

Rajshahi malls abuzz with shoppers as Eid nears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
People of different ages crowd Rajshahi markets everyday as Eid shopping frenzy kicks into a higher gear.
According to shop owners, the sale of saris, garments, cosmetics, shoes, sandals,

gold ornaments, gift products has peaked at Rajshahi Saheb Bazar Market, New Market, Index Plaza, Laxmipur Market, Jamal Super Market, Court Market, Binodpur and Rani Bazar Market.
Hawkers have also erected makeshift shops on sidewalks where the people of low-

income group are seen busy buying their dresses and other goods on the occasion of Eid.
The buyers and sellers said the prices of saris, shirts, jeans pants and other popular dresses are higher than the last year's. A good number of well-off people from other districts, especially Chapainawabganj,

Naogaon, Natore, are rushing to the fashionable shops and shopping centres in the city.
Cotton saris are priced from Tk 400 to Tk 2,500, jamdani from Tk 2,000 to Tk 4,500, appliqué and block from Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,500, designed net, half-georgette and half-tissue from Tk 2,500 to Tk 6,000, georgette from Tk 1,500 to Tk 10,000 in the city markets, said sellers.

Girls' popular dresses Waka Waka and Octopus are priced from Tk 1,200 to Tk 2,200. Masak Kali is priced between Tk 3,500 and Tk 5,500, Sania Mirza between Tk 3,500 and Tk 6,500, designed Biscos between Tk 5,500 and Tk 8,000 and designed nets between Tk 5,000 and Tk 8,000, they said.
Cotton and silk punjabis, priced from Tk 400 to Tk 2,000, are very popular this year, sources in the markets said, adding that the jeans pants and foreign clothes for pants and shirts are on high demand.

Meanwhile, the rich people are going to Sapura Silk Industrial Area to buy silk products. Sellers said the number of silk products buyers has been increased as the Eid is knocking at the door.



PHOTO: STAR
Women busy buying cosmetics at a shop at New Market in Rajshahi city yesterday ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr, to be observed on Friday or Saturday.

Farmers taste festivity as jute turns into moneyspinner

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur
Most of the marginal and small farmers are selling jute ahead of the Eid festival and joining the masses at the markets to buy new clothes and other goods for their dear ones.

2500-2600 in December.
Now the prices of jute are unusually high but it is likely to fall soon when the big farmers start selling their jute in the markets, said jute merchants in the northern districts.

"We dare not use CC loan money for purchasing jute lest its price falls," said Arup Kumar Roy, another director of J&J Jute Mills in Rangpur.
Managing director of Ajax Jute Mill in Khulna, Kausar Zaman Babla said if the government does not take measures to stop jute smuggling to India most of the local jute mills will suffer huge loss.

Prices of jute in India are higher this year and that is why jute is being smuggled to India, he added.
Ajax Jute Mill has a purchasing centre at Mahiganj in Rangpur.
Officials of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) did not agree that jute is being smuggled to India. Rather they showed evidence of use of jute as the cause of its price hike in local markets.

This year, the price they are getting for their jute produce is better than before.
Alef Uddin, 38, a small farmer of Haragachh of Kaunia upazila, said he purchased a new silk sari at Tk 1200 for his wife, a three piece suit at Tk 900 for his school-going daughter and a shirt and trouser at Tk 700 for his son and a panjabi at Tk 450 for himself by selling only two maunds of jute. A maund is equal to 37.5 kg.

Big farmers are not willing to sell jute right now, hoping they would get Tk 2700 per maund in future as they earned good profit by selling at the end of the season last year, said Ratan Saha, a jute merchant in Baderganj upazila of Rangpur district.
"Compared to demand, supply of jute in the markets is scanty. That is why price of jute is higher at beginning of the season," he said.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), about 2 lakh hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation this season in Rajshahi division against the target of 1.83 lakh hectares.
DAE also said fair price of jute last year encouraged the farmers of the region to increase cultivation this year.

Several jute merchants said smuggling of jute to India is the cause of its price hike this year.
Kalim Uddin, one of the directors of J&J Jute Mills in Rangpur, said jute is being smuggled to India through Moghalhat in Lalmonirhat, Bhurungamari in Kurigram and Chilahati in Dinajpur districts.
Many of the jute merchants have been issued Cash Credit (CC) loan but did not use it because of the high rate of jute in the markets.

