

ANIMAL SACRIFICE DURING EID 356 spots fixed in Dhaka city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two Dhaka city corporations have fixed 356 spots for sacrificing animals during Eid-ul-Azha, scheduled to be held on August 1.

Among the spots, 256 are in the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) areas while 100 are in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) areas.

DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday urged city dwellers to sacrifice animals at the designated places for the better management of waste.

The mayor made the call while holding a meeting on garbage management during the Eid with officials and employees of the city corporation.

Atiqul also directed the officials and employees, who will remain involved with garbage management, to do their duties properly. "Our main target is to clean the waste, accumulated during the Eid, as quickly as possible," he said.

About maintaining health guidelines in ongoing cattle markets, the mayor said they will strengthen the monitoring works in this regard. "We have already formed a team, comprising 10 councillors," the mayor said.

Like previous years, the city corporations have a plan to clean the waste generated during Eid within 24 hours.



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

A worker busy storing salt in a sack and then piling those up at a warehouse in Majhir Ghat area in port city. He said they are selling the sacks of salt, used for spraying on rawhide of sacrificial animals, for Tk 500 each, which is Tk 150 less than the previous year. Traders are worried that they will incur a loss as they fear less number of cattle will be sacrificed this year due to the ongoing pandemic. This photo was taken recently.

Take institutional action against greedy healthcare companies, professionals

Speakers tell Ganashamhati convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an online discussion yesterday demanded for institutional action to hold back a greedy tendency of making excessive profit by unscrupulous private hospitals and clinics, healthcare service organisations and individuals, diagnostic centres, and pharmaceutical companies.

They also demanded establishment of a commission in line with the country's constitution, to stop corruption in the health sector and stressed the need for the sector's digitalisation.

The discussion was part of the daylong online "Public Health Convention 2020" by Ganashamhati Andolan, said a press release.

Noted public health experts and civil society members took part in the convention in several sessions, it added.

The convention was inaugurated by Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafrullah Chowdhury and chaired by chief coordinator of Ganashamhati Andolan Zonayed Saki.

It stressed the need for transforming the country's health sector into a people-oriented one to ensure basic health rights for all. For this, it emphasised establishing a democratic system that would uphold accountability to the countrymen.

At a session, speakers said to bring change in the health sector, bringing change in the existing food management, people's consumption pattern and lifestyle as well as change in environmental management and urbanisation are required.

At another session, speakers said ensuring sound health is a vital indicator to ensure individual and collective well-being of people.

People's sound health can play important role in the country's economic development, they said.

FAKE PATHOLOGY REPORTS

Two owners of diagnostic centre jailed for 6 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A mobile court of Barishal district administration yesterday jailed two owners of a diagnostic centre for six months for preparing fake pathology reports and not renewing license for three years.

The Detective Branch of Barishal Metropolitan Police also assisted during the drive, said Ziaur Rahman, executive magistrate of district administration.

He said besides the owners of "The Moon Diagnostic Centre" -- Md Sahin and Shyamal Majumdar -- the court also handed down three months imprisonment to the centre's technician Md Ibrahim and staff member Shyam Saha.

The diagnostic centre was involved in issuing fake reports through forging signatures of doctors, said the executive magistrate. Their license expired in 2017, he added.

He said the accused confessed to the offense and the centre has been sealed off until further notice.

They were sent to jail following the verdict, confirmed Nurul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

The allure of a million-dollar gift

Online scams involving foreigners on the rise

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Along with some Bangladeshis, a group of foreign nationals have formed organised rackets and swindling crores of taka from people through duping them on social media.

After coming to the country, these foreign nationals, mostly from African countries, throw their passports away. They then recruit educated Bangladeshis by saying that they would start a business.

Later they rent luxurious apartments as "offices" and convince the Bangladeshis to become their accomplices with a promise of lucrative payment.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) claimed to have come up with the information while investigating over dozens of complaints by people, who were deceived by these syndicates.

Since July 2, teams of CID have arrested around 33 African nationals, including from Cameroon, Kenya and Nigeria, from different areas of Dhaka on charges of duping people out of crores of taka.

On Wednesday night, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit arrested two Nigerians and a Bangladeshi from the capital's Bashundhara area over similar charges.

The arrestees are Albert Ikechukwu alias Eze (31), Okechukwu Christian alias Chukwuma (28), and their Bangladeshi associate Nupur Khanam (23).

They have collected over crores of taka through swindling people on Facebook over the last two years, Najmul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Social Media Monitoring and Cyber Security Crime Department of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

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Ex-CMSD chief Shahidullah dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brig Gen Md Shahidullah, the immediate past director of the Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), died with Covid-19 at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

He breathed his last around 3pm at the hospital, said Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday.

