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SHAH CEMENT

Cattle hotels!

250 families in Tangail earn extra taking care of animals of a cattle market

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Over 250 families of several villages Tangail's Bhuapur upazila are finding some quick cash by turning their front yards into hotels for cattle.

The business developed in the last three decades around the age-old Govindashi cattle market by the Jamuna river.

The hotel keepers are doing brisk business as the market, one of the largest in the country, gained momentum with the Eid-ul-Azha only weeks away.

The services include feeding, bathing and cleaning the cattle litter.

As the market is only open on Thursdays and Sundays, trucks and boats full of animals arrive there from across the country, Azmat Khan, who collects fees from cattle traders, said.

He added that sellers and buyers often need a place somewhere in the vicinity to keep their unsold or newly bought cattle and they take the services offered by the villagers.

Joynal Miah, a cattle trader from Noakhali, said, "People sometimes arrive here a couple of days ahead of the market days and sometimes stay here for a week if they fail to sell the cows."

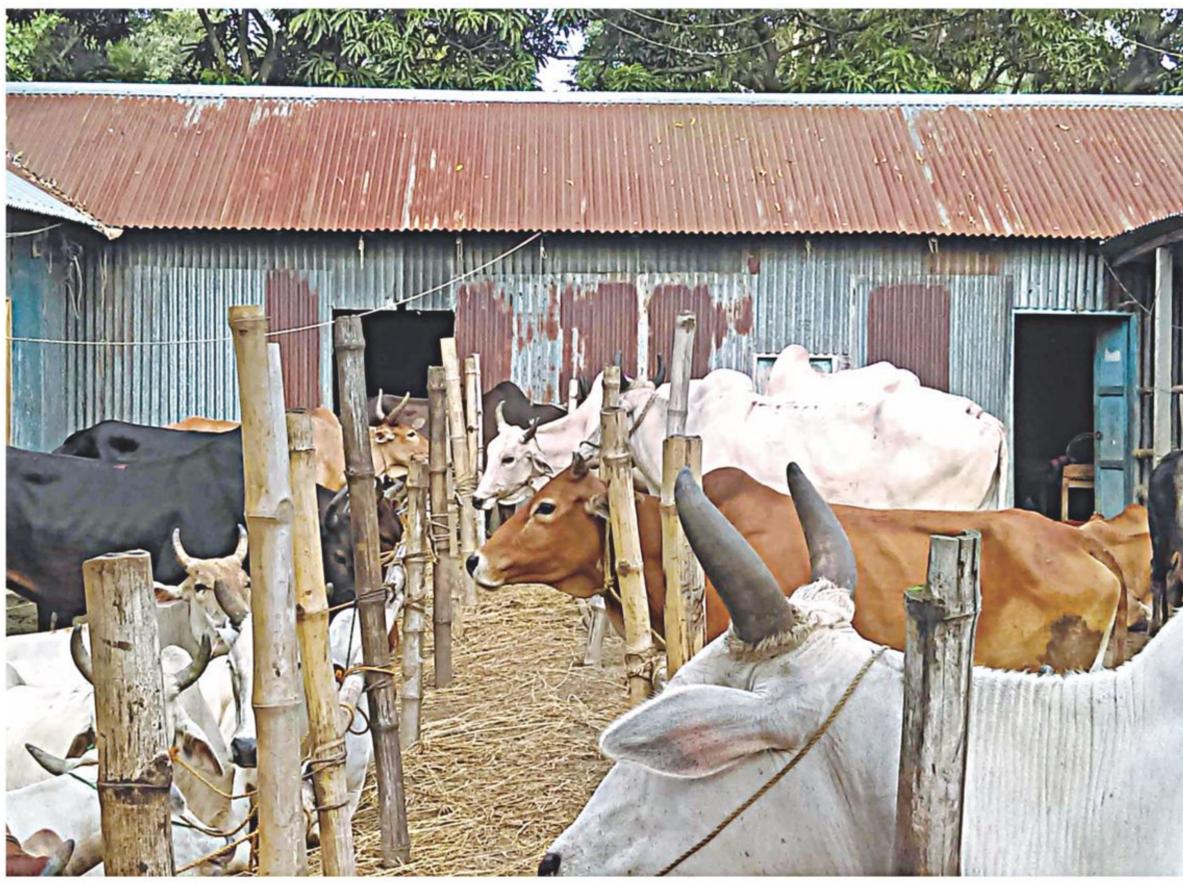
Like most people in the area, Salam Miah, has put sheds on the front and backyards of his house.

"We take Tk 10 a day for each cow in the shed. Owners feed and give them shower. There are additional charges if we do those things," he said, adding that he earns about Tk 12,000 to 15,000 each month.

Most houses in the village keep about 50-200 cows in the sheds. But their income has been falling in recent years due to reduced cattle supply to the market, Salam said.

"Large numbers of cattle from the northern districts used to be supplied to Govindashi market. After the construction

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A "residential hotel" for cattle near the Govindashi cattle market at Bhuapur upazila in Tangail. They are kept and fed here before and after market hours. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

N'GANJ 7 MURDER HC puts off verdict until Aug 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday deferred until August 22 the delivery of its verdict on the death references and appeals in the sensational Narayanganj seven-murder cases.

The bench of Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam, who were supposed to announce the judgment yesterday, rescheduled the date as they could not prepare the verdict, Deputy Attorney General KM Zahid Sarwar Kazal told The Daily Star.

After hearing arguments from the state and the defence counsel on 33 dates, the judges on July 26 fixed yesterday for announcing the judgment.

If a lower court sentences a person to death, the judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirming the sentence.

