

# Traders flouting DCC fixed meat prices for Ramadan

HELEMUL ALAM

Although the selling prices of meat during Ramadan have been fixed by the two Dhaka city corporations, meat traders overcharging customers by Tk 10 to Tk 30.

The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) on June 23 fixed the price of local beef at Tk 275 per kg, foreign beef at Tk 260, mutton (khasi) at Tk 450, lamb and mutton (bokri) at Tk 390 and buffalo meat at Tk 260 per kg.

The prices were supposed to be effective from the first day of Ramadan till 26th of the Muslim holy month of fasting.

Visiting different markets in the capital, this correspondent found meat traders charging customers Tk 10 to Tk 30 more than the fixed price. The meat sellers also do not bother hanging the price chart displaying prices fixed by the authorities.

When asked about the chart, many traders said they do not know anything about the prices set by the city corporations.

Also no buffalo meat was found in the capital as traders have been selling it as beef.

"I did not get any instruction from the city corporations or from the market committee to hang any chart," said Nanna, a meat trader of Muslim Bazar of Mirpur-12.

Even butcheries in Bonani Kanchabazar, where the DNCC office is housed, have been overcharging customers.

"I bought three kilograms of meat paying 840 taka, which is 30 taka more than the fixed price," said Ahsan, a resident of Banani, who tried to reduce the price through bargaining but failed.

Mamun, a resident of Gendaria, said he bought one kilogram of beef by Tk 300 from a meat shop at Sotish Sarkar Road.

Regarding the prices set by the city corporations, Julhash, a meat trader of Dinnath Sen Road, said those who have fixed the prices of meat do not go to the cattle market but meat traders go there and they know the cost of acquiring meat.

Robiul Alam, secretary general of Bangladesh Meat Traders Association, said they have been trying to ensure meat is sold at the fixed prices through monitoring markets.

He further said that he had already warned members of the association not to overcharge customers and threatened them of cancelling their membership if it continues.

"These are reasonable selling prices for traders," he added.

"We need assistance from mobile courts of the city corporations to ensure that meat traders hang the price chart and charge customers accordingly," said Robiul Alam.

Brig Gen Md Afzalur Rahman, chief health officer of Dhaka North City Corporation, said they will soon take action, through mobile courts, against those who are overcharging customers.

Anondo Kumar Biswas, executive magistrate of Dhaka South City Corporation, said they have failed to conduct mobile court drives due to hartal as police are tied up and cannot assist them.

"As soon as hartal ends, we will begin mobile court drives," he said.



Teachers and students of Dhaka University stage a rally at Aparajeya Bangla on the campus yesterday protesting the indecent remarks of Hefajat-e Islam chief Shah Ahmed Shafi about women.

PHOTO: STAR

## Allamah title does not fit in with Shafi's name

Say DU teachers, students slamming his misogynist sermon

CITY DESK

Stressing that a religious leader cannot give speeches disrespecting women, a group of Dhaka University students and teachers yesterday said the title "Allamah" meaning great scholar did not go with the name of Hefajat-e Islam chief Shah Ahmed Shafi.

In a video clip of sermon, available in internet, Shafi said women should stay within the four walls of their houses, take care of the furniture and raise children. He also likened women to tamarind and imposed a bar on women from studying beyond class IV-V.

Referring to these comments, the DU teachers and students refused to use the title before Shafi's name anymore.

"Shafi's remarks about women are disgraceful and vulgar," said MM Akash, professor in economics, addressing a protest rally organised at Aparajeya Bangla of DU

under the banner "Agitated students and teachers". He cited the comments as an insult to mothers.

National University Vice-chancellor Harun-or-Rashid said, "These remarks exposed Shafi's sick mind and despicable attitudes towards women."

He demanded that all the audio, video cassettes containing indecent sermons (waz) of Shafi and convicted Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee be banned.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said the people who spoke in favour of the Hefajat chief were the forces against democracy.

"Shafi has demeaned women. People supporting the derogatory remarks are against democracy, establishment of women's rights, and constitution," he said, criticising BNP MPs at a training session for journalists in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

## DEATH THREAT TO IMAM Farabi denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected a bail petition of Shafiqur Rahman Farabi in a case filed over threatening an imam to kill him as he had led blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar's first namaz-e-janaza.

Earlier on June 4, the same court rejected his bail and framed charge against the accused.

Meantime, it fixed August 22 for the next hearing.

On February 24, Farabi, a fourth-year student of physics at Chittagong University, was held near the university, over issuing the threat.

On March 13, Detective Branch Inspector Mainul Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the probe report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka saying that Farabi had made the death threat in a blogpost. Rajib, a Gonojagoron Mancha activist, was murdered near his Mirpur house in the capital on February 15. His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Shahbagh the next day.

## UK govt, ILO announce project to ensure migrant workers' safety

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK government and the ILO have announced a project "Work in Freedom" to help prevent 1,00,000 girls and women across South Asia from falling victim to the worst forms of labour trafficking.

The announcement came on Sunday at a two-day event organised in the UK to build partnerships among private sectors, governments and civil society against labour trafficking.

Every year millions of poor men and women across South Asia migrate to find jobs but many of them get extremely low wages or don't get paid at all and often suffer threats and abuse, said a British High Commission press release yesterday.

The project will help tackle known labour trafficking routes from South Asia, including Bangladesh, to the Gulf States, and aims to crack down on unscrupulous recruitment agents.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Mohammad Serajul Islam, a freedom fighter and acting president of Awami League Magura municipal unit, died of a cardiac arrest at Magura Sadar Hospital on Monday. He was 68.

Serajul, former vice-chairman of Magura municipality, left behind two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour at a graveyard at Kukna village in Magura following his namaz-e-janaza on the local Eidgah premises yesterday.

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The Stock Dividend for the year 2012 has already been credited on 15 July, 2013 to the respective BO Accounts of the Shareholders whose names were recorded as Registered Members of the Company as per Record Date on 9 June, 2013 through Central Depository System (CDS) of CDBL. Cash Dividend will be credited in their respective Bank Account shortly.

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