



Gulshan-2



Mohammadpur

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Civic duties during Eid-ul-Azha

RBR

The sacrifice of animals on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha commemorates a sacrifice, which symbolises utmost loyalty and complete submission to the Almighty – this is the first part of the Eid rituals.

The second is to remember the important principle in Islam that “cleanliness is half of faith”. However, the aftermath of Eid-ul-Azha is a messy affair.

I am afraid this is the truth.

This is an act which defies Islamic doctrines on cleanliness. These religious teachings benefit both society and us. It is up to Muslims to be aware of this guidance and learn and apply it anywhere and everywhere. Let us for once keep our environment clean and maintain proper hygiene.

For reasons only known to Dhakaites, they forget their civic sense. Our lack of civic sense baffles me hence my laments. The importance of a prompt clean-up after slaughtering animals is something

we should not forget.

There is also an unspoken race to flaunt affluence. The street in front of luxury apartments becomes personal cattle grounds, where a minimum of 10 bulls are stationed. One can imagine the powerful stench of manure and urine produced.

Come Eid day, they are laid down on the very same street for the slaughter; the untidy, chaotic mess we tend to make on the open streets is beyond comprehension.

Kudos to our mayors and city corporations that for the last few years they undertook prompt action to clean up after the rituals were completed. The city corporations have taken elaborate measures to make the city clean

within hours of the slaughter. We do have slaughterhouses but they are ill-equipped to handle the Eid pressure and thus citizens take up the streets as their own.

The deployment of thousands of sanitation workers, along with the distribution of eco-friendly biodegradable polythene bags, bleaching powder, jute bags, and disinfectants show their commitment to maintaining cleanliness.

Requisitions have been made for extra dump trucks, water tanks, and garbage trucks.

However, we as citizens must cooperate and dispose of our qurbani waste responsibly. It is also up to us to

clean up the streets, garages, staircases and lifts with cleaning agents.

Eid-ul-Azha is very important if you consider the economic side of it. The cattle farms, and villagers target this festival while rearing the cows and goats. Cattle rearing is an expensive affair. I know a person working as a driver in this city, who takes cattle rearing as a side business. He buys cattle and lets his father at the village take care of it. Young green grass with grass hay, straw, silage, compressed and pelleted feeds, oils and mixed rations, and sprouted grains and legumes are fed to the animals. These villagers and farmers are struggling yet they target this festival to cover the cost.

Then this is the time when tanners get to buy, in bulk, precious cowhide in the natural, unbleached form. There are other economic implications and business turnovers of this festival that cannot be ignored.

So, do not litter your streets and garages; treat your cattle well and help the business in one of the biggest Muslim festivals of the year.



Patuatuli in Old Dhaka

Major shakeup in BNP

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international affairs committee has also been restructured. Party sources said the move was made because of the previous committee's failure to maintain close ties with the western countries, China and India.

BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan has been made the chief of the committee to strengthen the relationship with those nations.

Soon after the January 7 national election, Tarique started working on restructuring the party's executive committee. There will be significant changes in the full committee in phases, with the introduction of new members, said a BNP leader familiar with the issue.

“Young leaders loyal to Tarique Rahman will be given important positions,” said a senior BNP leader wishing not to be named.

A number of mid-ranking influential BNP leaders said Tarique is in fact building his own circle by restructuring the committees to establish his absolute control over the party.

“He is doing this to make sure

nobody challenges his decisions in future,” said a BNP leader.

Many committees have already expired since the party held its last national council in 2017.

The BNP constitution stipulates that a council should be held every three years. However, restructuring of its committees are being announced through press releases.

“The issue of reorganising was discussed at the party forum, but we were not informed when and how it would happen,” a senior leader told The Daily Star yesterday wishing anonymity.

Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, a standing committee member, said the decision on revamping the party was made earlier and is now being put into action.

On Thursday night, BNP dissolved the convening committees of its Dhaka south and north city units. It also announced dissolution of the convening committees of its Chattogram and Barishal city units.

The central committee of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, led by President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku and General Secretary Abdul Monayem Munna,

has also been dissolved.

Some BNP leaders, including Zahir Uddin Swapan, Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, and Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dula, have been made adviser to the party chairperson.

Some party leaders said Swapan, Khokon, Sarwar and Alal have been punished through these appointments.