"We are happy with the current price of jute. We never got such a price at the beginning of any season in the last decade," said Moinul Islam of Tapadhan under Rangpur Sadar upazila.
Tossa variety of jute is selling at Tk 1,700-1,750 per maund while the local variety of jute is selling at Tk 1,500-1,550 per maund in the northern districts. In August last year, jute was sold at Tk 1300-1350 per maund but it soared up to Tk

RCC steps to control spread of anthrax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Rajshahi City Corporation has taken a special initiative to control spread of anthrax in the city.



PHOTO: STAR
Workers at Modern Food in Rajshahi BSCIC Industrial Area prepare lachchha semai, a popular variety of vermicelli, in an unhygienic condition although a mobile court fined the organisation Tk 20 thousand for the same offence a few days ago.

Seven teams of experts have been deployed at seven big markets. They will stay there for 15 hours everyday since 6am, officials said.
The markets are at Haragram, Laxmipur, Upshahar New Market, Shalbagan Bazar, Nawdapara Bazar, Shaheb Bazar and Binodpur Bazar. Traders from other markets usually collect meat from these big markets.
Meat sellers will have to place their animals before the experts' teams before slaughtering those. The team will examine the animals before and after slaughtering and then allow the traders to sell the meat.

Imported cattle getting in without tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
Imported cattle go unexamined at Dinajpur borders as Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) lacks laboratory or veterinarians there to make sure that no anthrax infected animals enter the country.

Chechra, Koria, Hathola, Uchna, Nandail, Kalitola, Uttar Gopalpur, Ratanpur and Atapara of Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat and Katla of Birampur and Dangapara of Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur.

Major Mehdi, commanding officer of Joypurhat 3 Rifles Battalion also admitted the fact. He, however, said he knows nothing about cattle smuggling under his battalion.

ties now raises concern among the border guards.
Anil Kumar Paul, district livestock officer of Joypurhat, said being close to Indian territory, bordering districts of northern part of the country are much vulnerable to anthrax if cattle are brought unchecked from India.

Admitting the fact, Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Saleh Ahmad said, "BDR members are visually checking the cattle at the borders."
Over 2,000 cattle are brought to Bangladesh through the borders of Dinajpur and Joypurhat everyday both in legal and illegal ways.
The border areas includes

On Sunday, the government issued a red alert on anthrax infection. It also directed border guards to strengthen vigilance along the borders to stop cattle smuggling. But lack of testing facilities

However, no government or livestock officials were found during a spot visit to different places in the district where cattle are slaughtered.

Another alleged thief was beaten to death by angry mob early Thursday at Jhardanga village under Batiaghata upazila of the district.
The dead, aged about 30, was identified as Asgar Ali.
According to police, Asgar was caught red-handed while committing theft in the house of fish trader Rabindra Nath Golder of Jhardanga village.
In another incident on Tuesday night, muggers killed a motorbike driver in Nurnagar Munshipara area of the town and took away his bike, reports UNB.



PHOTO: STAR
Workers fell karoi trees beside Jessore-Jhenidah road as local leaders of the ruling party have purchased 23 giant trees for a very low cost allegedly through tender manipulation.

Motorcade of MP attacked, 10 injured

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least seven people were injured as an unidentified gang attacked lawmaker Engineer Fazlul Azim's motorcade in Hatia yesterday afternoon.

FAILURE TO TAKE ESSENTIALS FOR OMS Khulna TCB to cancel dealership of 143

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna regional office of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) has made a list of 143 dealers to cancel their licences as they did not procure commodities for sale in open market.

Security money of the listed dealers will also be forfeited as per rule and TCB will blacklist them in future, Rabiul said, adding that the list recommending cancellation of their licences would be sent to the head office in Dhaka in the third week of this month.

BK main road, Messrs AB Bidders of Khanjahan Ali Road under Khulna Sadar Police Station, Messrs Sumon Trading of Sonadanga main road under Sonadanga Police Station and Messrs Hirok Enterprise of Mujgunni under Khalishpur Police Station of Khulna city.
Rabiul said this time the dealers did not get any scope to sell their commodities in black market because of strong monitoring system.

Azim, independent lawmaker from Noakhali-6 (Hatia) constituency, was going to Hatia from Majdee to distribute zakat items among the poor.
When Azim's motorcade reached chairman ghat at around 11:00, a gang of 25 to 30 attacked his supporters, leaving six of them injured. They also damaged two vehicles and prevented Azim and his supporters from boarding a sea-truck.

The regional office had appointed 343 dealers in ten districts of Khulna division and Faridpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj districts in July.
Of the listed dealers, 125 did not lift their quotas in the first installment on August 8 while the rest in the second installment on August 24 for selling soyabean oil, sugar and gram in open market.

