





Steps taken, yet rawhide wasted

Demand still not there despite reduction in prices

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government was hoping there would be no recurrence of the waste of rawhide last Eid-ul-Azha.

It fixed a lower rawhide price than last Eid and even kept the window open for rawhide and wet blue exports after a gap of 30 years, all to tempt traders to snap up the sacrificial animals' skins from the ordinary citizens.

And yet, the same scenes were played out this year, and with greater zeal.

This Eid-ul-Azha, 70 lakh cattle were sacrificed, down 30 percent from last year, according to Commerce Secretary Jafar Uddin.

Still, the volumes of rawhides thrown away -- in almost all districts including Sylhet, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Natore, Pabna, Noakhali, Gazipur and Chittagong -- were higher than last year, report our correspondents.

Last week, the government fixed the price of salt-applied cow and buffalo rawhide between Tk 35 and Tk 40 per square foot in Dhaka, which is 29 percent lower than last year. Outside of the capital, the prices were Tk 28 and Tk 32 per square foot, down 20 percent year-on-year.

The prices of male goat skins were set between Tk 13 and Tk 15 per square foot, which is 27 percent less than last year. The female goat skin prices were fixed between Tk 10 and Tk 12 per square foot, down 23 percent from last Eid.

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A man dumping unprocessed rawhide in the Monu river of Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila. Despite protests from environmental activists, many throw away such hides in water bodies every year after Eid-ul-Azha, instead of burying them, causing water pollution. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

5 killed in 'gunfights' in 3 days

STAR REPORT

Four alleged drug peddlers were killed in "gunfights" with police in Cox's Bazar and Sylhet from the beginning of Eid holidays to Monday.

In another incident, a drug dealer was killed in infighting in Jashore early Monday, police claimed.

In Cox's Bazar's Chakaria upazila, three suspected yaba dealers were killed in a "shootout" with police early Saturday.

They were Jahir Ahmed, 45, of Shantinagar area of the upazila, Mohammad Zafar, 35, of Kachuya village, and Md Hasan, 37, of Paikpara village of Chattogram's Patia upazila.

Four police personnel -- Officer-in-Charge of Chakaria Police Station Habibur Rahman, In-charge of Harbang Police outpost Aminul Islam, and constables Sajjad and Sabuj -- were injured during the "gunfight".

The injured took treatment at Chakaria Upazila Health Complex.

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SCHOOL CLOSURES

UN warns of 'generational catastrophe'

Says getting students safely back to classroom must be top priority

REUTERS, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned yesterday that the world faces a "generational catastrophe" because of school closures amid the coronavirus pandemic and said that getting students safely back to the classroom must be "a top priority."

Guterres said that as of mid-July schools were closed in some 160 countries, affecting more than 1 billion students, while at least 40 million children have missed out on pre-school.

This came on top of more than 250 million children already being out of school before the pandemic and only a quarter of secondary school students in developing countries leaving with basic skills, he said in a video statement.

"Now we face a generational catastrophe that could waste untold human potential, undermine decades

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu progressing well

August 5, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ANXIOUS ENQUIRIES ABOUT FLOODS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is now progressing well, today discusses some official business with the Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in London. A health bulletin issued today by the Bangabandhu's personal physician Professor Dr Nurul Islam says that the Prime Minister is much better this morning. Bangabandhu is again examined by Sir Edward Muir, who expresses great satisfaction at the rate of progress. The health bulletin adds that Bangabandhu has made some queries about the flood situation in Bangladesh.

WALDHEIM'S BEST WISHES CONVEYED TO BANGABANDHU Sir Robert Jackson, under-secretary-general of the UN, who is in charge of relief operations in Bangladesh, calls on Bangabandhu today at the London Clinic. He flies into London this morning from New York to convey to Bangabandhu the best wishes of UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim. Sir Robert Jackson informs the prime minister that relief operations are going on satisfactorily and the present condition in flood-affected districts is receiving special attention of the UN. He also says that the Indian government is also helping in the movement of relief materials. He expresses hope that the UN secretary-general's appeal for one million tonnes of food grain would be answered well.

