

# Flow of cattle still slow at markets

*With two days remaining for Eid, farmers, traders lose heart as demand drops*

HELEMIJ ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Every year before Eid-ul-Azha, the cattle markets bustle with people; excitement fills the air while haggling commences in full force. The smelly, yet lively haats are the place to be; the animals -- sights to behold.

But it's not the same this year.

With only three days left for Eid, only half the number of cattle has arrived at the market in comparison to previous years, said traders. Fear of not getting a reasonable price and lack of buyers due to the pandemic situation are some of the major reasons, they added.

Also, many cattle farmers and traders who are able to rear their cattle for one more year did not show up at markets amid the circumstances.

These correspondents visited at least six cattle markets yesterday -- Dhupkhola, near Sadeque Hossain Khoka Playground, Gabtoli, Aftabnagar, Kachukhet and Meradia markets -- and found 30 to 50 percent less number of sacrificial animals this year.

Even though 17 cattle markets have been set up under the two city corporations this year, which is 10 less than last year, the numbers are still poor.

The lessees hope that the number of cattle will increase in the remaining couple of days, if there is sufficient number of buyers.

Dr Abdul Zabbar Shikdar, director general of the Department of Livestock, in the first week of this month told The Daily Star that this year, 1.19 crore cattle have been reared targeting Eid-ul-Azha, exceeding last year's demand by 10 lakh.

He said last year 1.18 crore animals were reared but around 1.09 crore were slaughtered during the three-day festival. "But the main challenge is

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A handful of cattle and sporadic crowd -- such has been the situation at Kamalapur cattle market even though Eid is just a couple of days away. This photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Over 1cr sacrificial animals ready for Qurbani: minister

UNB, Dhaka

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim has said over one crore cattle are ready in the country for Qurbani (sacrifice) during the Eid-ul-Azha this year.

"Sick animals will not be allowed to enter the sacrificial animal market and medical teams will be active in each market," the minister told the news agency in an online interview.

Asked whether the Covid-19 pandemic would reduce the number of sacrifices, the minister said, "We have 1 crore sacrificial animals for this year's Qurbani." Usually, some family sacrifices five to six animals during Eid-ul-Azha, said the minister, adding that they were apprehensive that they will not do that this year.

Meanwhile, low-income families have been struggling to recover the financial loss of Covid-19 pandemic, cyclone Amphan and Bulbul, he said.

"I think some of them will not sacrifice animals if they are incapable of, and middle-income people also may not participate in Qurbani this year," the minister said.

"I guess the number of sacrifices will come down this year in comparison with the previous year," he said.

Asked if the ministry has taken steps

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# More cordial than ever

Says Quader on Bangladesh-India ties as Riva Ganguly pays a courtesy call on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-India relationship is more cordial, friendly and development-centric than any other time, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

"Friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries can ensure mutual development and solve unresolved issues more easily," said Quader.

The minister said this to reporters after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das paid a courtesy call on him at his secretariat office yesterday, according to a press release.

Quader, also Awami League general secretary, said Bangladesh and India are tested friends and friendship between the two countries are tied with the bloodstained the Liberation War of 1971. The relationship of the two countries is advancing towards a newer level with the course of time, he added.



Riva Ganguly Das pays a courtesy call on Obaidul Quader at his office.

The minister said they have discussed the ongoing projects taken for the improvement of road infrastructure and enhancement capacity of public transport under Indian line of credit.

He extended his thanks to the high commissioner for her cooperation in taking ahead the road infrastructural development projects in Bangladesh.

# Doctor burnt in fire caused by sanitiser succumbs to injury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor, who along with his wife sustained severe burn injuries from a fire reportedly caused by a lit cigarette coming in contact with hand sanitiser, died at a hospital yesterday morning.

Rajib Bhattacharjee (36), a neurosurgeon at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, breathed his last around 8:30am at the intensive care unit of Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of the institute, told The Daily Star.

Rajib was put on life support with 87 percent burns since the fire incident that took place at their house in Dhaka's Hatirpool on July 22.

His wife Anushua Bhattacharjee, a doctor at a private medical college, is receiving treatment at the hospital with 20 percent burns.

"We cannot say that she is out of danger yet," Dr Sen said.



Rajib

# Share true history of 1971 among youths

Speaker Shirin Sharmin tells Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accurate history of the country's Liberation War should be shared among youths, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said yesterday.

"Sharing the accurate history among new generations is our responsibility," she said while speaking at the award-giving ceremony of Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak 2019.

The Speaker joined the programme virtually as chief guest, organised by the Liberation War Museum (LWM) at its auditorium.

LWM conferred the award to print and electronic media journalists for reports on the Liberation War.

She said many journalists are writing and presenting news, preparing documentaries on barbarism of the occupation forces as well as the sacrifices of freedom-loving people during the nine-month long war.

"Through all these, many new and unknown information regarding the 1971 Liberation War is coming up..." she said.

On the Bazlur Rahman Padak, she said it is an exceptional award as it is conferred on reports on the Liberation War.

Jury board chairman of the award and former Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said it is the duty of all to keep the history of the Liberation War alive among the new generation.

LWM trustee member secretary Sara Zaker spoke at the event.

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# Arrest warrant for Shahed issued over money laundering

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against Regent Group Chairman Shahed Karim, its Managing Director Masud Parvez and two others in a case filed over misappropriating Tk 25.27 lakh from a businessman.

The two other accused are -- Regent Group Project Director Md Saiful Bari and Director Kazi Rabiul Islam.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Habibur Rahman Chowdhury passed the order after Omar Faruk, a managing partner of Doyal Enterprize, filed the case against them with the court yesterday.

The magistrate directed the officer-in-charge of Utrara Paschim Police Station to submit by September 3 the probe report on execution of arrest warrant.

