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Full Length Research Paper

Horse Racing in Saidpur Thana under Nilphamari District of Bangladesh

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Horse racing is very popular with the people. Out of 13 horses 12 horses were performed in races in two groups- large and small horses. Distinguished breeds were thoroughbred, barb, saddlebred, standardbred and some crossbreeds. The most common color was buckskin. Minimum 50 thousand people were present in that program. On the basis of profit the horse is doubly profitable animals than cows. By rearing from colt then after mature its price is higher. 'Shongholshi Kadikhol Math' was the venue for horse racing. Most of the people who enjoyed this race were maximum mid-aged. There were little old-aged and children also. In Saidpur upazila this program was held in the year 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015 gradually. Union chairman was the chief guest in this horse race. Due to proper care these racing horses's longevity was shown higher than wild one. Normally, all horses bought from India. Kurigram and Mymensingh in Bangladesh are the main horse rearing place. If it's possible to train-up horses by renowned horse expert then this horse rearing and racing culture could be a good source of income. All prizes were really remarkable for the horse race winner. Need to use horses in races after four years and not use pregnant animal. Always need to check its health especially legs and hooves. Due to grazing in open area sometimes it affected cholera and in winter season simply fever, cough and all time acidity is common. But the diseases are not fatal for them. Simple medication is sufficient for this. Only diarrhea and worm infestation are major two problems in horses. Between two worms infestation is very serious. That time horse is shown very excitation and rubbing its body on ground. Allopathic treatment by a vet is better in that case. Observed racing horses male and female sex ratio was 10:3. It's very important to preserve our culture as well as the rearing of horses.

Keywords: Horse, Horse racing.

INTRODUCTION

Horse racing is one of the most ancient sports (Horse racing 2014). Archaeological evidences indicate that this occurred in ancient Greece, Babylon, Syria and Egypt (Prashanth 2013). Thoroughbred horse racing was very popular of British society and it was mentioned 'Sport of Kings' (Marino 2005). Sometimes racing was often dangerous to both man and horse as they frequently suffered serious injury and even death. In the Roman Empire horse racing was major industries and from the mid-15th century until 1882, in Rome closed with a horse race. Quarter Horse racing may be considered eligible to race in the next time. A lot of fossils were found in horses. Prehistoric horses were very small in size. Modern horse indicates mainly nice Arabian horses. There are other breeds or horses are trotter, tattoo, draft, Morgan, standard bred, Australian bred, pony, mustang etc. In Bangladesh Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Arabian horses are found. Bangladesh army is reared horses for ceremonial purposes. In horse curt (tom-tom) tradition or goods, loading some crossbred's horses are used. Circus team of Bangladesh they used dun colored barb horses for playing on the stage. Fulbari,

Cheradangi and Gopalpur of Dinajpur district where horse selling and buying are available. Most of the horses are coming from India.

In Bangladesh, there some experienced horse importer of Mymensingh and Dhaka. Nice and powerful horses are used in races. Not only in marketing, but also horses are exchanged or buy-sell in houses also. Where any male horses are found, it's used for breeding. In Bangladesh horses are reared or keeping mainly hobby and finally used in races. This tradition is decreasing day by day. In case of horses artificial insemination is not available. For some troubles of human heart horse milk is useful. In world most faithful animals are considered monkey, dog and as well as horse. In most horse races, a sire (father) and a dam (mother) who are purebred individuals of whatever breed is racing. Quarter Horse not considered for breeding purposes (AQHA.com). There are three founding sires for thoroughbreds Arabian, Godolphin, and Byerly (Ultimate Horse Site 2009). The ancestors of the Quarter Horse were prevalent in America in the early 17th century. These horses were a blend of Colonial Spanish horses

crossed English horses that were brought over in the 1700s. The Quarter Horse has much larger hind limb muscles than the Arabian and much less suitable for endurance racing (Crook et al 2008). The Arabian horse was developed by the Bedouin people of the Middle East, specifically for stamina over long distances (Essortment.com).

