

Wear mask, bring own prayer mat

Ministry issues instructions for Eid prayers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The religious affairs ministry yesterday issued an eight-point instruction, including keeping soap or hand sanitiser at the entrance of every mosque and maintaining social distancing during Eid prayers.

Eid-ul-Azha, the second biggest religious festival of Muslims, will be celebrated across the country on July 10 with due solemnity, religious fervour and zeal.

The ministry has come up with the guidelines following an increase of Covid-19 cases in the country.

In this regard, the local administration, law enforcement agencies, local public representative and respective mosque committees were requested to look into the issue so that people abide by proper health guidelines.

According to the instructions, carpets cannot be laid in the mosques during prayers. The entire mosque should be cleaned and disinfected before prayers.

Everyone is requested to bring their own prayer mats to the mosque.

Besides, people will have to perform ablution at home, and they will have to wear masks before going to mosques.

Prayer caps and mats kept inside mosques should be avoided.

The ministry requested all not to be involved in any lighting on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

The main Eid congregation will be held at the capital's Eidgah Maidan at 8:00am if weather remains favourable.

In case of bad weather, the main Eid jamaat will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 8:30am.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

With Eid right around the corner, Dhaka's usual chaotic traffic scene seemed to have died down, as thousands of residents have set off for their home villages to celebrate with their loved ones. This photo was taken from Farmgate intersection at 1:00pm yesterday.

Don't take their source of livelihood

Govt urged to not acquire 300 acres of land in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight environmentalist organisations yesterday collectively sent a letter to 10 government agencies, urging them to refrain from acquiring 300 acres of agricultural land at Banishanta union of Khulna's Dacope upazila.

In the letter, they said the 300 acres of land is the only source of livelihood of farmers of the area, but a proposal has been placed under the Mongla Port Inner Dredging Project to dump sand on the land.

The initiative for acquisition is against the prime minister's announcement to protect agricultural land, the letter said, adding that the initiative has been taken without assessing the real environmental impact and social effects.

The signatories of

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Not enough momentum

Fewer sales despite variety of sacrificial animals at Dhaka's cattle markets

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dhaka's cattle markets have not yet seen the expected momentum, just two days before Eid.

The number of customers has increased compared to that of other days. However, most visitors are not making any purchases in the hopes of getting better bargains in the end.

Small bulls of Tk 60,000 to 1 lakh are in high demand. But the number of both bulls and customers are simultaneously worrying customers and traders.

"I brought 46 bulls from Dholaikhal cattle market a day ago, but failed to sell any of them so far. We are ready to sell mid-sized bulls for Tk 5,000 to 7,000 profit. The bargains are just not cutting it for us," said Kaiyum Fakir, a trader from Dholaikhal.

Faruk Hossain -- a customer from Mirpur Jahurabagh, who was trying to purchase a bull at Gabtoli -- said his target is to buy a bull within Tk 80,000.

"Last year, our budget was Tk 1,00,000. But this year, we had to cut it down due to financial problems," he said.

Abul Hossain -- manager of Lutfor Rahman, the leaseholder of the Gabtoli market -- said the number of sacrificial animals this year is fewer compared to last year's, and sales have also halved.

Meanwhile, Jorina Begum, a trader who brought two bulls to Gabtoli from Manikganj, said they have tried to sell the bulls at different markets in Manikganj but did not get a reasonable price.

The bulls cost Tk 4 lakh and 2 lakh, respectively, she said.

A variety of animals were seen at Gabtoli and Dholaikhal cattle markets in the capital, including white buffaloes, dumba goats, Brahma bull, Australian bull, Ulbaria bull, Nepali bull, and Bhatani bull.

"I have brought two Ulbaria bulls. There are only 10 in the country," said trader Mokhlesh, who is asking Tk 15 lakh for each.

PRAYER
TIMING
JULY 8



	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-10	12-30	5-00	6-55	8-17
Jamaat	4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Almost no designated areas for sacrifice

Authorities point to residents' lack of interest as reason; city dwellers disagree

DIPAN NANDY and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

To keep the capital clean during the sacrificial rituals of Eid-ul-Azha, the two city corporations fixed 535 designated spots to sacrifice animals during Eid in 2015.

However, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) this year are ditching the plan.

There will only be three designated spots in DSCC areas and two in DNCC areas at the request of residents. Besides, DNCC will have seven more spots, as part of one of its awareness campaigns, according to officials.

"We took a u-turn from having large-scale designated spots for sacrificing animals due to people not showing interest previously," DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

He said that they have kept seven designated spots at ward 7 as part of an awareness programme, while the other two -- at Nikunja-1 and Baridhara Block-K -- have been arranged on request of the people living there.

However, city residents have disagreed with the mayor's logic of closing the designated areas.

Jahangir Hossain, a Mirpur-10 resident, said he was not informed where the designated place for slaughtering was.