During the hearing on the death references and appeals in the cases, Attorney General SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

'Disastrous' decision

Green activists say about factories in Sundarbans ECA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday urged the government to cancel its recent decision to allow industries in Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) of the Sundarbans and said the decision would be "disastrous" for the world's largest mangrove forest.

They demanded that the government remove the industries already established, stop the ongoing projects and cancel land allotments for new industries immediately.

The demands were made at a press conference organised by The National Committee to Protect the Sundarbans, a platform of environmentalists, at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital.

In a meeting last week, the National Environmental Committee decided to legalise more than 300 industries set up in five districts around the Sundarbans, they claimed.

Most of the industries there pollute the environment and some of those -- like Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) bottling plants -- pollute severely, they observed.

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Dream shattered in Saudi Arabia

Tortured, attacked, starved woman returns home empty handed in less than a month

RAFIUL ISLAM

With the dream of a better life, Fatema left for Saudi Arabia without telling anyone in her family.

Fatema, the sole breadwinner of her family and a ready-made garment factory worker in Gazipur, thought her mother would not let her leave if she told her about her plans to go abroad.

"I thought I would be able to earn Tk 20,000 a month and escape poverty, as the brokers had promised, and left the country on July 17," she said.

Only two hours after reaching Saudi Arabia, she found herself in trouble. "My employer, an Arab man, came to my room in the dead of the night and tried to rape me."

She somehow managed to run into the bathroom and lock the door from the inside and stayed there until morning.

"It was the same the next night and I again locked myself in the bathroom until the break of day," Fatema, who prefers not to tell her real name, told The Daily Star yesterday at the office of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) in the capital.

She used to live with her mother, grandmother and little sister in Gazipur. "I thought I would be able to support them better when I reached Saudi."

On the second day at her employer's house in Saudi Arabia, she stopped doing the household work and asked the Arab man to send her back home.

The man then sent her to the office of the overseas employment agency linked to the brokers who sent her to Saudi Arabia.

Out of the frying pan, she fell into the fire. A staff of the office took her to another Arab household where she was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Janmashtami today

UNB, Dhaka

The Hindu community of the country observes Janmashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, today with due religious fervour.

According to Hindu religion, Lord Vishnu incarnated in the universe as Lord Krishna in the prison of Raja Kangsa on this day, the eighth of "Shukla Pakkha" (bright fortnight) in the month of Bengali calendar Bhadra in Dwapara Yuga to protect "Dharma" from the hands of devils.

Sri Krishna was born to Devaki and her husband Vasudeva in Mathura to which Krishna's parents belonged.

People of the Hindu community will bring out processions in the capital, divisional cities and district towns displaying the eventful life of Krishna and hold other programmes on this occasion.

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US teen campaigns to become governor



AFP, Chicago

A high school student is campaigning to be the governor of the US state of Kansas, gaining national attention for his unlikely effort.

Sixteen-year-old Jack Bergeson's entry into the governor's race in the Midwestern state got a boost Wednesday when he appeared on the ABC network's late-night comedy program "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

"One of the major things I want is to get kids involved in politics," Bergeson told the talk show host Kimmel, in a live video link from his bedroom at his parents' house in Wichita.

His running mate is fellow student Alexander Cline, who is running for lieutenant governor in the 2018 race.

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Tragic death of student in school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 12-year-old boy died yesterday after bookshelves of his school library fell on him in Chittagong.

Joydip Dutta, a fifth-grader of St Placids High School and College in Pathorghata area, was leaving the library around 1:30pm with his classmates, said Brother Rinku Kosta, vice-principal of the school.

He said Joydip's mother

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00

JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Ex-students' pound teacher with hammer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolteacher was pounded with hammers allegedly by former students of the school in Rajbari's Pangsha on Saturday night.

With his left leg fractured, Tapan Kumar Sarker, 35, accounting teacher of George Pilot High School in Pangsha, is now undergoing treatment at the orthopedic department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Tapan said it was raining when he and another teacher Bashir Ahmed were returning home around 9:00pm on Saturday. As they reached near the school, some 10-12 criminals attacked them with hammers. Bashir somehow managed to escape.

Hearing Tapan's screams, locals went to the spot, but the attackers fled.

Tapan, who was first taken to a local hospital and then moved to DMCH, said he could not identify

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Tapan Kumar Sarker, a schoolteacher from Rajbari, lies on a Dhaka Medical College Hospital bed yesterday. Assaultants, two of them allegedly his former students, attacked him with hammers near his school the previous night injuring him badly.

PHOTO: STAR

VIRGINIA VIOLENCE

White House defends Trump's initial response

AFP, Bedminster, US

The White House yesterday struggled to defuse the growing criticism of President Donald Trump's initial failure to explicitly condemn white supremacists for their role in Saturday's violent protest in Virginia, insisting that his condemnation included all such groups.

A young woman died and 19 people were injured in the city of Charlottesville when a car ploughed into a crowd of people after a rally by Ku Klux Klan members and other white nationalists turned violent. Two state police officers died in a helicopter crash near the embattled area.

A full day after the violence erupted, and after an initial statement in which Trump made no mention of white extremism, a White House spokesperson issued a statement saying, "The president said very strongly in his statement yesterday that he condemns all forms of violence, bigotry and hatred. Of course that includes white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazi and all extremist groups."

In an appearance on Saturday at his golf resort in Bedminster, New Jersey, Trump had vaguely faulted "many sides" for the violence -- a phrase he then repeated. He made no mention of the far-right militia groups involved in the Charlottesville melee, some of whom arrived armed, in camouflage and wearing Trump hats or T-shirts.

Amid growing bipartisan criticism of his initial response, White House advisers appearing on talk shows yesterday strove to defend the president.

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