Materials and Methods

Horse terms

An altered male is called a stallion. When male horses are castrated, it is called gelding. A mature female is named mare, when the age of the female is under two years, it is called filly and in case of the male it's a colt. After birth to less than one year is mentioned foal.

Breeds

Thoroughbred possesses more 'Type II-a' muscle fibers than the Quarter Horse or Arabian. This type of fiber allows them to propel at great speed and extended distance (Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine 2009). During racing in Saidpur there were mainly standard bred, saddle bred, thoroughbred, barb and crossbred (Plate 1-9). In army department Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Arabian horses are available and in parks barb and crossbreds Bangladeshi are used for riding. The coat color of thoroughbred was blue roan and others were mostly buckskin. Its physical stamina is mentionable than others. It's were male and collected from India (Table 1).

Feed

Horses' food in Bangladesh is same as a cow. Raw gram is submerged in water and after germination it's served in the next morning. The items of horse feed are rice husk, rice, broken gram and grass. Small horses need regular 2.5 kg except grasses in a field which cost is 20 taka whereas in large horse this is 7.5 kg which is triple than small horses.

Stall/Stable

There is no specific house of horses which is called stable. It is reared in a casual room and sometimes spends all night in an open place. Some rearers are thinking to establish a stable for horses which will promote a new dimension of horse rearing which will make a source of exhibition or fair.

Horse Training

Genetics, training style, age and skeletal system are the factors to horse performance. Skeletal system does not reach full maturity until the horse is at least four years of age (Gibbs et al 2009). If it's possible to train-up those racing horse by any renowned animal trainer it will be good. Scientific rearing of the horses and proper treatment as well as racing appliances and pre-care for racing is must to know. Any zoologist could deliberate such suggestions for horse caring. In that case the nearest colleges' zoology teacher may call to continue this race. In order to train the horse's just use its name, company and feeding time is needed to maintain.

Participants and organizing committee

The horseman was in young- or mid- aged people. They were very expert in horse riding. A hand-made whip is used to control the horse. Just a slight pressure with the palm on horse shoulder and use of both legs of horseman enter the front two legs of the horse are used to stop the horse run. The pioneer and convener of this horse race is Md. Jahangir Alam Kazi who is an Assistant Teacher of Kamarpukur Madrasha, Saidpur. He is ten years experienced on horse breeds and racing also. His grandfather had horses. There were about 200-250 volunteers at the time of this race. All members were very active to complete this occasion smoothly. At the time of miking, horse transportation, field decoration and arrangements of the horses for racing were maintained very carefully.

Flat racing

In observed venue there only flat racing which were 800 × 4 = 3,200 metres in oval track. Different breeds of horses have developed that are used for flat racing include the Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Arabian, Paint and Appaloosa (Flat racing breeds 2013).

Teeth: Horses are adapted to grazing. In an adult horse, there are 12 incisors at the front of the mouth. There are 24 premolars and molar teeth, which are adapted for chewing. Stallions and geldings have four additional teeth just behind the incisors. Some horses, both male and female, develop one to four very small vestigial teeth known as wolf teeth which are generally removed. There is an empty space between incisors and molars when the horse is bridled (Kreling, no date). Observation of teeth of horses allows very rough estimate of its age, although diet and veterinary care can affect the rate of tooth wear (Tony and Marcy 2007).

Channel I:

The channel I media were focused on this race by interviewing of the organizing committee. I hope in future more media to come gradually because this is our tradition by which people will be conscious to rear horses as a pet.

