

CLEANLINESS AFTER SACRIFICE

DCC urges imams to educate mass

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has urged city imams to inform people about 'waste management of sacrificial animals' in their sermons during the Eid congregations.

DCC officials said that this was a part of their drive to grow awareness among the city dwellers most of whom will be sacrificing animals.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will launch a 'special cleaning drive' to ensure cleanliness during and after the Eid festival, when hundreds of thousands of sacrificial animals will be slaughtered.

But DCC officials feared that their initiatives would not be enough if the public did not co-operate with them after the sacrifices are complete. The drive's main objective would be to prevent pollution resulting from animal blood and residues.

DCC has recently hired 3,000 temporary cleaners to increase

its field level workforce to a total of 10,000. DCC officials however said that there is no alternative to mass awareness to keep the city pollution-free after the Eid.

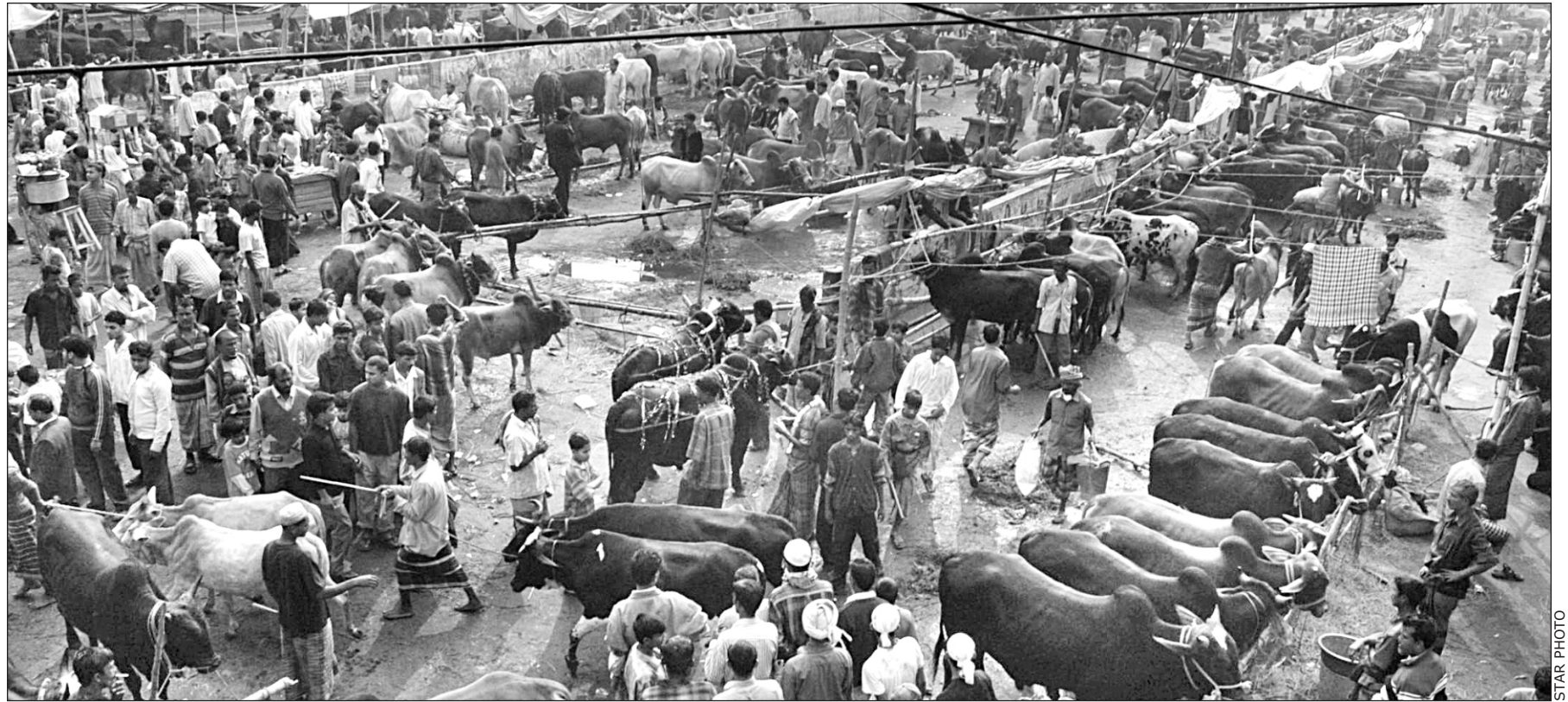
To maintain cleanliness in the city's cattle markets DCC deployed a total of 160 trucks, 400 containers, 13 trailers, 6 pay-loaders, 2 tire doublers 22 dump trucks and 8 water lorries. The DCC will also spray antiseptic liquids in different places across the city.

