

Biometric attendance at apex court from August 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is going to introduce biometric attendance of its Appellate Division officials and staffers on August 1.

The officials and employees of the apex court will have to attend and sign off offices through electronic system from that day.

This is being done to ensure timely office attendance of officials and staffers.

The information technology section of the Appellate Division will record fingerprints of the officials and workers of the division from July 18 to July 21 to execute biometric attendance, mentioned a notification issued by Appellate Division Registrar Mohammad Saifur Rahman on July 6.

After its introduction in the apex court, the biometric system will be launched in the High Court as well, Saifur said.

29 dengue patients hospitalised in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 29 dengue patients have been admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

All the new cases were from Dhaka, and the total number of cases rose to 1,376, said Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the patients, 121, eight of whom are from outside Dhaka, are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 1,254 patients recovered, while one patient has died so far.

Earlier, experts warned the city corporations of a major dengue outbreak this year, after the scenario came to light in a DGHS-conducted pre-monsoon survey.

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

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

PRAYER TIMING	
JULY 9	
Fazr	Zohr
Asr	Maghrib
6-55	8-17
AZAN 4-10	12-45
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15
5-15	7-00
8-45	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Despite the construction of Padma Bridge, many were seen to still travel on launches to reach their home before Eid. The large vessels were filled with passengers, making multiple trips throughout the day. This photo was taken from Postogola bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dhaka cattle markets finally booming

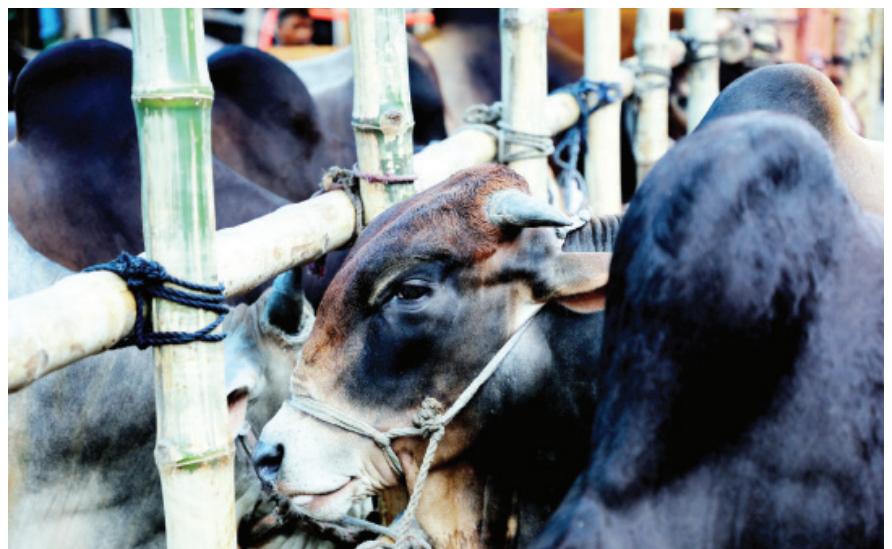


PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

After seeing a scarcity of customers, Dhaka's cattle markets have started gaining momentum after Juma prayers yesterday, as a huge number of buyers rushed to the markets.

Though the demand for small bulls, priced at Tk 50,000 to Tk 1 lakh, was high, demand of medium- and large-sized bulls, especially those that are being sold for Tk 2 lakh, was low.

Traders have started selling bulls at reduced prices from Thursday night, fearing losses.

"I brought 23 bulls priced between Tk 1.50 lakh and 7 lakh, but could only sell seven of them," said Ahmed Hossain, manager of Hossain Agro, who was frustrated since he had to let them go, incurring around Tk 8,000 loss for each bull on average.

Ahmed said he sold them for a loss due to lack of customers at Dholakhal cattle market. It'll be impossible to sell them before Eid, and there is little demand for big bulls on the last day. Last year, he had to take back all his 31 big

bulls as those remained unsold.

"I had to sell those at Tk 30,000 loss for each bull to meat traders. If we had sold them to customers at cattle markets, we would've faced a loss of over Tk 1 lakh for each bull," he said.

Mohammad Sentu, a trader of Jhenidah, said he sold all his three bulls by Friday morning, facing a Tk 30,000 loss, fearing further loss due to low number of customers.

Cattle feed price has doubled in the last nine months, which is the main cause behind the high cattle price, he said.

Shariful Islam, a trader of Karimganj of Kishoreganj, said he sold a bull for Tk 1.18 lakh yesterday at Gabtoli cattle market, out of his five bulls, for Tk 9,000 loss.

"I've started to sell my bulls even at a bit of a loss, as I'm still confused about the market trend," said Shariful.

