

**SAVE DHAKA**



Despite the 17 locations clearly designated by the Dhaka City Corporation for this year's Eid-ul-Azha cattle markets, brisk trading has been going on almost everywhere in the city, along the roads, causing serious traffic dislocations. — Star photo

**More locally bred cattle this year**

By Staff Correspondent

The number of locally bred cattle has noticeably increased in the city's makeshift, Eid markets this year. The influx of cows smuggled from across the border is lower than previous years because farmers all over the country have produced better cattle using new beef fattening technology, market sources observed. During fattening, a cow or bull is regularly fed a special diet. The recipe varies from potatoes and pumpkins to a special mixture containing a certain amount of straw sprinkled with diluted urea and molasses. As a result, the animal gains a lot of weight within a relatively short time. Shykh Seraj, the TV presenter of the agricultural programme 'Mati-o-Manush' told The Daily Star that since the first broadcast of the beef fattening programme on the TV in 1993, he had received thousands of letters from around the country. Farmers, unemployed youths, businessmen, housewives, people from all walks of life wrote to me for more information regarding beef fattening, he said. Shykh Seraj added that with the newly devised beef fattening process a farmer can fatten his cattle within a very short time and make a handsome profit. Some farmers at the city's Gabtoli cattle market told this correspondent that they had also received favourable bank loans for fattening cattle for the Eid-ul-Azha market. All nationalised scheduled banks, in addition to the Islamic Bank, different NGOs, the Bangladesh Rural Development Bank, etc. are now offering loans for projects related to dairy and beef fattening, according to sources. Experts contacted over telephone said that despite general misconceptions, the meat from fattened beef is absolutely safe for consumption. Also, it contains more protein than fat, which is common in normal beef, they said. In many countries of the world including the USA, China, India and Malaysia beef fattening is done in similar processes, they said. Meanwhile, in the 17 Eid cattle markets of the city, trading increased since yesterday afternoon. The supply of sacrificial animals this year is much higher than last year. In many areas of the city trading is also taking place on the streets. Yet, despite the increased supply the average prices of goats and cows were, until yesterday, slightly higher than last year, market sources said. Some traders reported that so far business has been dull. Market organisers and traders, however, expressed the hope that sales would pick up today, on the eve of Eid day. But some buyers felt the prices of cattle would fall today because of the high supply. Meanwhile, cattle traders at different markets complained that toll collection or extortion by bullies as well as members of the various law enforcing agencies is rampant all over the country. "We had to pay tolls all the way from Jessore," said Kasem of Panisara, Jessore.

**HC rejects Moudud's plea for quashment**

A High Court division bench, by a two-thirds majority, yesterday rejected former vice-president Moudud Ahmed's petition for quashing the trial of a corruption case against him, reports BSS. The two judges — Justice M Mahmudur Rahman and Mohammad Ruhul Amin — discharged the rule while Justice Naimuddin Ahmed made the rule absolute. Earlier, a division bench comprising Justice Naimuddin Ahmed and Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, after hearing the quashment petition, had given a split judgement consequently the matter was referred to the Chief Justice for constituting a bench for disposal of the matter. The Chief Justice constituted a single judge bench comprising Justice M Mahmudur Rahman who after hearing both the petitioner and the State yesterday, rejected the petition and discharged the rule issued earlier. Moudud Ahmed challenged his trial, pending in the court of the Special Judge, Dhaka, for quashing the corruption case against him involving the proposed Holiday Inn Rajnigandha Hotel. The case, in brief, is that Md Ataur Rahman, an officer of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, lodged an FIR with Motijheel Police against deposed president HM Ershad; former vice president Moudud Ahmed, former Works Minister Shaiful Gaani Shapan, former DIT chairman SHM Abul Basher and businessman Abul Khair Iltu, alleging that in violation of the rules of the RAJUK, Ershad had ordered the allotment of a plot for the proposed Holiday Inn hotel at a price of Taka one crore per bigha instead of one crore fifty lakh and payment of the price in 12 equal half-yearly instalments without interest. By this, the accused persons, in collaboration with one other, and by misusing power had caused a loss of Taka 13,404,363.97 to the RAJUK, the prosecution claimed.

