



In the last two years, Eid seemed to have lost its lustre due to the pandemic. But as the Covid-19 situation has considerably improved, people flocked to their local attractions -- like Kuakata beach, the capital's Hatirjheel and national zoo -- in droves this Eid.

PHOTO: TITU DAS, ANISUR RAHMAN

Eid returns with due fervour

DIPAN NANDY

Due to the pandemic, Eid celebrations saw little fervour in the last two years. The religious festival finally regained its ardour this year, with the capital's residents flocking to various centres of entertainment.

The crowd was the same till yesterday.

The national zoo saw the biggest crowd, with visitors coming from across the capital.

The authorities claim that about 2,50,000 visitors came to the zoo from Tuesday to Thursday.

This correspondent visited the zoo on Wednesday and found a huge crowd of visitors.

Ananyo, who came to the zoo from Khulna on Wednesday with his mother and younger sister, said this was their first Eid in Dhaka.

"I won't come to the zoo in the next Eid holidays. I'll come back only when there is less crowd," he said.

Abul Hasnat, a resident of the capital's Uttara, said, "I entered the zoo with great difficulty. If there was less crowd, the visit would have been nicer."

Mujibur Rahman, curator of Bangladesh National Zoo, told this correspondent that the

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Man held for throwing acid on woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a youth for throwing acid on a 20-year-old woman in Rangunia, Chattogram early yesterday.

With burns on many parts of her body, the victim was undergoing treatment at the Burn and Plastic Surgery unit of Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said police.

The law enforcers arrested Nurul Azim (28), a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, from Kaptai area, said Rangunia Police Station Sub-inspector (SI) Prakash Chandra Sarkar while talking to The Daily Star.

The SI said Azim developed a relationship with the girl, who recently passed the HSC exams. Azim also hid his personal information from her, added the SI.

When she came to know that he has a wife and two sons, she did not want to continue the relationship, said Prakash.

On Wednesday night, she refused to meet Azim in Betagi area of Rangunia, leading to the acid attack, said the police officer.

"She suffered burn injuries to her face, hand and back," said the police official.

The victim's brother filed a case in this connection and Azim was arrested following the lawsuit, he added.

23.5mm rainfall submerges port city



Heavy rain coupled with tidal surge waterlogged many of the port city streets yesterday. This photo was taken from Sholoshohor Gate 2 area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Residents of Chattogram city, especially office-goers, had to endure flooded streets yesterday, on the first working day after Eid-ul-Fitr, following torrential rain in Chattogram city since morning.

Low-lying areas went under knee- to waist-deep water due to heavy rain coupled with tidal surge.

Contacted, Sheikh Farid Ahmed, an officer of Chattogram Met Office, said they recorded 23.5 mm rainfall in 24 hours till 12:00pm yesterday. The met office forecasted more rain in the next 24 hours, he said.

Those who started for office suffered the most, as they had to wade through filthy water overflowing from roadside drains.

"We had to suffer due to waterlogging on Eid day last year... the same thing happened on the third day of Eid this year," said Imtiaz Ahmed, a resident of Shulak Bahar area, who was going to the office in the morning. "I failed to hail a

rickshaw or other vehicle, and so, I'm walking through this dirty water."

Many areas, including Muradpur, Sholoshohor Gate 2, Kapasgola, Chawkbazar, DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road in West Bakalia, Chandgaon, Halishahar and Agrabad, went under knee- to waist-deep water.

Minhaj Uddin, a resident of Rahattarpool area, said, "Dirty water from the drain is overflowing onto the road, as the staffers concerned from Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) didn't clean the drains."

"We suffer every year in the rainy season due to waterlogging, but no effective initiative has been taken by CCC to address it," he added.

Echoing the same, Jamal Uddin, a resident of West Bakalia's DC Road, said the dirty water not only flooded the roads but also entered his house, which marred the family's Eid celebrations.

CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts. Ehebulli ssentisus omnerra

Lightning kills 3 teens on Eid day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three teenagers were killed and two others injured in a lightning strike in Tangail's Kalihati upazila on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr on Tuesday.

The incident took place in Hatia area under Dashkia union in the morning.

