

## Eighth grader raped in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A schoolgirl was raped allegedly by two cousins at Taktabunia village of Raugha union in Amtali upazila under Barguna.

The victim's grandmother filed a case with Amtali Police Station on Monday evening, accusing Imran Payda, 19, son of Bellal Payda, and Imran's cousin Zahidul Payda, 20, son of Khalil Payda, of Taktabunia village in Amtali.

The victim studies in Class VIII, staying at her grandmother's house. As the girl went out of the house to respond to the call of nature around 10:00pm on Thursday, Imran and Zahidul forcibly took her to an empty room, tied her mouth with a piece of cloth and raped her, said family members and police.

Hearing her scream, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued her. The next day, one Liton Chowkider arranged an arbitration meeting and offered the victim and her grandmother Tk 30,000, telling them not to file any case in this regard.

Rejecting it, grandmother of the victim filed a case on Monday.

"Zahidul's uncle Rafique Payda tried to give me Tk 30,000 by force but I rejected it," said the plaintiff of the case.

Liton Chowkider denied the matter of arranging arbitration at his house in this regard.

Md Monirul Islam, investigation officer of the case, said they sent the victim to Barguna Sadar Hospital for medical test yesterday morning.

"We conducted drives to arrest the accused but their houses were found locked as the accused with their family members fled after filing of the case," he said.

Md Shaid Ullah, OC of Amtali Police Station said, "We are trying our best to arrest the accused. Legal steps will be taken after proper investigation."



A good number of well cared for local cows as well as imported Indian cows arrive at 1) Durakuti Haat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, 2) Panchagarh Bazar in Sadar upazila, and 3) Jawabazar in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj but the cattle markets see scanty sale, even a few days before Eid-ul-Azha.

PHOTO: STAR

# Low price blow to cattle farmers

## Influx of Indian cattle responsible for the situation ahead of Eid

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Low price of sacrificial animals amid lack of buyers has come as a blow to a large number of cattle farmers in different districts, especially those affected by the recent floods.

The situation has arisen due to huge supply of local cattle added with influx of Indian cows ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

Cattle farmers in Haor areas of Sunamganj are facing a serious setback as demand of local cows dropped due to massive entrance of cheaper Indian cattle, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Entry of Indian cattle was allowed through Chhatak corridor in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj and Bhulaganj corridor in Companyganj upazila of Sylhet from August 24, BGB officials said.

During a visit to different cattle markets in haor areas of Tahirpur, Bishwamvarpur, Doarabazar and Sunamganj Sadar upazilas, this correspondent saw that farmers and traders have brought large number of sacrificial animals to the markets, but there was very little sale and the prices were lower than last year's.

"This year I lost my Boro paddy in last April and a few days ago I lost my Aman too. Lastly I hoped to get some money by selling this cow for high price before the Eid. But the market price is too low," said Motin Mia, a cattle farmer of Notunbazar area under Doarabazar upazila of Sunamganj.

Md Abdul Hay Fazlu, old lessee of Notunbazar area under Doarabazar upazila, said cattle prices dropped by Tk 5,000 to Tk 15,000 per animal due to huge supply.

Dr Md Gias Uddin, deputy director of the Department of Livestock, said the number of local cattle has increased due to various initiatives taken by the government and private entrepreneurs.

"About 5.50 lakh sacrificial animals are needed during Eid-ul-Azha in Sylhet division. There is enough local supply for it. And so, there is no need to import cattle from India," he added.

Meanwhile, fodders including straw, grass, rice chaff and jackfruit leaves, mango leaves etc are being sold in large quantities near cattle markets in Sylhet city.

Our Thakurgaon Correspondent reports: The prices of sacrificial animals in the cattle markets of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts are much lower than the last year's as supply of local animals is more than the demand while Indian cattle are coming through different border areas, cattle traders and farmers said.

Usually the sale of sacrificial animals begin about two weeks before the Eid in the districts but this year sale in the cattle markets is yet to get momentum although the festival is only a couple of days away.

Md Babul, 50, a cattle farmer of Sahapara village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh, said, "I brought two mid-sized cows (80/85 kg each) for sale in Boda haat. But buyers are

offering only Tk 35,000 to Tk 36,000 for the two cows. Last year I sold two cows of similar sizes for Tk 88,000."

