



When winter arrives and mustard flowers are in bloom, they bring new hope to the lives of Tangail beekeepers, who harvest honey from the flowers. However, this year due to unfavourable weather conditions, syndicates and the rising price of commodities, beekeepers have only received half of their expected yield, putting them in a financial crisis for the year.

PHOTO: STAR



# No sweet yield for Tangail beekeepers

MIRZA SHAKIL

Minarul Islam, a beekeeper of Shyamnagar in Shatkhira, set up his bee colonies next to the vast mustard fields of Tangail Sadar's Gala area for the fourth time in November.

He was expecting a good yield of honey before the winter was over. But as the season progressed he soon began to worry.

Mustard flowers stay in bloom for almost three and a half months. Half way through this timeframe, the amount of honey that was supposed to be collected is far less than he had expected. He pointed his finger towards the current spell of cold wave and dense fog behind the decline in production.

At the same time, many mentioned that the price of honey is much lower than the last season.

"At this time last season I got about 100 maunds of honey from 300 colonies of Apis Mellifera bees. But this time I received only 50 maunds," he said.

"Meanwhile, last year too, the buyers (various companies and traders) paid Tk 6,000 (Tk 150 per kg) for mustard flower honey. This time, the companies for some reason appointed brokers to buy honey. They're offering us Tk 4,000. So I couldn't sell the honey," added Minarul.

"Half the year we keep the bees alive by feeding them sugar, and the price of sugar has increased from Tk 60 per kg to Tk 120 per kg. Now if they [buyers] buy honey at a lower cost than the expense of sugar we have, we'll soon run out of business," he added.

This correspondent talked to two other beekeepers named Mohammad Jahangir from Shyamnagar in Satkhira who sits at Chhota Basalia of Tangail Sadar upazila; and Khalil Miah, a beekeeper from Kaliganj upazila of Tangail Sadar, who has set up his bee colonies in Quizbari area. They shared the same frustration as Minarul.



## ISSUES

- Unfavourable weather
- Low production
- Influence of middlemen
- Lack of institutional support

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Govt intervention
- Proper training
- Better loan schemes
- Getting rid of brokers

The beekeepers said they collect honey five times a year -- mustard flowers from the second week of November to the last week of January; from coriander and black cumin in the last week of January to the first week of March; from litchi gardens in March; from Keora, Khalisha, Goran and Bain flowers of Sundarbans between March and April; and from sesame (Til/oil seed) between May and June.

The remaining five months are off-season for beekeepers, where farmers have to keep the bees alive by feeding them sugar.

Nargis Akhtar, a sub-assistant agriculture officer of Tangail Department Agricultural Extension (DAE), said this year, mustard has been cultivated on almost 60,000 hectares of land in the district's 12 upazilas.

Last year, a total of 17,000 bee colonies were set up in mustard fields in different parts of the district and 88 tonnes of honey was produced.

The same number of bee colonies has been set as a target this year. Honey production target has been fixed at 90 tonnes. About 9,000 colonies have been set up till January 1, added Nargis.

Mahmudul Hasan, additional deputy director of Tangail DAE, said, "There is a huge demand for honey in the food processing and pharmaceuticals companies of our country. Every year we import huge amounts of honey from outside the country, including India and Australia, to meet the demand."

"Sadly, our country's honey is being exported in small quantities. But we do have the potential to fulfil the domestic demand and even export it," Hasan added.

Former president of the central committee of Beekeepers Welfare Association, Dulal Hossain, said, "This time honey production has reduced by 30 to 40 percent due to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

This time honey production has reduced by 30 to 40 percent due to unfavourable weather conditions. On the other hand, broker syndicates and middlemen are offering Tk 4,000, instead of the fixed price of Tk 6,000 for mustard honey.

DULAL HOSSAIN  
Former president of Beekeepers Welfare Association

# Father, son killed in road accident

STAR REPORT

Three people, including a man and his son, were killed and three others were critically injured as a truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Sadar upazila's Tatalpur area on Friday night.

