

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore

Some miscreants yesterday vandalised the stage erected to hold a meeting in memory of BNP leader Fazlur Rahman. They also vandalised the BNP office at Lalpur upazila.

Police said the upazila BNP organised the meeting at Gouripur where the party Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir was supposed to attend as chief guest.

Local Awami League (AL) also arranged a rally at the Gouripur school field the same day, marking the National Mourning Day, he added.

BNP leader Aminul Haque said AL activists attacked the BNP activists and vandalised the stage. Later, BNP cancelled the programme.

Lalpur upazila AL leader Aftab Uddin Jhulfu denied the allegation.

Ex-BCL leader held in statue stealing case

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pataukhali

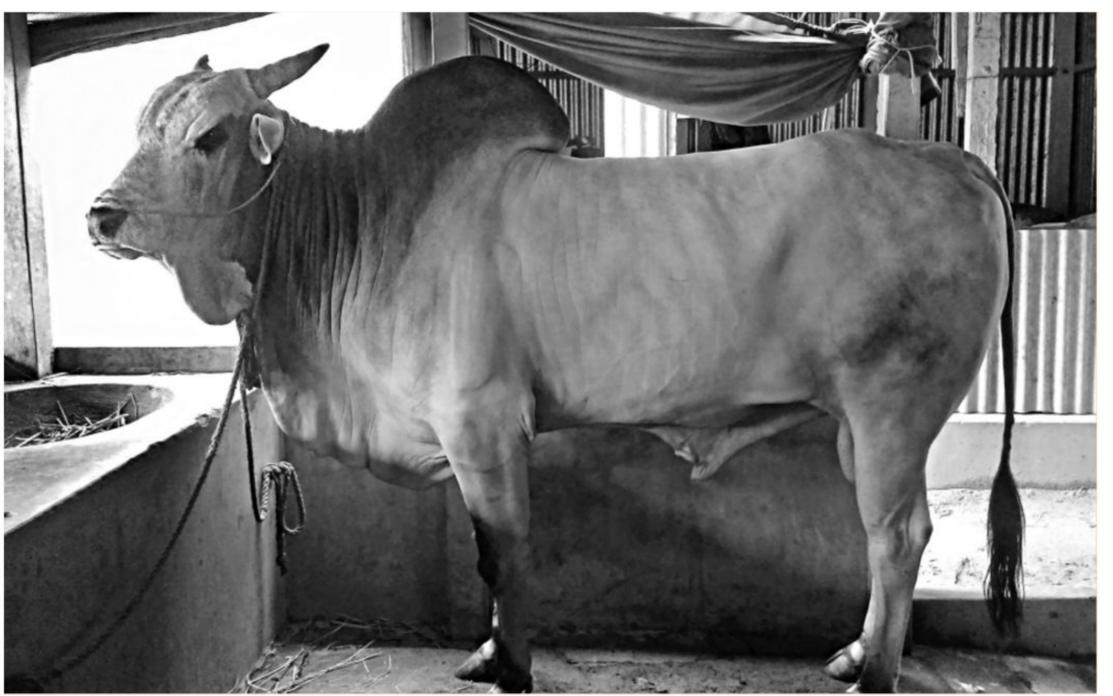
Detective Branch (DB) of Police yesterday arrested a former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader in the Rakhaine statue stealing case from a residential hotel in Barguna town.

Intiaz Emon Nayan, former general secretary of BCL Taltali upazila unit was arrested about 8:00am.

Taltali Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Komolesh Chandra Halder said DB police handed over Nayan to the Taltali police station as he is a charge-sheeted accused in the case.

Police produced him to Amtali upazila senior judicial magistrate's court yesterday noon that sent him to jail, OC said.

The BCL central committee expelled Nayan on August 7 for assaulting three activists on August 6 this year as they refused to pay him toll.



LEFT: A cow fattened reportedly through natural ways at a farm of Govindasi village in Bhupur upazila of Tangail. RIGHT: Above, cows at a farm of Chhoto Pathail village in Santhia upazila in Pabna, and below, another farm at Nukali village in Shahjadpur upazila of Sirajganj have to be fed a bit costly fodders as most grasslands in the two districts famous for cattle rearing have gone under water.



PHOTO: STAR

Flood makes cow fattening costly in Pabna, Sirajganj

Natural cattle farming sees success in Tangail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Cattle farmers in Pabna and Sirajganj, two districts famous for rearing of sacrificial animals, are facing serious problem to fatten cows ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha as prices of fodder has shot up due to flooding of grasslands during the ongoing floods.

In Tangail, initiative to encourage farmers to fatten cows in natural ways sees remarkable success, thanks to the monitoring by the authorities concerned and awareness of the buyers.

Massive flooding of grass fields causes problem for cattle farmers as the prices of cattle feed have gone up, reports our Pabna correspondent.

Md Nur Islam, a dairy farm owner at Chhotopathail village in Santhia upazila of Pabna, started fattening four

cows targeting to sell those on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha but he sold two cows for Tk 1.5 lakh last month due to the increasing cost of cattle feed.