When asked about the adequacy of the initiatives, the Chief Conservancy Officer, Sohail Faruque said that space constraints force many people to use the roads and roadside spaces for slaughter.

"Due to the lack of awareness most people in the city leave the wastes on the spot without cleaning properly," Faruque said.

"Blood and other wastes from the animals littered on the streets without cleaning will cause pollution and expose the very population to various health hazards," Faruque said.

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Housewives not sitting idle

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Homemakers are increasingly becoming a part of income source all over Dhaka. In order to fight the on going price hike they are taking over the frontline creating new ways of money making schemes everyday.

Mosammat Maliha lives in Kazipara with her mother and two daughters. Her husband died two years ago in Kidney failure. With two young daughters she struggled very hard in the beginning. Recently she found a way to survive. Fortunately she had some skill in Nakshikantha stitch. She started preparing them with the help of some relatives in Barisal.

"In the beginning I sold Nakshikantha to my neighbours. They are now bringing me more customers. I go to their relatives, friends and colleagues' houses to receive more orders," said Maliha.

"The number of customers however, is not many because it takes a long time to prepare a Nakshikantha, which makes it expensive as well. I am making just enough to provide for my daughters and mother," she added.

Halima Aktar, wife of a fruit vendor in Rupnagar residential area said: "With my husband's income only it was hard for us to maintain the family. Before I getting married I knew some tailoring work. It was my hobby, which is now paying well."

Aktar added: "My husband will



A housewife busy doing block print at her home.

not allow me to work outside so I receive orders from neighbours and work at home. I also go to Bangabazar to buy sari. I embellish the saris with hand stitch embroidery."

It takes about ten days to prepare one sari, she added. Firoza later sells them to various houses in her neighbourhood. She also has many customers in Dhanmondi area. Recently she received some orders from a fashion house. With this income she maintains the family.

"My income is however not enough to pay for my husband's treatment. It breaks my heart to see him bedridden", Firoza said.

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Busy Eid for city blacksmiths

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

The city blacksmiths are busy making and sharpening different kinds of butcher knives and other accessories on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha.

The blacksmith shops, mainly in Karwan Bazar are now working day and night to cope with the demand for knives during the festival, when hundreds of thousands of sacrificial animals will be slaughtered. The blacksmiths will work non-stop till the morning of the Eid.

Although the blacksmiths said business was not 'that good' compared to last year, demand for butcher knives, sacrifice knife, carver, paring knife, slicer, skiver and small axe are on nonetheless huge.

"Our customers come to us after they have bought the cattle. Hopefully we will do good business on the eleventh hour," said Abdul Awal, proprietor Dhaka Karmaker at Karwan Bazar.

The blacksmiths claimed that unlike other Eid items they have not raised their prices despite a price hike of raw materials.

The largest blacksmith market in the city Karwan Bazar Karmaker Shed Market is now busy mainly for sharpening the old knives and other accessories. Some other markets of this genre in the city can be found in K h i l g a o n , M o g h b a z a r , Mohakhali, Mohammadpur Town Hall Market, Tongi, Noyabazar, Rayer Bazar and Dolaikhal.

"We have completed manufacturing the knives earlier as we have to remain busy for the sharpening and repairing on the last moment," said Amir Hossain,

another businessman at Karwan Bazar.

Price of a knife for slaughtering ranges between Tk 250 and Tk 300, a small axe is between Tk. 150 and Tk 300. Many other accessories are sold by their weights.

Makeshift markets for other accessories for the Eid sacrifice

have also sprouted in the city. Roadside vendors are busy selling logwood, mats, hey and fodder at many places in the city.

"Last year I lost money on my business, still I came to the city this time, hopefully I will see some profit," said Omar Ali Sheikh, a logwood businessman from Rajbari, who has been

seasonally coming to the capital for the last nine years.

Many of the customers at the Karwan Bazar markets are seasonal butchers who rush to the capital every year during the Eid to help butcher the sacrificial animals.

"Every year we come during the Eid-ul-Azha for finding butch-

ers' job. We need to be equipped for it," Al Amin, a day laborer and seasonal butcher who comes Dhaka every year with a group of friends from Jamalpur.

"The quality of the knives and other accessories is deteriorating day by day," said Saifur Alam, a customer in the market.



Buyers flock to Karwan Bazar with the Eid drawing close.

health, busservices, airlines & train timing

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Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503

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