He said four dealers appointed by TCB has already withdrawn their security money fearing cancellation of their licences for not procuring any of the three commodities on August 8 and 24.
They are proprietors of Messrs Pager Trading Co of

Besides, buyers have no interest to buy sugar, Soyabean and gram standing in queue as prices do not vary so much at retail shops.
The TCB regional officer said most of the dealers who did not procure their commodities for sale in open market belong to the ruling party. But he refused to disclose their names.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. The lawmaker later reached his home at Uchkhali in Hatia.

The injured are lawmaker's son Farhan Azim, personal assistant Afsaruddin, APS Zakir, Khondaker Abul Kalam, Mahub and Himel. They were admitted to Hatia Upazila Health Complex.

Rabiul Morshed, regional officer of Khulna TCB, told this correspondent yesterday that he had made a list of 143 dealers for cancelling their licences as they did not pro-

curate any of the three items for sale in open market.

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Lawmaker Fazlul Azim blamed the supporters of former lawmaker and Awami League leader Mohammad Ali for the incident. Mohammad Ali denied the allegation.

Mohammad Ali alleged that Fazlul Azim's supporters ransacked Boarchar Awami League office on Tuesday and beat up Jubo League activists Shuvo and Manik. He claimed that the attackers also took away two mobile phones sets from AL men.

They are proprietors of Messrs Pager Trading Co of

Two killed in Khulna

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Mob beat an alleged cow lifter dead yesterday while muggers killed a motorbike driver on Tuesday night in Khulna.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Government Employees Coordination Council bring out a procession in Chapainawabganj town yesterday demanding punishment to the criminals who beat dead Abdul Hannan following his protest against teasing wife and daughter of a colleague.

The first incident took place at Krishnanagar village under Batiaghata upazila early yesterday, reports our staff correspondent.
The dead was identified as Khokan Sheikh, 40, of Labonchora area under Khulna Sadar police station.
Angry mob also injured Abdul Latif, 38, of Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat district.

HUMAN CHAIN, RALLY IN C'NAWABGANJ 'Punish three stalkers for killing Hannan'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Hundreds of third and fourth class employees of different government offices in the district brought out a procession and held a rally in the town yesterday demanding arrest and punishment to the killers of Abdul Hannan, a guard of the Chapainawabganj district office of the Roads and Highways Department.

Hannan was beaten to death for protesting stalking of his colleague's wife and daughter at Rehaichar in town on Tuesday afternoon.
The processionists chanted slogans against the three killers of Abdul Hannan and demanded their arrest and capital punishment.
They also threatened to go for tougher agitation if the criminals are not arrested

that on Tuesday at around 2:30 pm, while they were returning home after taking bath in the river Mohananda, Israil, Saiful and Anarul started to tease them.
As Bristi's mother protested it, they were about to assault her.
At this, Mohammad Ali, father of Bristi and peon of the Roads and Highway Department vehemently protested it but he was assaulted by the stalkers.
Hannan came to the help of his colleague Mohammad Ali and took Ali's wife and daughter to the office premises.
Being furious, the three stalkers forcibly picked up Hannan from the gate of Roads and Highways office and took him to the salon and beat him dead at around 3:00pm.

Witnesses said, the two butchers were going away stealing a cow from the cowshed of Ainuddin Ahmed of Krishnanagar.
Angry mob caught the butchers red-handed and beat them up mercilessly leaving Khokan dead on the spot.
Another alleged thief was beaten to death by angry mob early Thursday at Jhardanga village under Batiaghata upazila of the district.

The deceased was identified as Lovlu, 30, son of Rustam Ali of Lobonchora Bokharipara area of the district town.
Police said a gang of muggers in the guise of passengers hired the bike and tactfully took Lovlu to Munshipara CSD godown area of the town at dead of night.
Later, the criminals tied up his hands, mouth and legs and took away the bike after strangulating him to death.

Police and locals said, Israil Hossain, 24, of Masjid Para and the owner of a salon near the office of the Roads and Highways Department, Saiful Islam, 28, and Anarul Islam, 45, of Rehaichar Moholla of the town used to stalk Fatema Akhtar Bristi, a student of class ten of Kamal Uddin Girls High School sitting at the roadside salon.
Bristi and her mother Mahmuda Khatun alleged

that on Tuesday at around 2:30 pm, while they were returning home after taking bath in the river Mohananda, Israil, Saiful and Anarul started to tease them.
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