

# Scattered animal waste spoils post-Eid atmosphere

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The days following Eid-ul-Azha have been partially marred as stench from waste, blood and leftovers of slaughtered sacrificial animals filled the air of the city causing utmost sufferings to city dwellers.

Putrid blood, ears, horns and faeces of the animals could be seen scattered on the roads during a visit to different parts of the capital's Wari, Jatrabari, Mirhajirbagh, Kajla, Shiyampur, Dholairpar, Postagola, Motijheel and Tikatuli.

A heap of waste lies on the street adjacent to Golapbagh playground. People of the area could be seen passing with scarves and handkerchiefs covering their noses.

Mohammad Ali, a businessman, told the reporter that though it was duty of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to remove the waste, no steps was taken.

"The sweepers of the area are missing since Wednesday morning. They collected tips from the houses on Eid day and since then have disappeared," he said.

Pools of blood and waste littered the streets of Swamibagh Lane. Mehjabin Ara, a housewife of Dayaganj area in the city, jumps over the mess in a bid to cross the road. She precariously holds her daughter with one hand while covering her nose with



A payloader of the Dhaka City Corporation dumps waste of sacrificial animals into a truck at North South road in the city on Thursday. Buriganga River, right, turns red on Wednesday as blood of animals sacrificed on that day during Eid-ul-Azha flows into the river through sewerage lines.



PHOTO: STAR

another. "We pay tax to DCC each year to keep our streets neat and clean. But they do not take any measures even though the streets remain littered with waste each year after Eid day," she bitterly tells The Daily Star.

Local panchayet committees of some residential areas took initiatives of their own to

keep the streets clean. The voluntary members of the committee sprayed bleaching powder on blood and waste and removed the mess on their own.

Jatrabari Panchayet Committee member Sirajul Haque said by the time DCC arrives, the waste rots and the odor spreads all over the area. "That is why we have been

taking our own steps for the last two years," he added.

Apart from the panchayet committee, many residents removed their animal waste and spread bleaching powder on their own.

Kamalapur cattle market is one of the biggest of its kind in the city. Waste could be seen lying around while crows fought over scraps at

the deserted market.

A bulldozer was seen loading three waste carrying vehicles of DCC at the market yesterday noon.

DCC Chief Waste Management Officer Bipan Kumar Shaha said around 11,500 workers of DCC have been working since the night before Eid-ul-Azha. He said they are using

different equipments including payloader, compactor, and dumper.

"We are trying our best and the special drive will continue till tomorrow (Saturday)," he said.

Biponon said they tried to cover all the areas in the city and will take instant steps if they get any complains of rubbish lying on the streets.

# Gas, power supply to be increased in Ctg region: Qader

BSS, Noakhali

Awami League Presidium Member Obaidul Qader yesterday said gas and power supply in Chittagong region would be increased to a large extent very soon.

He said the present government has undertaken a number of steps for expediting the process of exploration of natural resources including gas.

Ministry of Mineral Resources and Bapex has taken initiative for gas exploration in a number of gas fields in the country and there will be no gas and power shortage in Chittagong region when the government initiative would be successful, he added.

Obaidul Qader, also chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Information, said this while visiting the site of Sundalpur oil and gas field project at Companyganj of the district, which according to the expert has a reserve of 5 to 7 billion cubic feet of gas.

Managing Director of Bapex Mortuza Ahmed said all data about the gas field would be available by February next. He said the gas of the field would be supplied to national grid if proved viable.

Project Director Abidul Halim, former parliament member Mohammad Ali, district administration officials, upazila chairman Sahabuddin and local leaders were present.

# 60 injured as villagers clash in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 60 people were injured, 10 of them critically, as rival villagers locked in a clash over a trifling matter at Komlapur village of Kushtia Sadar Upazila yesterday morning.

Police picked up 16 people of both groups during the clash. Of the injured, Edbar Mondol, Turab Mondol, Jarina Khtun, Edu Biswas, Alam Hossain, Abdul Kuddus, Ariful Laskar, Tota Miah, Rownak, Aminur Rashid Patal were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital with severe injuries.

The clash ensued around 10:00am following previous enmity between two rival groups -- one led by Sahjahajin Laskar and another by Asir Mondol.

Supporters of both the groups from Komlapur, Gopalpur, Jyiaraki and Paharpur villages swooped on their rivals with sticks and sharp weapons.

They also vandalised several houses of rivals and looted valuables. Police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Additional police forces have been deployed in and around the area to avert any untoward situation.

# 4 Hizb UT-Tahrir Activists Hearing on remand prayer tomorrow

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court will hear the remand prayer of four activists of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir tomorrow.

The investigation officer (IO), also sub-inspector (SI) of Panchalish Police Station, Aziz Ahmed prayed for seven days' remand of the four Hizb ut-Tahrir activists to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on Tuesday.

The court, however, directed police to send them to jail and decided to hear the prayer on November 21.

"We prayed remand. Now it all will depend on the court," said Aziz.

Members of Panchalish Police Station in a drive led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Nobo Joyti Khisa, arrested 3 banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir activists Tarek, Ibrahim and Zahid from Sanmar City near CDA Avenue on Monday with leaflets and books.

Muntasir was arrested from Mirzapur near Muradpur the same day and he confessed that he is an activist of Hizb ut-Tahrir.

# ASSAULT OF CONSTABLE Massive drive to arrest actor Dipjol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police conducted massive drives in the last three days at different places of the city to arrest film actor and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Councillor Monwar Hossain Dipjol on charges of assaulting a traffic police in Gabtali area on Tuesday morning.

Police said Dipjol beat up Traffic Police Constable Altaf Uddin as he barred Dipjol's car for traffic rules violation.

After the incident, Altaf filed a case with Darussalam Police Station.

Darussalam Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdul Malek said they raided Dipjol's residences at Gabtali and Mohakhali as well as houses of his relatives several times from Wednesday to Friday to arrest him.

He said Dipjol not only obstructed police from performing their duties but also beat up a constable and threatened to kill him with firearms.

# Garos celebrate Wangala festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Garo people residing in the city yesterday celebrated their traditional Wangala festival amid singing, dancing and performing various traditional arts at Banani Biddyaniketon High School ground in the city.

The school playground wore a different look as it was vividly decorated while Garo people of all ages participated in the festival wearing colourful traditional dresses.

The Wangala festival is a traditional carnival for the Garo community to thank their Almighty Misi Saljong.

Thousands of years ago, the Garos believed that fruits and roots collected from the jungle were their main food, as they did not have seeds to grow plants. One day they prayed to their god for seeds and the next day they found two types of paddy. They preserved those and started cultivating on the hills.

After harvest, they used to thank their god first and then consumed the rice and celebrated the occasion. Wangala gradually became their major annual festival.

Former president HM Ershad joined the inaugural session of the daylong function as the chief guest while Garo leaders presented their demands before him and urged him to press government high-ups to implement those.

Garo leader and St Joseph School and College teacher Babul D Nokrek demanded foundation of a cultural academy for the Garo



Members of the Garo community perform a traditional dance during the Wangala festival in Mymensingh yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

community at city's Kalachadpur area.

He also demanded inclusion of a provision in the recently passed national education policy that will allow Garo children to continue their elementary level education in their mother language.

He asked for activating a separate land commission for the indig-

enous communities of plain land and a hostel for the community's students studying at different educational institutions in the city.

Ershad said during the regime of his government, he had introduced quota system for the Garo community and donated a piece of land to set up a cultural academy and also assured of pressing home their

demands.

Garo leaders said there are many cases in which land grabbers took their ancestral land or bought it in exchange for a small sum of money, which was no less than cheating, since the Garos did not have documents of the land.

They also feared that Garo youths are being rejected from BCS

viva examinations though many passed the preliminary and written stage successfully. They sought government attention into the matter.

Celebrations began with a colourful procession that marched around the field. Chickens were also sacrificed aimed at satisfying their god.

Later, six girls and six boys of the community presented their way of Jhum cultivation through dances and songs.

They also distributed leaflets among visitors in a bid to raise awareness on Aids.

Around 50 makeshift stalls were set up displaying traditional dresses and other food items. The celebrations ended in the evening with traditional songs.

Garo leader Andrio F Drong and the school's Headmistress Umme Kulsum Nargis Begum spoke on the occasion with Garo leader Dipon Dio in the chair.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh reports: Hundreds of Garo people including a huge number of women also observed Wangala festival at Askipara in Haluaghat upazila here yesterday.

Sanjib Drong, convener of the celebration committee, inaugurated the festival.

Indigenous Garo people from different areas of Haluaghat including Nalkura, Joyramkura, Aynatali, Sangra, Palashtali, Bahaitala, Telikhali, Jakhankura, Dupajuri, Coochbihar and Gilaboi attended the function with their cultural teams.

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