

Good catch, good price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Fishermen are netting plenty of hilsa fish this year compared to last year, and the price is also good.

On a visit to Badura Fish Landing Station under Pirojpur Sadar upazila yesterday, this correspondent found only hilsa fish in the wholesale market. The quantity of other varieties of fish was very little. Mostly sea fish are brought to this landing station directly from the sea, and transported from there to different areas of the country, including Dhaka.

Fishermen said they are happy at getting good catches of the tasty sea fish this year.

"For the last one month the catches of hilsa fish have been good," said Abu Bakkar Siddique, 23, a fisherman.

Wholesalers said around 20 fishing boats loaded with hilsa fish come to the landing station every day.

"Last year, we did not get the expected quantity of fish, but this year we are happy due to the good catch," said Monirul Islam, 28, another fisherman. "Every fishing boat went to the sea three to four times in the last one month," he added.

Wholesale buyers are also happy at the large catches.

"For the last one month I have been selling a good number of hilsa fish and have profited well," said Md Abdul Barek, 60, a wholesale buyer from Bhandaria upazila of the district. He added that market price of hilsa fish was under control of the retail buyers.

One pon (80 pieces) of hilsa was sold at Tk 17,000-Tk 18,000 yesterday. The weight of each fish is around 500 gram.

Trawler owners said there were much fewer attacks by robbers this year compared to last year, so the fishermen could catch fish without fear.

"Among 250 fishing boats in the district, none of them was caught by robbers in this peak season," said Md Mostofa Akan, general secretary of Badura Matsojibi Samajkalyan Samity.



Huge quantities of hilsa arrive at Badura fish landing station in Pirojpur Sadar upazila following good catches of the popular fish in the Bay this season.

PHOTO: STAR

Night guard strangled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A night guard was strangled in Pabohara area near Kahaloo-Malonca road under Kahaloo upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was Abul Kalam, 48, son of late Abdul Jabbar of Pabohara village in the upazila.

Police and locals said a gang strangled Abul Kalam and stole three transformers from the area.

On information, police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to a hospital morgue for autopsy, said Gaziur Rahman, senior assistant superintendent of police.

Correction

In a report headlined 'River erosion threatens Jahangir bridge' published on Page 7 of The Daily Star on September 9, Shah Muhammad Shams Mokaddas was mistakenly mentioned as executive engineer of Roads and Highways, Barisal.

But actually the name of the executive engineer who was quoted in the report is Khaled Shaheed. We regret the inadvertent error.

Launch intercity train service

Say Panchagarh people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Leaders of Panchagarh Nagorik Committee threatened to go for a tougher movement after Eid-ul-Azha if the intercity train service is not introduced shortly from Panchagarh.

They came up with the announcement at a press conference at Panchagarh Press Club yesterday.

They also urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take immediate steps to start the long-awaited intercity train service from Panchagarh and Thakurgaon to Dhaka.

The prime minister at a public meeting on January 30 in 2013 in Panchagarh announced that the intercity train service would start from the district just after completion of the rail track, they said.

They also demanded extension of rail track till Banglabandha Land Prot soon to expedite regional business.

Free dying Louhaganj River

Save lifeline of Tangail town from grabbers to protect environment, urge speakers at rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People from all walks of life formed a human chain beside the Louhajang River in Housing area of the town yesterday with the slogan "Nodi Khal Rokkha Kori, Sustha Poribesh Gori," demanding that the river be freed from the grabbers.

Tangail district administration organised the programme and also held a rally at the same place for drumming up public support in this regard.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Tangail Mahbub Hossain, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Anwar Hossain, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Monira Sultana, Tangail Sadar Upazila

Parishad Chairman Khorshed Alam, Secretary of Tangail Press Club Zafar Ahmed, Vice-President of Tangail Club Harun-ur-Rashid and Enamul Karim Shahid, convener of Nodi-Khal-Bil Uddhar O Bon O Poribesh Rokkha Andolon Tangail, addressed the rally.

Speakers at the rally said the Louhajang River, lifeline of Tangail town, is now almost dead due to rampant grabbing and filling up.

As the normal flow of the river has stopped, the town gets waterlogged after a slight rain, causing sufferings to the town dwellers and also inviting environmental disaster.

The town will be unfit for living very soon if the normal flow of the river is

not restored and protected, they added.

The DC said the hyacinth plants were cleared from the river a few weeks ago to keep the water flow of the river normal. "Now work to demarcate the shorelines of the river is going on to free it from the grabbers," he said.

"The rivers and canals are assets of the state and it is the duty of all to protect them," he added.

He also urged all levels of people in Tangail to create awareness over the issue and sought their help to revive the flow of the river.

Earlier, the DC inaugurated a signature campaign and leaflet distribution programmes to create awareness among people in this regard.

UZ OFFICER'S NEGLIGENCE

54 teachers deprived of salary, bonus before Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 54 teachers of different government primary schools in Baliadangi upazila of the district did not get Eid bonus and the monthly salaries for July and August due to alleged negligence of the upazila primary education officer.

