

Cattle wrongly fattened for Eid pose health risk

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A large portion of the cattle meant for sale as sacrificial animals ahead of the Eid ul Azha are unscientifically fattened and disease affected.

Meat of such cattle often poses serious health hazard, doctors said.

In northern districts, including Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, farmers fatten varieties of oxen and bulls like cross breed, Pabna breed, Indian Haryana breed, Australian Friesian breed, and Pakistani Shahiwal breed, sources said.

For fattening cattle, livestock officials suggest deworming the animals and then feed them, along with other usual food, proportionate mixture of urea, molasses and straw (UMS) 2-2.5 kg daily.

If the cattle are too weak, they might be given limited dose of vitamin B-12 injections.

For preparing UMS mixture, farmers should keep one kg of straw cut into 2-3 inch pieces, 700 ml water, 225 gram molasses and 30 gram urea in a closed container for eight days and then dry it in the sun to use as fodder, goes the suggestion of the livestock officials.



PHOTO: STAR

Impressive cows arrive on the temporary market at Nilphamari High School ground ahead of the Eid ul Azha but many of the cattle meant for sale as sacrificial animals are unscientifically fattened and so, pose health hazard for consumers.

If this process is followed, the cattle gain up to one and a half times weight within six months and consumption of their meat is safe for human health, they said.

But a section of dishonest cattle traders and farmers ignore the suggestion and push steroid and hormone injections to the cattle's body indiscriminately and feed them much urea to make them weigh double or triple.

"We never suggest using steroid, hormone, high dose

vitamin injections or excess urea to fatten cattle," said Shahjahan Khondokar, district livestock officer in Nilphamari.

"Steroids cause accumulation of fluid in cattle and make them look fatter. But this fluid attacks their immune system, making them vulnerable to deadly diseases. Excessive use of vitamins makes cattle feel uneasy while much urea has toxic effect," he said.

Artificially fattened cattle look bulky but they lose

liveliness, vigour and energy and their life span shortens, said livestock officials and cattle traders.

"If anybody consumes meat of diseased cattle for long, he may get kidney problem, liver failure, gastric ulcer, diabetes, pancreas diseases, uncontrolled high pressure, skin diseases and others that may eventually lead to the person's death," said Dr Sneha Kumar Chakma, civil surgeon of Nilphamari.

Some having big catches of hilsa, some still sit idle

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The delicious hilsa is being netted in plenty in the coastal areas of Patuakhali and Barguna while the fishermen in Hatiya of Noakhali still remain deprived of any big catches.

Meanwhile, the government has imposed a ban on hilsa catching in four rivers in the coast for 11 days from October 5 as every year it is considered as the breeding season.

The popular fish was netted first in mid July after two and a half months of the season was already over.

Trawlers loaded with hilsa were seen returning from the Bay to Mohipur and Alipur in Patuakhali and Pathorghata under Barguna districts, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

Fishermen and fish traders expressed happiness as plenty of hilsa were still being netted at the end of the season. The four month-long hilsa season that begun on July 1 will end on October 14.

The government also imposes a ban on hilsa catching from November 1 to June 30 to increase production and quantity of the fish in the country, according to Patuakhali District Fisheries Office (DFO).

Meanwhile, prices of hilsa began to fall in the local markets as a huge



quantity of the fish comes to different fish landing stations in the coastal districts everyday.

In the last 3/4 weeks, over 400 tones of hilsa came from the Bay daily, said fishing trawler owners and fish traders in Mohipur, Alipur in Patuakhali and Pathorghata in Barguna district. But only two months back they got only 20-50 tons of fish, they added.

Away in Noakhali, fishermen in the coastal region of Hatiya expressed their disappointment as they were yet to get any big catches in the full season of hilsa, reports our correspondent.

They may not be able to repay the loan taken from the money lender. Even many of them cannot bear the family expenses, fishermen and traders said.

Thousands of fishermen of Chharmanghat, Tangkibazar, Tamorudhi, Ramcharan and Jahajmara in Hatiya upazila are still throwing nets in the Meghna. They cannot go to deep sea in quests of big catches for fear of robbers.

The robbers loot all the things, including net, fish and boat on their way back. Besides, the robbers kill the fishermen or abduct them for ransom, the fishermen alleged.

Fishermen Shahrar Majhi, Khalek Majhi, Mohiuddin Majhi, Karim Majhi, Kamal Majhi, Mainuddin Majhi, Helal Majhi and Abdur Rahman Majhi told this correspondent that they were now worried about money lenders on the bank and robbers

'People should be made aware of their right to know'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The International Right to Know Day was observed in Sadar, Monirampur, Chougachha, Jhikargachha, Bagherpara and Keshabpur upazilas under the district yesterday amid great enthusiasm.

To mark the day, a colourful procession, discussion, leaflet campaign and information fare were organised by Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and local daily Gramer Kagoj under the project 'Promoting Citizens' Access to Information' of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

The speakers at a roundtable at the deputy commission's office said implementation of Right to Information (RTI) Act is very poor in Bangladesh though the law was enacted in 2009.

Awareness should be raised in grassroots level so that common people can be benefited using the law, which will help to reduce corruption and establish accountability in society, they said.

Additional DC (General) Jahid Hossain Ponir, Jessore Press Club Secretary Tauhidur Rahman, zzz Executive Director of MRDI Hasibur Rahman Mukur and Gramer Kagoj Editor Mobinul Islam Mobin spoke at the programme chaired by president of Sanak Abu Saleh Tota.

BRAC BANK HEIST

Burglars remain scot-free, cops quizzing three

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Law enforcers could not arrest any of the gang members involved in Joypurhat Brac Bank heist as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Members of the Rabid Action Battalion (Rab), Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and police separately visited the branch of Brac Bank in Joypurhat town yesterday and interrogated the staff of the branch.

