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No shortage of cattle this Eid

Govt data show adequate supply

UNB, Dhaka

The country is unlikely to face a shortage of cattle during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha as the supply of locally-reared cattle is quite enough to meet the demand for sacrificial animals, say officials.

According to the fisheries and livestock ministry, 1.16 crore sacrificial animals are available this time compared to 1.04 crore last year.

It also said there are 44.57 lakh sacrificial cattle and 71 lakh goats and sheep in the country.

The ministry's statistics show that Muslims across the country sacrificed some 1.15 crore cattle during last year's Eid-ul-Azha.

A number of cattle traders said the supply of locally-reared cattle has been increasing for the last several years, which has helped reduce dependence on cattle from neighbouring countries.

The traders also claimed that even if cattle are not imported from India, there will be no impact on the market this time.

Bangladesh Meat Merchants' Association (BMMA) has taken up different programmes to help restrict the entry of Indian cows into the local market.

The association leaders claimed that their campaign has helped boost the local production.

Cattle from India used to meet around 40 percent of the need for sacrificial animals during the Eid before the neighbouring country imposed restriction on cattle supply to Bangladesh, said BMMA.

Dependence on cattle from India and Myanmar has been on the decline for the last few years, mentioned leaders of the association.

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A youth runs across the road to get on a moving bus dodging traffic. Inset, a man, among several jaywalkers, raises his hand to signal a vehicle to stop to cross the Airport Road, instead of using the footbridge just a few feet away. Violation of traffic rules continues amid the ongoing Traffic Week, which was launched to strictly enforce traffic laws. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS AND PALASH KHAN

Bus crushes pedestrian to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pedestrian was run over and killed by a bus in the capital's Gulistan yesterday afternoon.

The identity of the victim could not be known immediately.

Mahmudul Haque, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, said the victim was likely a homeless man living on the streets in the area.

Around 3:00pm, a bus of "Khaja Baba Paribahan" hit the man near Gulistan Zero Point when he was crossing a street there, the OC said.

He was declared dead after being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the police official added.

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to flee.

The accident happened at a time when police are observing Traffic Week across the country to combat the traffic offenders.

The government has enforced the Traffic Week following a student demonstration for road safety after the death of two college students in a road accident on Airport Road on July 29 in the capital.

Confident of bigger win

Modi says his party will get even more seats in 2019 national polls

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he would be re-elected with an even bigger majority in parliament in 2019, dismissing opposition attempts to rouse opinion against his government for failing to deliver on promises of swift economic development and more jobs for young people.

Modi told the Times of India in an interview published yesterday that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led government is committed to improving the lives of all citizens regardless of faith.

Concerns have grown that his administration has been unable to rein in right-wing fringe groups that are trying to undermine India's secular constitution by targeting the nation's large Muslim minority.

"We will definitely get more seats than we got the last time and I am confident that we will break all records of the seats



SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Tougher quota demo threatened

Students say govt must meet their demands by August 31

DU CORRESPONDENT

The quota reformists yesterday threatened the government with tougher agitation if their three-point demand, including unconditional release of their leaders and exemplary punishment of the attackers, is not met by August 31.

They further urged the government to publish the gazette notification on bringing reforms to the quota system immediately, in line with their earlier five-point demand.

"We will announce a tougher programme if the government does not respond to our demands by August 31," Bin Yeamin Mollah, joint convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad said at a rally in Shahbagh yesterday.

They also demanded immediate and unconditional release of the arrested students who took part in the quota reform protests and safe roads.

The protesters had earlier called for a rally at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla on Dhaka University campus around 11:00am but could not do so as a group of Chhatra league activists held a counter rally on the same venue around the same time.

Failing to hold the programme there, they tried to gather on the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture but the BCL men appeared there too and foiled the rally.

Later, they moved to Shahbagh and held a brief rally lasting 10 to 15 minutes in front of the National Museum.

Ever since the anti-quota demonstrators started fresh programmes over their five-point demand on June 30, they had either been attacked by Chhatra League men or got arrested by law enforcers.

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Shahidul Alam sent to prison

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent noted photographer Shahidul Alam to jail after police produced him before it in a case filed for spreading propaganda and false information against the government.

He was produced before the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court around 3:00pm after a seven-day remand, and the court sent him to jail, Moshir Rahman, deputy commissioner (DB-North) of Police, told this newspaper.

Contacted, Sub-Inspector Mahmudur Rahman, general recording officer at the CMM Court, told this newspaper that police prayed to the court

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Man fleeing cops runs into spy HQ

AFP, Paris



AFP, Paris

Fleeing the police after a car crash in Paris, a man who had been driving without a licence took the ultimate wrong turn -- and ended up taking refuge inside the headquarters of France's spy agency.

According to a police source, the hapless driver fled after being involved in a crash on Paris's peripherique ring road on Friday, scaling a fence several metres (feet) high to get off the busy artery.

What he didn't realise was that he had unwittingly climbed into the grounds of the General Directorate of External Security (DGSE), according to the Parisien newspaper which first reported the story.

He was immediately picked up and arrested. He was placed in custody at the police station of

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4 students denied bail once again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four private university students were denied bail again yesterday in two cases filed over vandalism and attacks on policemen during student protests for safe road.

