



Cows reared at a farm in Tampat area of Rangpur city are ready for Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS AHEAD OF EID

Low price concern in Rangpur, Pabna farmers see good profit

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Low prices remain a concern for the farmers in Rangpur region although cattle markets are gaining momentum ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, while rearers and traders in Pabna are expecting good profit.

Rangpur Divisional Livestock Department Deputy Director Dr Sheikh Azizur Rahman said around 13.75 lakh sacrificial animals are ready in eight districts of the division. The number is two lakh more than the number sold last year.

There are 8,92,905 cows and buffaloes, 4,82,769 sheep and goats and 492 other animals, he said.

He said there are 54,021 private and commercial farms in Rangpur division. Of them, 8,449 farms are in Rangpur, 2,250 in Nilphamari, 10,882 in Kurigram, 11,532 in Dinajpur, 4,693 in Lalmonirhat, 8,684 in Gaibandha, 4,241 in Thakurgaon and 3,290 in Panchagarh.

Aminul Islam in Parbatipur upazila said he has been rearing 300 cows. He has already sold

40 cows at Ambari Haat. "Price is less than expected," he said, adding that if such low prices continue farmers will suffer a loss as the price of fodder and labour cost are higher than last year's.

"Prices will go down further if Indian cows become available in the markets," said Rafiqul Islam in Sadar upazila.

Mahmudul Hasan Bappy in Kurigram municipality said he has been rearing 30 cows for the last six months targeting Eid-ul-Azha.

Meanwhile, the cost of rearing cattle has risen in Pabna due to the soaring price of cattle feed but farmers are eyeing good profit due to the adequate supply of local cattle this year, farmers said.

"I sold 24 cows in the last couple of weeks for Tk 23 lakh and I am expecting to sell 10 to 15 more before Eid," said Md Saiful Islam of Faridpur upazila.

"Usually we fix the price of a cow at Tk 16,000 to Tk 17,000 per maund, depending on the estimated weight of the meat, but we are selling it for Tk 17,000 to Tk 18,000 per maund

ahead of Eid," he said.

"Although the prices of cattle have gone up ahead of Eid, it is not enough for farmers to get expected profit due to increasing production cost. Cattle feed was sold at Tk 800 to Tk 850 per maund four months ago, but it is Tk 1,200 now," Saiful said.

Saiful said he earned Tk 1.5 lakh by selling 24 cows for Tk 23 lakh, and he is expecting to earn Tk 1 lakh more profit if he can sell the rest 15 cows at expected price before Eid.

Md Mamun Hossain in Sujanagar upazila said the supply of local cattle is adequate in the market, so farmers are expecting good profit if Indian cattle do not come.

"Cattle prices are soaring as Eid approaches, but we didn't get expected profit in the last few years as Indian cows flooded the market," he said.

District Livestock Officer Md Al Mamun said 2.07 lakh sacrificial animals, including 80,000 fattened cattle, are ready to be sold in Pabna.

Our Dinajpur and Pabna correspondents contributed to the report.

Two cousins drowned in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Two cousins drowned in a ditch near their house in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as three-year-old Rifat, son of Nazim Uddin, and two-and-a-half-year-old Nihat, son of Miraj Uddin, of Narayanpur Madhupara village in the upazila.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Inspector Abdul Latif, in-charge of Narayanpur Police Investigation Centre, said the two kids fell into a nearby ditch beside their house while playing at the courtyard in the morning.

After a frantic search, victims' family members and relatives found the duo's floating bodies in the ditch around 9:00am, the inspector said.

Market on railway land

The alleged grabbers are of ruling party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

An influential quarter belonging to the ruling Awami League (AL) has continued illegal construction of a market on leased Bangladesh Railway (BR) land near Satair Railway Station in Boalmari upazila of the district.

Ghospur Union Parishad (UP) Chairman SM Faruk Hossain, also treasurer of Boalmari upazila AL, in cooperation with Ghospur union AL President Robindranth Saha, Ghospur UP member Khalilur Rahman, Sukur Mollik and Billal Mia of the area have started constructing the market on 1.44 acres of BR land.

A resident of Pikehati village in the union Kazi Abdur Razzak took lease of 1.23 acres of land for agricultural use and another additional 21 decimals for fish farming beside Satair Bazar in the year 2000.

Razzak, however, transferred the lease documents in the name of the ruling party men on November 13, 2017, for the development of the area.

"The chairman asked me to hand over the land to him so that they can build a market over there for the development of the locality," Razzak said.

During a recent visit to the area this corre-

spondent found that the occupiers filled up the agricultural land and the water body and are erecting concrete structure of a market for commercial use without informing the BR authorities.

While talking to The Daily Star, one of the occupiers Robindranth Saha said, "The present government is working for the development of the country and we are only participating in that work."

Ghospur UP member Khalilur Rahman said, "Although, about 60 percent area of Satair Bazar is under Ghospur union, Satair Union Parishad alone takes the lease money every year. That is why we are building another market on the railway land."

Sidur Rahman, president of Satair Bazar managing committee, said, "The occupiers are constructing the market in a bid to grab the land."

"I have applied to railway authorities seeking permission for using the land on commercial basis but I did not get the approval yet," Ghospur UP Chairman Faruk said, adding that he is doing this for greater interest of local people.

Younus Ali, divisional estate officer of BR in Pakshey, said, "There is no provision of changing the status of any railway land."



Some ruling party men continue construction of a market on this leased railway land near Satair Railway Station in Faridpur's Boalmari upazila. The photo was taken on August 3.

'Thief dies in mob beating'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

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Stalkers' haven

A 3-kilometre road at Parbatipur has become a trap for schoolgirls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A three-kilometre road stretching from Ibrahimnagar to Jahanarabad area in Parbatipur upazila has become too risky for many schoolgirls to use due to harassment by groups of stalkers.

Victims' and their parents alleged that the stalkers hurl abuses towards the schoolgirls going to and from their institutions and if anyone protests their heinous act the stalkers assault them.

"It's nothing but a mental torture for us," an eighth grader at Muktijoddha High School said, adding that there are five high schools at different points along the three-kilometre road.

Several guardians alleged that they complained to police on a number of occasions to take action against the culprits but they did not pay heed.

Shafiqul Islam of Chawkpara village, also father of a Class VII girl, said stalkers in small groups start gathering on the road at a particular time every day and tease the girls on their way to and from schools.

On Saturday, when some guardians tried to protest such an incident, around 25 stalkers, including Ashraf, Rezwan, Bappy and Mil