"If I'm not informed, how am I supposed to bring the animal for sacrifice?" he asked.

City corporation officials estimated that more than five lakh animals are sacrificed every Eid-ul-Azha in Dhaka, a city inhabited by over two crore people and one that is suffering from poor drainage and waste management.

In 2017, the two city corporations designated 1,174 spots for sacrificing animals during Eid.

Last year, DSCC abandoned the initiative, while DNCC fixed 307 spots only.

"We have kept three designated places -- two at the judges complex in Kakrail and one at Eskaton quarter for government officers -- based on their requests. We could not designate other spots as the residents did not show interest," said Farid Ahmed, chief executive officer of DSCC.

He said that waste of the sacrificed animals will be collected within 24 hours, from 2:00pm on Eid day.

"The way animals are being sacrificed in Dhaka creates nothing but a civic nuisance. The decision to not keep the designated spaces is an awful one," said urban planner Iqbal Habib.

Islamic scholar and Dhaka University Arabic Professor Abdullah Al-Maruf said people in Saudi Arabia, and other countries in the Middle East and Europe sacrifice their animals in designated slaughterhouses.

"If you want to publicise these designated spots, you can instruct all khatibs to make announcements while delivering sermons during Jumma prayers," he proposed.

"We took a u-turn from having large-scale designated spots for sacrificing animals due to people not showing interest previously."

ATIQUUL ISLAM
DNCC mayor

Hafiz Maulana Muhammad Mizanur Rahman, senior pesh-imam of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, said according to Islamic doctrines, proper rules and discipline should be followed when sacrificing animals.

"It should also be remembered that the environment cannot be polluted in any way during sacrifices. Cleanliness is part of iman [faith]," he added.

Officials said there are only three slaughterhouses in DNCC, and one of them is closed now. Work to set up two in DSCC is ongoing.

Public health expert Mushtuq Husain, consultant at Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said the water used to clean

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Animal waste will be gone by 10pm on Eid day

Says LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wastes of sacrificial animals will be disposed of by 10:00pm on Eid day, LGRD Minister Tazul Islam said yesterday.

Directives have been given to divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners and local representatives to work between 7:00pm and 10:00pm at all areas, said the minister, after a meeting with JICA's country representative Hayakawa Yuho at the ministry.

"I hope, no waste will remain after 10:00pm on Eid day," Tazul said, in reply to a question.

Regarding the meeting, he said JICA has expressed interest to finance Wasa's Sewerage Treatment Plant in Chattogram and road communication between Matarbari and Maheshkhali.

31 dengue patients hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 31 dengue patients have been admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours, till 8:00am yesterday.

With the new cases, three from outside Dhaka, the total number of cases has risen to 1,347, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the patients, 132 are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 1,214 patients have been released from hospitals, and one has died so far.

Dhaka is at risk of a major dengue outbreak this year, as clear, stagnant water, the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, at under-construction buildings is abundant this time around.

The scenario came to light after DGHS conducted a pre-monsoon survey between March 23 and April 4.

Experts have asked the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to address the matter.

Cop killed as truck hits bike in Dhaka

Four die in other road accidents in two districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police officer was killed after a cattle-laden truck hit his motorbike in Beribadh area of the capital's Adabor yesterday.

Ratan Hossain (21), hailing from Manikganj, was a constable of Bangladesh Police's Special Protection and Security Battalion (SPBn) unit, said Mujib Ahmed Patwary, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Mohammadpur Zone.

The official said the victim was in plain clothes during the accident, which happened near Adabor Switch Gate around 10:30am. An SPBn sticker was on the bike.

Locals rushed him to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Attempts are on to arrest the truck driver and his assistant, said the police official. Meanwhile, two fish traders were killed, as a pickup they were travelling in hit a truck parked on a road in front of a cold storage in Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila early yesterday.

The victims -- Lutfor Rahman (50) and Wahidur Rahman (40) -- were going to Jashore, said police.

In Rajbari, two people were killed and another was injured when a three-wheeler overturned on Rajbari-Kusthia road in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

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Even though much safer options exist to cross the road, this parent was seen climbing over a divider with her children to get across faster. Many pedestrians do the same, risking their lives, just to save a little time. This photo was taken yesterday from Gabtoli area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Why should his legal fees not be probed?

HC asks Bar Council over controversy centring lawyer of ex-Grameen Telecom employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking Bangladesh Bar Council to explain why it should not be directed to conduct a fair and impartial inquiry into the recent controversy centring the huge amount of legal fees reportedly taken by a Supreme Court lawyer.

The chairperson and secretary of Bangladesh Bar Council, the licensing and regulatory body of lawyers, have been made respondents to the rule, which should be responded to in four weeks.

Yousuf Ali, the lawyer for former workers and employees of Grameen Telecom, has reportedly taken Tk 12 crore as fees for conducting their cases and reaching a settlement with the company.

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