

BNP blames BCL, Jubo League for Eid cattle hijacking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday accused the ruling party men of looting sacrificial animals ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. "All the cattle markets in the country have been leased to Jubhata League and Chhatra League and Chhatra League men, and they are looting sacrificial animals everywhere," BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon said at a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office.

He said people's miseries would increase manifold due to an increase in the cattle price because of the extortion of cattle traders by the ruling Awami League people.

Pointing to the robbery of cattle traders and their sacrificial animals in different parts of the country, Ripon said, law enforcing agencies in many cases are patronising the ruling party cadres in committing such criminal activities.

Pointing to murder of three locals in the hands of law enforcement agencies at Kalihati, Ripon lambasted the police force saying that such incident took place due to their excess.

"Law enforcement agencies killed three people like birds. It seems the lives of people are less valuable than birds," he added.

At least three people were shot to death in Kalihati upazila of Tangail on September 18 as police opened fire on a clash with locals protesting the brutal assault of a woman and her son.

The incident left at least 32 others injured, and they include three cops and three bullet-hit locals.



Adama Bangladesh Foundation, which calls itself a charity, forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding release of its four officials, including the president and the general secretary, who were detained recently by police as suspected child traffickers. The organisation came to the limelight after law enforcers said they rescued 10 children from its custody, on September 12, who were "meant to be trafficked". However, the foundation said in a press release that they were sheltering the street children with a noble cause, and they had already proved their intention to government officials.

PHOTO: STAR

Rab, police providing Eid security

Claim their chiefs
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion and police have taken measures to ensure security at key points of the capital during the Eid.

Talking to journalists while visiting Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday, Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed said Rab personnel in plainclothes were in the cattle markets to hold extortionists and muggers at bay.

"Rab personnel in uniform are monitoring cattle markets from temporary camps so that people can buy and sell cattle without fear," he said.

Rab's bomb disposal units and dog squads are making unannounced sweeps at bus, train and launch terminals and the National Eidgah would be monitored through CCTV, he said.

Meanwhile, Acting Inspector General of

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Government incoordination barring haor development

Discussion on the region's poverty, role of lawmakers told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lack of proper coordination among government bodies is creating obstacles to ensure sustainable development of the haor region, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

"After formulation of the Master Plan of Haor Area in 2012, Tk 50 crore was allocated for Haors in the next fiscal year but most of the money remained idle due to a lack of proper organisational structure in the administration," said economist Dr Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad.

Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) made the remarks while presenting a keynote paper at a policy dialogue, "Poverty in Haor Region, Seventh Five-Year Plan, and Role of Lawmakers".

The All Party Parliamentary Group organised it at the Ministers' Hostel of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

His paper cited six causes including high population growth, unplanned development, and use of chemicals in land, for destruction of the environmental diversity of the haor area.

Experts, government officials, and ruling party lawmakers, in attendance, vehemently opposed unplanned

development in the region.

Former foreign minister Dipu Moni, ruling party lawmakers Abdul Majid Khan, Md Abdul Matin and Pankaj Nath spoke at the programme.

They alleged that when ministries finalised development plans of the area, they did not take the local lawmakers' views.

Later in a reply, State Minister for Water Recourses Mohammad Nazrul Islam said that in the future the Water Development Board would not finalise any plan before taking opinions of the local public representatives and

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French, German foreign ministers arrive today

To discuss climate change, open new joint embassy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The French and German foreign ministers are scheduled to arrive together in Dhaka this morning to strengthen ties with Bangladesh and get a first-hand impression on climate change's adverse effects.

Their agendas include inaugurating the Franco-German embassy in Baridhara, the first embassy worldwide jointly built and operated by the two countries.

"The main purpose of the visit is the upcoming UN-climate conference in Paris," a German diplomat told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that it

would be a one-day visit.

Dhaka is giving top importance on the trip as the two countries are the top buyers of ready-made garments.

"It is going to be a historic moment," Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said at a press conference on Thursday.

Arriving at 8:00am, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier are scheduled to, if the weather permits, visit a cyclone shelter in Patuakhali and German cooperation projects.

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Laurent Fabius



Walter Steinmeier

Two Bangladeshi justices appointed at The Hague

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam and former judge of the High Court Justice Md Awlad Ali have been appointed members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague of Netherlands for resolving international disputes.

This is the first time Bangladeshi judges are going to be included in this prestigious institution, a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

The International Bureau of the PCA has welcomed the appointments for the next six years in accordance with Article 44 of the 1907 Hague Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

These appointments resulted from Bangladesh's continuous and extensive engagement with the legal institutions in The Hague and beyond in promoting world peace, it said.

Situated in a heritage building called Peace Palace in The Hague, the PCA is an intergovernmental organisation with 117 member states.

Since its establishment in 1899, PCA has been active in facilitating arbitration and

other forms of dispute resolution between states. This is the court from where arbitration decision on maritime boundary dispute between Bangladesh and India was awarded, says the press release.

Justice Tafazzul Islam had led the apex court bench upholding the High Court judgment that scrapped the fifth amendment to the constitution, which had legitimised the regimes of Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem, and Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman between August 15, 1975 and April 9, 1979 after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

The SC bench led by Justice Tafazzul Islam also affirmed the HC verdict that upheld the death sentence of 12 killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Besides, the former chief justice is the principal author of several landmark judgments.

Justice Awlad Ali, during his professional career, conducted a good number of commercial arbitration cases as a lawyer.

Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star that the appointment was made following the ministry's recommendation.

ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Gender equality must

Also financial independence of women thru life-skill based education, change in traditional marriage system will help, The Daily Star-UNFPA roundtable told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The practice of believing and teaching that men and women are equal can eliminate all sorts of violence against women, said a roundtable in Mymensingh town yesterday.

The present social structure and practice teach that men are superior and women are inferior and this is how violence against women starts and continues, speakers added at the discussion titled "Gender Based Violence: Current Situation and Ways Forward" at a hotel. The Daily Star and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organised the discussion.

The practice of early marriage is high in Mymensingh region which is causing premature pregnancy and other forms of violence against women.

According to a survey conducted in 2011 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 87 percent of currently married women have experienced some forms of violence by their husbands -- an astounding 65 percent of

women even have experienced physical violence. Bangladesh has the second highest prevalence of child marriage in the world; 62.8 percent of women aged 20 to 24 were married before 18.

To fight the problem, girls need to be provided with life-skill based education to become financially independent and self-aware, observed speakers.

Besides, religious and social superstitions, which hinder women's progress, must be rooted out and women should get equal scopes to move ahead.

The speakers also mentioned that traditional marriage system should be changed and consent of both bride and groom must be involved in a marriage. A detailed verification, including medical tests, groom should also be conducted before marriage to avoid future scopes for violence.

Moreover, discussions should be held on "sector based violence" to closely identify

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