"If we could sell the two cows before the Eid-ul-Azha it would bring us Tk 2 lakh," said Hunufa Khatun, wife of Nur Islam.

A maund of paddy straw is selling for Tk 300 to Tk 330 during the last few weeks although it was Tk 160 to Tk 180 in last year, said cattle farmers and feed traders.

A 50-kg bag of dry feed is sold for Tk 1100 to Tk 1200 while it was Tk 700 to Tk 800 last year, they said.

Md Abdul Gafur, district livestock officer, Pabna said the fattening cost has jumped to 20 to 30 percent this year as cattle feed has got costlier due to the fodder crises in the northern districts amid flood.

"The cattle traders need not worry as

the price of cattle meat this year has increased by 20 to 25 percent," he said.

There are around 23,000 cattle farms in the district, he said.

Sirajganj DLO Harunur Rashid said there are 27,448 farms in the district.

In the two districts, over 12 lakh fattened cows are being prepared for the Eid market this year.

Our Tangail Correspondent reports: Most of the farm owners in Tangail are now fattening their cows in natural way to sell those as sacrificial animals ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

The tendency to fatten the animals artificially with using vitamins and steroids sees decline after a good number of farmers incurred huge losses previously as their cows died of heart attacks due to fattening them with vitamins and steroids before the Eid market, said local

livestock officials.

The cows fattened with vitamins and steroids cannot survive many days and people no longer want to buy the artificially fattened sick cows as sacrificial animals, they added.

According to District Livestock Office, around 60,000 cows were being fattened at 12,000 farms in 12 upazilas of the district till August 16.

Visiting several cow fattening farms at Bhupur upazila a few days ago, this correspondent saw the cows were being fed grass, straw, molasses, chaff, chhola, oilcake and processed cattle feeds.

"I have fattened 64 Indian bulls in the last six months in natural ways after buying these from local cattle market between Tk 1.5 lakh to Tk 2 lakh," said Dulal Chokdar of Govindasi area in the upazila, owner of a large cow fattening

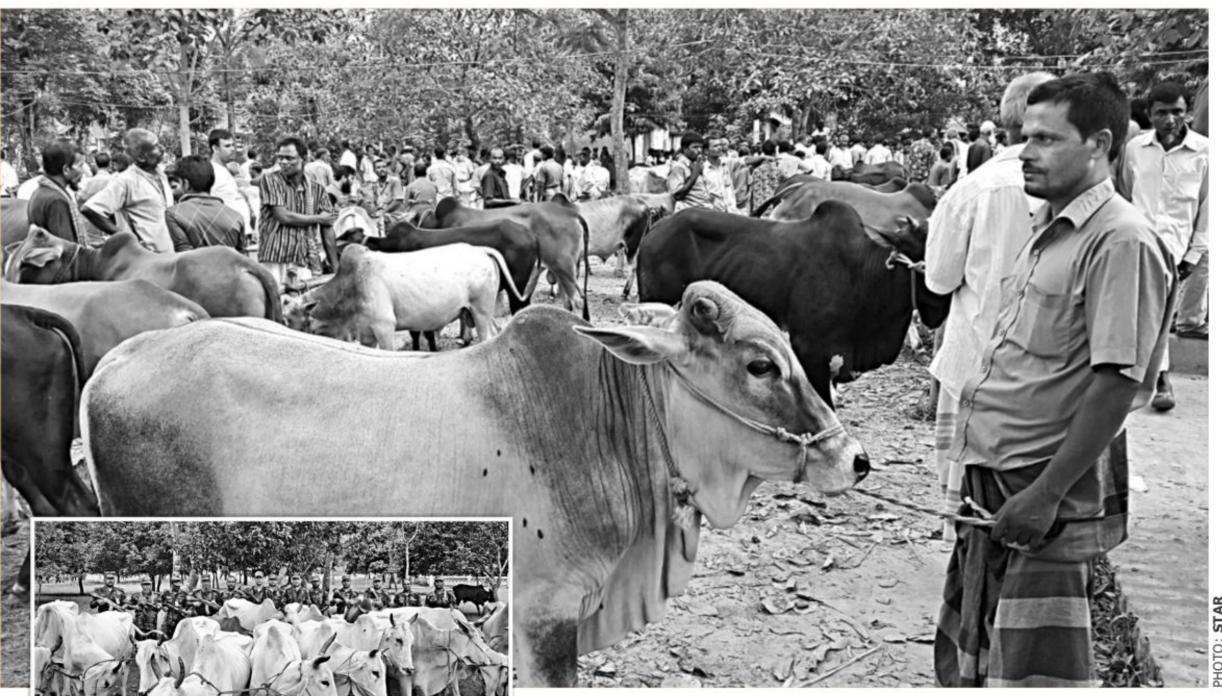
farm in the district.

"I have already sold 48 of the bulls in the last few days to buyers from different districts between Tk 2.5 lakh to Tk 3 lakh," he said.

Abdul Mazid of Matikata village in the same upazila said he and his brother are fattening 14 local variety cows in natural ways for selling those at the Eid market.

