

Big bucks out of animal discards

FROM PAGE 16
there were designated places for slaughter.

FOR MONEY AND MUCH MORE
"I do this as I have wife, children, relatives to look after," Kalam said, as he went about his business, perhaps oblivious to his crucial role in reducing the environmental impact of accumulating, rotting waste.
The stench of the decomposed waste became heavier near the shops collecting bones and other organs and drying them under the scorching sun.



There are some 1,500 more shops in the Matuail area involved in the trade, according to non-government organisation Grambangla Unnayan Committee, which works for the well-being of waste pickers at Matuail.

Some 300 waste-pickers collect reusable materials from the dump every day round the year, but around Eid-ul-Azha their number doubles, said Rina, who has been working at the site for nearly 20 years.

Nearly 34,000 tonnes of waste was generated from the sacrificial animals

in two days this time, according to sources at the South and North city corporations.

The new arrivals want a share of the income generated from bones, fat and other waste materials that come from sacrificial animals.
"One can earn Tk 1,000- Tk 1,200 a day just by selling bones and fat," said the 35-year-old Rina.
"I have earned around Tk 6,000 in three days after Eid," she said.

In the hub of the shops, workers were busy separating horns, bones,

Lazily shooing the flies away, Renu said she had been working at the shop for seven years.

She earns Tk 6,000 a month, working six days a week from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The money helps her to run her family of five.

Shops like Meherab Bone Mill are now employing a higher number of people to collect and process waste.

Mohammad Hakim, from Comilla, who has been in this trade for 15 years, said he employed one additional man at his shop for this season. "The business



hooes, fat and penis since every item has different rates and different buyers.

Processed and crushed bones sell for as much as Tk 26 per kg and penis for Tk 400 a kg, said Mostafiz, the manager at Meherab Bone Mill.

Pointing to a line of thin cuts of flesh dangling from a rope outside the shop, he said those had a good demand in China. "They eat them [sex organs] in soup," he said.

Near the shop's entrance, Renu was cleaning and separating organs, attracting a number of flies at the same time.

gets a boost this time around [for 10-15 days]. So, there is a lot to manage."

The number of animals sacrificed during Eid almost equals the number of animals sacrificed the whole year, said Kazi Wasi Uddin, additional secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

Until any measure is taken by the authority, people like Abu Kalam will continue to help reduce the environmental impact of waste, working amid thick layers of foul smell, putting their health at risk.

4 kids die

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"We visited Tripura Para yesterday. It's a remote area around 30 kilometers away from Hathazari municipality. We brought 19 children, suffering from the same symptoms, and hospitalised them at Hathazari Upazila Health Complex," Dr Imtiaz said.

He added that malnutrition was prevalent among the children who were suffering from the symptoms of the disease.

"We are collecting samples for tests. As far as we can guess, it could be a viral disease. But it can only be confirmed through tests," he added.

Dr Imtiaz also mentioned that Tripura Para was under their vaccination coverage.

Contacted, Azizur Rahman Siddiqui, civil surgeon of Chittagong, told The Daily Star that a team would arrive from the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) to find what went wrong with the children.

"We are collecting samples of blood, cough and stool for the tests which will be conducted by experts from IEDCR. We hope we will be able to detect the disease," he added.

He also said those admitted at the upazila health complex will be referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital if their conditions deteriorate.

When asked if there is a lack of awareness among the locals in Hathazari's Tripura Para regarding vaccination, he said that they took every initiative possible to raise awareness.

"Not only that, we even ensured that they take mainstream medication if anyone suffers from an illness," he said, adding that some superstition still exists among them regarding allopathic medicines.

Aktarunnesa Sheuly, Hathazari's upazila nirbahi officer, told The Daily Star they formed a monitoring cell to observe the situation at Tripura Para and that all necessary steps were taken to ensure that no further deaths occur.

In July 2017, at least nine children died and 48 were hospitalised in Tripura Para of Sitakunda upazila suffering from cold, fever, blood in the stool and convulsions.

The then health administration blamed the locals' superstitions against vaccination and their apathy towards conventional medicine. The administration then launched awareness programmes at the time to avert the recurrence of such incidents.

Arrested

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Both of them were placed on remand for quizzing.

The Cyber Crime Unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) seized two mobile phones from Luma's possession.

Luma was sent to jail on August 20 after Inspector Rafikul Islam of Cyber Crime Unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) produced her before a Dhaka court on completion of her three-day remand.

End monopoly,

FROM PAGE 1
"TIB thinks this is the time for the government to prove political and administrative goodwill."

