

Dump animal wastes in bins

Environment ministry urges people UNB, Dhaka

The environment and forests ministry yesterday urged all to dump wastes of sacrificed animals into dustbins during the Eid-ul-Azha, scheduled for Monday.

Blood and unnecessary parts of the sacrificed animals cannot be dumped into drains or indiscriminately, it added.

The ministry also suggested that officials concerned of nearby city corporation, municipality and union parishad should be informed to remove the wastes of the sacrificed animals, if necessary.

The directive also asked people to wash the slaughtering spots properly and urged them to use environment-friendly bags and containers for removing the wastes and distributing meats.

Chevron recognised as highest blood donor

CITY DESK

Chevron Bangladesh has been recognised for the second time as the "Highest Blood Donor Organisation" for 2013-2014 by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).

Every year, Chevron staff donate blood to fulfil the urgent demand for safe blood in the country and over 1,200 Chevron employees and contractors have donated blood in 2013-2014.

BMM Mozaharul Haq, secretary general of BDRCS, presented a letter of appreciation to Geoff Strong, president of Chevron Bangladesh, at an event held recently at Chevron's Dhaka office.



Vehicles stuck on the Tangail bypass yesterday. Pressure has been building up on the Dhaka-Tangail highway for the last couple of days due to the rise of vehicles transporting people who are leaving the capital for the Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha holidays and trucks carrying sacrificial cattle.

PHOTO: STAR

EDUCATION SYSTEM Identify problems through research

Roundtable urges government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately find out the flaws in the entire education system through researches and improve the quality of education accordingly, speakers viewed at a roundtable yesterday.

They said there has been a gradual decline in the quality of education in recent times and the poor performances of students especially in Dhaka University's admission tests reflect it.

Nagorik Oikko, a civil society platform, organised the roundtable titled "Corruption in education system and ways forward" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Blasting the education minister for what he said about the tests, the speakers said existing corruption and irregularities in the education sector are the main threats to improving the education standard.

The DU admission test results have created more anxiety among the public, said Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of the platform.

CR Abrar, professor of International Relations department of DU, said the blame game being played over DU admission test will not bring any good. Even though the admission test procedure of DU has some limitations, still it is fine, and moreover, there are scopes of improving the procedure, he added.

DU Prof Asif Nazrul and Editor Golam Mortuza of the weekly Saptahik also spoke.

GOVT MOVE TO CUT MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Dev partners concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's development partners have expressed concern over the government's move to reduce marriageable age of girls to 16 from 18.

"The donor community thinks that Bangladesh's achievements in reducing maternal and child mortality rate will be jeopardised if marriageable age is reduced," an official of the health ministry told The Daily Star.

Maternal mortality rate came down to 194 per lakh now from 322 in 2000, while under-five child mortality rate dropped to 44 per 1,000 from 153 in 1990, according to official data.

These achievements, which are in line with the Millennium Development Goals, have been highly appreciated by the UN and the interna-

tional community.

However, the donor community has expressed frustration as some of the cabinet members at a meeting on September 15 suggested that marriageable age of girls could be reduced to 16 for socio-economic reasons.

The observations came at a policy dialogue on the mid-term review of the Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme (HPNSDP) in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

Some 19 development partners, including the World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), Unicef, UNFPA, European Union, USAID, SIDA, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Save the Children, different NGO representatives and the government

officials took part in the four-day dialogue that ended yesterday.

The donor community observed that if the marriageable age for girls is lowered, maternal and child mortality would go up, and the overall health status of women and children will be affected.

In Bangladesh, some 65 percent of girls are married off before the age of 18. This rate could even go up, said the health ministry official quoting the development partners.

They recommended that health ministry hold a consultation among gynaecologists, children and adolescent health experts, and the development partners soon and make suggestions to the government on the issue.

"In that case the government can

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Sylhet city dotted with illegal cattle markets

Ruling party men accused; cops playing silent role

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Despite Sylhet City Corporation's prohibition on makeshift cattle markets this year, influential quarters including the pro-Awami League leaders and activists have allegedly set up several markets in different parts of the city ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

During a visit yesterday, this correspondent found at least two areas—Law College and Chalibandar—where bamboo structures have been erected and the sale of sacrificial animals started, with traders inviting buyers through loud-speakers.

In addition, construction was underway at Sports Complex playground, Masimpur, Ambarikhan, Akhalia, Taltola, Tilagar, and open space in front of MC College but the workers could not name any of the organisers of the markets.

These will open in a day or two, they said.

On Sunday, the SCC decided not to lease out any open place for makeshift markets to prevent traffic congestion and extortion during Eid, said Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury. They have also requested police to evict the illegal markets, he told The Daily Star.

Badar Uddin Ahmed, the city Awami League president, also former SCC mayor, said they did not encourage any activist to set up illegal cattle markets, adding that they would take action if any specific complaint was found.

Denying his complicity in setting up any market near Chalibandar, Abul Kaher Iju, a city AL leader, and Truck Malik Group president, said he had sought permission but did not get it.

However, he said some Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League men were setting up markets in the areas.

Sylhet city BCL general secretary Emrul Hasan denied the allegation but said some people were setting up the markets using their names.

SEE PAGE 3 COL 4

Road crash kills 3 in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon

Three people died when a bus rammed into the motorcycle they were on at Baboltali on the Rajshahi-Naogaon highway in the sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead were Abdus Samad Sardar, 55, Abul Kashem, 55, and Fatik Hossain, 38. All hailed from the sadar upazila.

Zakirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rajshahi Sadar Model Police Station, said the Rajshahi-bound bus from Naogaon hit the motorcycle around 6:30pm leaving the trio dead on the spot.

The victims were returning from Pakuria village of the upazila after attending a meeting of BNP.

Angered at the incident, residents of the area blocked the highway for an hour before police rushed to the area and brought the situation under control.

Police also seized the bus.

An illegal cattle market near Law College in Sylhet city yesterday, allegedly set up by pro-Awami League men defying the city corporation's prohibition on makeshift markets this Eid-ul-Azha. Several other illegal markets have sprung up, too, but police are playing a silent role.



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Disregard

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stalemate through dialogue as it does not want violence in the country," BNP Spokesperson Fakhru Islam Alamgir said at a press briefing in BNP's Naya Paltan central office in the capital.

"The onus is now on Awami League. They will have to come forward for resolving the political deadlock. And dialogue is the only fruitful way to get an amicable solution to this problem," added the BNP acting secretary general.

He also slammed Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader for his comment on Wednesday that political parties will not be allowed to hold rallies anywhere except at four designated points in Shuhrawardy Udyan.

"Usually the government is not allowing us to hold rallies in Dhaka city. Now the road transport minister has said the rallies will have to be held only on a certain venue. He has no jurisdiction to say so," he said.

Quader, while talking to reporters, said a board meeting of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority decided to impose a ban on holding any big rally on the streets to keep them free.

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