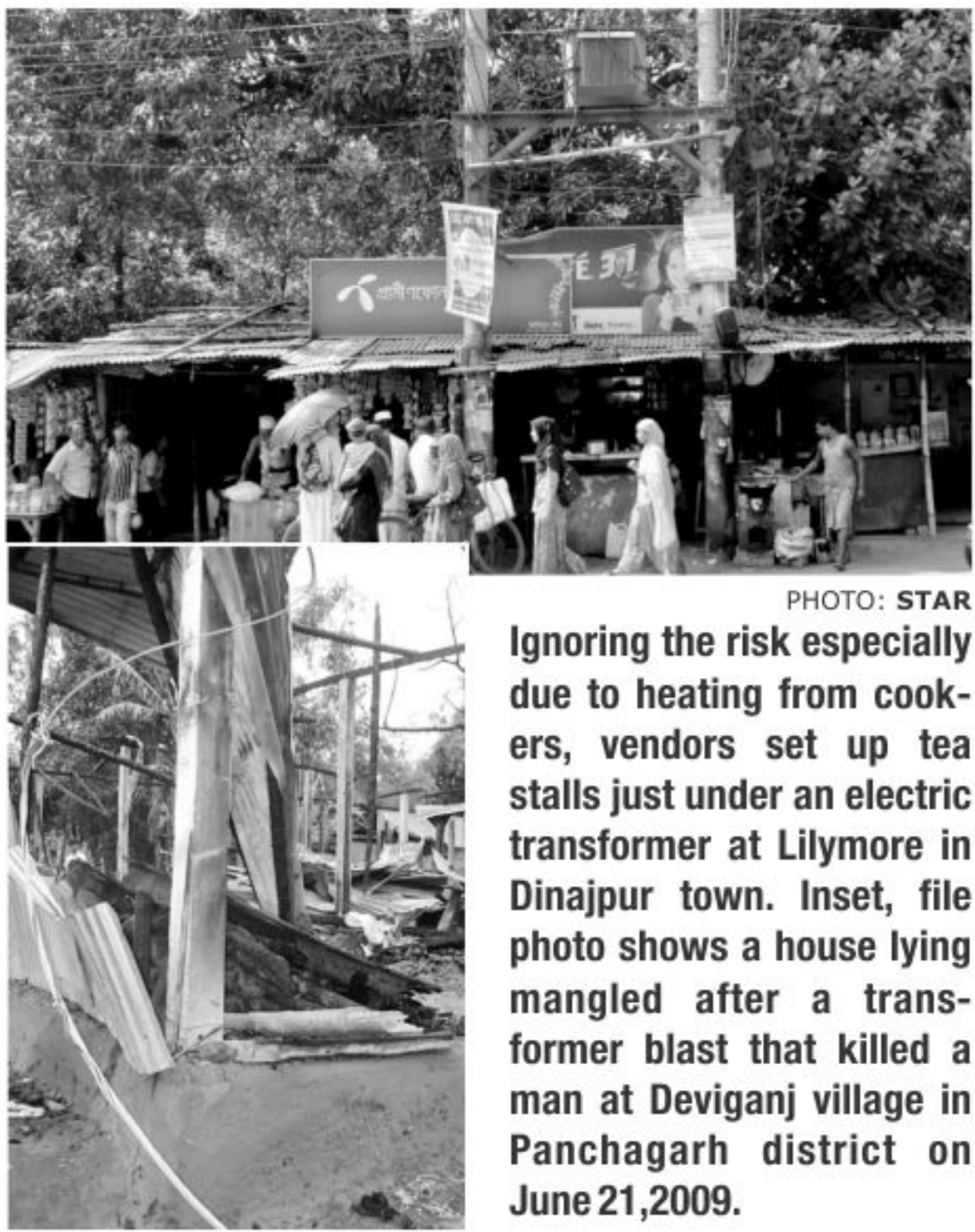


PHOTO: STAR

Ignoring the risk especially due to heating from cookers, vendors set up tea stalls just under an electric transformer at Lilymore in Dinajpur town. Inset, file photo shows a house lying mangled after a transformer blast that killed a man at Deviganj village in Panchagarh district on June 21, 2009.

for my business," said Rafiqul Islam of Lilymore area in Dinajpur town.

But such stalls, especially the tea stalls using cookers just under the transformers pose risk of serious accident, officials said.

Sometimes repairmen find it difficult to fix exploded transformers due to presence of such structures under the transformers.