The complainant alleged that Shahed and the three others took construction materials from his enterprise on different dates since 2018, the cost of which stood at Tk 25,27,206.

He requested them to pay the money, but they refused to do so and threatened him with dire consequences if he demanded the money again, the complainant added.

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# Swechchasebak Dal president Shafiul Bari dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Swechchasebak Dal President Shafiul Bari Babu died at a hospital in Dhaka early yesterday.

He was 51, according to family sources.

"He breathed his last at 4am at Evercare Hospital while undergoing treatment for lung infection and breathing problems," Abdul Quader Bhuiyan Jewel, general secretary of the organisation, told The Daily Star.

Babu, a former student leader, was admitted to Anwer Khan Modern

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# A rare lack of urgency to buy launch tickets

People wary of travelling during Eid due to pandemic

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Eid-ul-Azha typically brings throngs of people to the ports, eager to go home before the religious festival. Launches are often overcrowded, and finding last-minute tickets is nearly impossible.

But this year, even with Eid just a couple of days away, there's little rush to get launch tickets.

People are wary about prolonged commutes in public transportation amid the pandemic, and this is clearly reflected at the ticket counters.

Upon visiting the ticket counters of Sundarban and Surovi launch in Barishal, this correspondent found out that ticket sales are low for the days leading up to Eid, while for other days, even one sale is rare.

Due to this, launch owners are yet to pay Eid bonus to their employees.

The Dhaka-Barishal route remains usually busiest during the two Eid occasions every year.

Desperate to reach home, people even opt for "black

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WORKING IN COX'S BAZAR

# Local NGOs question UN's fund allocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cox's Bazar Civil Society Organisations and NGO Forum (CCNF), a network of more than 50 local and national NGOs, yesterday termed the distribution of CERF (Central Emergency Response Funding) allocation as a pre-decided, top-down matter.

The leaders of CCNF criticised the role of Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) -- a coordinating body of UN and other aid agencies -- for "hardly giving access to local NGOs and local governments in Rohingya response management."

They made the remarks at a virtual press conference on recent distribution of Covid-19 CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) in Rohingya response.

None of the Cox's Bazar-based NGOs received any fund and UN hardly followed the grand bargain commitment and the recently announced IASC (Inter Agency

Standing Committee) guideline on localisation during Covid-19.

IASC is the highest UN body formed for a coordinated and principled humanitarian response.

Addressing the press conference, Abu Morshed Chowdhury, co-chair of CCNF alleged that UN and IASC has given the local NGOs little time and imposed a lot of conditions to submit project proposals, which barred the local NGOs from applying.

"But, upon discussing with the high officials of UN, it was already understood that it was already decided somewhere in top [management] who will get the fund," said Morshed.

He also said international NGOs should collect fund from their own origin country, instead of raising fund or compete with local NGOs in Bangladesh and Cox's Bazar.

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# Just 39mm of rain inundates Khulna city

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

A moderate rain inundated around two-third of Khulna city yesterday, causing immense suffering to the dwellers.

According to the Met office, 39mm rainfall was recorded in the city on the day. Amirul Azad, senior meteorological officer, told The Daily Star that the rain started at 12:20pm and ended at 2pm.

Locals and development activists said encroachment of waterbodies in and around the city and poor drainage system caused such waterlogging.

City dwellers alleged that the sufferings of around 1.7 million people living in 45.65 sq km area under 31 wards are persisting due to indifference of the authorities concerned.

According to Khulna City Corporation, total length of the city's drainage network is 651.50km. Of it, 291.23km is concrete, 55km half concrete and 305km earthen.

While visiting many areas -- including Daulatpur, Pabla, Boyra, Rupsha Stand Road, KDA Avenue, Iqbalnagar, Tutpara, Gallamari, Moilapota, Dakbangla, Santhidham Mor, Phulmarket and Press Club -- this correspondent found most of the roads under ankle- to knee-deep water.

Slum dwellers and people in low-lying Bastuhara, South Pabla, Dayana and Boyra areas were the worst sufferers. Many kitchen markets -- including Sheikhpara, Bastuhara and Boikali -- went under water.

Vehicles were found stranded on waterlogged roads at Dakbangla and Shibbari intersections. Many were busy removing water from their homes and shops.

Habibur Rahman, a resident of Bastuhara, expressed his disappointment. "Most of the drains in our area are not properly cleaned," he said.

Imran Sheikh from Boyra residential area told The Daily Star their area got waterlogged just 10 to 15 minutes after the rain began. "Very often, the area is submerged by rainwater," he added.

Anisur Rahman, conservancy officer of KCC, told this newspaper that

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Vehicles struggled to move on a waterlogged road after rain in Khulna yesterday. The photo was taken from the city's Royal intersection.

PHOTO: STAR

# 18pc people don't follow any news media: survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even in the era of information, around 18 percent Bangladeshis--both urban and rural--do not follow any news media, according to a latest survey.

Around 43 percent of people said they did not have the time to follow news media, while 12.6 percent said it is a waste of time or untrustworthy, the survey found.

According to the national survey styled "News literacy in Bangladesh", only 9.6 percent said they could not afford to access news media. The findings were revealed in a webinar on Monday.

Dhaka University's Associate Professor of Journalism Md Saiful Alam conducted the survey, with support from Unicef, as part of Promoting News Literacy and Ethical Journalism Project of Management and Resources Development Initiative.

ResInt Bangladesh, an affiliate of ResInt Canada, conducted field-level work for the survey. A total of 1,209 individuals -- 605 males and 604 females -- were interviewed.

Among the respondents, 799 were from metropolitan cities, 250 from urban and 160 from rural areas.

The survey found that television is the major source of news media: 75 percent

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