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**PM's help sought to set up milk market**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said dairy and poultry farms can help the country attain self-sufficiency in food and generate job opportunities, reports UNB. "A job alone cannot bring solvency in a family. Family solvency and eradication of unemployment can be ensured through self-employment," she said while talking to a delegation of the Dhaka City Dairy Farms Owners' Association at her office. The delegation led by President of the association Shamsuddin Mollah and General Secretary Advocate Moulur Islam sought her help in solving the problems of the dairy industry for its flourishing. They sought government cooperation in setting up a milk market and milk processing plant and organising training for the entrepreneurs. The delegation lauded the policies adopted by the government for the development of the dairy farms. More than 2,000 dairy farms have already been set up in the capital city with government assistance. Following the introduction of the 'Inspiration Bonus' the members of the delegation said, more people are coming forward to set up dairy farms. The government provides Tk. 6,250 as bonus per cow to those who have a farm with at least five hybrid cows worth Tk 25,000 each. The dairy owners also pleaded for simplification of the bank loan procedures, subsidy of cattle medicine, duty free import of cattle feed and a ban of the import of condensed milk. The dairies, they said, are creating job opportunities and the unemployment problem had been reduced to a great extent in the city's Demra area with the setting up of such farms.

The Prime Minister said various incentives are being provided for the development of the sector to make the country self-reliant, eradicate unemployment and reduce the import of powdered milk. **Iranians** From Page 1 and expressed their hatred of the devils and pagans of our era, and above all the American criminals," Irna said. The agency said the demonstration passed off without incident in front of Saudi soldiers who did not attempt to intervene.

**Police constable held on charge of mugging** By Staff Correspondent A police constable was arrested yesterday on charges of mugging in the capital. Officials said the Constable Mahbubur Rahman of Sutrapur police was caught by the residents of Satish Sarkar Lane following a mugging incident. They said constable Rahman and two others had allegedly mugged two female sari vendors at Satish Sarkar Road and tried to escape by a scooter. When the women started screaming for help, local people chased the baby taxi which was caught in a traffic jam. The constable sneaked in a nearby house while his accomplices managed to flee with the goods. When the mob gheraged the house, the constable was found hiding on top of a sunshade. The local Ward Commissioner then called in the police who arrested the constable.

**Police constable held on charge of mugging**

The meeting was informed that EC has already selected 3.75 lakh enumerators and 70,000 supervisors for an enumeration of voters, which will commence from May 25. Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister said when completed the project would not only strengthen the electoral process but also help ensure mass participation of people in the development programme by giving democracy an institutional shape. He said ID cards will have a multipurpose use. The meeting also approved three fly-over construction project at Mohakhali, Moghbazar and Jatrabari-Syedabad area at a cost of Tk 188 crore. The project, scheduled to be completed by 1997-98, will help ease the ever increasing traffic congestion in the capital. As per the flow-chart of traffic movement, Jatrabari-Syedabad area will be unusable for traffic by 1998 and the number of traffic will be increased at Mohakhali and Moghbazar by 250 per cent by 1998. It also approved the flood control and drainage project on both banks of the upper Tuls-Ganga river to be undertaken by the Water Resources Ministry, said an official hand-out. The meeting also approved road-roller, vibratory roller and bulldozer acquisition project with Japanese grant.

**Mugging increasing in city**

From Page 1 ployed people, they said. "The society neither offers them facilities for education nor any opportunity for leading a decent life," commented a teacher of a Dhanmondi school who himself is 'victim' and has, even, seen some of his students involved in mugging. "They are moreover lured into drug taking, and exploited by politically motivated quarters," he pointed out. The victims of these crimes are mostly women who are followed by the thugs and then pounced upon at a 'convenient' place, police officials said. In most cases, the victims do not inform the police because of the reluctance of those at the thanas to record the crimes, said detective police official. The official, who preferred anonymity, said thanas try to keep their crime records clean, fearing rebukes, and even punishment, by their top brass. Besides, the victims try to avoid further harassments in the press of filing cases in police stations or due to delay in the disposal of cases in courts, he said. "For some 40 lakh citizens of Dhaka, there are only 12,000 policemen. And out of them a good number is deployed to protect the VIPs and for traffic control." Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) officials said that the incidents of mugging and other petty crimes always shoot up during Eid and other festival periods. The DMP has recently deployed around 2487 foot and mobile patrol policemen in different parts of the city to ward off possible muggings on the eve of the Eid-ul-Azha. A new dimension was added when a plain-clothed police sergeant was arrested last week after he attempted to rob