Syed Emran Saleh Prince and Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie have been promoted to joint secretaries general from organising secretaries.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, BNP's student front, announced its full fledged 260 member committee yesterday, about three and a half months after the formation of its partial committee.

Rakibul Islam Rakib and Nasir Uddin Nasir have been made president and general secretary of the new committee respectively.

As many as 41 leaders have been given the posts of vice president, one has been made senior joint general secretary, and 111 have been named as joint general secretaries.

Northbound people suffer

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private service provider, had to pay Tk 490 more for his ticket to Bogura on a Rozina Enterprise bus.

When the correspondent asked Kausar Hossain, a staff of the Rozina Enterprise counter at Gabtoli bus terminal, about the higher fare than the previous day, he said: “It's Eid time. So, we have no other option.”

Despite paying higher fares, the journey home was not smooth and swift for northbound passengers by road.

In the early hours of yesterday, the Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur Highway witnessed a 13 kilometre-long tailback due to the increased number of northbound vehicles and suspension of toll collection on the Bangabandhu bridge multiple times since Friday night.

The toll collection had to be stopped several times as several vehicles broke down on the bridge, said Ahsanul Kabir Pavel, executive engineer of the site office of Bangabandhu Bridge.

At 9:00am, there was a seven-km-long tailback on the Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur Highway, Sajedur Rahman, the in-charge of Elenga Highway Police, told our Tangail correspondent.

“This is very normal during Eid rush,” he added.

However, the traffic situation on

the highway improved afterwards, with no tailback observed as of 6:00pm yesterday.

The Dhaka-Nabinagar-Chandra Road that connects with the Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur Highway at Chandra intersection had gridlock from 4:00pm yesterday after the closure of garments factories in the area, reported our Gazipur correspondent.

The huge number of vehicles caused traffic congestion in Nabinagar, Baipail and Ashulia areas, Ayub Ali, the officer in charge of Savar Highway Police Station, told our Savar Correspondent at 7:00pm.

Many people were seen desperately looking for vehicles as the number of passengers outnumbered the vehicles in the areas.

The traffic congestion on the Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur Highway held up the buses, said Subhankar Ghosh Rakesh, joint secretary of the Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association.

“So, the bus schedule was delayed by two to three hours on the route,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, no major traffic congestion was reported from the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway, Dhaka-Chattogram and Dhaka-Sylhet Highways, he said.

Those who caught the train,

however, had a smoother journey home as almost all trains left the capital on time.

“Eid rush via railway reached its peak today. More people are coming to the station in the evening and it would be a big challenge for us to maintain a schedule at night,” Shah Alam Kiron Shishir, divisional commercial officer (Dhaka division) of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star at 6:30pm yesterday.

Over at the Sadarghat launch terminal, a huge crowd was seen in the evening after the garment factories broke for Eid yesterday afternoon.

As of 7:00 pm, 80 launches left the terminal.

Meanwhile, the mobile courts of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority fined six launches a total of Tk 27,000 for various violations, including the absence of railings on stairs, illegal anchoring and overloading of passengers.

Among them, five launches were fined Tk 16,000 for lacking railings on stairs and Tk 1,000 for illegal anchoring at the capital's Sadarghat.

Additionally, one launch was fined Tk 10,000 for passenger overloading at Chandpur's Maju Chowdhury Hat launch terminal.

Eid will be celebrated on Monday in Bangladesh.

Benazir wrote to Boat Club from abroad

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was investigating him, his wife and two daughters.

He did not mention which country he is currently in.

Benazir wrote to Bakhtiar Ahmed Khan, member (administration) of the club, saying, “Please be advised that I'm now out of the country along with my family for some urgent family needs. This incapacitates me to run the day-to-day business of the club which may prolonged [sic] for an indefinite period.”

He requested Rubel Aziz, an adviser to the club, to be the acting president

“until my return and resumption of the duties of the club president”.

When contacted by this correspondent, Bakhtiar said, “Benazir Ahmed emailed me. He has asked Rubel Aziz to perform the duties of the [club's] president as he is staying outside the country.”

The development was also confirmed by Prof Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan, an executive committee member of the club. The Daily Star has a copy of the letter.

Rubel, the person Benazir recommended to be the acting president, is a former president of the

club. He is also the managing director of Partex Group.

The ACC on April 18 launched an investigation into allegations that Benazir and his family members amassed huge wealth through corruption.