Of them, Tariqul Islam and Redwan Ahmed stand accused in a case filed with Badda Police Station, while Masad Mortuza Bin Ahad and Azizul Karim are accused in a case lodged

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 13
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

A nurse indeed!

Denied admission in hospital, woman gives birth under a tree

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman was compelled to give birth at an unhygienic area under a tree, as nurses and staffs of Phulbari Upazila Health Complex refused to admit her to the hospital on yesterday. Abu Taher, a cycle-van driver of Bashpukur village of Parbatipur upazila in the district, said his wife, Rina Begum, 33, went into labour early yesterday.

Without delay, he boarded her onto his van and drove her to the health complex, around 9 kilometres away from his home.

They arrived there at around 5:30am. "I took my wife to the first floor of the health complex for admission", said Abu Taher.

But, the nurses, identified as Rozina Akter and Afroza Begum, allegedly denied her admission.

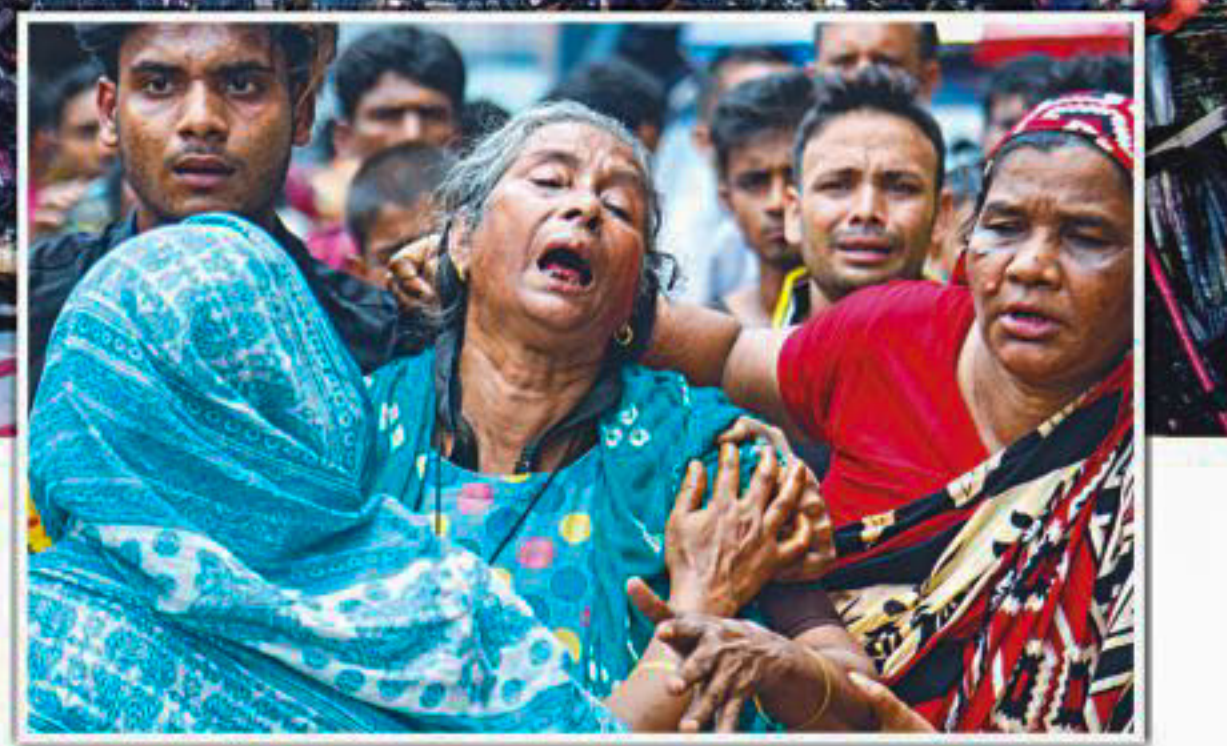
The nurses not only "drove them away" but also

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



The fire-ravaged remnants of around 45 shanties in Chandgaon area of Chittagong city. Inset, Fatema Begum breaks down as the fire killed her mentally-challenged son, who was inside their home at that time.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Meant for safety, shackles lead to his death

Mentally challenged boy meets tragic end

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mentally challenged boy burned to death as a fire broke out in Chandgaon area yesterday morning.

Chained to a pole in his house by his mother, Fatema Begum, from fear of him going outside on his own, Rabiul Alam, 23, was unable to escape or be rescued as he burned to his untimely death.

A single mother to a mentally challenged son, Fatema would financially support herself and her child by begging for alms.

"Like every other day, I chained my son to a pole in the house before I left to earn my daily income. I returned immediately after I heard of the fire, only to find my son's ashes," Fatema said, devastated and broken.

Jewel Barua, an assistant sub-inspector at Chandgaon Police Station, said Rabiul could not be rescued as he was tied with a chain during the incident.

For reasons still unknown to the firefighters, the fire broke out at road seven near Chandgaon Police Station at around 10:45am. Within minutes, the fire burned around 45 shanties at the spot, destroying valuables worth Tk 500,000.

Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Service and Civil Defense Jashim Uddin said firefighters rushed to the spot with eight vehicles from three stations and extinguished the fire at around 12:50pm.

The reason of the fire, however, would only be known after further investigation, he added.