They joined different government primary schools of the upazila in January as pre-primary teachers under Primary Education Development Project (PEDP)-3. They were due to get salaries for July and August with Eid bonus.

Upazila Primary Education Officer Afzal Hossain sent the

papers for release of the salaries of 54 teachers to Rupali Bank, Baliadangi Branch on Thursday. The bank, however, could not pay their salaries due to shortage of money.

"As we got the papers for releasing salary and bonus of Tk 22 lakh on Thursday at around 11:00am, we paid Tk 3.3 lakh to 23 teachers. We could not pay the rest due to shortage of money," said Bank Manager Masud Rana.

Afzal said they had sent the papers for releasing salaries and bonus to the branch on Wednesday. When asked why he did not send the papers earlier, he kept mum.

Seeking anonymity, several teachers alleged that the education officer sends the papers late to the bank every month.



Like these people, many victims of recent flood and erosion in char and low lying areas of Lamonirhat district are far from being happy a couple of days before the Eid-ul-Azha, as they are struggling to manage bare necessities of daily life. The photo was taken from Char Kalmati village in Lamonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Joy of Eid elusive to char people

S DILIP ROY, Lamonirhat

Eid-ul-Azha this year will hardly bring any joy for about two lakh people in the Teesta and Dharla river basin char (landmass emerging from the riverbed) areas in five upazilas of the district, as they cannot buy new dresses, let alone sacrificial cattle, due to the damage caused by the recent flood and river erosion.

The people of the Teesta and Dharla river basin areas said they cannot afford to buy anything beyond their basic needs under the present circumstance as they have lost their homesteads, croplands and domestic animals in the floods and erosions.

Several people talking to this correspondent said they are waiting for help from the government and non-government organisations to observe Eid-ul-Azha. If they don't get any help from any corner, they will not be able to feel

the joy of Eid.

Flood hit Julekha Bewa, 65, of Char Kalmati village under Lamonirhat Sadar upazila, said Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) rice was distributed on the occasion of Eid, but she did not get her share because the union parishad chairman and members distributed the rice among their people.

"We have lost our croplands and homesteads due to flood and erosion, and we are being deprived of government relief. We will not be able to purchase new clothes or even food during the Eid, so Eid will not bring joy to us," she added.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Idris Ali said they have already distributed one lakh VGF cards among vulnerable families in 45 unions and two municipalities under five upazilas in the district. Each VGF card holder got 10 kg of rice, he said, adding that they have no special programme only for char people.

GIRL GANG-RAPED

Police are yet to register case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police are yet to register a case in connection with the 'rape' of a schoolgirl in Nigauri union under Gafargaon upazila.

The ninth grader, 14, was allegedly raped by a gang of four led by Wahed Ali, 46, and Rubel Miah, 20, of Beldia village.

When the girl came out of her house around 8:00pm on Thursday to respond to the call of nature, the gang took her away forcibly, locals alleged.

"We found her at a field half a kilometre from our house three hours after the incident," the girl's brother said.

The victim and her family members went to Pagla Police Station on Friday but OC Md Chand Miah did not register the case, sources said.

The OC said the victim and her family were not interested in filing a case.

Tutor rapes girl

Allege parents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lamonirhat

A ninth grader was allegedly raped several times by a house tutor promising to marry her at Chinirpara village in Lamonirhat Sadar upazila.

The tutor is identified as Suzon Miah, 25, son of Shahid Ali at Telipara village of the same upazila.

The girl's mother said Suzon had been teaching her daughter at their home for the last four years. The house tutor developed an affair with her daughter two months ago promising to marry her, the mother told this correspondent as the girl shared the matter with her (mother). The tutor also raped her daughter several times, the mother said.

Suzon's father Shahid, however, said their son is not guilty but a victim of conspiracy hatched by the girl's parents and their relatives. He said attempts were made several times to arrange marriage with the girl to their higher educated son illegally, but were foiled.

A case was lodged accusing Suzon with Lamonirhat Sadar Police Station on September 3, said the girl's father.

Police said the law enforcers are trying to arrest the alleged rapist.

ARTIFICIALLY FATTENED SACRIFICIAL CATTLE

Vet doctors active so buyers not cheated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Veterinary doctors have kept strong watch on different cattle markets in Sirajganj and Pabna so that traders cannot sell artificially fattened cow cheating the buyers.

Local Livestock Department cancelled Eid holidays for its staff in the two districts for monitoring the markets due to high sale of sacrificial animals in the areas.

Sale of local cattle soared in the last couple of days before Eid-ul-Azha at 115 cattle markets in Pabna and Sirajganj, country's biggest cattle producing zone, according to local livestock officials.

"Sometime sections of cattle traders try to sell artificially fattened cow to the innocent buyers at higher price. Livestock experts are checking the animals at the cattle markets so that the buyers are not cheated," said Dr Md Abdul Gafur, Pabna livestock officer.