Shankar Kumar Dey and Md Zakir Hossain, executive

engineers of Division 1 and 2 of Dinajpur PDB, said they have been urging the municipality authorities to remove the stalls under the transformers.

Every electric transformer area is marked with 'danger', said Md Zakir Hossain.

Md Jahangir Alam, mayor of Dinajpur municipality, said, "I am not aware about the matter. I will take necessary steps to remove the structures under the transformers."

2 abducted men found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two abducted men were found murdered in Sadar and Daulatpur upazilas yesterday.

The deceased are Nurul Islam, 35, son of Motiar Hossain of Kanchanpur village in Sadar upazila and Azir Uddin, 75, of Sherpur village in Daulatpur upazila. Of them, Nurul was a local trader.

Police and family sources said a gang abducted Nurul from his business centre at Harinarayanpur Bazar in Sadar upazila on Monday night and demanded Tk 1 lakh from his family over mobile phone.

Since then the family members could not communicate with the kidnappers as they kept their phone switched off, said Afzar Uddin, younger brother of Nurul.

Locals found Nurul's body floating on

Kaliganga River yesterday morning and informed the police.

The body was sent to Kushtia Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Monir Uddin, officer in-charge of Islamic University (IU) Police Station.

Nurul might have been stabbed to death by the criminals, said the OC.

In Daulatpur upazila, police recovered the body of Azir Uddin from a field at Sherpur village yesterday morning.

Rivals picked up Azir Uddin from the village on Wednesday night.

There was a longstanding conflict between two rival groups over the land at the village, said Zahir Uddin, OC of Daulatpur Police Station.

The body bore stab injuries, said OC Zahir Uddin.

CASES FOR VANDALISING POLICE VEHICLES

37 Tangail BNP men sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

As many as 37 leaders and activists of BNP and its associate bodies of Madhupur upazila were sent to jail yesterday in the cases for vandalising police vehicles in the upazila on August 15.

The accused surrendered to the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Shahadat Hossain in the two cases filed with Madhupur Police Station under the Speedy Trial Act and prayed for bail. The Judge rejected the bail and sent them to jail.

Police van driver Imran Hossain filed a case for torching the vehicle while Sub-Inspector Shahidul Islam filed another case for torching his bike.

A total of 268 local BNP men, including Madhupur municipality Mayor Sarker Shahid and also general secretary of BNP upazila unit, were made accused in the cases. Of the accused, 26 including the mayor, were arrested on August 17.

In another case filed with Dhanbari Police Station following a clash between two factions of local BNP on

August 11, three party men were sent to jail yesterday.

Former president of Dhanbari upazila unit of BNP, who was injured during the clash at Massudi village, filed the case against the supporters of BNP MP aspirant Fakir Mahbub Anam Swapan.

Among the accused of the case, total three BNP leaders and activists surrendered to the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Sheuli Rani Das and prayed for bail.

The Judge, however, rejected the bail and ordered to send them to jail.

Clash over land leaves one dead, 6 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A man was killed and six others were injured in a clash over land dispute at Charbhuta village in Lalmohan upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The dead was identified as Md Hossain, 60. The injured are Hossain's son Nurul Islam, 40, relatives Mafizal, 30, Abdul Jalil, 28, Md Bazlur Rahaman, 26, Rokeya Begum, 45, Nazam, 31 and Eanur Begum, 28. They all are undergoing treatment at Lalmohan Upazila Health Complex.

Locals said that there was a longstanding dispute between Hossain group and Malek group over land at the village.

The clash erupted when Malek' men went to collect betel nuts from a garden on the disputed land at around 3:00pm. Hossain and his men equipped with lethal weapons swooped on their rivals, resulting in a clash between the two groups.

Hossain and six of his men sustained injuries in the clash that continued for an hour. They were admitted to Lalmohan Upazila Health Complex where Hossain succumbed to his injuries at around 4:00pm.

TENGRAGIRI ECO-PARK IN BORGUNA Food crisis puts fauna at risk

UNB, Borguna

Persistent food crisis has put the lives of more than 50 animals of different species in danger at Tengragiri eco-park in Taltoli of Borguna district.

Local forest department authorities are trying hard to save the animals managing food for them on credit.

For expansion of eco-tourism in the reserve forest of Tengragiri, the environment and forest ministry took some initiatives in 2010-11 and 2011-12 fiscal years.

The initiatives include building cages for deer, pigs and fishing cats, crocodile breeding centre, picnic spot, rest house and a 1200 metre walkway.