**14 killed in road accidents**

At least 14 people were killed and four injured in two road accidents in Kaliakoir and Tongi thanas yesterday, reports UNB. Police said nine people, including a minor girl, were killed and four others injured when a Dhaka-bound truck laden with goods and passengers turned turtle on the Dhaka-Tangail road near Sutrapur in Kaliakoir thana of Gazipur district at 4 am. Seven of the dead were identified as Batu Begum, 35, and Moyna, 7, of Madhupur in Tangail, Babul Mia, 35, and Anjan, 35, of Sharishabari in Jamalpur and Hanifuddin, 28, Nurul Islam, 30, and Dulal, 30 of Madanganj, Jamalpur. Identities of two other victims were not known. Seriously injured four were rushed to Mirzapur Hospital and later shifted to Gazipur hospital. Police said the truck, coming from Jamalpur, was carrying 25 people besides goods. In the other mishap, five pushcart drivers sleeping on their vehicles were crushed by a bus near Tongi bridge in the morning. Tongi police said the Muktaghacha-bound bus hit a number of pushcarts parked on the Dhaka-Gazipur roadside at 7:30 am, causing the tragedy. Two of the victims, who were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and died there, were identified as Hashem Mia, 40, and Kala Mia, 35. Names of the three other dead could not be known.

**Hasina to visit southern dists from May 12**

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka on May 12 on a five-day organisational tour of southern districts, reports UNB. She will address public meetings and wayside rallies in Tungipara, Barguna, Patuakhali and Barisal. The Awami League chief will attend the party programmes at Tungipara on May 13. She will address rallies at Betagi, Kakhira and a public meeting in Barguna on May 14, Aural and Kuakata on May 15 and Galachipa and Baufal on May 16.

**Solve water, gas problems or face agitation: Hanif**

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday warned the government of agitation if the city's water, power and gas problems are not solved within a month, reports UNB. He blamed the authorities concerned for failure in providing essential services like water, power and gas to the city dwellers. Addressing a press conference at the Jattya Press Club in the afternoon as president of Dhaka city unit of the Awami League, Hanif portrayed a grim scenario in spheres of essential services in the capital and demanded immediate solution to acute water crisis, load-shedding of power and problem in supply of natural gas. He threatened a greater agitation including demonstration, rallies and gherao programme under the leadership of his party chief Sheikh Hasina after one month if the problems are not solved within the deadline.

**Senate confirms Deutch as CIA chief**

WASHINGTON, May 9: The full Senate confirmed John Deutch as CIA chief today, tapping the Pentagon's number two to head the troubled spy agency. Voting 98-0, the Senate approved President Bill Clinton's choice, ending the long search to replace James Woolsey who resigned four months ago. reports AFP.

**Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow**

weather, it will take place at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque. According to a press release of the Islamic Foundation, there will be four congregations at the Baitul Mukarram — the first at 6:30 am, the second at 7:30 am, the third at 8:30 am and the fourth at 9:15 am. As usual, the city's last Eid congregation will be held at the Azimpur Dayem Sharif at 11:30 am. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has made arrangements to hold Eid jamaats at the National Eidgah as well as other places under its respective wards. The DCC has also made arrangements for women to offer their Eid prayers at the National Eidgah under purdah. The corporation has also requested the city dwellers to dispose the wastes of the sacrificial animals in the DCC's dustbins. Some other Eid jamaats will be held at the Dhaka University Mosque at 7:30 am, Shahidullah Hall and Sgt Zahurul Huq Hall premises at 7:30 am, BUET mosque at 7:30 am, the Masjidul-Azka at Matuati at 8 am, the Sitara Begum Jame Mosque at Singola at 7:30 am, two jamaats at the Masjidul Gousul Azam in Mohakhali at 7:30 am and 8 am, Safambagh Jam-e-Mosque at East Rampura at 7:00 am, the Khilgaon Government Colony premises at 7:30 am, Kalyanpur Housing Estate Jam-e-Mosque at 7 am, Bangabandhu Primary School premises at Tajmahal Road at 7 am, the Nurul Jam-e-Mosque at 8 am, Dogair Eidgah Maidan at 7:30 am and 8 am, the Mirpur Central Eidgah Maidan at 7:30 am and the Rajbargh Police Lines ground at 8 am and 9:30 am. With the big day nearing, the scores of makeshift cattle markets in the city were seen crowded yesterday. Thousands of people were also seen at the different shopping centres completing their last-minute buying. Meanwhile, President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, called upon the people to help build a happy and prosperous society through sacrifices in individual and social life. Conveying his greetings to the people, he called for exer-

