

CORONAVIRUS

Crowded cattle markets pose risk as health rules grossly ignored

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Cattle markets in Patuakhali are now buzzing with buyers and sellers of sacrificial animals ahead of Muslim religious festival Eid-ul-Azha to be celebrated in the country on August 1.

But the government-stipulated health rules, aimed at checking the spread of Covid-19, are hardly followed in these markets, locally called haats.

Visiting several cattle markets in the district on Thursday and Friday, it was seen that most of the people do not wear mask while maintenance of safe distance remains elusive. Arrangement of washing hands is mostly absent.

Bridge Hat adjacent at Patuakhali town, Sehakathi Hat, Hajir Hat, Botalbunia Hat, Moukaran Hat under Patuakhali Sadar upazila, Badura Hat, Galachipa Hat under of Galachipa upazila, Kalaiya Hat, Baga Hat under Baufal upazila, Deuli-Subidkhali of Mirzaganj upazila are some of the notable haats.

Traders said there is not yet much sale of cattle although the prices are low.

Badura Haat, the largest cattle market in Galachipa upazila, saw thronging of thousands of sellers and buyers who seem to bother least about maintenance of safe distance and wearing mask properly.

There is no arrangement for hand washing or using sanitiser. No awareness campaign was seen on behalf of the market committee.

Abu Hanif of Amkhola village, came to buy cow at Badura Haat.

When asked why he was not wearing mask, he quickly took one from his pocket and put it on the face.

Ismail Hossain from Auliapur village of



PICTURE TELLS THE TALE: Badura Haat, a makeshift cattle market in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila, is hardly distinguishable from other years although the ongoing Covid-19 situation demands strict maintenance of health rules including safe distance among people and wearing masks. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sadar upazila came to the market for selling a few cows.

Asked why he did not have a mask, he said, "By the grace of Allah, nothing will happen to us." Afterwards he took a mask out of his pocket and wore it.

Abdul Motaleb Sikder, a lessee of Deuli Subidkhali Haat, said, "Everyone is talking about health rules. But it is not properly maintained as most of the rural people are not aware."

Mirzaganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sarwar

Hossain said a meeting has been held with the cattle market lessees of the upazila and all concerned have been instructed to comply with the health rules while selling the sacrificial animals.

Contacted, Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Md Matul Islam Chowdhury said, "The organizers have been instructed to follow the health rules in the haats. If the instructions are ignored, disciplinary action will be taken through mobile court."

KALMAKANDA UPAZILA

Three back-to-back flash floods devastate fish farmers

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

When losses incurred by fish farmers in the entire district of Netrakona totals to Tk 10 crore, the ones in Kalmakanda upazila alone suffered around Tk 7 crore in losses due to three flash floods in one month.

The losses have been severe as nearly 2,500 fish ponds out of around 3,600 in the upazila have been washed away in the flash floods, said Anik Rahman, fisheries officer in Kalmakanda upazila.

While speaking with this correspondent, Netrakona Fisheries Officer Fazlul Kaber said among 38,500 fish farmers in the district, around 3,600 -- mostly in Kalmakanda -- have been affected by the floods.

Other upazilas also affected by the floods are Sadar, Madan, Khaliajuri and Barhatta, he added.

Wabidul Haque, chairman of Kharnoi Union Parishad under Kalmakanda upazila, said 38 villages of the union experienced three back-to-back floods within a span of one month, thanks to floodwaters rushing down from hills up north through the Boithakhal and Ganeshwari rivers.

The floods in his union have washed away around 700 fish ponds, causing a damage of over Tk 1 crore, he added.

Fish farmer Nizam Uddin, from Bausam village in the same union, said fish from six out of his eight ponds were washed away, resulting in a loss of around Tk 4



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Attempt to contain fish in the pond with nets went in vein after flash floods overflow all obstacles in Chinahala village of Sadar union in Kalmakanda upazila.

lakh. "I run my family with income from fish cultivation. But now I'm stuck in a dire situation amid the ongoing crisis [of floods and Covid-19 pandemic]."

Nurul Islam Mondol, from Sundarighat village, said he took a bank loan of Tk 10 lakh for fish cultivation in 10 ponds. But after fish from five of the ponds were washed away by floodwaters, he incurred a loss of over Tk 5 lakh.

"Now I'm in a deep crisis as I don't how I would repay the loan," lamented the farmer.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Faruk Ahmmid said aside from fish farms, floods also damaged seed beds for Aman paddy on around 49 acres of land in Kalmakanda upazila.



People wade through knee-deep water at Purbo Dashara in Manikganj on Friday as most of the roads in the town went under water amid massive flooding in the district, triggered by the rise of water level in Jamuna, Padma, Kaliganga and Dhaleswari rivers.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Alarming rise of cattle theft ahead of Eid

About 400 cows stolen in Moulvibazar in a month

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Sharif Mia has been rearing his three cows worth Tk 1.50 lakh for the last two years to sell at the haat ahead of this Eid-ul-Azha, a festival marked by sacrifice of animals. He wanted to celebrate this Eid and pay back some loans by selling the cattle. But the cows were stolen in Rampasha village of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar last week.

"I am now in utter despair for my future after losing the cattle. How will I pay off the debts now and how will I buy new clothes for my children in the Eid?" said Sharif.

Dilip Roy, a tea worker at Champarai tea garden in Kamalganj upazila of the district, said he has been rearing two cows for long.

