

High prices throw a wrench in Eid shopping

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLON

High prices of clothes and cosmetics have disheartened Eid shoppers from low income group, a scenario which is reflected by the dearth of buyers in some hawkers' markets of the capital.

Sales at the city's Gulistan and Farmgate hawkers' markets remain quite low although the market at New Market is faring better.

Talking to The Daily Star, many people from the low income group have claimed that to make larger profit, sellers this Eid have increased price of all kinds of garments by Tk 50 to Tk 100 and price of cosmetics by Tk 10 to Tk 30.

But their income has not increased in proportion to the increase in price of garments and cosmetics, they said.

Ahsan Habib, a shopper who works at a private bank, said although his budget was Tk 2,500, he spent Tk 4,000 for Eid shopping for a family of four.

Ahsan, who has an income of Tk 21,000 monthly, said he is worried about how he will cope financially for the rest of the month.

"I am worried about how to manage the remaining days of the current month, as I have already spent a chunk of my salary on house rent, shopping and some other errands ahead of Eid," he said.

On the other hand, the sellers have said the prices of goods have increased but it is due to high taxes and production cost.

Amajd Hossain, a makeshift shop-owner selling clothes at the city's New Market area, said the price of shirts that he sells has increased from Tk 200 to Tk 250, price of trousers has increased from Tk 320 to Tk 350 while the price of each three-piece has increased from Tk 400 to Tk 500.

"I had to increase the prices of clothes as I have also paid high prices to the garment suppliers," he said.

However, Ahsanul Haque Jewel, employee of a multinational company, said sellers are taking advantage of Eid to sell at a higher price.

"Although it is difficult for me to spend a lot of money for Eid shopping I still have to buy clothes and sellers are taking advantage of this," he said

Jahanara Parvin, a college teacher, said it is very difficult to buy toiletries as price of each item of cosmetics has increased by Tk 15 to Tk 35 from previous year.

"I bought toiletries for myself and my daughters but I had to pay Tk 10 more for each item on average, which is really difficult for someone with a low income," she said.

Mainul Islam Sumon, a cosmetics and toiletries shop owner, said the prices have increased due to high production cost and taxes.

Sadia Islam, a receptionist, said the delight of Eid is for the rich not the poor.



The capital's shopping centres are buzzing with people ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, which is just four or five days away, but some shoppers from low income group complain of high prices of Eid merchandise. The photo shows a crowded clothing store at Bashundhara Shopping Complex yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

War crimes trial maintaining standards

Says NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of war criminals is being conducted independently maintaining all international rules and regulations, chief of National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman said yesterday.

"Some people, who want the trial, are also saying the international crimes tribunal is not free. This kind of speech is misleading common people since it's a great mistake," he told the inauguration of a rehabilitation programme for released prisoners.

The programme was jointly organised by Bangladesh Jail and Lions Club International at Prisons Directorate Officers' Mess in the capital.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said about 60 percent prisoners in the country were serving jail terms due to pending cases.

"We are amending the code of criminal procedure to complete every trial quickly so that people do not need to remain in prison for long."

He said the government would also make necessary amendment in the jail code to turn the prisons into reform centres.

KHALEDA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION BNP won't make mistake this year

Hopes Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition BNP will not make yet another mistake by celebrating the party chairperson's birthday on the National Mourning Day, as politics is not devoid of humanity, minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta hoped yesterday.

"The people, who indulge in amusement on mourning day, violate human rights and are devoid of human qualities," he told a discussion organised by Bangabandhu Shangkritik Jote at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The discussion was titled "Celebrating false birthday targeting the National Mourning Day is equal to encouraging the killers of '71 and '75". The programme marked the 37th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which falls on August 15.

The theme of this year's national mourning day should be tolerance to each other among the political parties, as tolerance is vital for democracy and politics, said the senior AL leader.

He also thanked BNP and its leader Moudud Ahmed for their initiative to discuss the framework of "an interim government".

A government without political party cannot be neutral, he said, adding that a government with representation from all political parties could be neutral and fair one, and transparent election could be held under it.

Surnajit hoped BNP and AL would talk to remove uncertainty about how to hold the next election.

Stabbed Brac official dies in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

A Brac official died after muggers stabbed him in Shahjalal Uposahar area in Sylhet city yesterday.

The deceased Abdul Mannan, hailed from Sunamganj, was a accounts officer at an urban branch of Brac in the area.

Locals and police said Mannan and his colleague Shahidul Islam, riding on a motorbike, were heading for a Pubali Bank branch with a bag containing Tk 7.2 lakh equivalent company cash.

Some miscreants, riding on two motorbikes, halted them in Shahjalal Uposahar area around 2:30pm and tried to snatch the bag, but failed.

At one stage, one of the muggers stabbed Mannan and fled the scene.

Mannan was rushed to a nearby private hospital and then to Osmani Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.