**Businessman**

them later took Sadek to the DMCH where the attending doctors declared him dead. Police confirmed that the victim was shot in the head. Currently residing at Uttara in the city, Sadek hailed from Manehor of Ararhaz thana in Narayanganj district. AKM Nurul Haque, a brother of the victim, has lodged a case with Motikheel police station in this connection. Police were interrogating the autorickshaw driver at the time of writing this report late last night. No arrest was made. Meanwhile, Detective Police had taken up the investigation of the murder of Md. Jinnah Miah, hides and skin merchant, who was stabbed to death near the Curzon Hall inside the Dhaka University campus Monday afternoon after being robbed of nearly 16 lakh taka (the sum was earlier reported as eight lakh). However, none had been arrested in this connection until last night.

**Fertiliser dealers**

postpone some steps taken earlier against some fertiliser traders at the assurance given by the fertiliser traders of their total cooperation in fertiliser management and distribution system. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and the fertiliser association leaders expressed the hope that the important decision taken by the government would help normalise the fertiliser distribution system as well as stabilise the price situation. The meeting was told that the production and stock situation have remained completely normal, the handout added. Dwelling on different aspects of the fertiliser distribution system, the Commerce Minister said the government was committed to ensure distribution of fertilisers at fair price among the farmers for maintaining continued success in agricultural production.

**The Midnight File**

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**11 suspended from Nirmul Committee**

Eleven leaders of the Ektattor Ghatok Dalil Nirmul Committee have been suspended on charges of terrorism, extortion and other anti-organisational activities. The suspended Nirmul leaders are Sadek Ahued Khan, HM Abul Hashem, Kamal Hossain Badal, sculptor Rasha, RN Basu, Ranjan Das Shibu, Alhaj Khaled, Rafiqul Islam, Ali Ahmed, Raqibuddin and Shamsul Islam. Announcing the decision at a press conference at the organisation's Mahakhali temporary office in the city yesterday, Executive Convenor Shaheer Kabir said the suspended leaders had been banned from doing anything in the name of the Nirmul Committee. A final decision regarding them would be taken after Nirmul chief Begum Mushtari Shaif's return from her current tour of Europe and America, he said. Accusing the Sadek-Hashem-Rasha axis of attacking the Nirmul's Dhaka city unit conference at the Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre on May 6, Kabir termed the city branch executive body of the organisation, formed with Rasha as its convenor, illegal and asked all concerned not to be misled by the so-called committee. The Kazi Mamun Rashid-led committee is the authorised one which was formed with the consent of Begum Mushtari Shaif, he added.

**Clinton-Yeltsin**

and NATO's envisaged expansion, both sides are playing down expectations. "Please don't look at this as a summit that will produce dramatic agreement," said a senior US administration official in Moscow for the summit, "it won't."

**BSRS**

part of a re-financing initiative. The new government loan was issued at the bank rate of 5.5 per cent interest. "The cost of the funds earlier was very high at between nine and 10 per cent, forcing the Sangstha to charge a high interest rate for industrial loans," he said. "Now, it has been replaced with cheaper funds." He added that the loan recovery programme has already been intensified and Tk 34 crore has been recovered during the first seven months of the current fiscal compared to Tk 34 crore during 1993-94. Applications for rehabilitations of 64 out of 81 sick industries have already been approved while BMRE of another four industries is being undertaken. The BSRS official noted that the Sangstha's board has already approved plans to float a mutual fund in the stock market sometime next year. It currently holds Tk 12 crore worth of shares in some companies listed with the Dhaka Stock Market.