

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21 - APRIL 20)

Try to visit friends or relatives. Don't trust others. You will find it easy to learn and excel. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21 - MAY 21)

You are best to listen for now. You will do well with clients. Be sure to lay your cards on the table. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Listen to those with more experience than you. Losses are evident. Avoid friction with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Risk will result in financial gain. Tendency to take on too much will end in fatigue. Work behind the scenes on projects. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Romantic encounters will be exciting. Avoid people that get on your nerves. You can meet new friends who will bring peace. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23 -SEPT. 23)

Don't lend things. Abrupt changes in career are evident. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 -OCT. 23)

Opportunities are on the horizon. Friends may misunderstand. You are best to concentrate on work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 -NOV. 21)

Don't let people rule your life. Watch your temper. There is a possibility of making financial gain. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22 -DEC. 21)

Loss is evident if you are not careful. Don't forget family obligations. Travel for pleasure. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22 -JAN. 20)

Avoid any escapist tendencies. Your boss may be on the rampage. Valuable information can be had from experienced people. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 -FEB. 19)

Alienation may result from misunderstandings. Expect temper tantrums from home. Investments may not be lucrative. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20 -MARCH. 20)

You will be quite excitable this week. Don't let your mate manipulate you. Put your efforts into job advancement. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SPOTLIGHT

A responsible sacrifice

Eid ul Azha is just around the corner, and the general populous know what that entails. Sure, the bountiful amounts of meat to be cooked for later pleasure is one, however, there is an ugly side to this tempting scenario. During Eid, almost the entire populous, as a sign of faith and love for Islam, offer up a sacrifice in the form of an animal, be that goats, cows, sheep, or in some extreme cases, even camels. While this is all well and good, it does not justify what follows next. Blood, bits of flesh, skin, and other such unmentionables get strewn about all over the public space. In the end, inadvertently we begin opening up possibilities to tons of health hazards.

Back in the day, our fair city took one heck of a bashing during Eid ul Adha. The streets would be masked with the smell of death and rotting flesh for weeks with traces of blood on the sidewalks. If an alien were to have happened upon this scene, it would assume that a war had taken place a few days ago. However, inconvenience of bad smell and scene is just the start of it. Because skin and some bits of flesh and other parts are discarded without care, they can become breeding grounds for many life threatening diseases such as Salmonella and also for flies and worms and other deadly pests and insects.

Things have improved much over the

years though, thanks to many of the initiatives of the government. The directives of the sanitation department pertaining to the clearing up of any and all remains, responsible disposal of animal hides and cleaning and bleaching the roads, are great initiatives that have helped to bring a much needed relief for the city dwellers during the Eid ul Adha.

Another recent initiative involves the use of specified designated spots for citizens in different sections of the city, and indeed other major places around the country. This is of great benefit to city dwellers from all areas as it saves them the bother of having to slaughter the animal near their vicinity, and the responsibility of clean-up that would follow afterwards. Also, because these spots also hosts Imams and butchers, people can rest assured that the strict protocols to make the sacrifice Halal will be followed and the butchers will deal with all the cutting and chopping, relieving the hassle of hiring a butcher separately a few days before the Eid.

This year's list of designated qurbani spots for Dhaka has been released. Dhaka South City Corp. will be designating 324 spots along with 360 Imams and 275 butchers, whereas Dhaka North City Corp. will be designating 200 spots along with 300 Imams and 205 butchers. These figures, while fixed, may be subject to

change in the coming days, depending upon demand and so on. Furthermore, both Mayor Sayeed Khokon and Mayor Anisul Huq of the South and North Dhaka City Corporation respectively, have said that all the wastes of sacrificial animals will be removed from their designated city sections as soon as possible to avoid any form of environmental or health hazards. They also urged people to refrain from slaughtering animals on roads.

If there is now a concern on where these spots will be, don't worry, as that has also been taken into consideration. There will be announcements made in every area a few days before Eid to let people know where the nearest spots are. If that is not enough, there will also be mass SMS sent to everyone with the same information. While citizens are encouraged to use these premises for their full benefit, it is not mandatory. If someone wishes to sacrifice their animals in their neighbourhood, they must also take the responsibility of cleaning up thoroughly with water and bleach as well as getting rid of the pelts in a socially acceptable manner.

With all these things in mind, sacrifice responsibly, and have a blessed Eid ul Adha.

By Intisab Shahriyar



OUR FAVOURITES

A cattle market, if you think of it, is a fantastic case of globalisation! From Indian to Australian cows, cattle of different countries are in abundance. There is a myriad range of cow breeds in the world, and consequently, there is a wide array of cross-breeds.

A 'pure local deshi' breed is nowadays rather rare. Yet, there are cattle, which are much 'reputed' among Bangladeshis.

Speaking of reputation, perhaps nothing can match Mirkadim cows. This herd is not exactly a 'breed' of its own; rather, Mirkadim is an area in Munshiganj where these cows are farmed. Of course, not all cows from Mirkadim are the special 'Mirkadim er goru'.

Mirkadim cows cater to a premium and niche market. They are well-fed and exclusively cared for; buyers claim their meat to be of superior taste. The meat is said to have a distinct flavour which cannot be

found in any other cows.

Therefore, prices of these cows are steeper. And even though one could purchase a bigger-sized cow with that money, many among the affluent and gastronomes opt for the Mirkadim cow. These cows are exclusively sold in a particular cattle market in Rahmatganj, Dhaka.

Another much-celebrated variety is the Red Chittagong Cattle (RCC). According to the website of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, www.fao.org, it "...originated in the greater Chittagong district of southeastern Bangladesh. The history of the breed is unclear, but current evidence suggests little foreign gene flow into RCC. It is speculated that the breed evolved by inter-mating indigenous breeds..."

Meanwhile, varieties of Sahiwal are very

popular in the market.

On the other hand, when we speak of goats, the most popular is the Black Bengal Goat. According to Banglapedia, it "...comprises more than 90 percent of the total goat population; the remaining ones include the Jamunapari and their crosses."

The Black Bengal Goat farming programme had been used to improve livelihoods of many people in our country. A pair of this goat was even gifted to the Thai princess!

We love our cattle! And come Eid-ul-Adha, be it the prized Mirkadim or any other, our fascination with Qurbanir haat and our tradition of having a choice of cows are much cherished!

– LS Desk

Photo: Collected