Mohamad Dalu Mia -- a cattle trader of Gabtoli, who brought two bulls, said, "Although

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

A battle to reach home Dhaka residents struggling amid dearth of public transport, high fares

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to a lack of public transport, Md Asif had to change vehicles several times to reach Gulistan from Mirpur. He had to take a rickshaw ride, get off and then on a Laguna, and finally just walk to his destination.

He said he could not use auto rickshaws due to their high fares.

Not only Asif, thousands of people are going through a similar situation. Those who want to leave Dhaka to celebrate Eid with their loved ones are especially suffering.

On the occasion of Eid, public transport vehicles that usually run inside Dhaka are now going to nearby districts. As a result, they are not interested in carrying passengers travelling within Dhaka.

Buses running in Gabtoli, Sayedabad and Gulistan areas are not taking

short-distance passengers. They are also collecting extra fares for going to terminal areas.

Anisur Rahman, who wanted to go to Gabtoli from Motijheel, said, "I'll go to Rajbari for Eid. So, I want to go to Gabtoli by bus. But the conductor wants Tk 80, when the regular fare is Tk 30."

Talking to several others, it was learnt that Tk 30 fares are now Tk 70 to 80, and passengers are still having trouble finding transport. Auto-rickshaws and rickshaws are being hired much more.

Rashedul Amin, who came to Sayedabad by auto-rickshaw from Rampura, said, "I was forced to come here paying three times the regular fare. Capitalising on this crisis is inhumane. This happens every Eid, but no one does anything to stop it."

Passenger Welfare Association, in a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Chatai, a mat made of bamboo slates, is an essential item for Eid-ul-Azha, especially for the time of sacrifice. Bundles of chatai, therefore, were being carried by these van riders on Manik Mia avenue, possibly to be sold in a cattle market. This photo was taken recently.

Online cattle sales on decline

Many opt for old ways of buying sacrificial animals, as Covid situation better than last year's

DIPAN NANDY

As the fear Covid-19 is not as much when compared to the situation last year, online sales of sacrificial animals this Eid has declined. People have been showing more interest in on-the-spot purchases so far this year.

Besides, the experience of buying animals online has not been smooth for everyone, which has contributed to the decline as well.

According to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, about 90,93,242 animals were sacrificed across the country last year, of which, 3,87,579 were bought online.

According to Department of Livestock Services, 1,21 crore animals have been prepared for sacrifice this year.

However, the digital "haat" is still being operated by Dhaka North City Corporation, e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) and Bangladesh Dairy Farm Association (BDFA), with technical support from a2i's online platform Ekshop.

Dr Dewan Muhammad Humayun Kabir, a2i project director, told this correspondent, "The fear of Covid-19 is no longer the same as before. Due to the lower number of infections this year, people are less keen to purchase sacrificial

For the last eight years, Bikroy has been bringing sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha. In today's busy life, digital purchases have become a necessity. Our site has so far posted over 10,000 sacrificial animal advertisements, and around 2,000 have been sold.

ISHITA SHARMIN, CEO of Bikroy.com

animals online and more interested in on-the-spot purchases. The response has been low so far, when compared to the last two years'."

According to e-CAB, 3,87,000 cows, goats and other animals were sold online last year, with a market value of Tk 2,500 crore.

Around 11,13,809 visitors have visited "Digital Haat" this year as of yesterday, while 38,641 animals have been sold on the online platform and "Ancholik Haat" under the platform. The total sales have amounted to Tk 355 crore.

Around 10,590 animals have been sold by merchants, with sales amounting to Tk 87 crore. There have been 422 crore transactions online this year so far.

Although sales are low, the platform is working for better connectivity across the market. Customers can get more aware about their purchases, while new farmers are entering the platform as well.

Ishta Sharmin, CEO of Bikroy.com, said, "For the last eight years, Bikroy has been bringing sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha. In today's busy life, digital purchases have become a necessity. Our site has so far posted over 10,000 sacrificial animal advertisements, and around 2,000 have been sold."

"Considering the overall Covid situation, this year, we have tried to bring a greater number of sacrificial animals for customers. However, we also recommend purchasing with caution. We encourage vendors to use pictures taken from different angles while putting up advertisements," she added.

Chief Marketing Officer of Daraz Tajdin Hassan said their platform has sold 250 animals this year, while it sold 350 last year.

"Daraz provided free home deliveries and other offers for purchase of sacrificial animals," he added.

Some individual online-sellers, however, have seen better sales compared to last year.

Sanjeeda Akther, founder of Sanju Shafiq Agro, told this correspondent that 13 bulls from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Univ teacher arrested over harassment of student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a teacher at Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology on charges of molesting a student.

The arrestee is Kumar Animesh Bhattacharjee (42), a lecturer at Department of Fashion Design and Technology, said police.

Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Utara West Police Station, said they arrested Animesh on Thursday night, after the student filed a case against two, including classmate Nahidul Haque (25).

Quoting the case statement, police said Nahidul invited the student to a party at Animesh's apartment

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4