

Low cattle prices worry farmers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The commercial cattle farmers in the district are worried due to price fall of the animals in the local markets, especially in view of the high cost of fodder and huge labour spent for them.

Aynal Miah, 46, a cattle farmer at Khorarpur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said he purchased six calves at Tk 99,000 ten months ago and reared those with the hope of selling for good prices ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

"But I am frustrated due to low price. Now a cow would not sell for more than Tk 35,000, which is even less than the cost for rearing as fodder price has increased," he said.

Delowar Hossain, 52, another cattle farmer at Shalmara village of Aditmari upazila, said he sold two of his seven cows for low prices in the local market in the last week.

"I hope to sell the rest five cows just before the Eid-ul-Azha. But I can hardly expect any profit as cow prices have fallen by Tk 8-10 thousand each compared to last year's," he said.

"Now cattle rearing cost has increased as we have to purchase fodder at high rate although grass was available in the fields some years ago. If the prices of cattle continue to remain low, we will be discouraged to rear cattle," said cattle farmer Nazrul Islam, 48, at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

There is huge supply of locally reared cattle in the markets but buyers' presence is thin, said Mamtaz Ali, 50, a cattle trader in district's largest cattle market Durakuti Haat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"Farmers are selling their cows at low rate. The prices may fall further before the Eid-ul-Azha as a good number of farmers have prepared cattle for selling those during the period," he said.

At least 30,000 farmers in the district are engaged in rearing cattle, said sources at the Department of Livestock in Lalmonirhat.

The District Livestock Officer Dr Nasir Uddin Khan said, "In previous years, farmers got huge profit from rearing cattle on commercial basis and this encouraged more farmers to engage in the trade. And so, there is huge supply of cattle in the local markets."



Cattle farmer Aynal Miah looks upset as market prices of the animals have fallen ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken from Khorarpur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Teacher assaulted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A teacher of a government primary school was assaulted as he resisted ploughing on madrasa land at Dakkhin Bathina village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim is Rafiqul Islam, 45, headmaster of Hazipara Government Primary School in the village.

Local Union Parishad Chairman Subrata Kumar Barman told this correspondent over cellphone that a madrasa was set up several years ago near the primary school.

Local resident Nazrul and his brother Rahman donated a piece of land for the madrasa while their two other brothers Sirajul and Mofizur did not agree to donate any land.

Rafiqul was going to his school yesterday when he saw Sirajul and Mofizur preparing to plough the madrasa land with a group of people.

He asked them to stop as the land belonged to an institution. Men of Sirajul and Mofizur attacked Rafiqul just after he reached his school.

Seeing it, the frightened school children fled the place.

Police went to the spot and brought the situation under control and held Sirajul and Mofizur.

Sex stimulants seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-13 in Gaibandha recovered banned Indian sex stimulating drugs from Dugdugi bus stand in Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur and arrested five traffickers early yesterday.

Commanding officer of Rab-13 said, acting on a tip-off, a Rab team launched a drive at the bus stand and stopped three motorcycle riders. They recovered 3,39,200 pieces of banned Indian drugs Sanagra and Parapin from their possession. The team also seized three motorcycles used for trafficking drugs, seven mobile phone sets and Tk 10,480 in cash. They arrested five people in this connection.

The arrestees are Raihan Ali, 34 and Ekhlas Babul, 20 of Boigram village, Abu Taher, 24, and Halimuddin, 26, of Ratanpur village in Joypurhat, and Nurul Islam, 25, of Teerpura village in Joypurhat.

The accused people have been trafficking drugs for a long time, an official of Rab said, adding that they filed a case with Ghoraghat Police Station, accusing five people.

Injured vulture freed after treatment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

An injured vulture has been released to Pata Kuri amusement park in Saidpur after giving it proper treatment.

Saidpur upazila administration in collaboration with local bird-friendly voluntary organisation Setubandhan yesterday released the vulture, locally called Bangla-Sakun.

On information, Alamgir Hossain, president of Setubandhan rescued the injured vulture from the house yard of a local in Golahat area of Saidpur municipality 10 days ago. The vulture was 10 kg in weight, 3.5 feet in height and six feet in length.

"We then sent it to the treatment centre of the amusement park as they take care of injured and sick birds and animals in

absence of government treatment centre for birds in the area," said Alamgir.

Owner of the park Md Joinal Abedin said they treated the vulture with care under the guidance of upazila livestock officer and bore all expenditure and provided special food and care.

After recovery, they asked Setubandhan officials to make arrangement for its release, he said.

Upazila Livestock Officer Md Enamul Huq said, "There were injury marks on the vulture's body and a fracture in its right leg. We arranged proper treatment and kept it under observation. We cured it in ten days."

Saidpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Bazlur Rashid appreciated the volunteers of Setubandhan for their effort to rescue injured birds and make arrangement for their release.



Saidpur UNO Md Bazlur Rashid releases this vulture to Pata Kuri amusement park in Nilphamari yesterday as the bird, rescued in an injured state 10 days ago, got well through treatment.