On August 21, Malaysian home ministry said the government decided to suspend the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers through SPPA (Sistem Pengambilan Pekerja Asing), an online system operated by a private Malaysian company, with effect from September 1.

It said any further decision on the matter would be made based on minister-level discussions between the two countries.

Recruiting agents say the Bangladeshi workers, who have recently completed the process of migrating to Malaysia through SPPA, will be allowed to enter the Southeast Asian country, but the Malaysian government will not approve any new job request from employers from September 1.

Wishing anonymity, an official at Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia told this newspaper that they were planning to hold a minister-level meeting "soon" and decide the mechanism for labour recruitment.

The development comes following a huge controversy over SPPA through which nearly two lakh Bangladeshi workers migrated to Malaysia since late 2016.

On June 22, Malaysian newspaper The Star reported that an organised syndicate of 10 agents, led by a Bangladeshi businessman having alleged political connections with the Malaysian home ministry, raked in at least two billion Malaysian ringgits (around Tk 4,000 crore)

from Bangladeshi workers in just two years.

The workers paid RM20,000 (around Tk 4 lakh) each to their Bangladeshi agents, who then paid half of the sum to the syndicate to have work permit approvals and flight tickets to Malaysia, said the report.

Yesterday, Iftekharuzzaman said the TIB is concerned over Malaysia's announcement of suspension of labour recruitment.

However, the Malaysian government's decision to stop monopolistic and unethical manpower business can be looked at from a positive perspective, he said.

Bangladesh government can initiate participatory and open discussions with the Malaysian authorities and develop a transparent system for labour recruitment, Iftekharuzzaman mentioned.

Dr Jalal Uddin Sikder, adjunct senior research fellow at the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University, said Malaysia's decision appears to be an attempt to improve governance in foreign labour recruitment.

"So, Bangladesh too needs to probe the syndicate's corruption," he told The Daily Star.

Sikder, also associate professor of general education department at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, said Nepal is negotiating with Malaysia for G-to-G level recruitment at a low cost.

"Bangladesh should also think of such mechanism if it really wants to improve governance in the sector. There must be a robust mechanism even if it takes time," he said.

Coal import on cards

FROM PAGE 16
Power supply in the country's northern region has been hampered severely as Barapukuria power plant, which depends on coal supplies from the BCMCL, was shut down.

Immediately after the power plant was closed, the government formed a committee to look into the possibility of coal import.

The power secretary on July 28 said they would import coal suitable for Barapukuria plant, adding, they had already started contacting coal-exporting countries.

Meanwhile, power generated by the Barapukuria plant in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur was synchronised with the national grid on a limited scale on August 20, after a month of shutdown.

There are three separate plants at the site capable of generating maximum 535MW power. Of them, the second unit, which has a capacity to generate 125MW, resumed operation and supplied only 40MW to the National Grid. Supply is gradually expected to rise.

On August 20, the plant received around 5,000 tonnes of coal from

BCMCL and with that volume of coal, the plant could operate for five days at least, an official at the plant said.

Hamid yesterday said production would resume in September, but it would take until October for the plant to go on full-scale production.

He further said the coal going "missing" from Barapukuria plant started since 2005, adding, that the theft did not happen overnight.

He said 30,000 trucks would have been required to carry the stolen amount of coal, adding, the present government had unearthed the scam.

On hiking the price of gas and electricity, he said the Energy Regulatory Commission would decide on it. The ministry has sent a proposal to the Commission for a moderate price hike so that consumers would not feel the burden, he added.

Hamid also said 100mmcf imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) has already been supplied in Chittagong area, adding, more LNG would arrive in future.

The first consignment of imported LNG was used at Shikalbaha Power Plant during the Eid-ul Azha.

Two dead, 255 injured in Iran earthquake

AFP, Tehran

A strong 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck western Iran near the border with Iraq early yesterday, killing two people and injuring more than 250, officials said.

The shallow quake hit 26 kilometres southwest of the city of Javanrud in Kermanshah province, the US Geological Survey said, near the site of a powerful quake last year that killed hundreds.

Kermanshah governor Houshang Bazvand told state broadcaster IIRB that two people were killed and 255 injured.

The head of the emergency department at Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Saeb Sharidari, said the two dead were a pregnant woman and a 70-year-old man who suffered a heart attack.

State news agency IRNA quoted local officials saying that electricity had been cut to 70 villages but that it was restored to at least 50 by dawn.

It added that there had been more than 65 aftershocks.

Bazvand said at least 500 buildings had been destroyed and would need to be completely rebuilt.