"Shahidullah had been undergoing treatment at the CMH for around one month after testing positive for Covid-19," Prof Nasima Sultana told The Daily Star.

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A worker unloads a basket full of hilsa to the wholesale fish market in Barishal's Port Road. Since a 65-day ban on hilsa fishing ended on July 23, sales have picked up. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

FAKE COVID-19 CERTIFICATES

Regent MD on 10-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Md Mizanur Rahman, managing director of Regent Hospital's Uttara branch, was placed on a 10-day remand yesterday, in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates to 76 labourers of Dhaka Metro Rail.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mainul Islam passed the order after Sub-inspector Yadur Rahman of Uttara Paschim Police Station, the case's investigation officer, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, the IO said the accused, in association of the chairman and managing director, prepared fake Covid-19 certificates and supplied those to the labourers on different dates since April 9.

So, he needs to be remanded to gather information and know the whereabouts of the others involved, the IO added.

On the other hand, the defence lawyer submitted a petition seeking bail along with cancellation of the remand prayer.

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Withdraw Vat on internet for the sake of education

Demand eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-four eminent citizens of the country yesterday demanded withdrawal of additional Value Added Tax (VAT) on internet package prices to avoid negative impact on online education during the coronavirus crisis.

They in a joint statement said that they were concerned by the government's imposition of a double VAT -- at both wholesale and retail price of bandwidth.

"During the corona virus crisis education is now gradually becoming dependent on information and communication technology. We are concerned that imposing double layer of VAT on internet can have negative impact on education," said the statement.

According to internet service providers, the students who used to pay Tk 1,000 as internet bill they will have to pay Tk 1,300-Tk 1,400 for the same package. The statement mentions that this "goes against fulfilling the agenda of Digital Bangladesh."

If the situation continues, education and concerned sectors will fall under huge risk and that will delay the process of achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

"There is now a risk that past achievements and future prospects in the education sector will be hindered greatly. There are indications of growing inequality between the privileged and underprivileged sections. This is anti constitutional and especially undesirable during Mujib Borsho," said the statement.

Among others Dhaka School of Economics founder Dr Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad, Chief Adviser of East West University Prof Mohammed Farashuddin, rights activist Sultana Kamal, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Prof and writer Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Bangladesh Shishu Academy Chairman Selina Hossain, Power and Participation Research Centre Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur

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Hillock razed for dorm

Authorities at Sylhet Shahjalal univ halt work following protest from students, activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

practice. It must be stopped at once."

Meanwhile, many Sust students protested the razing of hillocks online.

Seeking anonymity, a student said, "Taking advantage of a closed campus, they [authorities] started the construction works, thinking that no one would notice and they would get away with it."

"But this is our university and we won't let such environmentally destructive activities take place there," students said in unison.

According to Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 (amended in 2000), cutting hills without having approval from the environment authorities is prohibited.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not get in touch with the officials of the Department of Environment as the director and assistant director's contact numbers were found switched off.

Asked about it, the Sust VC said, "The environment department is not aware of the incident. I have spoken to the officials of the department and the issue has been settled."

"No move will be taken by destroying the environment. I have asked the engineers to shift the project 10-20 metres away from the hillocks, if needed," he said.

"I assure everyone that no further harm will be done... If necessary, the construction works will be postponed until we come up with a better plan, while keeping in mind the potential impact on the environment," the VC added.



This recently-taken photo shows that a caterpillar being used in razing a hillock at Sust for constructing a dormitory on campus. Following protests, the university authorities halted the work and removed the equipment from the spot.

GIFT FOR BANGLADESH RAILWAY

10 locomotives coming from India tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) will receive 10 locomotives from India on Monday, to overcome its locomotive crisis.

India would hand over the locomotives as grants.

"The broad gauge locomotives, which India is giving as gift, would be handed over at 3pm on July 27 through Darshana-Gede Interchange Point," said Shariful Alam, railways ministry's senior information officer, yesterday.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Indian Railways Minister Piyush Goyal will attend the ceremony virtually, he added.

All the 10 broad gauge locomotives the Indian Railway is going to hand over to BR were commissioned in between September 2012 and December 2015, said officials.

With 72 percent locomotives of BR already crossing their economic life, the government took initiatives last year to hire locomotives from India for the first time to help them overcome the crisis.

In April last year, BR sent a proposal to the railways ministry to "hire" or "get as courtesy" 20 railway engines (10 broad gauge and 10 meter gauge) from India until the first batch of 70 locomotives that Bangladesh bought from the US and South Korea start arriving mid-next year.

"Until then, the 10 locomotives would be very helpful," BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman told The Daily Star on July 13.

However, BR will not bring meter gauge (MG) locomotives from India. They did not get suitable MG locomotives as India phased out such engines long ago, Shamsuzzaman added.