

WORLD'S SHORTEST LIVING CATTLE

Muffin, a new contender appears!



PHOTO: STAR

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

After Rani's demise, it looks like another cow has stepped up to keep the mantle of "world's shortest cow" inside the country. His name is Muffin, and he stands at just 23.5 inches.

This means the cattle is just 3.5 inches taller than Rani, and other than one other contender -- Gazipur's Tuntuni --, he might just be set to make it to the Guinness Book of World Records.

A Bhutanese dwarf cattle, Muffin is owned by Rajshahi's Arafat Rubel, owner of Sawdagar Agro Farm in the city's Katakhalia area.

Rubel first met Muffin at Satkhira only a week ago. Immediately taking a liking, he brought him home to his 11 other dwarf cattle. Rubel started calling him Muffin (small cake), due to his size.

The cattle has already started drawing attention -- from the media as well as residents of the story. Everyday, hundreds of curious people are visiting Rubel's home at Kalur Ghat Mor. Some have even started trying to buy him off, with offers reaching up to a lakh, although Rubel has no intention to sell.

However, he said he'd be willing to give Muffin away if any government

institution wants him for research or for public display.

Rubel's farm was set up at the rear end of 2018. He started off breeding uncommon cattle and made good profits rearing the Brahma and Mirkadimer Hasa breeds right away.

"There's popularity in the market for cattle of this ilk. On top of this, they're cost efficient too. The same fodder that would make a local cattle weight six maunds would take exceptional breeds to weigh more than 15 maunds," Rubel said.

"In the eastern districts, the short-bred Bhutanese Bhutti (dwarf cattle) is in high demand," he added.

He started buying the breed around a year ago. When he heard about Muffin a week ago, he rushed to contact the farmer who raised him and brought him home.

Meanwhile, Fazle Rabbi, Paba upazila's livestock officer, has visited Muffin. He told The Daily Star the cow is in sound health. He said Muffin has four teeth, which means it's over two years of age.

However, Rubel said although Muffin is healthy, there are some signs of malnourishment. "With proper care, Muffin will look great in a month," he said.

No democracy

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Solidarity Day", the BNP leader urged all the political parties and organisations to get united to oust the "fascist" government from office.

"We will wage movements to establish a democratic country," he said.

On this day in 1975, the then army chief Ziaur Rahman was released from captivity

through a civil-military "uprising".

When BNP celebrate November 7 as National Revolution and Solidarity Day, the ruling Awami League and its front organisations consider it as the day of "Killing of Freedom Fighters".

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) observes it as the day of the "Civil-Military Revolution Day".

A grave problem

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On the other hand, Buddhists are cremated in Hindu crematoriums.

Buddhists cremate their deceased in the Hindu crematorium adjacent to the Rajarbagh Kali temple in East Bashabo. However, outside Dhaka, there is a crematorium under the auspices of Ashulia Buddhist Monastery and Chattogram City Corporation.

Nipu Barua, a representative of the Buddhist community living in Dhaka, said, "We have been demanding a separate crematorium for Buddhists for a long time. Not everyone can be cremated at Rajarbagh crematorium."

"As a result, most of the Buddhists take their (deceased) bodies to their respective areas and cremate them, which costs both time and money," she added.

Addressing this issue, Joy Datta Barua, secretary of the Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust, said the government had taken steps to establish a separate crematorium for Buddhists.

"Unfortunately, that's not happening due to lack of suitable space," he said.

"We had proposed that space be allocated next to the crematorium adjacent to the Rajarbagh Kali Temple or inside the Basabo Buddhist monastery."

Contacted, Faridul Haque Khan, state minister of religious affairs, said, "We've made plans to build cemeteries and crematoriums for people from the Christian and Buddhist communities across the country."

"The deputy commissioners have been instructed to find spaces within government domain," he added.

Regarding Dhaka, he said, "We have a similar plan for the capital. If a suitable government land (khas) is available, we will set up cemeteries and crematoriums there."

No betel leaf

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Police and the Narcotics Control Department was also discussed at the meeting. During the session, the parliamentary watchdog recommended to intensify the ongoing dope testing programme for police members.

The committee also asked to bring educational institutions and district jails under dope tests.

Four accused must surrender

Says SC on puja mandap vandalism case in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A full bench of the Appellate Division yesterday upheld its chamber judge's order -- directing four accused in a case over vandalising puja mandap in Cox's Bazar -- to surrender to the lower court concerned in a week.

The accused are Cox's Bazar's Pekua UP chairman and local BNP leader Bahadur Shah and local Jubo Dal activists Kamran Zahid, Sajjad and Shahnewaz Azad. A five-member SC bench passed the order after rejecting a petition filed by accused.

Man takes his own life after killing wife, daughter in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A man has died by suicide after killing his wife and nine-year-old daughter in Ashulia's Pobnartek area in Savar, said police. After receiving a call from 999 hotline number, police recovered three bodies from a room at their rented house around 10pm on Saturday night.

The deceased are Shobur Ali Mia (28), a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver, his wife Rozina Begum (25), a garment factory worker, and their daughter Shumiya Akter. SI Al-Mamun Kabir of Ashulia Police Station said, "We found Shobur's body hanging from the ceiling fan while bodies of his wife and daughter were on the ground."

Shobur's younger brother Shohid Ali said on November 2 Shobur bought the auto-rickshaw for Tk 60,000 with his wife's money and by mortgaging a piece of land.