Abdus Salam, a cattle broker at Panchagarh Bazar, said 30 to 40 per cent of the cattle there were brought from India.

Thakurgaon District Livestock Officer (DLO) Md Rafiqul Islam said around 16,500 families reared about 33,033 cows, 10,725 goats, 249 buffaloes and 1,876 sheep under the cattle fattening programme centring the Eid-ul-Azha.

About 34,000 to 35,000 sacrificial cattle are needed during Eid-ul-Azha in the district, he added.

Panchagarh DLO Dr Debashish Das told this correspondent over cell phone that around 6,177 families reared about 24,192 cows, 10,308 goats, 158 buffaloes and 1,298 sheep under the cattle fattening programme in the district where about 30,000 to 32,000 cattle are needed during Eid-ul-Azha.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reports: Prices of cattle have fallen in the district as a large number of farmers are bringing the animals for sale due to fodder crisis.

"We have to sell cattle for low prices as fodders like grasses and hays were damaged by floodwater," said flood affected farmer Nazu Miah, 50, at Dharla river basin Bongram village in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

"I prepared four cattle with hope to sell them for Tk 2 lakh. But I sold two of them for only Tk 78 thousand. There is huge

supply of cattle but not many buyers in the markets," he said.

"I had 19 cattle and of them four were washed away by floodwater. I sold 10 cattle at low rate due to acute crisis of fodder in our flood affected village," said flood hit farmer Jitish Chandra Sen, 63, at Dharla river char Falimari in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

Cattle trader Hazrat Ali, 48, at Durakuti Hat said cattle prices fell in all the 15 cattle markets in the district this year as all flood affected farmers are taking their cattle for sale.

A Correspondent reports from Bagerhat: The cattle farmers in the district are expecting good profit by selling sacrificial animals before the Eid-ul-Fitr as the local markets see relatively less Indian cattle this year.

The farmers of 5,500 of farms in nine upazilas of Bagerhat have prepared 35 thousand cows and 15 thousand goats for sale in the local market, completing the process of fattening the animals for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, said Dr Saifuzzaman Khan, District Livestock Officer, Bagerhat.

Even if the Indian cows do not come, some of these animals can be sold in the outside market after fulfilling the local demand, he said.

"I have currently 45 cows in my farm. Cows are being brought up with domestic food. Hopefully, we will get good prices in the Eid-ul-Azha market," said Badiuzzaman Khokon, owner of a cattle farm in Kachua upazila.

## Killed JMB suspect's wife sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Wife of the killed JMB suspect and some unknown people were sued in connection with the bomb blast in Bhaluka upazila of the district on Sunday.

The accused include Parveen Akhter, 30, wife of Alam Pramanik, 35, son of Abul Kalam Pramanik of Natore Sadar.

Alam died during an explosion while making a bomb in Bhaluka Kasher area on Sunday afternoon.

Police yesterday filed the case, said Md Hazrat Ali, OC of Bhaluka Police Station.

The case was handed over to Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

## Retired post office peon found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police yesterday recovered the hanging body of a retired employee of Bangladesh Post Office from Danarhat Hatpara village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

The deceased was Abdul Majid, son of late Sohim Uddin of the village. He was a retired peon of the post office.

Sub-Inspector of Sadar Police Station Bhushon Chandra Barman said the body bore no injury marks except on its neck.

After getting post mortem report, it will be clear whether it was homicide or suicide, said the SI.

The victim's wife Rani Begum claimed that her husband did not commit suicide. He was hanged from the tree after he was killed, she added.

She said after retirement, Majid had been running a tea stall at Danarhat bazar. After closing the tea stall on Monday night, he did not return home.

## Extortionists stab cloth trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Extortionists stabbed a trader at Bamundi in Meherpur on Monday night.

Victim Shaon Hossain of Gangni upazila is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He took lease of Bamundi bazar for garments business several months ago, said family members.

A local gang demanded Tk 50, 000 from Shaon when he started his business several days ago. They also threatened the trader when he refused to pay the money.