One would hardly call it a road given the condition it turned into after a brief spell of rain. The city corporation authorities were trying to restore the busy road at the capital's Sayedabad over the last two weeks, but rain has been disrupting the repair work over and over again. The photo was taken yesterday.

INT'L CRIMES TRIBUNAL Mojaheed to meet lawyers in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday permitted three counsels of war crimes accused Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed to meet with him in jail custody to prepare their case.

Defence counsels Nazrul Islam, Munshi Ahsan Kabir and SM Shahjahan Kabir will be allowed to have 'privilege communication' with Mojaheed on August 25 from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mojaheed is now in Narayanganj jail.

The three-member tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members -- Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge Md Shahinur Islam -- gave the permission following hearing on a petition filed on August 12.

Moving the petition, defence counsel SM Shahjahan yesterday told the tribunal that prosecution has provided eight new witnesses in the case but the defence could not take instruction from the client in this regard for preparing their case.

Although they have already met three times with Mojaheed in jail, they need another meeting with him to prepare their defence, said Shahjahan.

Prosecutor AKM Saiful Islam said the court might allow the defence petition as per the jail code.

On June 21, Mojaheed was indicted on seven charges of crimes against humanity, including murder, genocide and conspiring to kill intellectuals, during the Liberation War.

First prosecution witness in the case is expected to testify on August 26.

NIKO GRAFT CASE Mosharraf gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for eight weeks to former BNP state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain in a corruption case.

Shahidur Rahman, assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station on February 12 accusing Mosharraf and one Kashem Sharif.

According to the case statement, Mosharraf, in 2005, took a land cruiser jeep worth about Tk 95.58 lakh as gift, and 5,000 Canadian dollars as bribe from Niko, a Canadian oil and gas exploration company, to strike a contract between the government and Niko.

An HC bench of Justice Mir Hashmat Ali and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim granted the bail to Mosharraf after hearing a bail petition filed by him on August 12.

OBITUARY

We would like to inform with a heavy heart that we have lost our beloved mother/grandmother **Al Hajj Husnun Nahar Zaman** on 14th August 2012, Tuesday (25 Ramzan) at 2:40AM, Innalillahi Inna Ilaihe Rajiun. She was 79 at the time. She was the wife of Late Kazi

Mohammad Asaduzzaman of Barisal and 3rd daughter among 18 children, of Late Azizuddin Ahmed (former Minister of erstwhile Pakistan). She left behind 6 daughters and sons in law and many grandchildren and a great grand child. She was extremely popular among her innumerable friends and relatives because of her amazing and warm personality.

Her Qul Khawani will be held at her Dhanmondi residence (Address: Road 5, House 47, Palisades) on 17th August 2012 Friday after Asr prayers at 5:00PM. We request all her relatives, friends and well wishers to join the Qul Khawani congregation and pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Khurshid, Yasmin, Dr Nusrat, Dr. Nuzhat, Zeenat, Riffat & husbands and grandchildren.

International Tender for Worldwide Media Rights



No: BCB/ Media Rights /2012/ 355

Date: 14th August 2012

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hereby invites tenders from TV Broadcasters or their duly authorized Marketing Agents for the acquisition of BCB's Worldwide Media Rights for the period of 1st November 2012 to 30th April 2016 in accordance with the following:

- A detailed tender document has been developed incorporating all necessary Tender/Bid details and documents, including the "Media Rights Agreement" for acquisition of the right to broadcast or otherwise distribute audio-visual, visual or audio coverage of any Match (whether on a live or delayed basis and whether of all or any part of such Match) by way of Television Delivery and Internet Rights, Audio Rights, Mobile Rights and In-flight/On-board Rights.
- Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the tender document from the BCB Management Office (Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh) during working hours by no later than Thursday, 30th August 2012 on payment of USD 7,500.00 (US Dollar Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only)/ BDT 6,15,000.00 (non-refundable). Such payment needs to be remitted to BCB (Account No: 01-7537131-01, Account Name: Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank: Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT: SCBLDDX). Please send your request for the tender document (soft or printed version) along with evidence of the bank transfer/ payment referred to above.
- Any persons or entities with an existing unresolved dispute with BCB on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to bid.
- Interested parties are requested to refer to the BCB website (www.tigercricket.com) for details on the BCB Worldwide Media Rights on offer and the eligibility criteria.
- All Tenders/Bids (prepared in accordance with the Tender Document) must be delivered to the "BCB Management Office" as directed in the tender document between BST 10.00 am and BST 12.00 noon on Thursday, 6th September 2012.
- Potential bidders may contact the BCB at the address below for details on obtaining the tender document.

The BCB reserves the right to cancel the entire process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the tender document and/ or the conditions by issuing an addendum(s) at any time (but not less than 24 hours before submission of bid) prior to the submission of the bid and to reject any or all offers at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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