



Huge quantities of rawhide arrived at famous Pakutia market in Tangail's Ghatail upazila after the Eid-ul-Azha but only a small number of buyers are showing up there.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Seasonal rawhide traders upset as prices drop amid lack of buyers

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Seasonal traders, engaged in rawhide business centring the Eid-ul-Azha, face huge losses this year too as only a small number of buyers are showing up at the markets in Tangail and offering very low prices for the items.

In last year also, they had to incur losses due to fall of demand of rawhides.

Pakutia in Ghatail upazila is one of the biggest rawhide markets in the country.

The seasonal traders, mostly dealing with relatively small amounts, from different places in Tangail and nearby districts including Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Bogura, Kurigram and Netrakona came to Pakutia at the night before Sunday, the second market day after the Eid, for selling their purchased rawhides.

Some of the traders piled up their rawhides beside Tangail-Mymensingh highway as the market area could not accommodate all of the items.

A small number of buyers from different tanneries, mostly small ones, and their local agents and brokers who came to the district's markets since the afternoon of the Eid day purchased the large-sized and best

quality rawhides for nominal prices while small and medium-sized hides remained unsold, market sources said.

Seasonal rawhide trader Habib Millat came to Pakutia market from Sirajganj with 657 pieces of cowhides.

"I have bought the large-sized cowhides for Tk 300 to Tk 400 each and later spent Tk 200 to Tk 250 for each to process, carry and maintain the items. But the buyers are offering Tk 370 to Tk 430 for these," he said.

Md Swapan Miah of Ishwarganj of Mymensingh came to the market with 900 pieces of cowhides.

"The buyers are offering Tk 200 and Tk 550 for each of my medium and large-sized of rawhides respectively but the cost for purchasing, preserving, carrying and maintenance is much more. I am worried as I borrowed money from others for the trade," he said.

Seasonal traders Shahidul Islam of Muktagachha in Mymensingh and Dulal Chandra Rishi of Tangail had similar tales to tell.

The condition of traders who came to the market with goat hides is even worse as there is hardly any buyer for the item.

Mintu Rishi came to the market with

160 pieces of goat hides after buying these for Tk 20 to Tk 30 each. A buyer offered him Tk 400 for the 160 hides, making Mintu speechless.

Tannery owners Nayeem Biswas, Bappi Majumder and Liakat Ali from Dhaka said they are also victims of the situation.

The international buyers are not taking hides from Bangladesh due to low prices of the item at the markets of different countries including Brazil, China and India amid the adverse global economic situation, they said.

"The rawhides we purchased in the last couple of years are still at the godowns as we could not sell these. Then why should we purchase more hides for high prices? It is difficult for us to survive without government support," said a tannery owner.

"Last year more than four lakh rawhides were brought to Pakutia market and buyers purchased those at very low prices. This year the number is less than half," said Abir Hossain Sajib, one of leaseholders of the market.

"We fear we cannot earn half of the money that we paid to take lease of the traditional rawhide market," said Emdadul Haque Khan Bhulu, another leaseholder.

JURI-BATULI CUSTOMS STATION ROAD WORK

Slow progress mounts sufferings on commuters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Slow progress of Juri-Batuli customs station road work in Juri upazila of the district is causing immense sufferings to thousands of commuters. The work is scheduled to be completed within this month. But only 30 percent of the work has been completed till now.

According to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Moulvibazar, the 22-km-long road lies in awful state for long. The RHD took initiative to widen and strengthen the road. The construction firms-- 'Wahid Construction' and 'Spectra International' --got the work order of Tk 69 crore for widening and strengthening the road. They started the work in February last year. The work is scheduled to be completed within August 31 this year.

Kader Mia, a resident of Batuli village, said commuters using the Batuli-Juri road have been experiencing untold sufferings for long due to slow progress in the work. Apart from this, transport of raw materials and goods to and from Batuli customs station is also being affected due to the incomplete road.

While visiting the area recently, this correspondent did not find any activity of construction workers near Batuli area where they did partial earth filling work five months ago.

Shabul Mia, 45, a truck driver from Dhaka, said they are compelled to drive vehicles on the vulnerable road as it is the lone connecting road between Batuli customs station and the rest of the country.

Mahfuz Ali, a trader from Dhaka, said the construction work is too slow and the road has now become hazardous for all. Due to this, drivers also charge extra three times fare. The goods are also damaged sometimes due to poor condition of this road.

Masuk Ahmed, general secretary of upazila Awami League (AL), said around 50,000 people in different areas of Jaifarnagar, Sagarnal, Goalbari and Fultala unions in the upazila use the Juri-Batuli customs station road to reach Sadar upazila. Vehicles often fall off the road due to its poor condition.

Masuk, also the chairman of Fultala Union Parishad (UP), urged the authorities concerned to complete the road work immediately considering people's sufferings.

Sahadeb Sutradhar, deputy assistant engineer of RHD in Moulvibazar, said 30 percent work of the road has been completed. The contractor has been asked to complete the work as soon as possible.

Engineer Asaduzzaman, in-charge of the construction firms, said the road work is going on slowly due to coronavirus outbreak.

He said it needs a lot of stones to renovate the road, but the supply of stones through LC has been stopped.

Shahriar Alam, executive engineer of Moulvibazar RHD, said the road work has been disrupted due to coronavirus outbreak.

In this situation, the government has now extended the duration of all ongoing work to one year, he said.



People suffer a lot due to slow progress in Juri-Batuli customs station road work in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman killed by husband over family feud in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband over family feud in Sonaimuri upazila of the district on Tuesday.

