

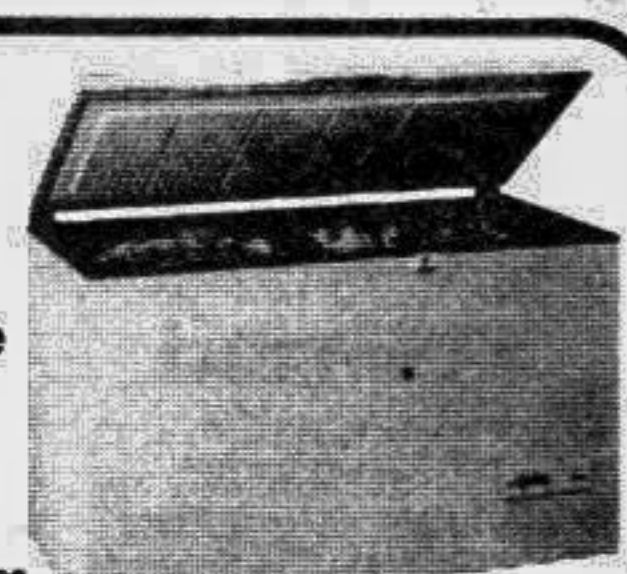


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## Down to Earth

# Burgeoning Meat Sale Outlets

By A S M Nurunnabi

Nowadays in line with the easy availability at their doors in some local areas of the city of such daily necessities as vegetables, fish and fruits, etc through vendors, the city dwellers have also been enjoying the facility of buying meat at wayside meat sellers or impromptu meat shops. The current position is that the proliferation of such meat sale outlets has reached such a stage that most department shops in the city, which have also grown in number, have a meat sale counter outside their shop fronts. The comparative scarcity of fish in the city markets may be one of the reasons for creating greater demand for meat which has been causing the proliferation.

The moot point is that there are allegations that in most cases the meat sold at such places is not upto the mark. In fact, sales of such meat of allegedly questionable quality are said to be rampant in the city not only at the wayside selling points but also in regular markets. Observers complain that most of the meat meant for sale bypasses the needed quality check by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials.

According to the Meat Quality Control Law and the 1983 City Corporation Ordinance, a butcher should slaughter animals in an authorised slaughter

house and take the meat to markets after getting the quality seal from the Corporation's veterinary officials. It is alleged that a large number of meat sellers, particularly those at roadside shops and on footpaths, do not follow the rules. No adequate mechanism appears to operate to enforce the observance of the rules by meat sellers.

It is also alleged that in a large number of cases, slaughter of animals is done at unauthorised places in dirty environment.

One can recall in this regard the mad cow scare which nearly put Britain's booming beef industry out of commission as the European consumers refused to ingest anything suspect. But in our case, not many people bother about whether or not the meat offered for sale in the city markets and elsewhere is really fit for consumption.

People consuming the meat of sick animals are exposed to various afflictions. So something needs to be done to prevent the butchers from selling poor quality meat. The mobile courts set up from time to time to punish the offenders may not perhaps deal with the problem effectively. Observers feel for much stricter law enforcement to keep the situation under control.

The DCC has only six modern slaughter houses in the city.

A DCC source admitted that the existing number of slaughter houses in the city is inadequate to meet the total demand of the steadily growing city population.

In spite of punitive measures intermittently taken by the DCC with mobile courts and police, observers do not find any effective control of illegal sales of sub-standard meat by sellers taking recourse to various malpractices.

With the fast growth of the city population, it is natural that expansion of meat trade will inevitably follow. What the DCC should do according to observers, is check proliferation of unauthorised meat sellers.

In view of higher price of goat meat, there are limited number of sale outlets for such meat. Here also some malpractices are observed, namely selling of meat of old and immature goats and also of sheep. In all kinds of meat trade, weighing irregularities are found very common, because of manipulation of weighing scales by hand. The only remedy for such malpractice is insistence by authorities on use of mechanical scales.

The health department of the DCC should take greater responsibility to ensure the good health of the city dwellers by checking all forms of malpractices adopted in the meat trade.



Kamalapur road linking Motijheel with Mogdopara area is submerged with water even after slight rain due to poor drainage system. This picture was taken yesterday.

## BFF set up

From Page 1

hapriya Bhattacharya and Dr Nalla Khan are the members of the board of trustees of the foundation.

Mahfuz Anam and Dr Iftekharuzzaman will act as the chairman and executive director of the foundation respectively, the release said.