Forest official sources said a total of Tk 2.63 crore has been spent in the two fiscal years for the works under the project titled 'Enhancement of Eco-tourism Facilities'.

Under the scheme, at least eight deer, 25 pigs, two fishing cats and three crocodiles were released in the Tengragiri echo park from January to March of the current fiscal year (2012-2013).

But the government did little to ensure their treat-

ment and food.

Local UP member Salam said a good number of animals have become sickly for want of sufficient food and treatment.

Yunus, chairman of Shonakata Union Parishad, said Tengragiri reserve forest is one of the best tourist spots of Bangladesh.

So the government needs to take necessary steps to protect its animals.

Forest department officials here said as they could not keep the animals starving, they buy foods on credit.

The money will be paid after receiving fund from the government, they said.

Lightning kills girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A teenage girl was killed and three others were injured by lightning at Pashchim Chandipur village in Shibganj upazila yesterday noon.

The deceased is Maksuda, 18, daughter of Masud Ali of the village.

12 BNP men injured in clash with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

At least 12 activists of BNP and its associate bodies were injured in Nazirpur upazila under the district as they locked in a clash with police yesterday.

Nazrul Islam Khan, senior vice president of Pirojpur district unit of BNP, is among the injured, party sources said, adding that police attacked them in front of Nazirpur police station when a procession of around 200 men from the party office was going to the main road around 11:30am.

The were protesting Tuesday's verdict of death

sentence to BNP leader lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that found him guilty of committing crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

As the law enforcers charged batons, the protesters dispersed.

"We brought out a peaceful procession from our party office protesting the verdict against our party leader and lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. When we reached near the police station, police obstructed us and we returned back. But

suddenly they attacked us from behind with sticks, leaving our 12 men injured," said Nazrul Islam Khan, also an aspirant of nomination from the party in the coming parliament election.

Refuting the allegation, Abdul Khalek, officer in charge of Nazirpur police station, said, "We prevented BNP men from going towards the local Awami League office to avoid any clash. But they threw brickbats towards us from the procession and we tried to repel them."

He also claimed that none was injured in the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

A scene during the clash between police and BNP activists at Nazirpur upazila town in Pirojpur district yesterday.

SNIPPETS

Schoolgirl electrocuted

A CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

A schoolgirl was electrocuted at joynagr village in Damurhuda upazila on Wednesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Juthi Khatun, 9, daughter of Shariful Islam of the village. She was a class three student of a primary school in the area. Family sources said Juthi came in contact with a live electric wire while she was playing beside their home and died on the spot. The electric wire was lying on the ground, said locals.

Cop commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A police constable allegedly committed suicide as the family members did not agree to get him married with his girlfriend at Betbunga Earth Satellite Station in the district Wednesday. The deceased is Md Mushfiqur Rahman, 23, son of Moteleb Rahman of Dhowleswaripara village in Bogra district. He shot himself in the morning, said Police Superintendent Amena Begum. The body was sent to Rangamati General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Kawkhali police.

8 gamblers jailed

UNB, Sunamganj

A mobile court, led by the Dharmashala Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), sentenced eight gamblers to fifteen days' imprisonment each on Tuesday evening. The convicts are Ziaul Haque Zia, 24, Nuru Talukder, 22, Rubel Miah, 25, Tofazzal Hossain, 22, Rafique Miah, 25, Kaja Miah, 22, Rafiqul Islam, 24, and Shamim Miah, 22. Police said they arrested the eight while gambling on the bank of a canal at Baghaon village in the upazila at noon. Later, they were produced before the court, which pronounced the verdict.

Housewife found dead

UNB, Munshiganj

A housewife was found dead in her husband's house at Shimulia village in Gazaria upazila on Tuesday. The deceased is Hasi Akhter, 23, wife of Nazrul Islam and daughter of Dhanu Miah of Luterchar in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla district. Neighbours found the body in the yard of their house at noon and informed the police. The body was sent to Munshiganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Jahangir Hossain, officer in-charge of Gazaria Police Station. Hasi's husband Nazrul went into hiding after the incident.

Youth jailed for stalking

UNB, Thakurgaon

A mobile court sentenced a young man to six months' imprisonment for sexually harassing a college girl in Haripur upazila on Wednesday. The convict is Afzal Hossain, 23, son of Yusuf Ali of Dangipara village. Court sources said Afzal often stalked the girl on her way to college. On information, locals caught the youth and handed him over to Haripur upazila nirbahi officer (UNO). Later, the UNO, also an executive magistrate, handed down the punishment to the youth.