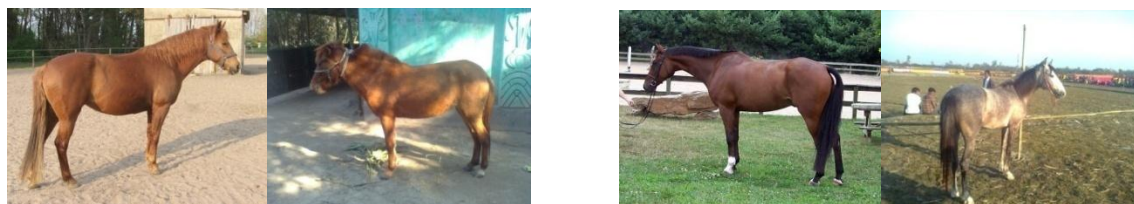


Plate 1,2. Barb (google.com and observed) **Plate 3,4.** Thoroughbred (google.com and observed)

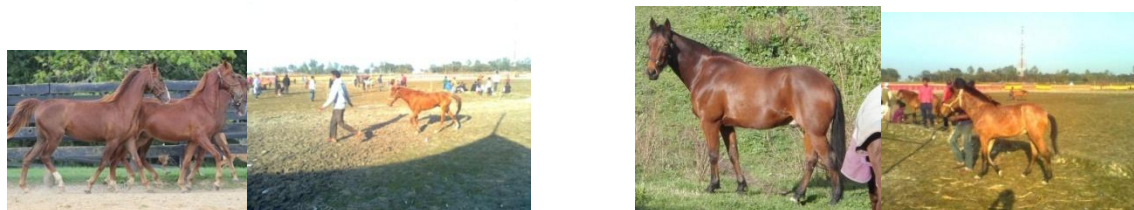


Plate 5,6. Saddlebred (google.com and observed) **Plate 7,8.** Standardbred (google.com and observed)



Plate 9. Crossbred

Results

Table 1: Description of horses in Saidpur when racing (16 January 2015)

Variety	Colour	Sex	Age (year)	Collected from
Thoroughbred	Blue roan	Male	4	India
Thoroughbred	Blue roan	Male	2	India
Barb	Buckskin	Male	3	Jamalpur
Barb	Buckskin	Female	5	Dinajpur
Barb	Bay	Male	3	Panchagarh
Barb	Buckskin	Male	11	India
Barb	Buckskin	Male	7	Thakurgaon
Barb	Bay	Female	7	Panchagarh
Crossbred	Mixed	Male	5	Dinajpur
Barb	Dappled gray	Male	1.5	Dinajpur
Standardbred	Dun (partial)	Male	1.5	Dinajpur
Saddlebred	Buckskin	Male	2	Dinajpur
Barb	Buckskin	Female	2	Saidpur



Discussion

Racing types

Jump racing where horses race over obstacles. Harness racing where horses trot or pace while pulling a driver in a sulky (Edwards 1994). Endurance racing where horses travel across country over extreme distances (25-100 miles). Different lengths of races are divided into five categories: pleasure rides (10–20 miles), non-competitive (21–27 miles), competitive (20–45 miles), progressive trail rides (25–60 miles), and endurance rides (40–100 miles) (Equiworld.net). The longest endurance race in the world is the Mongol Derby, which is 833.2 km long (Guinness World Records 2013). Handicap racing is assigned a different weight to carry based on its ability (Horse Racing Channel 2009).

Racing in Bangladesh

A traditional horse race competition was held at Kamatpara village under Boda upazila in Panchagarh on Monday afternoon. Thousands of people, including women and children, from Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Nilphamari attended the race. The race started around 4 pm at Kalibari School in Chandanbari union under Boda upazila. The competition had 17 participants from Panchagarh, Dinajpur and Nilphamari districts. The first prize winner received 14" black-white television, second was 10" black-white television and the third prize winner this was 8" television. Locals of the area carried the expenditure for arranging this event (The Daily Star 2010) (Plate 1). On 16 January 2015, the race of Saidpur the first horseman has got 3000 taka, second 2500 and third 2000 taka each. On the other hand first small horses got 2500, second 2000 and third 1500 taka. All horse owners got 500 taka as specimen gift. On the other hand the raffle draw for the tickets gave more prizes. The ticket price for enjoying this race was only 10 taka. Near about 4000 tickets were sold (Appendix 1).

