



On the third day of Eid, thousands thronged Dhaka's parks, historic places and other recreation centres. The National Zoo in Mirpur was abuzz with children's laughter and excitement. The capital yesterday was relatively empty as people have just started to return from their hometowns after spending time with family members. Meanwhile, a welcoming rain in the afternoon drenched the city.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, ANISUR RAHMAN



## Most of capital cleaned up promptly



Dhanmodi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The combined efforts of Dhaka residents and the two city corporations saw most part of the capital cleaned up within three days of Eid-ul-Azha.

Residents were also encouraged to dispose of animal wastes properly and keep surroundings clean with bleaching powder, and they were seen following the instructions in many areas.

"After sacrificing our cattle, we cleaned up the slaughtering area and left the wastes bagged by the roadside, which was then collected by conservancy workers

quickly," said Mujahidul Islam, a resident of Shyamoli area.

Masum Ali of Narinda area echoed him.

Earlier, the two Dhaka mayors announced that they would ensure the city to be completely cleaned soon after the Eid.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh promised to clean DSCC areas within 24 hours and Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam announced to do so within six hours.

According to the city corporations' public relations departments, DSCC completed cleaning up 23,958 tonnes of

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Mohammadpur

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## Eid vacation puts Dhaka at dengue risk

Many under-construction buildings, offices, educational institutes turn into breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes

HELEMUL ALAM

While Dhaka has worn a deserted look, giving some respite to the dwellers from traffic jams and usual hassles, the six-day holiday for Eid-ul-Azha has increased the risk of spreading dengue in the city.

During this time, many under-construction buildings, empty houses, offices, and educational institutes in the capital have turned into breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes, causing the mosquito-borne disease to spread.

Experts asked city dwellers as well as city corporations to take effective measures, as intermittent rains during this time may exaggerate the situation.

Many under-construction buildings became breeding grounds because the owners or developers preserved water on the newly constructed roof to strengthen it.

A recent pre-monsoon survey by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS),



Water accumulating on the roof of an under-construction building on Indira Road.

PHOTO: STAR



larvae in 29 wards of Dhaka South City Corporation and 12 wards of Dhaka North City Corporation.

Among the Aedes larvae-positive houses, 42.33 percent are high-rise buildings, 21.6 percent are individual houses, 21.6 percent are under-construction buildings, 12.74 percent are semi-concrete houses, and 1.73 percent are

open spaces. Among Aedes breeding sources, 18 percent were found in plastic drums, 15 percent in floors with retained water, and 14 percent in plastic buckets.

Meanwhile, according to DGHS data, at least 40 people died of dengue, while 3,218 were hospitalised across the country till yesterday morning.

"The chances of increasing new breeding sources are heavy as the holidays span around a week, which is a suitable time to create a new generation of Aedes mosquitoes," said Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman.

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## ROAD ACCIDENTS Bikes, 3-wheelers major causes Says Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said motorcycles and easy bikes are causing the highest number of road accidents across the country.

Quader said this during the exchange of Eid greetings at his ministry's conference room in the Secretariat.

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## Army working for people's welfare Says outgoing army chief at farewell reception

UNB, Savar

Despite challenges, every member in Bangladesh Army is working for the welfare of the country, outgoing Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

He said this while attending his farewell reception at Savar Cantonment in the afternoon.

He further said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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## Full-scale rawhide trade yet to start

Tanners point at rain, delay in animal sacrifice

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA, SUKANTA HALDER and JAGARAN CHAKMA

Full-scale rawhide procurement across the country has yet to begin due to rainfall and subsequent delays in animal sacrifices.

Tanners and merchants expect the salt-applied rawhide sales to gain momentum on Saturday, as seasonal traders are preparing them to be sold to the major haats after procuring most rawhide without salt from the field level.

Nearly 85 lakh pieces of cowhides are expected to be sold in 42 designated major haats across the country this year, said Altaf Khan, president of Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants' Association.

Khan also said nearly 20 percent of animals were sacrificed after two days of Eid due to inclement weather and rainfall, delaying the arrival of rawhide from the countryside.

In recent years, most of the rawhides have

been bought either directly by tanners or by their appointed agents across the country. As a result, the traditional rawhide trading system through merchants has broken down.

"We have already bought eight lakh pieces of rawhide from Dhaka and its adjacent areas," said Shaheen Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA).

Shaheen also said rawhides will be processed in rationing at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate (STIE) in Hemayetpur, where the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is situated.

The estate's capacity is not high enough to accommodate and process all the rawhide at a time, he added.

Annual production capacity at STIE is 900 million cubic feet, while around 400 million cubic feet are produced there per year, he said.

However, during Eid ul Azha, over 200 million

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

## Current conflict in Myanmar may stall the process

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

While the World Refugee Day is being observed today across the globe, Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazar are still passing days amid uncertainty regarding their repatriation to Myanmar.

Around 1 million Rohingyas, most of whom had fled to Bangladesh facing persecution by Myanmar junta forces in 2017, have been living as refugees in camps in Cox's Bazar for the last seven years.

The ongoing armed conflict in Myanmar may stall the process of their repatriation, feared Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar.

Fierce clashes between Myanmar junta forces and rebel Arakan Army have been going on in Rakhine state along the Bangladesh border since February this year.

The Arakan Army has captured a vast part of the state including the areas once populated by Rohingyas before they faced persecution and displacement in 2017.

Many Rohingyas at Cox's Bazar camps are worried about a safe and dignified return to their homeland.

Mohammad Hossain, who lives in



WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Rohingyas at a camp in Teknaf.

PHOTO: STAR

Camp-1, is one of them.

"Amid the ongoing clashes in Myanmar, I am not sure how our repatriation process might progress, while many of our brothers and sisters are in great danger there," he said.

Mohammad Zubair, chairman of Arakan Rohingya Society of Peace and

Human Rights, said they want to be repatriated under the agreement with the junta government, not with the Arakan Army.

However, without a treaty with the Junta government, the agreement would not be valid, he also said.

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