"The cattle were our only assets. I had a plan to spend my children's education cost and repay some loans by selling a cow before Eid. But a few days ago, the cows were stolen. And all my dreams have been shattered," he said.

Cattle lifting has increased in different upazilas of the district ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, forcing farmers to guard their cows during the night. Two weeks ago, alarming rise of cow theft in Kulaura and Kamalganj upazilas caused a stir across the country.

Farmers said around 400 cows have been stolen in different upazilas of the district in the last one month. The upazilas are Kulaura, Kamalganj and Sreemangal.

After the incident, farmers are worried about the rise of cattle lifting. The cattle farmers are now guarding their cows in many areas at night to prevent theft.

Abdul Ahad, a resident of Dildarpur area, said 70 cattle out of 114 have been stolen in Joychondi union of Kulaura



Kamalganj police in Moulvibazar have recently arrested four people with two stolen cows.

PHOTO: STAR

upazila. Police are reluctant to lodge a complaint in cattle lifting when the victims visit the police station.

Solaiman Ahmed, former chairman of Islampur Union Parishad in Kamalganj upazila, said a total of 196 cattle have been stolen in the border areas including Champarai and Kurma tea gardens of the upazila in the last three months. After being stolen, the cows were sometimes sold out and slaughtered.

He further said that it is too tough for the tea workers to run the family with their minimum daily wage of Tk 102. Due to this, they rear the cattle to survive.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to prevent cow theft, said

Solaiman.

Arifur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kamalganj Police Station, said they have arrested four people with two stolen cows from the border area a few days ago.

The law enforcers also seized a pick-up van used for stealing cows from their possession, said the OC.

They have increased their patrols in different areas of the upazila to prevent the cattle theft, said the police official.

Moulvibazar Superintendent of Police (SP) Faruq Ahmed said the cattle theft incident has occurred at different places in the district ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

They are raiding different areas to arrest the cattle lifters, said the SP.

Missing boy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The body of a minor boy, who was missing since Thursday, was found dead in Birganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Sohag Islam, 7, was son of Pagar Islam of Gopalpur village.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Bhognagar Union Parishad Chairman Badiuzzaman Panna said Sohag went out of his house on Thursday and remained missing since then.

Villagers spotted his body in a ditch yesterday and informed police.



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Improvement of Elenga-Hatikamrul-Rangpur Road to a 4-Lane Highway
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh
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Memo No. 35.01.0000.069.17.001.2017-665 Date: 23 July 2020

Invitation for Bids (IFB) No.: WP05/2020, ICB No. and Title: SASEC-2/ICB/WP05; SASEC Road Connectivity Project-2, Improvement of Elenga-Hatikamrul-Rangpur Road to a 4-Lane Highway, (SASEC Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase-2).

Addendum/Corrigendum No. 1

The following modifications have been made in the Bid Documents, all other terms and conditions of the Bid Documents shall remain valid and unchanged.

Sl. No.	Applicability	Bid document	Reference clause	Page reference	Amendment
1	WP 05	Volume 1 of 5	Invitation for Bid (IFB), Memo No. 35.01.0000.069.17.001.2017-476, 10 June 2020, Serial No. 9, Section 2, ITB22.1 & ITB25.1	2-5	The deadline for bid submission is: Date: 27 August 2020 Time: 12:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time) The opening of the Technical Bid shall take place on: Date: 27 August 2020 Time: 12:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time)
2	WP 05	Volume 1 of 5	Section 6: Employer's Requirements. Personnel Requirements Part 1: Construction Phase Works	6-5	Educational Qualification of the personnel will be as the following: Sl No. 6. QA/QC Engineer [B.Sc. Eng. in Civil] Sl No. 7. Plant/Equipment Engineer [B.Sc. Eng. in Mechanical] Sl No. 8. Quantity Surveyor [B.Sc. Eng. in Civil] Sl No. 9. Environmental/Safety Engineer [B.Sc. in Environmental Science/B.Sc. Eng. in Civil]
3	WP 05	Volume 1 of 5	Section 3: Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, 2.4.2 Construction Experience in Key Activities (Criteria Requirement)	3-8	Criteria Requirement No. 5 to be replaced as following: Reinforced Concrete (Bridge/Flyover) work in One Year: 3,000 m ³
4	WP 05	Drawing Volume 3 of 5 Structures	Pedestrian Overpass: Drawing No. 5060090-02-130-0001	-	Pedestrian Overpass: Location: Chails Bazar, CH 77+500
5	WP 05	Drawing Volume 3 of 5 Plan & Profile	Drawing No. 5060090-02-003-0022 (Issue C) (Underpass Ch 82+000) Sheet 20 of 49	Sheet 20 of 49 (Plan & Profile)	"Type 04" will be replaced with "Type 01" in Plan & Profile.
6	WP 05	Volume 2 of 5 (Section 6: Particular Specification)	Clause 3.4.2.1 Bitumen	6-75	Replace the first paragraph with: "Bitumen for both Dense Bituminous Base Course and DBS Wearing Course will be 60/70 Penetration grade conforming to the requirements given in Table 3.4-1."
7	WP 05	Volume 5 of 5 (Section 8: Particular Conditions of Contract) Part-B	Table of Contents	88-1 88-2	Delete 1.14: Joint and Several Liability 13.7: Adjustments for Changes in Legislation 14.2: Advance Payment 21- Particular Conditions of Contract, Part-B- Additional Clauses 21.1: Foreign Taxation 21.2: Local Taxation 21.3: Customs Clearance

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