There were potential problems with drinking water due to damaged infrastructure in villages, but the local Red Crescent chief, Mohammad Reza Amirian, said it had not yet been necessary to distribute food and tents.

A crisis centre was set up, with hospitals and relief organisations placed on alert.

But the local director of crisis management, Reza Mahmoudian, told the Mehr news agency that "the situation was under control" and no request for help had been sent to neighbouring provinces.

There were reports that the quake was felt far across the border into Iraq.

Images on social media showed people being rushed to hospitals, but suggested relatively light damage to infrastructure.

Iran sits on top of two major tectonic plates and sees frequent seismic activity.

Kermanshah is still recovering from a devastating 7.3-magnitude quake that struck last November, killing 620 people in the province and another eight people in Iraq.

That quake left more than 12,000 people injured and damaged some 30,000 houses, leaving huge numbers homeless at the start of the cold season in the mountainous region.

Local officials said the estimated cost of reconstruction would be measured in the billions of dollars, at a time when Iran is struggling with a deepening economic downturn.

There was criticism that much of the new social housing built as part of a scheme championed by ex-president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had failed to withstand the tremor.

President Hassan Rouhani said those responsible would be held to account.

Iran's deadliest quake in recent years was a 6.6-magnitude tremor that struck the southeast in 2003, decimating the ancient mud-brick city of Bam and killing at least 31,000 people.

In 1990, a 7.4-magnitude quake in northern Iran killed 40,000 people, injured 300,000 and left half a million homeless, reducing dozens of towns and nearly 2,000 villages to rubble.

French cicadas

FROM PAGE 16
that it was the soundtrack of Provence, part of our folklore, but they wouldn't have it.

"For them the song is an infernal noise -- crac-crac-crac -- and they cannot understand that it is like music to the ears of us southerners," he added.

Ferrero said the tourists had gone looking in local shops for chemicals to use against the cicadas.

"It's completely crazy, imagine spraying the trees under which they would be later taking their aperitifs..."

Rows over noise are often the bane of French city life, leading to long and bitter disputes between feuding neighbours.

Earlier this month holidaymakers in rural central France were ridiculed for asking for the bells on the village church to be silenced because they kept waking them at seven in the morning.

Mayor Ferrero said it wasn't just Parisians -- whom the rural French love to hate -- who had complained about the cicadas.

"They were also tourists from the east of France and from Brittany," he added.

3 killed in water tank

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Begum, 30, with 58 percent burns, died around 6:00pm yesterday, while Aleya's daughter Mili Akhtar, 4, died around 6:00pm on Saturday with 85 percent burns, said Dr Partha Shankar Paul, a resident surgeon of the burn unit.

The other members of their family were in critical condition.

Surat's daughter-in-law Laboni, 18, was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) with 88 percent burn injuries; Surat's elder son Rabbi, 20, with 38 percent burns, and Surat's wife Bedana Begum, 50, with 17 percent burns, were both admitted to different wards in critical condition, the doctor said yesterday.

Fire service officials suspected that gas from a leaked pipe beneath the tank caused the explosion in the six-storey building in block-E of Mirpur 12.

The building's landlord, Mosharraf Hossain, 48, his son Jisan, 18, and relatives Awal Hossain Babu, 32 and Alamgir Hossain, 32, were also injured.

Aleya's husband Anwar Hossain said Surat had two sons and four daughters. Three of his daughters were married off. Of them, two have been living at their in-laws' houses.

Surat's younger son Mohammad Shakil, a tenth grader, and daughter Chapa Akhter, a fourth grader, had survived the fatal accident as they were outside the house during the explosion, Anwar said, adding that he was at his native village in Panchagarh on the night of the incident.

Talking to The Daily Star on Friday, Shakil said he was now worried about the family's future, having already lost three members.

"My father was jobless for the last one year and the others were supporting the family. But all of them are now fighting for their lives," he said, hold-

ing back tears.

He added that they had been living at the two-bedroom house for the past one year and a water tank was inside one of their rooms.

There was a problem in the water line and there had been a bad odour in the house for the last three months, which they had informed the landlord about, Shakil said.

On Tuesday, a cleaner opened the tank and fixed the problem. But that very night, the tank exploded with a loud bang immediately after its lid was opened, which triggered a fire.

Shakil added that the gas stove in the adjacent kitchen was burning at that time which increased the flame. Two units of fire service rushed to the spot at around 10:25pm and doused the flames.

Police said no case has been filed in connection with the incident, since no one has filed a complaint.

Incidents of gas explosion have been frequent in the country, resulting in the death of many people.

On March 27, five people, including four of a family, were injured after a water reservoir exploded at a building in the same area. Three of them died later.