The foundation will also be concerned with multi-faceted challenges of social stability, democratic institutionalisation and economic transformation in Bangladesh.

The foundation is committed to promoting three fundamental freedoms: freedom from poverty, freedom from ignorance and freedom from oppression in Bangladesh.

Other areas of interest will include freedom of expression, freedom of the press and media, human rights and equality before law, the release added.

It will aim at promoting professional excellence in various fields with particular focus on the enormous reservoir of Bangladeshi talents, especially the new generation for catalysing positive and forward-looking response to challenges facing Bangladesh in the new millennium.

Priority areas in the foundation's funding activities will include good governance, accountability and transparency; women, children and minority groups in poverty and disadvantage; and habitable and sustainable ecology and environment.

Insulating activities to support, the BFF will give preference to gender equality and non-discriminatory participation of all social, religious, cultural and ethnic groups. It will also prefer smaller, newer and sustainable initiatives with innovative approach.

The BFF will explore and welcome collaborative funding and programming jointly with similar institutions for initiatives that have shared objectives.

World of the foundation will be supported by voluntary contributions and grants from interested funding organisations, bilateral and multilateral donors, regional and international institutions, private sector and individual donations form within and outside Bangladesh.

## Madrasah

From Page 1

ministry recently decided to consider applications from the 251 madrasahs. Government affiliation or MPO of the Madrasahs will be restored if the institutions can fulfil the conditions they were lacking," said a senior official.

## Opposition plans

From Page 1

Bangladesh and this is why we are taking time for a vigorous upsurge which may force the Awami League to quit," the BNP leader added.

A top leader of Jatiya Party said the opposition parties have taken the decision to start a non-stop agitation programme, including hartal, blockade and gherao in the first week of October. By this time, the alliance will complete its planned road march and other street protests.

Leaders of the Jamaat and IOJ also said that their respective central committees in recent meetings have agreed to launch an all-out movement against the AL government.

A senior BNP leader, who took part in the Dhaka-Mymensingh road march told the Daily Star that the second road march was received with great enthusiasm by the people and termed it as a grand success.

"We took up the second march after the success of the Dhaka-Panchagarh road march. The second march inspired us to take up more of such programmes in future," he said.

Besides, the road march, se-

## "Transit to ruin prospect of export, increase smuggling"

Former Commerce, Industries and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam denounced transit to India as a one-sided transaction that will destroy Bangladesh's prospect of export to India's northern part, reports UNB.

"It will also ruin the possibility of Indian investment here that the neighbouring investors are considering keeping the seven sisters in their mind," he told the agency. He strongly criticised the cabinet decision of examining proposal for allowing India what he called "corridor" through Bangladesh.

M Shamsul Islam, a vice president of BNP also said giving India transit would also discourage expected foreign investment from other parts of the world.

"All the foreign investors consider Bangladesh to invest for a huge market in the seven Indian states. Why will they invest here if they are allowed to carry their goods over Bangladesh from one Indian point to another?"

The former commerce minister apprehended the transit facility would open the border in eastern part and further increase smuggling from India to Bangladesh. Only through the western border, smuggled goods worth Tk 15,000 crore now en-

ter Bangladesh annually, he added.

When it was pointed out that the BNP government in an agreement in 1980 had agreed to give transit facility to India, Shamsul Islam said: "If it's true, why it was not implemented in last 19 years? Why India didn't claim the transit or corridor facility in the last one-and-half decade?"

About the SAPTA, which

## Terrorist held with arms in Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari, July 30: Army personnel stationed at Mohalchhari rounded-up a terrorist from Keyang Ghat area in Mohalchhari thana of the district this morning, reports BSS.

A pipe-gun and five bullets were recovered from the possession of the alleged terrorist, official sources said.

The arrested was identified as Rupayon Chakma, 22.

He was handed over to Mohalchhari thana police for taking legal measure.

A case was lodged with Mohalchhari thana in this connection.

## Sonia

From Page 1

in Uttar Pradesh) from where Sonia Gandhi's mother-in-law Indira Gandhi had been in fray.

The Andra Pradesh state wing of Congress favours Sonia to fight the electoral battle from Medhach constituency once won by Indira Gandhi while the party's ranks and file in Karnataka, another southern state, wants her to be a candidate from Chikmagalur constituency which too had seen the mother-in-law triumphing in the past.

In fact, Chikmagalur is the constituency from where Indira Gandhi had won in 1980 when she and her party had staged a return to power after an emphatic rout in the 1977 general elections.

