

Main Eid jamaat in Jatiya Eidgah at 7:30am

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main Eid congregation will be held at Jatiya Eidgah maidan, located adjacent to the High Court, around 7:30am on the day of Eid-ul-Azha.

As per the Dhaka South City Corporation, Jatiya Eidgah has the capacity to accommodate a total of 35,000 devotees, including both men and women.

The expansive grounds cover an area of 25,400 square metres, providing ample space for the congregational prayers.

Special arrangements have been made to ensure separate prayer areas for women at the venue as well.

Meanwhile, five congregations will be held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, starting from 7:00am on Eid day. The second one will be held at 8:00am while the next three jamaats will be held at 9:00am, 10:00am and 10:45am respectively.



A child nestled on her mother's lap, waves goodbye to her father through the window of a North Bengal-bound bus. As Eid draws near, families embark on journeys to celebrate holidays with their loved ones, while others stay behind, their hearts connected by the joyous spirit of the season. This picture was taken at Dhaka's Kalyanpur Bus Stand yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Cattle trouble on Eid? Call 999

Law enforcers vigilant; receive 282 calls in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the vigilance of law enforcers, various criminal activities such as extortions, spreading counterfeit currency and incidents of forcing traders to take cattle to a particular market continue to occur in the lead-up to Eid-ul-Azha.

According to data from the national emergency helpline number 999, 282 calls were received between June 20 and June 26 in this regard.

Among these calls, around 100 reported incidents of extortion at cattle markets, rivers, and roadsides.

Besides, approximately 111 calls were made regarding the forcible transportation of cattle to markets, 11 were related to dope gang activities, and four were concerning counterfeit notes.

Mohammad Tabarak Ullah, the additional deputy inspector general of the national emergency helpline number, told The Daily Star that special measures have been put in place to address and resolve these issues, ensuring a safe Eid experience for the public.

He said upon receiving any complaint, they collaborate with local police stations to ensure swift legal action.

Meanwhile, Khandker Golam Faruq, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, stated that the police force is working to ensure the safety and comfort of individuals travelling home for Eid. "We have implemented sufficient security measures," he said.

However, to prevent accidents, Faruq urged the youth not to engage in racing with motorcycles or private

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Braving rain, gridlock to reach home



PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid rain, homegoers are rushing to celebrate Eid with their relatives in trucks and pickups, failing to avail seats in buses.

Besides, many low-income people are forced to choose the good carrying vehicles as means of reaching destinations due to the extra fare in public transport.

Visiting the Chandra and Kaliakair areas in Gazipur, this correspondent saw the pressure of homegoers has increased as Eid vacation in different factories started yesterday.

Many along with families were seen waiting for a long time with luggage to board buses and trucks to go to the districts in the north and north-eastern regions. Buses were filled to the brim with holidaymakers.

Habibul was going to Sirajganj on a truck. He said they paid Tk 300 per person to go to Sirajganj from Chandra. Failing to find a seat on a bus, Rafiqul Islam boarded a truck to reach Rangpur by paying Tk 500. This correspondent talked to him in Kaliakair when he was already drenched by rain. Rafiqul said he will try to catch a bus after reaching Sirajganj.

There is often a high demand for transport as people travel to celebrate Eid with their families and loved ones. This increased demand leads to overcrowded buses, forcing people to travel on trucks or pickup vans, risking their lives.

Rain falls, cattle price drops

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The price of sacrificial animals, especially bulls, at different cattle markets in the capital, saw a slight drop yesterday, compared to the last two days.

Traders blamed the inclement weather since Tuesday morning and poor buyer turnout against a huge supply for the declining prices.

Though the market got momentum yesterday as many visited the spots, the numbers were still low compared to the cattle available at the markets.

"I purchased a bull for Tk 1.60 lakh today (yesterday) from Dhupkhola cattle market. The price of the same animal was around Tk 2 lakh for the past two days," said Minhazul Abedin of Shorafatganj Lane.

Ahmed Nabi, a resident of East Shewrapara, purchased a bull for Tk 1.48 lakh from Kachukhet cattle market.

"The asking price of similar sized bulls was over Tk 1.80 lakh for the last three days," he added.

The price of small-sized bulls has dropped by Tk 5,000-10,000, while that of a bull has decreased by Tk 15,000-30,000, said Anwar Hossain of Gandaria.

