

Cattle price

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that comparing to the larger cattle, the demand for small and mid-sized ones were higher, leading to a rise in their prices.

Goats have also been selling at higher prices this year, said the traders.

Bhola, a trader from Kushtia, was asking Tk 4.5 lakh yesterday for a large size bull at Gabtoli Cattle Market. He did not accept a Tk 2.7-lakh offer for the animal from a prospective buyer yesterday and since no one has offered to buy it yet, he would now sell it for Tk 2.8 lakh, he added with frustration.

Another cattle trader said he usually sells large size cattle and he sold most of the animals to political leaders, businessmen or industrialists during previous Eids, but this year he could not sell any of the cattle yet. "The prices I'm being offered for the animals this year do not even cover my expenses," he added.

Trader Sona Mian who brought six middle-sized cattle from Singair of Manikganj said he was offered Tk 31,500 for one of the cattle on Tuesday, but he turned down the offer asking Tk 38,000 for it. "But today, I sold that same animal for Tk 27,500, fearing a fall in price," Sona Mian said adding that he has incurred a loss of Tk 5,000 in that

transaction as his expenses to raise cattle has doubled during the past one year, especially due to the price hike of cattle feed.

Demand for larger animals have dropped this year as a large number of their main buyers, politicians and businessmen, are either arrested or are on the run after the present government had launched anti-corruption drives, said many traders.

This year the DCC has earned Tk 5.62 crore by leasing out the 10 temporary cattle markets ahead of Eid-ul-Azha and it made another Tk 6.2 crore from the one-year lease of the permanent cattle market at Gabtoli.

The temporary cattle markets of DCC are located on Armanitola playground and DCC field adjacent to Chitra Mahal, Jigatala-Hazaribagh playground, Nosnidalan Road, Balur Math adjacent to Brothers Union Club, Uttara Azampur Government Primary School ground and the adjacent field of Rajuk, ground of Meradia Bazar at Khilgaon, field to the west of Taltala Bus Stand, field at Agargaon near radio station, field near Alam Market at Postogola and field near Outfall Staff Quarter in DCC Ward 85.

The property shown in the wealth statement includes three houses worth Tk 46.74 lakh in Gomnati, Domar, and Nilphamari, 20 decimal land in Bhuluk, Mymensingh and bankbalance of about Tk 6.67 lakh.

Tuhin also showed that he had spent about Tk 1.16 crore in expenditure for others purposes for him and his family.

The property Tuhin did not mention in the statement includes Tk 40.7 lakh he gave to Executive Motors for business purpose, while he showed Tk 2.5 lakh fake business statement with Daffodil Online Ltd.

CASE AGAINST REDWAN

Assistant Director Shahin Ara Momtaj filed the case against former state minister and LDP president member Redwan Ahmed and his wife Momtaj Ahmed.

In the case, the plaintiff said Redwan illegally accumulated Tk 2.31 crore and did not show property worth Tk 1.37 crore in his wealth statement.

Redwan submitted the wealth statement through jail authorities on August 14 following the ACC notice issued on August 7.

The statement shows lower prices of a plot in Uttara, a four-storey building in the capital on 7.21 decimal land and a two-storey building at Monirahin Comilla, the FIR says.

His concealed property includes two cars in his wife's name, a car in his own name, four shops in Chandina in the name of his wife, son, two daughters and a daughter-in-law, and a Rajuk plot in the capital in his wife's name, the FIR adds.

The FIR also says Redwan gave false information about Tk 2.2 crore saying his son Moyeen Ahmed donated him Tk 2 crore and he took loan Tk 20 lakh from his son in 1990.

But investigation revealed that Moyeen was only 13 then and the matter of money dealing with a boy at such an age is unacceptable, unbelievable and inconsistency, the FIR adds.

Momtaj was included in the case as she abetted her husband in accumulating and concealing the wealth.

SHAKIRA GRIEVES

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spaces where the children can grow healthy up in places away from trouble, at least for a few hours," she said, her eyes beaming with the audacity of such hope.