Racing in other countries

In Asian region's horse racing in India is over 200 years old, first was set up in Madras in 1777. Today India has a very well established racing and breeding industry. Horse races are held in Pakistan at four different clubs. In Lahore Race Club, Rawalpindi at Chakri, Karachi Race Club and Gujrat Race Club is renowned race organizer. There were 314 tracks operating in the United States by 1890; and in 1894, the American Jockey Club was formed (WinningPonies.com). The Czech horse racing season usually starts at the beginning of April and ends in November and takes mostly at weekends and there is usually one meeting on a Saturday and one on Sunday (Czech Racing Season 2013). The Quilty Cup is considered the national endurance ride over 100 endurance events contested across Australia, ranging in distances from 80 to 400 km (Endurance Racing 2010). Horse racing is a significant part of the New Zealand economy which in 2004 generated 1.3% of the GDP. In 2004, more than one million people attended race meetings in New Zealand (Briefing for incoming minister racing October 2005). They are the Philippine-pony era (1867-1898), the Arabian-horse era (1898-1930), and the Thoroughbred-era (1935–present) (Philippine Racing Commission 2013).

Criticism

Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, claims of animal cruelty. In 2009, animal rights group PETA released undercover video of alleged abuses of former race horses at a slaughter house in Kumamoto, Japan. The group states that 20,000 Thoroughbred horses were killed in 2008 in Japan for using as human and pet food (PETA 2009). There are many dangers in horse racing for both horse and jockey when jumping an obstacle. 20% of the jockey was serious head or neck injuries. 1.5 horses die out of every 1000 starts in the US. Anna Waller, a member of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of North Carolina, she added that almost 20% of these were serious head or neck injuries. The study reported 6,545 injuries during the years 1993–1996 (On horse racing 2013; Jama.ama-assn.org. 2013). More than 100 jockeys were killed in the US between 1950 and 1987 (Cdc.gov 2013). Jockey Club in New York estimates that about 600 horses died at racetracks in 2006. There is speculation that drugs used in horse racing in the US which are banned elsewhere (Willem 2007). At many horse races, there is a gambling station, where betting is illegal, due to a 1951 law.

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Conclusion

In Saidpur under Nilphamari district every year in the month of December or January a renowned horse race held. This program organized by some experienced horse owner. And the race is stayed only one day. The Bangladesh Silpakala Academy organizes circus team in Bangladesh, where horses are common (Kabir 2013). Only castration for sexual barrier is happening, but this is rare in horses. It is possible to establish a horse farm in Bangladesh with its nucleus breeding. Horses are the symbol of energy; it is very important animals to carry huge loads. Only 6-8 months of age are 20,000 taka and after 2.5 years, this is double in price. Horse owners train their animals with own style at the age of 2.5-3 years. Early age is not good because that time horses are injured in the legs due to the softness of the knees. It likes water and get down in pond automatically. Horse markets are held in Cheradangi on 4 February, Gopalpur 5 January and in Fulbari (Chintamon) 26 April respectively. Moreover, this horse race of course an exceptional and very enjoyable act to everybody.

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Appendix 1

1. Chief Guest: Union Chairman Md. Abdul Mazid
2. Committee and other manpower: 31-50, volunteers 200-250
3. Previously organized: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015
4. Purpose of racing: culture, conservation of breeds
5. Racing horses came from: Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Saidpur
6. Other racing places of Bangladesh: Gazipur, Mymensingh, Pabna, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha
7. Accidents during race: None
8. Participants age and number: children to old-aged (85 years)
9. Horse price: 20,000-3, 50,000
10. Tin/Steel slit under hoof for speed racing: Hooves were natural due to running on soil
11. Techniques of horse training: By using nick name
12. Ornamentation of horses: saddle, noseband and throatlatch
13. Presence of the media: Channel I
14. Prize: 1st, 2nd and 3rd winner, specimen prize and for 1st, 2nd and 3rd small horses