Just two days before that, four students of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, who were doing their internships in Mymensingh, succumbed to injuries they received when a newly connected gas line exploded in a six-storey building in the district's Bhaluka upazila.

Several killed

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entertainment" and shopping complex, where the Madden 19 tournament was being held at the GLHF Game Bar.

Madden is the official video game of the National Football League.

US political maverick

FROM PAGE 16
story of America and the history of my times."

McCain, who was being treated at his ranch near Sedona, Arizona, was surrounded by his wife Cindy and his family during his final hours.

"He was a great fire who burned bright, and we lived in his light and warmth," said Meghan McCain, one of the late senator's seven children -- three of them from a previous marriage.

Near the driveway to his ranch a sign read "Sen McCain, thank you for your service."

In Washington, flags on Capitol Hill and the White House were lowered to half mast in his honour.

McCain's body will lie in state in the Capitol rotunda ahead of a funeral ceremony at the National Cathedral, the New York Times reported. He will then lie in state in the Arizona state capitol and be buried at Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Dates for the events have not yet been announced.

McCain made it known that he did not want Donald Trump to attend his funeral, US media reported.

'ALL IN HIS DEBT'
President Trump, who once mocked McCain's war record, said he sent his "deepest sympathies and respect."

A rare Republican critic of Trump, McCain accused the president of "naivete," "egotism" and of sympathising with autocrats. He cast a decisive vote last year that killed Republican attempts to repeal Barack Obama's health care reforms, something Trump never forgave.

All living former US presidents lined up to praise McCain's deep integrity.

"We are all in his debt," said Obama, the Democrat to whom McCain lost the presidency in 2008.

"Few of us have been tested the way John once was, or required to show the kind of courage that he did."

"We shared, for all our differences, a fidelity to something higher -- the ideals for which generations of Americans and immigrants alike have fought, marched and sacrificed."

McCain "was a man of deep conviction and a patriot of the highest order," said Republican George W Bush (2001-2009).

The late senator requested that both Obama and Bush deliver eulogies at his funeral, US media reported.

Democrat Bill Clinton (1993-2001) praised McCain, saying he "frequently put partisanship aside," while Republican George H W Bush (1989-1993) hailed him as "a public servant of the rarest courage."

McCain "was a man of honor, a true patriot in the best sense of the word," wrote Democrat Jimmy Carter (1977-1981).

ISRAELI SUPPORTER

McCain spent more than three decades in the Senate, looming large in debates over war and peace and the moral direction of the nation. Earlier he served as a US representative 1983-1987.

McCain had been away from the Senate floor since December, remain-

ing at his ranch for treatment of glioblastoma -- the same form of brain cancer that took the life of another Senate giant, Democrat Ted Kennedy, in 2009.

Two former senators who became vice presidents, Democrats Al Gore and Joe Biden, praised McCain respectively as someone who would "work to find common ground" and "a friend who 'will be missed dearly.'"

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said he would seek to rename a Senate building in his honour.

From abroad, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said McCain's "lifetime of public service" was "an inspiration to millions," while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised him as "a great American patriot" whose "support for Israel never wavered."

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said McCain would be remembered as an "Atlanticist" and Nato supporter, while Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said he "stood for an America that is a reliable and close partner ... that takes responsibility for others out of strength, and stands by its values and principles."

Across the Pacific, the China Daily referred to him as a "titan of American politics" and "conscience of the Republican party."

Tropical Storm Lane heads away from Hawaii islands

AFP, Honolulu

Tropical Storm Lane limped away from the Hawaii islands on Saturday after dumping heavy rain that triggered flash floods but caused no known casualties.

Lane, a powerful Category Five hurricane that weakened into a tropical storm as it approached Hawaii, was located about 195 miles (310 kilometers) southwest of Honolulu, the Central Pacific Hurricane Center said in its 0300 GMT Sunday bulletin.

Lane had maximum sustained winds of 50 miles (85 kilometers) per hour, and was moving west into the open Pacific at nine miles (15 kilometers) per hour.

The National Weather Service dropped all warnings for Lane, but a local flash-flood warning remained in effect.

By Saturday afternoon all Hawaii airports and sea ports were back to normal operations, officials said.

Lane dumped enough rain to trigger landslides -- several of which blocked the main island's Highway 19, a major thoroughfare -- and cause severe flooding in many areas.

The storm may have moved on, but its effects will be felt for several more days.

"Lingering moisture associated with Tropical Storm Lane will produce excessive rainfall over the main Hawaiian Islands through Sunday, which could lead to additional flash flooding and landslides," the Hurricane Center warned.