"Where children can be children, play and sing. It's much more than learning, it's a place where children can socialise and communicate with children," she said.

"I loved hearing the kids say they dream about becoming doctors and nurses...They all had positive dreams. That's what I want to leave Bangladesh knowing some of these kids will be given the opportunity to accomplish their dreams," she said, wishing to see the results when she again visits Bangladesh.

Still coming to terms with what she had seen in the southern part of the country, Shakira said, "I was devastated to see that entire villages were wiped away. Everything they had was gone...that touched me. The loss of so many human lives...I will never forget the faces of the mothers who lost their children.

"Bangladesh and its people need attention, international attention from governments, NGOs and regular people as well," she said.

The Unicef goodwill ambassador had already planned on visiting Bangladesh but brought the visit forward after seeing the damage caused by cyclone Sidr. As part of her wider plans, she visited a Unicef project in Rajshahi where "hard-to-reach-children" spend days in centres away from the streets.

Shakira has been working with children since she was 18 when she built a foundation called Pies Descalzos, meaning "bare feet" in Spanish.

The seeds of inspiration had been sown a decade earlier at the age of eight. Her father was bankrupt and her family just lost most of what they had.

Her father used to take her to a park in the more run-down part

of the town, where she found kids sniffing glue and was shattered by the sight of their hardship. "From that point I decided I will do something to help them one day," Shakira recalls.

"I always felt very committed to review the issues that children face, maybe because I grew up in a country like Colombia, where children face the same problems like children in Bangladesh and elsewhere," she said.

"Children are the most vulnerable population in the world and at the same time they are our only hope for a safer world," she said, adding, "We are all concerned about a better future and a more secure place for our children, our children's children and forus."

Any attempt to question that commitment is quickly foiled by a well-prepared, sharply honed answer when she was pressed on how she deals with the fact that in a few months she will be singing in a glitzy concert when the children here will still be struggling with their daily lives.

"I guess it's using that spotlight that shines on me during that concert and moving it away from me to put on the issues that need that attention. This is what I can do in my own small way," Shakira was unhesitant in her reply.

She feels this is a commitment to a broader movement, a collective call of the time and her generation.

"I'm sure my generation is not

willing to tolerate any more of the brutalities in these countries. We are tired of it. In the next years, my generation will have the power and it's not little. So, it's a great power that we have to communicate and that's why I'm part of the social issues," she said passionately.

The 30-year-old feels that the passion is shared by others of her generation. "I can do things in a very small way in the community of young people who want to do something about all this. These little things make great changes."

Hasina's trial

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stalled for three months all proceedings of the case following the HC order.

Earlier on December 9, the HC had stayed proceedings of the trial for three months following a writ petition filed by Hasina's lawyers challenging shifting of the court for trying a particular case, and its operation at two places at a time.

An HC bench had also issued rule upon the government to explain why the November 26 gazette notification directing the

metropolitan sessions judge to hold trial of Hasina along with two others at a makeshift court should not be declared without lawful authority.

Later, the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, responding to a government plea, stayed the HC order, clearing the holding of trial at the relocated court on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

Hasina was arrested on July 16 in connection with the case filed with Gulshan Police Station on June 13 by Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of a power company.

Her younger sister Sheikh Rahana, who lives in London, and detained cousin and former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim are the two other accused in the case.

The trial of the case began on December 3 at the makeshift Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court after the government in a gazette notification allowed it on security ground.

On the first day of trial, defence lawyers challenged legality of the government order for the trial under special arrangements.

They decided to file the writ petition with the HC saying the government cannot issue such an order to a court when the judiciary is separated from the executive.

Khaleda's nephew

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Tk 2.5 lakh "fake" business investment.

The former premier's nephew submitted Tk 4.66 crore wealth statement on July 22 and also showed property purchased in his own name as business investment.

The FIR says Tuhin in the statement concealed information and gave false information by showing lower expenditure and lower price rates. He also did not mention wealth he possessed in his own name and in the name of his family.

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DU teachers

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