The deceased, Tajnehar, 55, a resident of South Dewty village in the upazila, was wife of Abu Taher, a retired employee of Power Development Board.

Victim's son Rubel Hossain alleged that his father killed his mother by slitting her throat following an altercation over a trivial matter early Tuesday and fled the scene, leaving the body at the house.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Sonaimuri Police Station Gias Uddin said, being informed, they recovered the body and sent it to Noakhali General Hospital for Autopsy.

A case has been filed with the police station accusing Taher the same afternoon, the OC said.

Police were conducting drives in different areas to arrest the culprit, he added.

FARMING IN BAGERHAT

Covid-19 could not hold down cucumber growers

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

When farmers in many areas in the country are struggling to market their produce amid limited access to wholesale markets due to pandemic scare, cucumber growers in five upazilas in Bagerhat are delighted to be able to sell the produce for not just good prices, but right from the field too.

According to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Bagerhat, the five upazilas -- Kachua, Bagerhat Sadar, Chitalmari, Fakirhat and Mollahat Upazilas -- of Bagerhat saw a good harvest of cucumber this year. But the growers there are not seen much worried about selling the produce as wholesalers are buying truckloads of cucumbers from them every day.

The roads in the five upazilas these days are seen filled with hundreds of cucumber-laden trucks heading towards different towns and cities. The cucumber farmers are also happy that the abundant supply did not cause the price to fall.

They said it takes about 30 to 35 days for a cucumber plant to bear fruits and they nurture the plant for another 35 to 40 days before plucking the crunchy vegetables that are a popular salad ingredient across the country. Their daily harvest from a cucumber garden is about seven to eight maunds.

The DAE said more than 50,000 tonnes of cucumbers will be produced in Bagerhat this year and Chitalmari, among the five upazilas, so far has the highest production. More than one hundred trucks are transporting cucumber from these upazilas every day

to large cities in the country.

This year the cucumber growers are making higher profits as the traders are buying the produce directly from the field, cutting off the middleman, the DAE also said.

Chitalmari upazila's Bishwajit, from Ashoknagar village, spent about Tk 3 lakh this year to cultivate cucumber on 10 acres of land.

He said he has been selling 90 to 100 maunds of the produce every day and if the sales remain as healthy as this, he hoped that he would make Tk 10 lakh in profit this year.

Another farmer, Shishir Das, from Kachua upazila, said he started selling his harvest, from one bigha of land, 12 days back.

The yield is higher this year and he is getting Tk 10 to 15 higher for each kilogram of cucumber.

Many of the cucumber growers said although they were not able to sow the seeds in time due to the Covid-19 situation, the weather condition favoured for a higher yield this year.

Also, the timely advice and support extended by the DAE in the district contributed to the success.

DAE Deputy Director in Bagerhat Raghunath Kar said they have been putting emphasis on cultivation of vegetables in the district and with that goal in mind, they have been maintaining the supply chain for a timely and steady flow of seeds, fertilisers and loans.

The efforts paid off and production of various vegetables, including cucumber, saw very high yields this year, he added.



Maunds of cucumbers are being piled up and packed to be sent out to different towns and cities across the country. This has been the scenario in five upazilas of Bagerhat for the past couple of weeks. The photo was taken recently from Umajuri village in Chitalmari upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

College Education Development Project (CEDP)

Rajshahi College, Rajshahi 6000

E-mail: rajshahicollegebd@gmail.com, Website: www.rc.gov.bd

online news portal: rcbarta.com Fax: 0721-771511

Invitation of Tender (Re-Tender)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Rajshahi College, Rajshahi 6000.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Rajshahi.
6	Invitation for	Supply and Setting up of Furniture & Fixtures for the ICT Laboratory, Classroom and Library for Rajshahi College.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	CEDP/IDG/Rajshahi College/OTM/Goods/G-4/Re-Tender
8	Date	12-08-2020
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).
11	Development partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project code	224017200
13	Project name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).
14	Tender Package No.	G-4.
15	Tender package name	Supply and Setting up of Furniture & Fixtures for the ICT Laboratory, Classroom and Library for Rajshahi College.
16	Tender publication date	12-08-2020.
17	Tender last selling date	26-08-2020.
18	Tender closing date and time	27-08-2020, 1:00pm.
19	Tender opening date and time	27-08-2020, 2:00pm.
20	Name & address of the office	Rajshahi College, Rajshahi 6000.
21	Selling tender document	
	Receiving tender document	
	Opening tender document	
	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Will not be held.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years overall experience in the supply of furniture and fixtures. 2. The minimum specific experience and supplier in supply of furniture and fixtures of at least 1 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years, each with a value of at least Tk 3,000,000.00 (thirty) lac. 3. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 3,000,000.00 (thirty) lac. 4. Other criteria mentioned in TDS.
23	Brief description of goods or works	Revolving Cushion Arm Chair for Teacher, Computer Table, Computer Chair, Students' Hexagon Activity Table, Students Swivel Activity Chair.
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Schedule of Requirements and Section 7: Technical Specification of the tender document.
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred).
26	Tender name	Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/ months
	Supply and Setting up of Furniture & Fixtures for the ICT Laboratory, Classroom and Library for Rajshahi College	Rajshahi College, Rajshahi 6000 80,000.00 04 weeks
27	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Md. Habibur Rahman.
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal, Rajshahi College, Rajshahi.
29	Address of official inviting tender	Rajshahi College, Rajshahi 6000.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: (0721) 775475 Fax: (0721) 771511 E-mail: rajshahicollegebd@gmail.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Principal

Rajshahi College, Rajshahi 6000

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