The deceased were identified as Rafiq, 45, his son Rabbi, 14, and Jubael Ahmed, 18, said Abu Sayeen, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Sadar Police Station.

According to police and local sources, the accident took place around 9:00pm when the truck coming from the opposite direction hit the auto-rickshaw, leaving one dead on the spot and five others, including the auto-driver, critically injured.

Later, two others died on the way to the hospital, said Dr Shahnewaz Numan, on-duty doctor at Sherpur Sadar Hospital.

The bodies were handed over to their families yesterday, said the OC, adding that a case has been filed in this regard with the police station.

## ROAD CRASHES KILL 3 IN JHENAIADAH

Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Kaliganj and Shailakupa upazilas of Jhenaidah

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

# Six 'robbers' held in two days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


The Detective Branch of police claimed to have arrested six members of a robbery gang from Moulvibazar and Dhaka in the last two days.

The arrestees rode a battery-run three-wheeler posing as passengers, held its driver hostage, snatched his vehicle and killed him the last month in the capital's Dakshinkhan area, said Mohammad Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday.

During a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre, the official also said the arrestees were involved in multiple murders.

According to him, the arrestees killed one Mostafa in Dakshinkhan area last month. They also killed another person named Jihad in


SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



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In order to widen Dhaka-Barishal highway, the authorities have decided to cut trees on the side of the road. Although there's a rope to ensure that the branch doesn't fall on the road and injure passers-by, there's no harness to save the man cutting the branch from a deadly fall. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# More and more children drowning every year

Proper measures not in place to prevent such deaths

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

On August 29, 2022, three-year-old Abdullah and 18-month-old Fahim, the two sons of Azizur Rahman, a municipal councillor of Patuakhali's Bauphal upazila, drowned.

In the morning of the tragedy, Azizur was in a grocery shop near his home. He was accompanied by

the boys; their mother Fatima was back home.

"I saw my kids playing in front of the shop," Azizur said, taking a deep breath.

"However, they suddenly vanished. I ran out of the store to look for them. The next thing I knew, locals informed me that they had fallen into a canal near our house,"

he said. "Some teenagers dove into the waterbody and dragged my children out. I immediately took them to the upazila health complex. But it was too late. The doctors declared them dead," he said, sobbing as he finished the sentence.

Every year, the number of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

| গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার   |   |
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| (www.railway.gov.bd)  |   |
| দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ)   |   |
| চট্টগ্রাম-নোয়াখালী শাখা লাইনের কর্ণফুলী নদীর উপরিস্থিত কাবুলঘাট রেলস্টেশন নং-সি/ডি/১০ এর উপর দিয়ে বিদ্যমান সড়কপথে যানবাহন (সুনির্দিষ্ট) পারাপারের জন্য রেলওয়ে প্রশাসন কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হারে মাসিক/টোল আদায়ের স্বত্ব ২৫ মার্চ ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ হতে এক বছরের জন্য ইজারা প্রদানের নির্দিষ্ট প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি যাবসায় প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাকারী নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খসে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। |   |
| ১   | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ   |
| ২   | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তা   |
| ৩   | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ   |
| ৪   | দরপত্রের বস্তু  |
| ৫   | দরপত্রের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ  |
| ৬   | দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য  |
| ৭   | দরপত্র দাখিলের বিস্তারিত স্থান  |
| ৮   | দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ  |
| ৯   | দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়   |
| ১০  | দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান ও সময়   |
| ১১  | দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান  |
| ১২  | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান  |
| ১৩  | সংকটের মূল্য  |
| ১৪  | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ওয়েবসাইট  |
| ১৫  | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পাসবই ও টেলিফোন নম্বর  |
| ১৬  | বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে প্রশাসন দরপত্র দাখিলকারীকে কোনো কারণে প্রদর্শন ব্যতীত যে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সর্বদা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। |