While the customers were happy with the prices, the traders complained of losses and meagre profits.

They, however, were happy

with the customer rush in the last moments before the grand day.

"I have sold a bull for Tk 1.10 lakh today, incurring a loss of Tk 10,000. I had bought the animal for the same price a couple of months ago and also had to invest additionally for its food and transporting it to Dhaka from Faridpur," said Masud, a victim of the



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

recent Bangbazar fire incident, who brought nine bulls to the Dholaikhal cattle market six days ago.

"I had lost around Tk 30 lakh in the fire and taken up this business, hoping for profits. However, the reality is different," he added.

"The bull supply this year is higher than the market demands. Thus, the prices are lower," said Mohammad

Shamim, who bought two bulls for Tk 2.5 lakh each but has not been able to sell them yet.

Mohammad Aziz Mollah, a trader of Kazir Hat in Pabna, said he brought 17 bulls to the Kachukhet cattle market three days ago. However, only six of them were sold, at a loss of around Tk 5,000 each.

"I was offered Tk 52,000 for

a bull at the local market. But I had to sell the same animal for a loss of Tk 1,000. However, I expect a rush of customers tonight and hope to profit from the remaining ones," he said.

Meanwhile, Uzzal Mollah, who brought 21 sheep to the Kachukhet market, said he made profits selling his animals.

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Govt must uphold workers' rights

Solidarity Center condemns murder of labour leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Solidarity Center, a US rights platform, yesterday condemned the murder of Shahidul Islam, a workers' leader who had been negotiating to get workers of a factory their arrears in Gazipur.

Shahidul, president of Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF) Gazipur district committee, fought for workers' rights throughout his 25-year-long journey as a trade union organiser, said the Solidarity Center in a statement.

As evident in this case, some employers use hired goons and yellow unions to systematically prevent independent unions from representing workers effectively.

The organisation also said 11 years ago, in April 2012, another worker leader, Aminul Islam, was tortured and murdered.

Aminul was also an organiser with BGIWF, a key player in the country's movement to advance workers' rights.

The Solidarity Center knew both Shahidul and Aminul personally, and for decades admired their dedication.

The statement also said the fear stoked by a second horrific murder of a BGIWF leader will undoubtedly make the task of organising trade unions in Bangladesh even more difficult.

"As evident in this case, some employers use hired goons and yellow unions to systematically prevent independent unions from representing workers effectively."

Shahidul's murder this week and Aminul's murder over a decade ago underscore the absence of an environment where workers can freely exercise their rights without intimidation, the statement said.

According to the first information report of

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DHAKA-17 BY-POLLS Arafat's absence at meeting irks CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal expressed his irritation as Awami League candidate for Dhaka-17 by-polls did not attend a views-exchange meeting yesterday.

Dhaka north city AL office secretary William Pralay Samaddar -- who represented party candidate Mohammad A Arafat, said at the meeting that he did not join it as he "was unwell".

The Election Commission held the meeting with candidates regarding electoral code of conduct.

Except for Arafat, all attended the programme held at EC office.

Journalists were allowed at the event.

The meeting started on time at 11:00am. About half an hour later, Samaddar entered the room. At that time, the CEC wanted to know Samaddar's identity.

The CEC was then informed that he had come as a representative of Arafat.

The CEC expressed some irritation. He turned off the microphone, and said, "Why did the candidate not come, why did the representative come... and that too after 30 minutes."

At one point, the CEC also said the AL candidate was not present at the views-exchange programme during the Cumilla City Corporation election.

Later, the meeting went on.

After the programme, Samaddar told reporters that Arafat received the letter of invitation to the EC's meeting on Monday.

"He is feeling unwell after campaigning in two or

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Rain may continue during Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Rain may continue in Dhaka and other parts of the country over the next 72 hours starting from 9:00am yesterday, according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department's (BMD) forecast.

As per the prediction, people may experience rain on the day of Eid-ul-Azha to be celebrated on Thursday.

"Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barishal, Dhaka, Chattogram, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions; at many places in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places across the country," the Met Office said.

The highest, 66mm, rainfall was recorded in Barishal's Khepupara in 24 hours, till 6:00am yesterday.



ENJOYING MONSOON... Even though their parents seemed a bit worried and tried to shelter them from drizzle, these two toddlers were having a blast as they kept on enjoying the scenic rain. This photo was taken in Mugda area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS