

Cattle rearing thwarts poverty

Women in Teesta char areas in Nilphamari do the job on condition of profit sharing with owners when their spouses leave homes in quest of jobs

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A good number of poor women, serving as cattle rearers on condition of profit sharing with the owners, are now busy giving final caring touch to the animals meant for sale as sacrificial animals only a couple of days before the Eid ul Azha.

In Teesta char areas of Dimla upazila under the district, a section of relatively solvent people buy cattle and hand them over to others, mostly poor women, for rearing on condition of giving half of the profit to them.

During a recent visit to Uttar Kharibari village in Tapa Kharibari union under the upazila, this correspondent saw the vast plain land of the char area covered with soft green grasses that serve as good fodder for cattle.

There, a number of poor women like Mohormala, 50, Amena, 45, Niljan, 55, Momena, 50, Amiron, 45, Morium, 42, Hasina, 35, are doing this job for the last 3-4 years, adding a little solvency to their poor lives.

"Most male members of the fami-

lies in the area temporarily migrate to the capital or other big cities to work as day labourers. The womenfolk, after doing daily household chores, usually get enough leisure time. A section of them are now engaged in cattle rearing," said Mohormala.

"After rearing for months or years, oxen become large enough to sell for double or triple the buying price in Eid markets. Cows that give birth to calves and produce milk are also in great demand," said Laily, another cattle rearer.

After nurturing for a period of time, matured calves are also sold for good prices.

After realising the cost for buying the animals and expenses, the cattle owners divide the rest of the profit money equally between themselves and shared cattle rearers, they added.

"Earlier my husband, a day labourer, struggled hard to maintain the family. I started as a shared cattle rearer and my daughter helped me after return from her school or on holidays. During the last three years I

reared 10 cattle and got handsome profit," said Amena Begum.

"With that money I maintained my daughter's schooling expenditure, built a house roof with corrugated iron sheets and took lease of 15 decimals of farmland," she added.

Meanwhile, attack of diseases and consequent death of the domestic animals remain a matter of concern for the cattle owner and rearers as the upazila livestock office is 15 kilometres away.

They have urged the livestock department to launch a vaccination programme at least once a month to check premature death of the cattle.

Contacted, the district livestock officer said it is not possible due to manpower shortage.

Rabiul Islam Shahin, chairman of Tapa Kharibari union parishad, said, "Women in Teesta char areas have achieved skill in cattle rearing. If the government or NGOs provide cattle for them for free or on easy terms, it can help poverty alleviation programme in the area."



PHOTO: STAR

Women, engaged in rearing others' cattle on profit sharing basis, graze the animals on the grassland on the bank of the Teesta River at Uttar Kharibari village in Dimla upazila under Nilphamari district prior to readying them for sale in the market as sacrificial animals a couple of days before the Eid-ul-Azha.

People suffer as Khulna health complexes in poor health

UNB, Khulna

People in the district hardly get necessary health services as the upazila health complexes are beset with multifarious problems.

Almost all the health complexes in the district, including those in Rupsha, Dighalia and Terokhada upazilas, are unable to provide elementary treatment to the patients for acute shortage of medical and other staff and lack of related equipment and other logistics.

Some health complexes have X-ray machines but no technician to operate those while some have technician but no X-ray machine.

Defying the government instruction, many doctors of the upazila health complexes live in Khulna city.

As a result, the upazila level public hospitals are failing to render necessary health services to the common people.

DRABM Golam Faruq Sarwar, health and family planning officer at Rupsha upazila health complex, said two posts of night guards are vacant in the health complex, leaving its security at risk.

There is an ambulance but no one to drive it. The pathological

laboratory remains closed for long for absence of a health technician.

The posts of residential medical officer, medical consultant and surgery consultant are lying vacant for long, sources said.

In Batiaghata health complex, only two people are employed against nine sanctioned posts.

Only one guard is posted for maintaining security of the entire complex, health official Dr Shushanta Kumar Roy said. Terokhada health complex has neither X-ray machine nor any technician.

Although the 50-bed health complex was inaugurated by the local MP, it has not yet got the administrative approval. As a result, the health complex is running with its earlier 31-bed status.

Against 15 posts sanctioned, only five officials are working at the health complex, upazila health official Dr Abdul Naser said.

Patients at Dakope health complex are being deceived by a group, locals alleged.

The health officer of the hospital has a private clinic at Gallamari in the city.

Since there is no good treatment at

the health complex, the patients are transferred from there to the clinic.

Koira health complex is virtually held hostage by a few employees of the health complex.

Dumuria health complex has an X-ray technician but no X-ray operator.

Digholia health complex health officer Dr Ishaq Ali said there is one consultant at the gynecology department of the hospital but no consultant in other departments.

At Phultala health complex, the lone X-ray machine has remained out of order for the last 12 years.

Paikgachha health complex also faces an acute crisis of manpower.

Health officer Dr Abul Fazal said, although the 50-bed health centre was approved in December 2009, the project is yet to be put under the revenue sector.

Alongside the unhealthy condition at the nine upazila health complexes in Khulna, the picture of Khulna University Hospital is also nothing different.

The acting chief health officer at the Khulna University Hospital is allegedly employed at a private office in the city.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Vast areas of land in Kuakata sea beach area in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district is getting lost to housing companies. The photo was taken from Pashchim Kuakata village recently.

Charges pressed against 36 Jamaat-Shibir men in Bogra

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police on Wednesday pressed charges against 36 Jamaat-Shibir men in the case for killing a local Jatya Party activist in Bogra district this year.

On March this year, Dulu Mia, 45, son of Dobir Uddin of Muradpur village in Shibganj upazila, was shot dead by Jamaat-Shibir men during a violence, reports our correspondent.

Brother of the deceased Mozaffar Ali then filed a murder case accusing 38 Jamaat-Shibir men, said sub-inspector Sanwar Hossain, investigation officer (IO) of the case and in-charge of Mokamtola police outpost.

After investigation, IO Mozaffar submitted charge sheet against 36 Jamaat-Shibir men on Wednesday afternoon.

Away in Patuakhali, police arrested a local Jamaat leader in Madarasa road area of Kalapara upazila town yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Maulana Kaiyum, ameer of Kalapara upazila unit Jamaat, reports our correspondent.

Kaiyum was arrested in connection with anti-state activities, said Md. Hanif, officer-in-charge of Kalapara police station.

BCL leader of Sust stabbed

UNB, Sylhet

A leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) unit was injured in an attack by criminals in Subidbazar area of the city on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Anjan Roy, vice-president of the BCL unit and a final year student at Economics department.

University sources said, a gang, numbering 10-12 swooped on Anjan with sharp weapons while he was returning to his residence from Ambarkhana area of the city at around 11.00pm.

The attackers stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.

He was rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The BCL unit of SUST blamed Islami Chhatra Shibir for the attack.

Youths held on abduction charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested two youths on charge of abducting a local medical representative on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Majira bypass area of Shajahanpur upazila on Wednesday night.

They also seized a motorbike and a sharp weapon from their possession.

The arrestees are Hasan, 25, son of Tofazzal Haque of Seujgari and Rused, 22, son of Adam Ali of Choksutrapur of the town.

Police said victim Jewel Rana, 21, son of Delwar Hossain of Purbatekani para area in Shonatala upazila, worked in a veterinary chemist laboratory as territory representative.

A gang of three picked up Jewel from the area at 10:00pm and took him to a lonely place and assaulted him. They also tried to get him on a motorbike.

Hearing the hue and cry, locals rescued Jewel, caught the duo and handed them over to police. However, the rest managed to flee.

A case was filed in this connection, said sub-inspector of Shajahanpur police station Alamgir Hossain.



PHOTO: STAR

Ignoring warning from the authorities concerned, ten families have continued living at this awfully dilapidated building in Puran College Ghat area of Jhalakathi town as the poor people are hardly in a position to arrange alternative dwelling.

Hit by erosion, they take 'refuge' in risky bldg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Sixty people of ten families are living in a risky antique building in Puran College Ghat area of the district town.

The families started living there after losing their homesteads by river erosion over two decades ago, said Md Haider Ali, a resident of the building.

Earlier owned by a former zamindar (landlord), the building was used as a

house of Jhalakathi College till 1984.

"A few days ago, a portion of the roof collapsed. Often chunks of plaster fall off the roof. The authorities earlier declared the building abandoned, but we are still staying here as we have no place to go," said Haider.

"The former deputy commissioner of Jhalakathi arranged a land for us beside the college but we are too poor to build any house. We need help for our shelter as

we do not want to stay in this risky building any more," he said.

"Time changes everything but it seems our fate will never change," lamented Shilpi Begum, another resident of the building.

M Shakhawat Hossen, deputy commissioner of Jhalakathi, said the district administration does not have any fund to help the poor residents of the building to build houses.

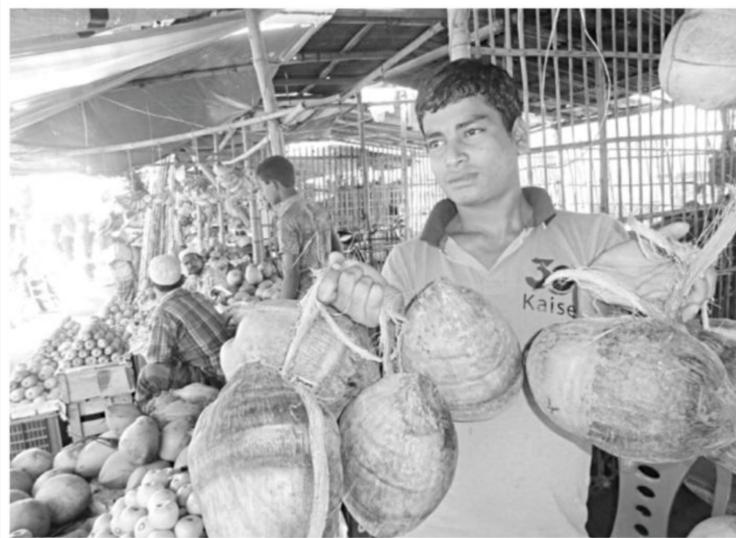


PHOTO: STAR

The prices of coconut, an essential ingredient for the ongoing Durga Puja, have nearly doubled during the biggest religious festival of the Bangali Hindus, thanks to the opportunism of a section of traders. The photo was taken from Mogholhat railway gate in Lalmonirhat town yesterday.

SANAULLAH NOOR KILLING 3 yrs over, police yet to submit charge sheet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Three years over, police are yet to submit charge sheet in the case filed for gruesome killing of Baraigram upazila chairman and local BNP leader Sanaullah Noor Babu.

On October 8, 2010, criminals attacked a BNP procession at Bonpara Bazar. The attackers beat Babu, also the president of BNP Bonpara municipality unit, dead and injured over 30.

The following day, Mahua Noor Kochi, widow of Babu, filed a murder case, accusing 47 AL leaders and activists including KM Zakir Hossain, incumbent mayor of Bonpara municipality.

"Though police have vital clues including video footage and photos of the killing, they are yet to submit the charge sheet," Kochi alleged.

Despite an assurance by the prime minister of taking steps to bring the killers to book, no head-



Sanaullah Noor Babu

way was made in the case in the last three years", she said.

"Police are delaying the process as they are under pressure from some local influential ruling party leaders to drop the names of some accused", said Rafiq Sarder, president of Baraigram upazila unit Jubo Dal and a close friend of Babu.

contacted, Md Manjur Morshed Alam, police superintendent of CID Rajshahi division, expressed the hope that the charge sheet would be submitted by this month.

8 jailed for murder

UNB, Sylhet

A court here on Monday sentenced two people to life term imprisonment, three to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment each and three others to six months' jail each for killing a man in 2008.

The court also fined the two lifers -- Maruf Rashid and Foyzur Rahman of South Sunamganj -- Tk 20,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more RI.

The court also fined two convicts, Harunur Rashid and Mohammad Dobir, who were awarded 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, Tk 5,000 each in default, to suffer six months more RI.

Khoyer Mia, who was sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, was fined Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI.

Other convicts, who were identified as Abdul Momin, Nurul Amin and Abdur Rahman, were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the convicts killed Tozzal Ali of Dakkhen Sunamganj on August 8, 2008 over previous enmity.

Police submitted a charge sheet against 13 people after investigating the incident.