A three-member livestock monitoring team, headed by a veterinary doctor, is working at each of 58 cattle markets in Pabna from September 6, he said.

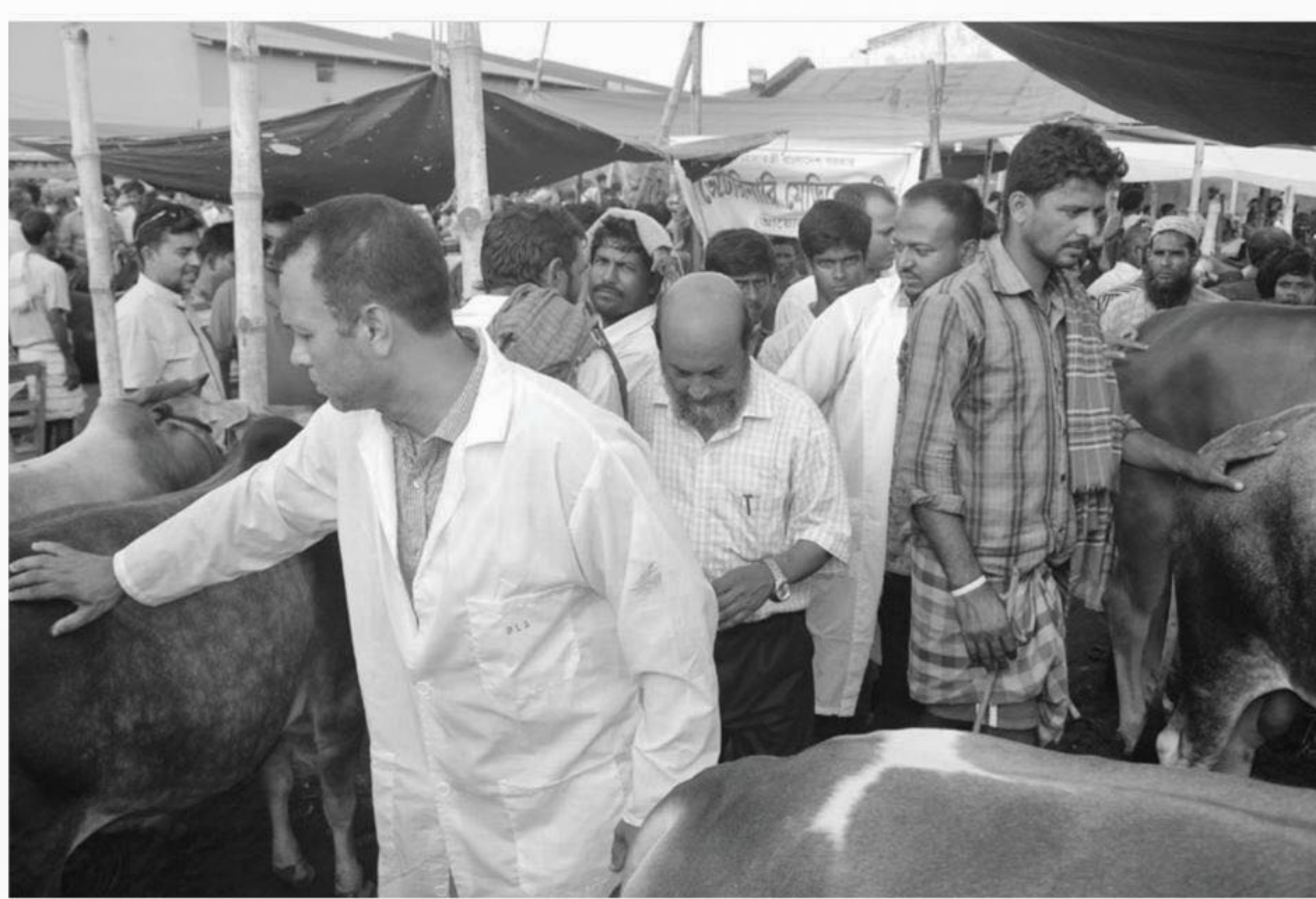
Similar monitoring teams are working at 57 cattle markets in Sirajganj, said the district livestock officer Md Akhteruzzaman Bhuyia.

They are giving treatment to the animal if needed and simultaneously checking whether the animal has been artificially fattened or naturally fattened, he said.

The monitoring teams are specially looking for anthrax infected animals at the cattle markets, Akhteruzzaman said, adding that anthrax is a major problem in the district.

Buying a cow for Tk 39,000, Md Sultan Ahmed Buro said he is satisfied because the livestock men have certified that the cow is free from toxic medicine and disease.

"If anybody tries to sell any animal that is fattened by steroid or hormone, we will take stern action," said Dr Md. Nazmul Hossain, veterinary surgeon of Pabna Sadar upazila.



Veterinary doctors visiting Hazirhaat cattle market in Pabna Sadar upazila conduct check-ups to see whether the sacrificial animals are fattened through harmful processes.

PHOTO: STAR