PHOTO: STAR

Waterlogged Faridpur town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Continuous rain over the last couple of days has inundated different roads of the municipality, causing problems for the people.

As the rainwater cannot recede due to lack of proper drainage system, most of the important areas in the district town see waterlogging, making life of the residents, especially in the low-lying areas, miserable.

The problem has become a regular affair during the rainy season, but the authorities concerned have not yet

taken any steps to solve it, said several townspeople.

Houses in Purbo Khabaspur, Alipur, Niltoli, Komlapur, Laxmipur, Tapakhola, Horisova, Jiltoli, Dakkhin Jiltoli, Goalchamot and Paschim Khabaspur areas are inundated.

Chorogimor-Sonali Bank More road, Sonali Bank More-Ambika road, Thana road, Mossidbari road, Korim Mia road, Mujib road, Bhanga Rastar More and Hajratola More road have also gone under water.

"Whenever it rains, most of the busy roads of the town go under water, as a result people, mainly students,

suffer immensely," said Azad Mia, a resident of Jiltoli area.

"We do not come out of our houses as knee-deep water collects on the road. There are no drains in our area, so waterlogging is a common affair," said Md Giasuddin of Paschim Khabaspur area.

"Our city used to be free of waterlogging, but now waterlogging is increasing day by day due to the closing of the mouth of a drain recently. We are trying our best to solve the problem as soon as possible," said Faridpur Municipality Mayor Sheikh Mohatab Ali Mathu.



A waterlogged road in front of Adarsha Girls' High School in Faridpur town. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

FARMER MURDER Wife on 5-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A court here yesterday granted a five-day remand for a woman in a case for her alleged involvement in killing of her farmer husband.

Judge of the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court Solaiman Kabir gave the order after hearing on a seven-day remand prayer. Investigation Officer (IO) Sub-Inspector Rajib Chandra Sarkar submitted the prayer, said Court Inspector Rubel Miah.

The court fixed July 30 for the hearing when Rasheda Begum was produced before it on July 26, he added.

Rasheda, 30, wife of slain farmer Shahir Ali, 35, of Sardarpara village, was arrested on July 26 on charge of involvement in the killing, the IO said.

Victim's elder brother Suleman filed a murder case with Dewanganj Police Station on July 25, accusing six people, including Rasheda and her neighbour Raja Miah, 30, and five unnamed people.

The IO said Raja had an extra-marital affair with Rasheda. Raja called Shahir out of his house on July 21 around 10:00pm since then he did not return, he said.

Firoj Miah, 30, of Madonerchar village was arrested on Sunday in this regard. Firoj gave a confessional statement before the court, the IO added.

4 JMB men held

AK-22 rifle seized from their possession in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested four alleged members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from a remote char area in Rangpur and seized firearms and bullets from their possession yesterday.

The JMB men had a plan to kill a union parishad chairman in the district, said Bogra Superintendent of Police Ali Ashraf Bhuiyan.

The arrestees are Abdul Hakim alias Milon, 34, Azharul Islam, 32, Akramuzzaman alias Mukul, 26, and Faruk alias Sazu, 22, of Gangachara upazila in Rangpur.

Tipped off that militants gathered there, a police team from Bogra in association with local police arrested them from Meena Bazar area in Gangachara and seized one AK-22 rifle, 15 bullets and two pistols from them, Ashraf said.

Law enforcers recovered several AK-22 rifles during raids at different militant dens and such automatic firearms were used by militants in Gulshan Holey Artisan cafe attack in Dhaka on July 1, 2016, the SP said.

In primary interrogation, the arrestees said they got the firearms from a senior leader of the outfit, he added.

He claimed some top leaders of the outfit managed to flee before police conducted the drive.

They are Khorsheed Alam alias Master Zia, chief coordinator of the JMB, Shahidul Islam alias Gopal, chief of Dawa wing in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, Nur Haque alias Osman, chief of military wing in the division, Hadi, chief of Dawa wing of Chittagong division and Fuad Alias Niaz, a leader in Pirganj upazila.

Lawful Interception Unit from police headquarters assisted the raid.

College girl kills self as husband takes second wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole


A college girl committed suicide at Saronpur village under Monirampur upazila of Jessore yesterday after hearing about her husband's second marriage.

The deceased, Mahima Akter Setu, 18, daughter of Nistar Ali, was a second year student of Hajer Ali Women's College in Jhikorgachha upazila.

Before hanging herself, she left a suicide note, terming her husband responsible for her death.

Mustafizur Rahman, son of Abdul Momin of the same village, married Setu in 2016, said Setu's elder brother Sagor Hossain.

"Then Mustafizur went to Malaysia and Setu lived with us. Recently Mustafizur returned home and married another girl. Hearing this, my sister committed suicide," he said.



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DBA Program Office, Room # 403 (3rd Floor)
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Director, IBA

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