Cows normally get healthy if they are fed well natural fodders like grass and mixture of chaff and rice, he added.

SM Awal Haque, district Livestock officer in Tangail, said, "The farm owners' tendency to use vitamins and steroids for fattening cows has decreased a lot. We along with 144 livestock officials and employees in 12 upazilas of the district are closely monitoring the activities of the cow fattening farms ahead of Eid."



Local cattle dominate Durakuti Haat, the biggest cattle market in Lalmonirhat Sadar, yesterday ahead of Eid-ul-Azha as Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have taken strong initiative to stop cattle smuggling. Inset, BGB seizes smuggled Indian cattle from Dahagram border in the district Patgram upazila recently.

Python dies under train wheels

Vehicles plying Lawacherra forest roads put wildlife in danger

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 10-foot-long python was killed after being run over by an intercity train in Lawacherra reserve forest area under Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila on Friday.

According to the forest department, such accidents have been putting the wildlife of the forest in danger although a very few are notified.

Forest department officials said an intercity train ran over the python and split the snake into two pieces while it was crossing the rail tracks on Friday morning.

Earlier on May 28, a rare fishing cat and a monkey were crushed under the wheels of speedy vehicles inside the forest area while a Eurasian wild boar and its baby were killed in the same fashion on April 16 this year.

Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department in Moulvibazar, said generally most of the animals come out of their dens for food and rove in the jungle at night.

Hundreds of heavy vehicles, trains, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and motorbike pass through the protected forest area, frequently killing wild animals, Tabibur said.

The victims include different animals like foxes, fishing cats, monkeys and pythons, he added.

Divisional Forest Officer (wildlife) Mihir Kumar Doe told this correspondent that every day a good number of motorised vehicles and intercity trains use the 15-kilometre-long route through Lawacherra National Park.

Two cohorts in teacher rape case arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pataukhali

Police on Friday arrested two men for their alleged involvement in helping the culprits who raped a primary school-teacher in Barguna's Betagi upazila on Thursday.

The arrestees are Abdul Hakim Hawlader, 45, and Kuddus Kazi, 42, of Kadomtala village.

The duo helped the culprits flee from the spot, said police.

Meanwhile, primary education department yesterday started probing the incident, said District Primary Education Officer Abdul Majid.

On Thursday, the teacher was chatting with her husband in a classroom after school hours. All of a sudden, some culprits stormed into the institution. They later confined the teacher's husband to a classroom and raped her in another.

Local cattle dominate markets

Curbing cattle smuggling has a good impact on decreasing border killings

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Local cattle dominate Lalmonirhat and Benapole markets ahead of Eid-ul-Azha as Bangladesh border guards have taken strong initiative to prevent smuggling of Indian cattle.

Curbing cattle smuggling has a good impact on decreasing border killings as well as other crimes in Lalmonirhat, reports our correspondent.

A total of 762 Indian cattle worth about Tk 88.56 lakh were seized from the border areas in Lalmonirhat from January to July this year, said Lt Col Golam Morshed, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)-15 Battalion.

He claimed that border killing decreased successfully in the district due to their strong vigilance

against Indian cattle smuggling.

Rafiqul Islam, customs inspector in Lalmonirhat, said a total of 3379 Indian cattle were taken to Bangladesh through corridor by paying Tk 500 as revenue against each animal in the last seven months while the number was 65,230 last year.

As there are no Indian cattle in the market, no middlemen from any part of the country, especially Dhaka, come here for purchasing cattle, Nur Islam, bidder of Durakuti Haat, the biggest cattle market in Sadar upazila, said, adding that 2000 to 2500 Indian cattle were sold in every haat, held on Saturday and Tuesday every week.

Due to this, local cattle have dominated 15 cattle markets in the district ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, he

said. Mobarok Ali, a trader of Indian cattle in Dahagram border area of Patgram upazila, said he is not conducting the trade of Indian cattle due to strong vigilance of BGB men along the border area.

"We are willing to pay government revenue of Tk 500 against each Indian cow but BGB is not allowing us," said Sadek Islam, another trader of Indian cattle at Durgapur border in Aditmari upazila.

Cattle farmer Abdus Sobhan of Kulaghat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar said as smuggled Indian cattle are not available in the market, the number of buyers has reduced.

BGB CO Morshed said cattle traders can run their trade through paid-in system for bringing cattle from Indian traders

along the border and it must happen during the day time.

Smuggling decreases

Meanwhile, local cattle have ruled different border markets of Benapole as Indian Border Security Force (BSF) have beefed up security to prevent Indian cattle from entering Bangladesh ahead of Eid, reports our correspondent.

The number of Indian cattle decreased in the cattle markets. During a visit to a cowshed in bordering village Putkhali in Jessore on Thursday, this correspondent saw only 200 to 300 Indian cattle entering the market every day ahead of Eid.

Some 500 to 600 Indian cattle entered the market daily this time last year, said cattle trader Bazlur Rahman of the village.



Hapless Jobeda Khatun weeps, standing on Lalmonirhat-Phulbari road, as the ongoing flood has washed away her house at Char Shiberkuti in a Dharla river basin area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR