

SALE OF SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS

Traders fear loss, buyers complain of high prices

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With only a day remaining before Eid-ul-Azha, selling of sacrificial animals is yet to gain momentum at the markets in the capital.

However as of yesterday afternoon, prices of cattle were still high compared to that of last year, said buyers.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the number of buyers and sellers is also low at the markets. Traders fear loss as the pandemic has wreaked havoc on the economy, reducing people's capacity to purchase. Visiting Dhupkhola, Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground, Kachukhet and Gabtoli cattle markets, these correspondents saw that the haats, which usually remained abuzz with sellers, buyers and visitors around this time, looked rather desolate.

A mid-size bull was being sold at Tk 10,000 to 15,000 higher than last year's price while big-size ones were Tk 20,000-Tk 25,000 higher.

"I managed to sell three bulls so far... I am happy about it. At first I feared I won't be able to sell any due to lack of customers," said Jamal Bepari, who brought five bulls from Faridpur three days back to Sadeque Hossain Khoka cattle market.

He said he sold a bull for Tk 1.30 lakh yesterday.

Rafiqul Islam, a trader from Jhenidah who brought four mid-size bulls to Dhupkhola cattle market, said he was able to sell all the bulls.

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It's an Eid-ul-Azha like never before, but despite the adversities, people in the capital are trying their best to prepare for the joyful day. At various kitchen markets, customers are busy inspecting spices and bargaining for a deal, while sellers are determined to take home a well-earned profit. Cutlers are busy roaming through the alleys and calling customers to sharpen their blades before the big day. And of course, the occasion calls for wooden blocks to dice meat, and piles of them are displayed for customers to take home at many areas of the city. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, FIROZ AHMED

DHAKA SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Saving waterbodies, mosquito control among top priorities

Mayor Taposh announces Tk 6,119.59cr annual budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday announced a Tk 6,119.59 crore budget, with a major focus on recovering waterbodies, mosquito control activities and ensuring recreation facilities for city dwellers.

This is the first budget of Mayor Taposh after taking office. He announced it at Nagar Bhaban.

The budget is Tk 2,488.19 crore higher than that of the last fiscal.

In the budget, DSCC kept Tk 150

DSCC BUDGET IN NUMBERS

SECTOR	FY 2020-2021	FY 2019-2020
Development expenditure	Tk 5,505.84cr	Tk 2,693.93cr
Revenue income target	Tk 1,009.02cr	Tk 972.80cr
Road, traffic infrastructure dev	Tk 1,741.75cr	Tk 896.74cr
Recreation	Tk 847cr	Tk 271.30cr
Mosquito control activities	Tk 335cr	Tk 43.34cr
Waste management	Tk 8cr	Tk 12.50cr
Environmental dev	Tk 183.30cr	Tk 151.99cr

the city corporation as among the organisations only mayors are elected by them, he added.

"The government organisations responsible to maintain canals and waterbodies are not doing their duties properly. The city corporation will not take the liability of their negligence anymore," said Taposh.

He also said, "Following the will of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we want to make the old town free from encroachment and pollution, for which we want to make the old channel of Buriganga -- that flows between Old Dhaka and Kamrangirchar -- more aesthetic after recovering it from encroachers."

He said they have already started the work and the Military Institute of Science and Technology is consulting on the project.

"We will also recover all the canals in Dhaka and we will do the necessary maintenance work," he said.

Taposh said they will also take initiatives to extend the banks of the Buriganga and Shitalakkhya rivers, along with making the road communication system more dynamic.

DSCC in the current fiscal kept Tk 35 crore for regular mosquito control

activities which was Tk 43.30 crore in the last fiscal. In addition, it kept Tk 300 crore for comprehensive mosquito control activities for the first time.

"There is a huge number of waterbodies in the city which turned into breeding grounds for mosquitoes. These have become stagnant due to encroachment and pollution," the mayor said.

He said they have cleaned many of those and released fish and ducks as a part of their mosquito control activities.

About garbage management, the mayor said they have a plan to set up Secondary Transfer Stations (STS) at all of its 75 wards. "We hope we will be able to set up the STS in 31 wards by December 31," he said.

On road digging by different utility service providing organisations, which leads to public sufferings, the mayor said they will not allow any organisation to dig city roads within three years of its construction or repairing works.

Responding to a question on overhead cable lines, the mayor said they will conduct a drive from next week in this regard as well as initiate a project for stray dogs from next month.

Overhead cables on Gulshan Ave to go underground: Atiq

UNB, Dhaka

All overhead cables on Gulshan Avenue (from Pakistan Embassy to Gulshan Shooting Club) will be put underground by October 1, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiqul Islam said yesterday.

No price will be increased at the consumer level for these, he said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of DNCC at Nagar Bhaban in the capital's Gulshan.

The project will be implemented by Summit Communications Ltd, Fiber at Home, Bahan Ltd, Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB), and Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB).

At the meeting, the mayor said the existing overhead cables in all areas of DNCC need to be moved underground for planned urbanisation.

In order to enhance the beauty of the area, electric cables, internet cables and dish line cables will be shifted underground on various roads in phases, said Atiqul.

Utility ducts will also be constructed in 17 new wards under the newly-approved Ecneec project for development of the extended area of DNCC, said the mayor.

59 'members of dope gangs' arrested in capital

UNB, Dhaka

Detectives in separate drives arrested 59 members of "dope gangs" from different parts of the capital yesterday.

Police recovered food mixed with sedatives and knives from them, said DMP Deputy Commissioner Md Walid Hossain.

Among the arrestees, 16 were arrested by DB Wari zone, 10 by Cyber and Special Crime Investigation Department, nine by Mothijheel zone, and eight each by Ramna, Lalbagh and Teigaon zones of DB police.

Upon interrogation, police learned that the criminals quickly built up rapport through conversation with "targets" at shopping malls, cattle markets, bus terminals and rail stations ahead of Eid, and offered them food laced with sedatives.

Later, when the victim fell unconscious, they looted the belongings and fled, said law enforcers.

Six Eid jamaats at National Mosque

UNB, Dhaka

Six Eid-ul-Azha jamaats (congregations) will be held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque from 7am on the Eid day tomorrow, said a press release of Islamic Foundation.

The first Eid jamaat will be administered by Mufti Mizanur Rahman, senior Pesh Imam of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, it said.

Eid jamaats will be held maintaining social distance and health guidelines.

After the first jamaat, the second one will be held at 7:50am while the next four jamaats will be held at 8:45am, 9:35am, 10:30am, and 11:10am.

On Monday, the government issued some directives asking people to offer Eid prayers at their nearest mosques instead of Eidgah and open spaces maintaining recommended health guidelines amid the coronavirus pandemic.

It also suggested disinfecting mosques

GRAFT IN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT ACC asks BB to freeze Munsif Sazzad's accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has requested Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) of Bangladesh Bank to freeze all bank accounts National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital (NIDCH)'s Administrative Officer Munsif Sazzad Hossain and his two brothers.

In a letter, ACC's deputy assistant director Mohammad Shahjahan Meraz yesterday also asked BFIU to prevent the trio from liquidating FDRs and saving certificates.

Sazzad and his brothers -- Munsif Faruk Hossain, proprietor of Ahmed Enterprise and Abdulla Al Mamun, proprietor of Anik Traders -- are already accused in a graft case filed in 2019.

On June 21, the High Court (HC) granted bail to Sazzad and Mamun in the case.

There are allegations against the brothers of amassing wealth beyond the known source of income through supplying sub-standard equipment and machines to hospitals.

The Commission is now enquiring into their illegal wealth and came to know that the brothers are trying to transfer their money to obliterate the trace of the illegal funds.

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US committed to combating human trafficking: envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller yesterday reassured his country's commitment to work with Bangladesh in combating human trafficking.

"The United States reaffirms our commitment to partnering with all of you to fight human trafficking," he told a webinar, marking the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration (BDUNNM) organised the webinar which was also addressed by government officials, members of civil society organisations working on migration, and officials and representatives of UN agencies.

"Human trafficking [or] modern slavery has no place in our world anywhere, anymore," added the US ambassador.

Addressing as the key guest speaker, the US envoy said human trafficking is a "difficult and complex" issue and that trafficking networks are "sophisticated, far-reaching and dangerous."

He stressed the need for keeping up the good fight against traffickers, saying fighting human trafficking remains one of the US embassy's top priorities.

He said human traffickers prey upon the most vulnerable and look for opportunities to exploit them.

Instability and lack of access to critical services caused by the Covid-19 pandemic mean the number of people vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers is rapidly growing, he added.

"My sense of urgency is magnified by the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said, adding human

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Earl R Miller



While a vegetable market is set up throughout the year on this field adjacent to Mahasthan Mahiswar Degree College in Bogura, the compound turns into a sprawling cattle market once a year, ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The threat of coronavirus transmission was largely ignored, as several thousand people through the market to bargain and buy sacrificial animals. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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No export of Hilsa this year

Fisheries minister says in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The government will not export hilsa abroad during this season, said Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim yesterday.

The national fish is now being sold at Chadpur, Bhola and Barishal to some extent, said the minister. During the peak time, its price would come down, he added.

"We have decided on principle not to export hilsa fish from Bangladesh this year," he said. This delicious fish meets the needs of nutrition of the country's people, said Minister Rezaul.

He was speaking at a programme in Barishal city's Circuit House to hand over cheques to journalists who have been victimised in various ways during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Sangbadik Kalayan Trust" organised the event supported by Barishal Sangbadik Union.

The minister said the government would undertake all necessary measures including