There is a thinking in top Congress circles that Sonia should contest from one constituency in northern and another in southern India seeking to give her a Pan-Indian image and to guard against possible defeat in one constituency, party sources said.

Sonia Gandhi formally joined front-stage politics in 1997. Although she led the Congress campaign in 1998 general elections she did not contest in them.

On government's approval for transshipment of India goods through Bangladesh land routes, they said programmes will come soon to paralyse the government through a severe movement. If necessary, programmes like "halt everything" will be declared as the government is trying to sell out the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, transit being an euphemism.

Sources said the parties would carry out the movement to such a stage before the upazila and city corporations ballot so that the government will be forced to realise opposition demands for resignation of the chief election commissioner and recasting of the election commission.

Responding to a question, the opposition leaders said partners of the opposition alliance may not take part in the scheduled upazila and city corporation polls if the 4-point demand of the opposition that was placed last January was not met.

## Musclemen

From Page 1

told newsmen on the thana premises that they went to Tanbazar from where several thousand sex workers were evicted a week back, to stage a 'symbolic protest against the violation of human rights'.

"I have never before seen such terrorism. A group of youths fired pistol and revolver shots but police did not take any action," said Mahmuda Mahub, Coordinator of the 69 organisations which protest the eviction of sex workers.

Condemning the police 'in-action' she alleged that the administration and townsmen were 'hostage in the hands of some terrorists'. "Police helped the terrorists instead of helping us."

SP of Narayanganj Sanaul Haque, quoting the officer-in-charge of Sadar thana, said that the activists were advised not to go to Tanbazar but they ignored.

"It is not possible to protect them (activists) from public wrath," he said. In reply to a query, he said he did not find any terrorist at the place of the incident. He, however, admitted that several bombs were exploded in the area during the demonstration.

Meanwhile, after the Juma prayers, the District Imam Samity brought out a procession and held meeting, demanding a halt to 'NGO activities in favour of the prostitutes'. They hailed the eviction of sex workers.

Earlier in the morning, local mastans allegedly with the help of police intercepted sex workers at Fire Ghat, Tremna Ghat and Tanbazar Ghat on the eastern bank of the Shitalakya while they were coming towards Tanbazar to participate in the demonstration.

## Transshipment: DUTA concerned

Dhaka University Teachers' Association has expressed concern over the government decision on transshipment of Indian goods through Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"It will make Bangladesh's internal security vulnerable and pave the way for outside interference into our sovereignty," UTA president Prof AFM Yusuf Haidar and general secretary Ferdous Hossain said in a joint statement yesterday.

Besides, they said, the country's overall economy, including road infrastructure, will be affected.

They said the government should have discussed the matter in parliament and sought public opinion before taking such an important decision that involves the country's security and economy.

## Doctors

From Page 1

A surgeon of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital said at his chamber at the Green Super Market that on an average he sees 25 patients a day between 5 pm and 8 pm and charges Tk 300 from a patient for the first visit and Tk 150 for subsequent visits.

Another doctor of medicine at the BIRDEM hospital said he sees 22 patients between 6 pm and 8:30 pm.

A doctor who worked in the Middle East for over 20 years and is now practising at a small chamber at Green Road however expressed his utter disappointment that doctors in Bangladesh are "using patients as commodity".

"I noticed most of my colleagues seeing maximum number of patients in a short time and frequently asking them to have medical examinations. This is unfair. As a result, it is purely business deal."

During the investigation, some doctors were also found maintaining more than one chamber between 4 pm and 9 pm daily. Three such doctors have chambers at Dhanmandi and Moghbazar. Another three have chambers at Dhanmandi and Elephant Road. All the chambers were found crowded with waiting patients, mostly from outside Dhaka.

When contacted, Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association (BPMPPA) Secretary General Dr Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan acknowledged that there are some doctors who are engaged in "business deals".

He said, "In fact, a doctor should take the history of a patient and if necessary the patient should be referred to relevant expert. But this is not happening. So most of the patients crowd at chambers of senior doctors."

## Beximco at it again!

From Page 1

permission on June 9.

The JB board has found out two points. First, instead of paying the full amount, Beximco Pharma deposited only Tk nine crore and took disbursement of the extended loan from its local office on June 16. Secondly, the major condition of the loan extension, payment of the debenture loans, remained unmet.

But the more startling fact is that JB deposited the three post-dated cheques before giving Beximco Pharma with IFIC Bank cheque in June and July. And every time these bounced, proving that Pharma's cash documents are in fact valueless papers.

Beximco had Tk 13.87 crore irregular loans from JB as of April 6 this year.

