

Best options for your digital cow

Eid-Ul-Adha is less than a week away, and for many people, this is the time when they'll hit the markets, scouting for the best deals. But why go to the market when you can find them from the comfort of your home, all on one digital platform.

It's no surprise that you can take your pick of cattle from online market platforms now. But it is surprising however, the number of places you can look online for buying a cow, goat or bull. Apart from the Facebook groups, you have places like Daraz and Bikroy.com alongside other e-commerce sites, just waiting to ship you your choice of sacrifice.

The most overwhelming of these places is Facebook, which has been a forerunner in taking the Qurbani market to a digital arena. Currently, several Facebook groups are actively participating in the buying and selling of cows. One such group is "Goru Chagol Er Birat Haat !!!(GCBH)" which has been active since 2016 and is currently 30,000 members strong with eager buyers and enthusiastic sellers of all kinds of cattle, including cows, goats and sheep from all across the country. There is also "Bangladesh er Goru Chagoler Haat - BDGCH" and "BD Cattle Show" amongst a myriad of similar groups that you might come across in your search pages. Just like any other Facebook buying-selling group, these groups have regulations and admins that control what is being posted or whether or not those posts are relevant to the customers of the group. You can communicate with buyers directly from the group and choose the most convenient option for yourself. If you are looking for an easy cattle purchase this Eid, Facebook pages is a good option to look into.

If too many options, and the lack of reliability on quality is an issue for you, then you will probably be needing to spend a little bit more and look into online platforms.

One of these platforms is Daraz, which is not only an online market for all kinds of products you can think of, they have also been selling cows on their website since 2017 every Eid-Ul-Adha. This year it's no different. Daraz will certainly have less options compared to the deals found on Facebook groups, but that could just be a better alternative for some. You can find cows ranging from BDT 45,000/- to 150,000/- on Daraz. They also offers free delivery for every cow, vouchers and cashback offers of up to 20% when you're paying by card.

Another website you can look into this Eid is Bikroy.com, where you can find cows ranging from BDT 45,000/- all the way up to BDT 400,000/- . Goats can be found for prices between the BDT 15,000/- and 40,000/- . Bikroy.com has been an online market place for cows for around five years now and currently there's over a thousand cattle to pick and choose from. The site has around 100 farms in membership, selling cattle to buyers, making it a safe and easy place for online cattle purchase during Eid.

Bengal Meat also offers cows starting from BDT 70,000/- going up to 400,000/- . The prices may seem a little steep, but it is for a good reason for many of their customers. These cows are organically fed so if you have concerns about how healthy this cow will be for such a big occasion, you are bound to be satisfied. The cows come from Bengal's own farm and so they make sure the cows are not given any steroids or artificial hormones. If you choose to buy your cow from Bengal Meat, you will have the option to pay online or at the designated Gourmet Butcher Shops. Once you have purchased your desired cow, it will be delivered at the destination of your choice along with a proper health certificate from a certified veterinarian.

While Facebook groups offer a wide variety of options for you to choose from, online buying-selling platforms provide less option and greater reliability for a larger price tag. Whatever you choose, all these "online bazars" come up with several discounts on their sale and it's a good idea to compare the prices before you make a purchase decision.

If you are new to the online cattle purchasing trend, then it is also a good idea to consult someone who has done this before. It never hurts to be careful when making large sum purchases like these, despite the convenience they have to offer. So, choose an option that's best suits your needs.