Around 8:30pm on Monday, a gang of 5/6 people stormed into Shaon's business shop and beat him up mercilessly and stabbed him, said police.

The gang left the spot when other traders of the area came forward to rescue Shaon.

The injured was taken to Gangni Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to DMCH as his condition deteriorated. He was stabbed in the forehead, abdomen and other parts of the body.

Ziarul Islam, father of Shaon, filed a case, accusing six people, with Gangni Police Station.

## Poultry farm puts kids at risk

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

A poultry farm has continued running just beside Chemi Dalupara Primary School in Bandarban Sadar upazila, posing serious health risk for the students and teachers.

"One Mong Kyaw Ching set up the poultry farm adjacent to the school a few years ago. Students often feel sick in the classroom due to the stink from chicken manure," said Monoj Kanti Barua, headmaster of the school.

"We submitted an application to the upazila administration regarding this issue but no action has been taken," he said.

There are 264 students and most of them are from indigenous communities. "Wai Nu Marma of Class II and Ching Cha Wai of Class III fell sick a few days ago, so many others now feel afraid to come to school," said the headmaster.

"It is difficult for us to stay in the classroom due to the intolerable stink. We often face breathing problems. We want relief from it," said Hla Ching Marma, a Class V student.

Mong Kyaw Ching, the poultry farm owner, said, "I set up the farm on my own land a few years ago. If it really creates problem for the students I will remove it."

Sharmin Akhter, upazila nirbahi officer of Bandarban Sadar, said, "I will contact the owner of the poultry farm soon."

Chicken manure, containing salmonella and campylobacter, poses various risks to human health, said doctors.



Students of Chemi Dalupara Primary School in Bandarban Sadar upazila face serious health risks as a poultry farm is running just beside the school.

PHOTO: STAR



This wooden bridge over the Pakujachari canal in Pakujachari village under Khagrachhari Sadar upazila was built by the villagers as the original bridge collapsed three years ago and has not been repaired as yet.

PHOTO: STAR

## Collapsed bridge: Who cares?

### Villagers set up a wooden bridge over Pakujachari canal as original one lying collapsed for three years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

No steps have been taken yet to repair the bridge over Pakujachari canal in Sadar upazila, which was partially damaged several years back and collapsed completely three years ago, much to the suffering of the villagers.

The bridge is located in Pakujachari village, just 30 metres from Khagrachhari-Panchari road. The villagers have made a temporary wooden bridge but vehicles cannot cross it.

Vehicles could move on the road when the bridge was there, and farmers could easily take their produce to the market, locals said, adding that vehicles cannot move on the road now, putting the people of the area in difficulty.

Jui Chakma and Baraboti Tripura, fourth grade students at Kuradiachara Government Primary School, said they have to cross the bridge twice every day for going to school and returning home. The students are afraid of crossing the bridge, they added.

Kuradiachara Government Primary School

Management Committee President Shubal Kiron Tripura said, "We have repeatedly requested the people's representatives to construct a new bridge, but they did not respond."

Braja Lal Chakma, 65, of Pakujachari village said, "A part of the bridge broke away many years ago, and it collapsed completely three years ago. The villagers constructed a wooden bridge at their own initiative. The people of Majhapara, Radhachapara, Rabidhanpara, No 10 project area, Nuaadam, Pakujachari and Sadhupara use the bridge."

Bhaibonchara Union Parishad Chairman Parimal Tripura said he informed the upazila administration about the bridge, but does not know when it will be built.

Sadar Upazila Chairman Chancu Moni Chakma said the upazila parishad cannot construct the bridge because it does not have funds. He has applied to the Local Government Engineering Department and Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board for construction of a new bridge.

## Two children drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two children drowned yesterday, one in a river and the other in a pond, in the district and Joypurhat.

The deceased were Md Sajib, 8, son of Yakub Ali of Proshadpara village under Birganj upazila of Dinajpur and Sumaiya Akter, 7, daughter of Abu Hanif of Salkur village under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat.

Sajib was a student at Jharbari Government Primary School in Birganj.

Family members said Sajib along with other boys was bathing in a river when he drowned.

Sumaiya and some girls were swimming in a pond near her home when her friends found her missing. Locals recovered her body from the pond two hours later.