The next day, two fraudsters, in guise of passengers, stole his auto-rickshaw from Jamagarh Market. Shobur and Rozina had arguments over it. Asked about the incident, SI Mamun said they were not informed about the theft.

Ensure finance

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He said the developed countries must ensure adequate climate finance for the LDCs through the Green Climate Fund and their public sources.

Soumya Datta from Peoples Forum, India said "net zero" is a phrase that represents magical thinking rooted in future technology obsession.

Jahangir Hossen Masum from

Community Development Partner, Bangladesh said the discourse of new collective climate finance goal will be a frame of "Climate Justice Perspective" where financial mobilisation process will be adequate and surpass the 100 billion target.

Shamim Arfeen of An Organization for Socio-Economic Development said every year millions are displaced due to losing livelihood options.

Will the

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over Afghanistan's future.

He said Bangladesh needs to wait and watch how the situation evolves over there.

Dr Sreeradha Datta, head of Neighbourhood Studies Centre at the New Delhi-based Vivekananda International Foundation, observed that the Taliban don't actually represent the people of Afghanistan.

"There has been no notable improvement in women's rights and education with the Taliban in power," she said.

She also said as country with heavy investments in Afghanistan, India cannot support a government with such extremist ideologies.

Samina Ahmed, project director for South Asia and Senior Asia Adviser of International Crisis Group, mentioned that though the Pakistan government has ties with the Taliban, it still cannot recognise the government considering its relations with the US and European Union.

DU international relations professor Intiaz Ahmed said the US invasion was a sheer humiliation for the Afghans -- a fact that they cannot forget.

He called for the world to take care of the Afghan people until its reality takes on a more harmonious note, which has happened in the past for war-ravaged countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh.

DU IR professors Dr Rashed Uz Zaman and Dr ASM Ali Ashraf also spoke at the webinar, moderated by Prof Dr Amena Mohsin.

Sampans passed

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Chattogramer Nodi o Khal Rokkha Andolon's Aliur Rahman, also general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Forum, puts the numbers even higher. "There were 71 canals in Chattogram in the 1968-69 master plan."

However, Mohammed Ariful Islam, superintending engineer (planning and construction) of Chattogram Wasa claimed that there's 57 canals in the port city.

City residents looked towards the end of their waterlogging woes by the end of 2020, as the deadline of a canal re-excavation, and expansion mega project approached. However, this is yet to come to fruit.

"Tk 5,616 crore was approved by the Ecnc in August 2017 to solve waterlogging in Chattogram," said Ahmed Moinuddin, executive engineer and CDA project director.

"Under the project, we are re-excavating 36 canals of Chattogram city", he said. Aliur Rahman, general secretary,

Bangladesh Paribesh Forum and Chattogramer Nodi o Khal Rokkha Andolon, alleged, "In the name of re-excavation, CDA is destroying the canals of Chattogram, constructing walls to narrow the canal. This is only going to increase everyone's sufferings."

"Rather than recovering the canals, CDA is only creating hindrance in the flow of the canals in the name of development," the activist said. Denying the allegation, CDA's Ahmed Moinuddin said, "The canals are being walled as part of our effort to solve waterlogging."

Contacted, Anowar Hossain, superintending engineer of Chattogram City Corporation, said, "We have ran several drives across different canal areas to evict grabbers, but they [encroachers] come back and occupy the canals a few days after we leave."

"We don't know how CDA is constructing walls in the canal without any proper demarcation of the canals," he said.

Rehabilitation before eviction

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Mirpur-11 in January, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said the eviction drive was conducted for "the greater good" and has the support of local people while visiting the spot.

"The road on which illegal establishments are being evicted today is a connecting road to the Kalshi road, which we had planned to widen a long time ago but could not. This is a long-awaited project," he said.

Terming the inhabitants of the adjacent camps "illegal occupants", the mayor said they have been evicted with the help of locals.

"The road is supposed to be 65 to 75 feet wide. The truck stand on the other end will

also be removed," he added. Commuters will be able to reach as far as the Dhaka airport from Mirpur through this road after the eviction, according to the mayor.

The mission demanded that their fundamental rights be ensured, the rehabilitation of their family members ousted from Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Narayanganj and the issuing of trade licenses to the shop owners in the new society market.

They also urged that different departments concerned arrange a meeting with them to solve the conflict surrounding the Urdu speaking population.



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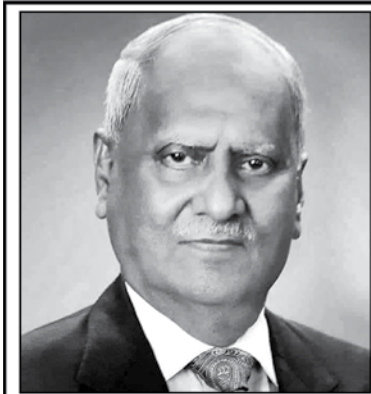
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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

WE DEEPLY MOURN

Eminent lawyer and social worker, former Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, former President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association and General Secretary of Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council Senior Advocate Janab Abdul Baset Mazumdar passed away on 27 October 2021 (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajoun). Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council is deeply shocked at his sudden passing away. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul and express our heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. His relentless struggle for establishment of democracy and rule of law in the country will be remembered with great respect.

JUSTICE ABU SAYEED CHOWDHURY NATIONAL MEMORIAL COUNCIL.

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