Citing immigration police sources, The Daily Star earlier reported that Benazir and his family members flew to Singapore on May 4 night on a flight of Singapore Airlines.

The government authorities, including several ministers, had said they did not know about Benazir's whereabouts.

'Plot afoot to isolate govt from people'

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food grains purchased with cash were blocked from entering the country.

“An artificial famine was created at that time to isolate Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the people. When they failed to do so, they made the August 15, 1975 incident to occur,” she said.

The PM's comments came at a programme marking the inauguration of the three-month tree plantation programme of Bangladesh Krishak League at the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina, who is also the president of Awami League, said her party has been carrying out tree plantation programmes since 1985 following the footsteps of Bangabandhu to save Bangladesh from the adverse impacts of climate change.

She said BNP founder Ziaur Rahman had cut trees in the name of so-called development and his wife did the same

thing in the name of anti-government movement in 2013.

She went on to urge the people to make a “Green Bangladesh” by planting trees in large numbers.

The premier reiterated her call for the people to grow more food by bringing every inch of land under cultivation.

She said her government had been able to acquire self-sufficiency in food production after assuming power in 1996.

“We have achieved success in food production due to extensive research in this sector.”

Stressing the need for planned industrialisation, she said her government is building 100 economic zones across the country to protect arable land from unplanned industrialisation.

The PM said the government wants

to bring irrigation completely under the solar power system.

“Initially, it might require some investment. But it would cut the overall cost in the long run.”

At the function, the premier awarded several Krishak League leaders for their contribution to pursuing the nationwide tree plantation campaign.

Hasina planted three saplings at the Gono Bhaban on the occasion of the programme.

She said she has planted over 2,000 trees at the Gono Bhaban since assuming power.

Krishak League President Samir Chanda and acting general secretary Bishwanath Sarker Bitu also spoke at the programme.

This year, Krishak League has set a target of planting 52 lakh saplings across the country during its three-month programme.

No respite for Gazans

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backed by Iran and allied with Hamas, launching waves of rockets and drones against Israeli military targets.

Hezbollah said intense strikes since Wednesday were retaliation for Israel's killing of one of its commanders.

Israeli forces responded with shelling, the military said, also announcing air strikes on Hezbollah infrastructure across the border.

Two women were killed in a strike on Jannata in southern Lebanon, village official Hassan Shur said, the latest deaths in near-daily exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli military since the Gaza war began.

On Friday plumes of smoke still billowed over the village.

Lightning strikes claim four lives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

At least four people were killed in separate lightning strike incidents in Rangamati's Langadu upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Rina Begum, 35, Bacchu Miah, 30, Ziaul Haque Shamshu, 40, and Obaidul, 30, confirmed Harun or Rashid, officer-in-charge of Langadu Police Station.

Locals said Bacchu, Ziaul, and Obaidul died on the spot after a lightning bolt struck their boat on the Kaptai Lake. They were travelling to Minabazar from Mainimukh Bazar around 5:00pm. They were residents of Bhasanaydam area.

Meanwhile, Akkas, who was also on the same boat, fell into the water and went missing during the lightning strike incident.

Earlier in the afternoon, Rina, wife of Atarakchara UP Chairman Tilar Ibrahim, died after a thunderbolt struck her in the yard of her house in Karalyachhari village, confirmed Atarakchara UP Secretary Al Amin.

5 cops suspended over extortion allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five policemen from Narayanganj were suspended yesterday after a report broadcasted on a private TV channel accused them of extorting money from trucks transporting sacrificial animals for Eid.

They are Sub-Inspector Sheikh Nazrul Islam of Rugganj Police Station; and SI Md Asaduzzaman, and Constables Nazir Sheikh, Jugal Mondal, and Tanvir Hossain Akash of Narayanganj Police Lines.

In a press release, Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general (media) of police headquarters, said IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun reiterated that no members of the Bangladesh Police would be spared if found involved in criminal activities. The force maintains a policy of “zero tolerance” towards such misconduct.

A probe committee has been formed, led by Narayanganj district's additional police superintendent (crime), to investigate the matter. The committee will recommend departmental actions based on its findings.

The statement said stringent measures would be taken if allegations of bribery at livestock markets during Eid or any form of harassment were found to be true.

Immediate actions will be taken against wrongdoers, it added.