According to sources, even after all such activities, JB local office not only kept the loan but also willingly helped Beximco Pharma get the loans. A general manager of the local office who is also the brother of a former ruling party MP had allegedly helped the company get the loans.

According to sources, the manager had talked with the JB MD over telephone before giving the loan. The MD had reportedly gave him orders to disburse the loans under the condition of adjusting the Tk 12 crore overdue loans.

Now the question arises why JB is sitting on the bounced cheques instead of taking action as per the provisions of the amended Negotiable Instrument Act.

This Act paves the way for filing criminal cases against any issuer of dishonoured cheque.

When a cheque bounces, the holder of the cheque has to make a demand for payment in

## Govt giving corridor to India in the name of transit: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday alleged that the Awami League government is providing corridor to India in the name of transit to fulfill one of its commitments it made to Delhi before coming to power, reports UNB.

Presiding over a meeting of BNP central executive committee members in the city, he also denied that the two agreements signed during BNP rule were the base of the transit being given to India.

The government continued propaganda by distorting the 1980 agreement with India and also the SAPTA signed in 1993. SAPTA is a multilateral matter and 1980 agreement was a follow-up of another one signed by Awami League government in 1973," Bhuiyan said.

The meeting urged the people to join the opposition movement against giving transit to India that includes countryside demonstration on August 1, nationwide 30-hour hartal from 6 am on August 2.

## Venezuelan plane disappears

CARACAS, July 30: A small plane with 15 people aboard disappeared today while on a short domestic flight in south-west Venezuela near the border with Colombia, officials said, reports Reuters.

The twin-engined Beechcraft of local airline Avior, with 13 passengers and two crew, was flying from the provincial capital of Barinas to Guasdalito on the Colombia-Venezuela border.

A written notice to its drawer. The notice has to be served within 15 days after the bank informs the cheque holder about the payment failure.

If the cheque issuer fails to make payment with the 15-day notice period, the holder can go for criminal case. According to the law, the penalty for such payment default due to insufficiency of funds in account is imprisonment for one year or fines three times the amount of the cheque or both.

However, in this case, JB did not follow the procedure and only after the discovery of the whole scam sent the notice to Beximco Pharma.

Meanwhile, a tense situation was prevailing in the JB as many junior level officials who were not involved in the incident fear they might become scapegoats. The incident also created a ripple in the banking circle and the SEC on Thursday.

The information that Beximco Group's seven companies have failed to pay their debenture loans has fuelled the ripple.

The Daily Star contacted JB MD Aminul Islam last night. He said that he was told from the local office that Beximco had paid Tk nine crore. "I was informed over telephone and could not realise that this money did not include the debenture loan extension. This is why I approved the extension."

When asked why JB did not file criminal case even after the cheques bounced, he said he was never informed by the local office about the incident.

"I came to know this [cheque bouncing] much later. As soon as I came to know this, I sent legal action," he said, adding that the group has promised to repay all the money soon.

## Subject: Dividends on ICB Unit Fund & Mutual Funds for the year 1998-99. Notice of Closure of Registers of ICB Mutual Fund Certificates & Fixation of Sale and Re-purchase Prices of Unit Certificates.

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh in its meeting held on 29th July, 1999 approved Dividends on ICB Unit Fund & ICB Mutual Funds for the year ended 30th June, 1999 as follows:

Sl No	Name of Fund	Rate of Dividend Per Certificate/Unit (Tk)
01.	First ICB Mutual Fund	100.00
02.	Second ICB Mutual Fund	32.00
03.	Third ICB Mutual Fund	38.00
04.	Fourth ICB Mutual Fund	35.00
05.	Fifth ICB Mutual Fund	20.00
06.	Sixth ICB Mutual Fund	15.00
07.	Seventh ICB Mutual Fund	13.00
08.	Eighth ICB Mutual Fund	12.00
09.	ICB Unit Fund	12.00

02. Registers of Certificates of all ICB Mutual Funds will remain closed from 12th August, 1999 to 22nd August, 1999 (both days inclusive). The certificate holders of the Mutual Funds whose names will appear in the respective Registers of Certificates on 11th August, 1999 will be entitled for the dividends.

03. The Sale and Re-purchase Prices of Unit Certificates have been fixed as follows which will be effective from 01-08-1999.

SALE PRICE PER UNIT Tk 109.00  
RE-PURCHASE PRICE PER UNIT Tk 104.00

MD FAYEKUZZAMAN  
SECRETARY

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh  
8, DIT Avenue, Dhaka

GD-687