The DB men yesterday detained Md Firoz Ali Reza, a night guard of the adjacent branch of Mutual Trust Bank for quizzing. On Saturday night, police detained security guards Faruque Hossain and Helal Uddin of Brac Bank's Joypurhat branch. Police said they are quizzing the three.

"We are trying our best to track down and arrest the criminals involved in burglary" said Joypurhat Police Superintendent Md Abu Kalam Siddique.

Besides, a three-member team headed by Md Murtuz Ali, deputy general manager

(DGM) of Bangladesh Bank Bogra branch, arrived in Joypurhat town yesterday morning to investigate the incident of burglary. Two other members of the team are assistant directors Nurul Huda and Sabbir Ahmed.

Criminals took away Tk 1.95 crore from the Brac Bank branch in Joypurhat town by breaking a vault sometime on Friday night.

The gang broke into two-storey Shahjahan Mansion, which houses the Brac Bank branch on the first floor, by making a hole in the wall.

Md Hasanuzzaman, an official of the SME section that remains open on Saturdays, discovered it as he entered the branch office at Bank Para in Joypurhat town around 10:00am on Saturday.

He saw the vault broken and the money gone. A 10 by 17 inch opening was made through the wall, Biman Karmaker, assistant superintendent of police of Joypurhat Sadar Circle told this correspondent, quoting bank officials.

Smuggled clothes flood markets ahead of fests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian clothes and other commodities have flooded the markets of the bordering district ahead of Durga Puja and Eid festivals.

Local people said, they were purchasing Indian dresses from shops and shopping malls in five upazilas of the district, even getting those at the markets of the bordering villages.

Visiting several shops and markets like Poura Market, Shahan Shopping Centre, Uttoron Market, Janata Market, Goshala Market and New Market in the district town, this correspondent found that most shopkeepers were selling either imported or smuggled Indian saris, girl's three-pieces and child dresses.

Most of these dresses are named after Indian television serials, movies or Indian actresses. Some of the names of saris are 'Kabhi Khushi

Kabhi Gum', 'Priyanka', 'Kareena', 'Masakkali', 'Rashi', girls three-pieces are - 'Kolaberi', 'Khushi', 'Jhilik', 'Shibam', and child dresses are -- 'Doremon', 'Batman' or Superman.

Shopkeepers at these markets said, many buyers are attracted by the names of Indian television serials and movies. And so, these items have a great demand among women, girls and children.

Prokash Saha, a shopkeeper at Uttam Bostraloy at Pura Bazar Market in the town, said Indian dresses are liked especially by girls and women. Young girls and women were seen thronging Maldahpatty, Gulshan Market, Lutfunnesa markets, the most popular business centres for saris and three-pieces.

Not only Indian dresses and clothes, but also Indian imitation ornaments and cosmetics have also flooded the shops and shopping malls in the district.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad brings out a colourful procession in Thakurgaon town yesterday marking the first annual conference of the district unit of the organisation. The participants vowed to continue their efforts to end all forms of discrimination against women and establish a democratic, secular and discrimination-free society in line with the spirit of the Liberation War.

12 Shibir men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police arrested 12 Jamaat-Shibir men from different areas of Mithapukur and Sadar upazilas on Saturday night and early yesterday. zLocals caught Ariful Islam alias Asaduzzaman, 28, finance affairs secretary of Rangpur city unit of Shibir and handed him over to police at Tampat area in Sadar upazila on Saturday night. Abdul Qader Jilani, officer in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said locals caught Asaduzzaman after chasing 20/25 Shibir men while they were holding a secret meeting. Meanwhile, Mithapukur police arrested 11 Shibir activists from different villages of the upazila early yesterday. After interrogation, the arrestees were produced before a court here yesterday that sent them to jail.

Cinema hall sealed off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A mobile court sealed off a cinema hall in the town and sentenced its two operators to 15 days imprisonment on charge of showing obscene pictures on Saturday night. The court of Executive Magistrate SM Sadik Tanvir also fined the two employees of 'Janata Cinema Hall' Tk 10,000. Contacted, Sadik Tanvir said, the cinema hall was sealed off also zfor not having valid documents. The operators were convicted as they violated the sensor board rules, showing the obscene pictures, added the magistrate.

BCL boys slap teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A college teacher and nine students were injured in an attack allegedly by BCL men in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district yesterday. The incident took place at Mir Mosarraf Hossain College in Bailakandi village at 12:30pm. Acting principal Kamal Hossain said the college was freed from all kinds of politics. But a group of outsiders, led by president of Nawabpur union unit BCL Sharier Bin Ahmed and general secretary Suman Ahmed entered the college with a procession on the occasion of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's birthday. Some students, who are loyal to the party, took part in the procession. The Chhatra League men then stormed into a classroom when Zakir Hossain, lecturer of English, was taking class. They asked the teacher to stop taking the class and told the students to join their procession. As Zakir Hossain defied their order, the BCL men slapped him and attacked the students, said the principal. Balikandi upazila nirbahi officer Kamrul Hasan said punitive action would be taken against those responsible for the offence after investigating the matter. Despite several calls, this correspondent could not reach BCL leaders Sharier and Suman as their cell phones remained switched off.

FUN WAYS TO EARN EASY INTERNET



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Camera	: 3.2MP + 0.3MP
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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and Khowai River Water Keeper jointly arrange a human chain on the roof of a boat on the river in Habiganj district yesterday, demanding effective steps to free the once profusely flowing watercourse from encroachment and pollution for bringing back its natural flow.