ASIF AYON

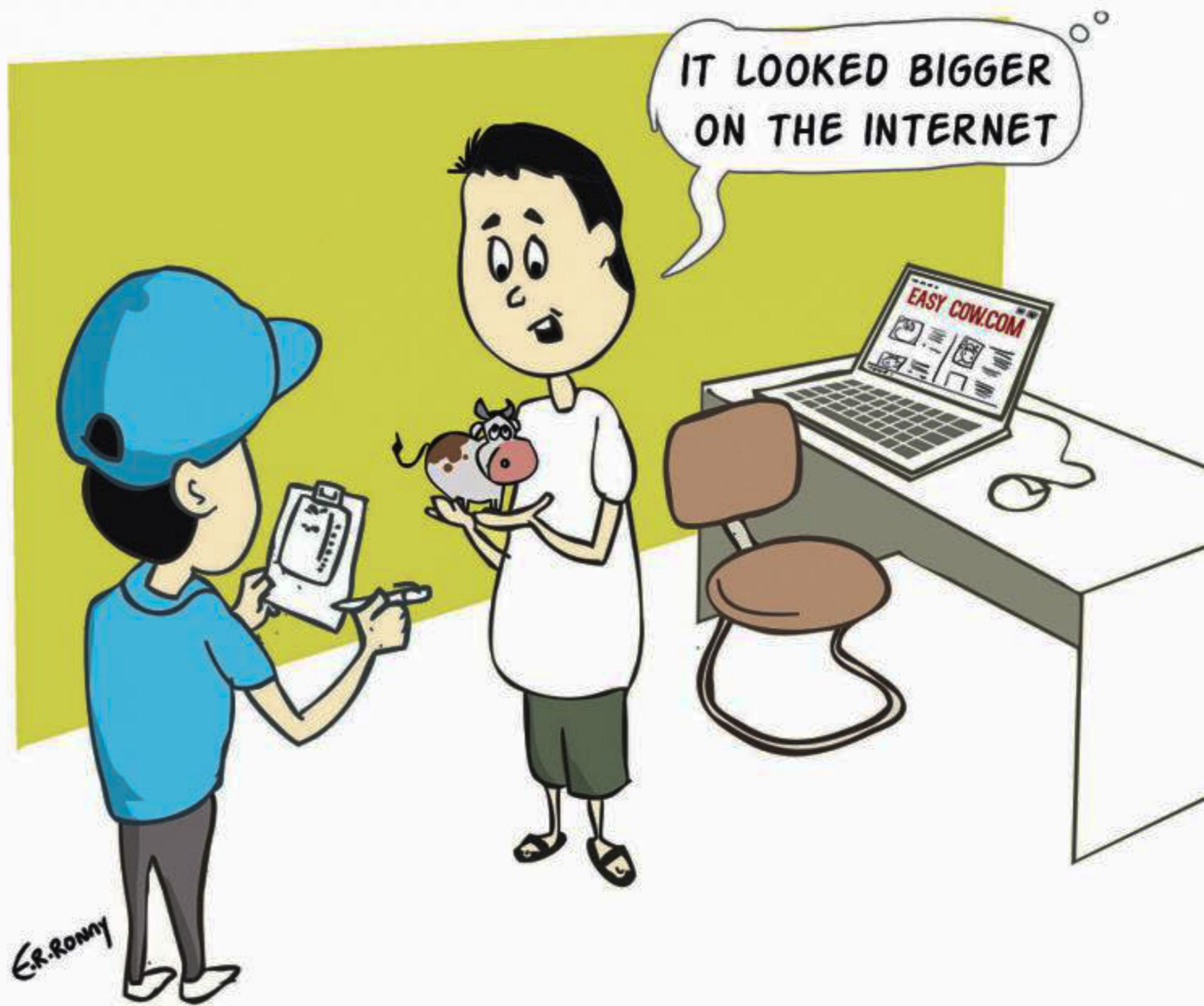


ILLUSTRATION: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY



WILL IT FOLD?

Let's face it: the smartphone design industry is going through an all-time low now. With no radical design change in the horizon, most of the smartphone manufacturers are playing peek-a-boo with the front camera. While some have inspired by the one-eyed monster of famous Pixar flick, has come up with a notch design. This design, which was pioneered by Apple, loved by some, hated by many but adopted by the most smartphone manufacturer.

In such a stale landscape, the only glimmer of hope is: FOLDABLE PHONE. Most of you heard about these new genres of bendable phones already. Samsung formally introduced the first commercial variant of the phone with Huawei showcasing their devices a few days later.

But is the market ready to accept such a device? Or would be another flop? Well, the answer relies on the manufacturer themselves. Folding phones (not foldable)

was in the rage during the late '90s and early 2000s but as they lacked screen real estate, folding phones were slowly phased out of the market. So, the design is market validated but is the utility? Samsung's maiden device was not a hit amongst early reviewers as many reported they broke the folding screen. Since then Samsung paused its global launch of the device to fix the issue. Now apparently the issue is fixed and Samsung is prepping for commercial launch sometime this quarter. Huawei's Mate X is a device that I tried out personally. The device is more practically designed as the bendable screen is inward making it better protected compared to Samsung's one. But no formal announcements have been made so far about when it might hit the stores. Other brands like LG, Xiaomi and OPPO are working on their own prototype and some have showcased those in several expos. But like Huawei, none of those are

production-ready.

Another significant barrier to entering the consumer market is the price tag. As every foldable phone are technically two or more smartphone tied together with a high-tech flexible display, the price of the phones is bound to be costlier. Samsung's Galaxy Fold will cost around \$2,000 in the US meaning if these are ever sold in Bangladesh, the price would be more than Tk. 2,00,000/- after taxes for the basic variants. Mate X would cost even higher, roughly around Tk. 2,50,000/- and onwards. Once the technology becomes cheaper, the device's production cost will also go lower, but at the current pace, it isn't happening anytime soon.

But to truly understand the trajectory of the market, we have to wait to see it 'unfold'.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Everything we know about the Pixel 4

Google has been teasing the Pixel 4 for quite a few months now but recently they updated the Google blog with some new updates regarding a revamped gesture system. But before we get ahead of ourselves, Google has released a significant amount of information including screenshots of the backside of the phone as well. The most interesting thing about the rumoured design is the updated camera module which will feature more than one lens. The design leak also did away with the two-tone colour scheme of the previous Pixels.

We know already that the Pixel 4 will have the updated Snapdragon 855, it will feature Android Q when it comes out. But Google's push for Radar, the new gesture system is still up in the air in terms of its capability. Google showcased a trailer where a woman can be seen gesturing her hand in the air to change the music. They also released an image showcasing all the modules in the front camera panel which details

all the technology going into the "No Hands" design.

Google has launched the prior Pixel models all during the month of October and it's likely that they will do the same for the Pixel 4 as well.

And with Android Q being lined up for a release in Q3 2019 which typically ends in September, the Pixel 4 may even land sooner. But with design updates and software innovations in the pipeline, the Pixel 4 may be a phone in the 1000 dollar ball park. But Google's decision to keep people in the loop in terms of design choices in an attempt to stop inadvertent leaks looks to be paying off, as the Pixel 4 may just be gearing up to be Google's best smartphone release yet.

It is however worth taking this information with a grain of salt. Nothing is concrete until the phone is finally released and until then, everything in terms of the price, specs and release date is speculative.