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Water reduces, sufferings not

STAR REPORT

Although the floodwater started receding hundreds of people remained waterlogged in northern and north-eastern region of the country.

Many of these flood victims passed their Eid-ul-Azha in flood centres amid crisis of sufficient food and drinking water.

The overall flood situation in Gaibandha and Bogura districts has improved in the last couple of days as water of almost all the major rivers have been decreasing since last week.

Mokhesur Rahman, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), said there was no chance of increase in water level in the next two weeks in the region.

In Bogura, water of the Jamuna river was flowing 50 cm above of the danger level at the Mathurapara point and the Bangali was flowing 9.7 cm above of the danger level at the

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Mumbai installs female figures on traffic lights



THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, Mumbai

Mumbai has become the first Indian city to introduce female figures on its traffic lights, a move welcomed by women's rights campaigners as a step towards greater inclusivity.

Authorities are swapping the green and red male stick figures on more than 100 pedestrian crossings to female figures as part of a broader plan to make roads more pedestrian-friendly.

"The signage reflects the character of the city ... that it believes in gender equality and promotes women's empowerment," said Kiran Dighavkar, assistant commissioner with Mumbai's municipal corporation.

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Teen drowns after 'BSF threw stones at him'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police have recovered the body of a teenage boy from the Nagar river near Ratnai border in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon.

The dead is Al Mamun, 19, of Harinmari Thakbasti village in the same upazila, said police.

Atiqul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Baliadangi Police Station, said Mamun along with some other men intruded inside Indian territory to smuggle cattle on Saturday.

On the way to home, BSF threw stones toward him when he was under the Indian Iron Bridge at the southern end of the 382 (4) -S pillar of the border. He got injured and drowned in the river on Monday, the police official said quoting locals.

Locals found the floating body of Mamun about 200 yards inside

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3 AL leaders held for money laundering

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police arrested three leaders of the Awami League and its associate bodies, including the president of the party's Faridpur town unit, during the Eid holidays for their alleged involvement in money laundering.

The arrestees are: Nazmul Islam Khandakar, 61, president of Faridpur town unit AL, Billal Hossain, 54, former treasurer of Faridpur Sramik League, and Arifur Rahman, 40, general secretary of Faridpur town unit Jubo League.

The arrests were made in

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Bichhanakandi, a hotspot for tourists in Sylhet, sees scores of visitors, who are all ignoring health guidelines to celebrate Eid holidays. People came out after months of staying home, posing risks of Covid-19 infections to themselves and others. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

DAILY DEATHS FROM COVID-19

India tops world for first time

The Philippines orders millions to stay home as global cases soar

AGENCIES

More than 800 people died of novel coronavirus in India on Monday, the highest number of new deaths in the world for that 24-hour period, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The country has also seen more new infections than any other country on earth. India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 18.5-lakh mark yesterday, two days after it went past 17 lakh, with 52,050 cases being reported in a day.

India's rising case numbers are an indicator of the country's struggle with containing the virus as it continues to lift restrictions and open up its economy. Flooding in some parts of the country are adding to the problems.

In the Philippines, millions of people were ordered to stay home yesterday as global coronavirus infections kept soaring, with the World Health Organization warning against relying on a vaccine "silver bullet" to end the pandemic.

More than 18.3 million people worldwide have been infected with the virus since it first emerged in China late last year and it shows no sign of slowing down.

Brazil is driving a surge in Latin America and the Caribbean where infections have topped five million.

South America's largest country has recorded 2.75 million cases, and close to half the region's more than 202,000 deaths.

Only the United States has been worse affected.

Desperate to contain the spread and relieve pressure on overwhelmed hospitals, some countries such as the

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