The deceased were identified as Arif (15), son of Rabiul from Hatia area; Rafiq (14), son of Abdur Razzak; and Faisal (18), son of Julhas from Dashkia Purbapara village, said police.

Malek Bhuiyan, chairman of Dashkia Union Parishad, said, "They went there to bathe in the New Dhaleswari river in the morning before the Eid prayers."

Arif died on the spot, he added.

The other victims were taken to Tangail General Hospital where on-duty doctors declared Rafiq and Faisal dead.

The bodies were handed over to the family members.

Lightning strike is quite common in Bangladesh.

However, to avert this major disaster, experts suggest avoiding open and high places, staying away from tall trees and electric poles, not going near windows, refraining from touching metal parts of a building, and avoiding staying barefoot or using wet leather shoes, among other precautions.

Tourists assaulted by volunteers in Jaflong, 5 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Volunteers appointed by the Gowainghat administration assaulted a group of tourists at Jaflong, a popular tourist destination in Sylhet. The incident occurred in front of the ticket counter around 2:00pm yesterday.

After the incident, five persons -- Laxman Chandra Das, Md Selim Ahmed, Sohel Rana, Nazim Uddin and Joyanal Abedin -- have been detained by Gowainghat police, said Officer-in-Charge of Gowainghat Police Station KM Nazrul Islam.

Several videos of the incident have already gone viral on social media.

In the videos, three men in blue uniform -- with "volunteer" written on them -- are seen beating up a group of tourists with sticks. Some women, from the same group of tourists, were also attacked when they tried to save them.

Confirming the incident, Upazila Executive Officer of Gowainghat Md Tahmilur Rahman said, "When the group of tourists wanted to enter Jaflong area without tickets and faced resistance, they started arguing with the volunteers at the ticket counter. At one point, the volunteers attacked the tourists."

"This incident is very shocking and it will cause huge loss to the local tourism sector. Since the attackers are volunteers employed by us, I take the responsibility. We have already suspended three volunteers and asked local police to take legal action against them," he said.

In-charge of Tourist Police in Jaflong, Md Ratan Sheikh, said, "Soon after learning about the incident, one of our teams went to the spot. This happened when we were busy, as a tourist had gone missing after falling into the waters at Jaflong."

Md Lutfur Rahman, additional superintendent of Sylhet District Police, said they have deployed sufficient police at the tourist spot to ensure tourist safety.

Meanwhile, the district administration has decided to waive entry fee for the next seven days from Thursday, said Sylhet's Deputy Commissioner Md Mozibur Rahman.

No colours in the chars

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Mobarak Ali (67) is a farmer from Char Gobordhan area on the Teesta river bed in Lalmonirhat.

While Eid is supposed to bring renewed hope and happiness for everyone, that was not the case for him and the families of his two sons. On the morning of Eid, he woke up to the cries of his four grandchildren. They did not get any new clothes for the occasion, thanks to untimely floods and storms damaging their crops.

Mobarak and his sons, whose sole source of income is farming, took a loan to plant various crops, including paddy and maize, on their lands. However, all the crops were left to ruin, driving the family to further poverty.

"My wife and I don't mind not getting new clothes. Only last year we were so happy during Eid. I cannot stand the tears of my grandchildren," said Mobarak.

"Eid has made its due arrival like every year, but there is no joy for us on this occasion. We don't even have the means



to arrange food for Eid. I only said my prayers at the local Eidgah field. That was the extent of the celebration in our household," he added.

Like Mobarak, all farmers of the said char passed Eid in distress. Nazim Ali, 58, a farmer at Char Sardob of the Dharla river basin, said only a few people got new clothes and good food but for the most, the occasion had nothing in store.

The situations were similar in the Dudhkumar and Gangadhar river basins as well, where the colours of the festivities did not touch people's lives. Their Eid was one afflicted with poverty and devoid of new clothes, good food or anything that represents a celebration.



As the holidays have come to an end, those who went to their village homes are coming back to the capital. And so, the now quiet Dhaka will once again be bustling with people. This photo was taken yesterday from Kamalapur Railway Station.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN