



## JOY OF EID IN THE AIR

People from all walks of life across the country celebrated Eid-ul-Azha over the last four days, spending time with their loved ones. People in the capital flocked to locations like the National Zoo in Mirpur, Zia Udyana and DNCC Wonderland in Agargaon to spend their holidays. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA, PRABIR DAS



### EID HOLIDAY

Dhaka's air remains 'unhealthy'

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka ranked eighth on the list of cities with the worst air quality yesterday morning, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) score of 135 at 9:40am.

Yesterday's air was classified as "unhealthy", indicating potential health risks, according to the AQI index.

Despite reduced traffic and public movement in the capital due to the Eid-ul-Azha holidays, the air quality remained unhealthy over the past few days, raising concerns about public health.

According to the AQI scale, when the value for particle pollution ranges from 50 to 100, the air quality is considered "moderate", where sensitive individuals are advised to limit prolonged outdoor exertions. A score between 101 and 150 is considered "unhealthy" for sensitive groups; between 151 and 200 is "unhealthy"; 201 to 300 is classified as "very unhealthy"; and anything above 301 is deemed "hazardous", posing serious health risks.

India's Delhi, Iraq's

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## EID EVENING AT PONGU HOSPITAL Of overflowing emergency and lingering waits

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Sufia Begum, a 55-year-old woman from Munshiganj's Sreenagar, suffered severe injuries to her right hand when a motorcycle struck her on the day of Eid-ul-Azha (Saturday) when she was crossing a road near her home.

She was rushed to a local hospital, but no doctors were available there due to the Eid holiday. The staffers there asked Sufia's family to take her to Pongu Hospital, formally known as the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), in Dhaka.

When our correspondent found her at NITOR around 7:30pm on the day, she was lying on a stretcher in an overcrowded emergency room.

There are nine beds in the room, but the number of patients was more than double, with many lying on stretchers or sitting on chairs. A few were even seen standing with bandaged limbs.

"We submitted our token about half an hour ago, but still no doctor has visited her," said Sufia's son-in-law Md Hasan.

After some time, a doctor visited and examined her. The doctor then checked several other patients, apparently following the tokens.

A nurse at the reception said that over 250 patients had already arrived at the emergency ward between 12:01am and 7:30pm that day. "This number is higher than usual," she said, requesting anonymity since the hospital authorities prohibit staff from speaking to the media.

**We submitted our token about half an hour ago, but still no doctor has visited her.**

MD HASAN  
an attendant

**Over 250 patients had already arrived at the emergency ward between 12:01am and 7:30pm that day. This number is higher than usual.**

a nurse

Two notices from 2024 posted near the doctor's room mentioned that only the hospital director holds the authority to speak to the media.

"Most of the patients came with injuries due to road crashes or accidents while cutting sacrificial

animals," she added.

Within half an hour, four to five new patients joined the crowd.

At the emergency department, four doctors, five nurses, and five ward boys were working during that particular shift, another nurse said.

Outside the emergency department, other parts of the hospital were relatively calm, with fewer inpatients, while outdoor activities were fully suspended.

During a visit to two inpatient wards, our correspondent found several empty beds. A nurse there said 64 patients were receiving treatment at that time, against a capacity of 84.

Only seven nurses were on duty in three shifts, she added. During normal times, 19 nurses work in that ward.

Around 8:00pm, over a dozen patients were seen outside the emergency operation theatre room.

An Ansar personnel deployed there said three doctors were working inside the operation theatre, and only one OT was operational.

Obaidul Islam, 25, said he has been waiting for around nine hours for his operation. A resident of Dhaka's Green Road, he came to the hospital around 11:00am after a cow hit him, fracturing his right

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## First return Hajj flight lands in Dhaka

STAR REPORT

The first return Hajj flight, carrying 369 Bangladeshi pilgrims, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka yesterday morning, according to a statement from airport authorities.

The SV-3803 Saudia flight, touched down at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) at 10:54am, it said.

The returning pilgrims were greeted at the boarding gate with flowers and received bottles of Zamzam water from a booth set up by Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Air Vice Marshal Md Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), personally welcomed them at the boarding bridge with floral tributes.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, 4,904 pilgrims were scheduled to return yesterday on 12 flights. The return phase of Hajj flights will continue until July 10.

A total of 86,958 Bangladeshis performed

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## Traders frustrated as rawhide prices stay below govt rates

SUKANTA HALDER

Rawhide prices during Eid-ul-Azha have once again dropped below government-set rates across the country, frustrating traders and raising concerns about the effectiveness of recent policy steps, including the temporary lifting of the export ban on raw and wet blue leather.

On May 26, the Ministry of Commerce set the price of salted cowhide at Tk 60-65 per square foot in Dhaka and Tk 55-60 outside the capital, an increase of Tk 5 from last year.

The minimum price of cowhide in Dhaka was set at Tk 1,350 and Tk 1,150 outside the city, while salted goat hides were priced at Tk 20 to Tk 22 per square foot.

However, actual transactions mostly took place at lower rates, with many buyers offering prices similar to last year's.

In some cases, raw unsalted cowhides were sold at Tk 700-900 for large and medium sizes, while lower-quality hides fetched only Tk 600-650.

Prices were reportedly even lower in districts outside Dhaka, and demand for goat hides remained weak.

Despite this, wholesalers and tannery owners said they aimed to collect 80-85 lakh pieces of rawhide this year and claimed they were offering slightly better prices than last year.

However, many seasonal traders said they failed to get fair prices, with some reporting lower rates than last Eid.

Typically, large cowhides range from 31-40 square feet, medium from 21-30 square feet, and small from 16-20 square feet. According to fixed rates, a 25-square-foot salted cowhide in Dhaka should sell for Tk 1,500-1,625.

Tipu Sultan, general secretary of the Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants' Association, said rawhide was not bought or sold at government-fixed prices. "We bought medium and large-sized hides at Tk 750-800," he said, adding that traders do not have enough funds.

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## CANOE CAPSIZE

### Team Group MD, Biman pilot die in Canada

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi entrepreneur and a pilot of Biman Bangladesh Airlines died after the canoe they were on flipped over in a lake in Canada's Ontario on Sunday.

The deceased are Abdullah Hil Rakib, managing director of Team Group and also a former vice president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and Captain Md Saifuzzaman, who flew Boeing 787 for Biman.



According to a report by local outlet CTV News, the incident occurred on Sturgeon Lake in the Kawartha Lakes region of Ontario, about 155 kilometres northeast of Toronto.

Rakib's first namaz-e-janaza will be held on Wednesday at Sunnat Jamaat Mosque in the Danforth area of Toronto, Canada, at 7:00pm local time, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the body of Rakib will depart from Canada on June 12, and is scheduled to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:30pm on June 13, said Mohiuddin Rubel, former BGMEA director and additional managing director of Denim Expert Limited.

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## Capital cleaned up promptly

Over 52,000 tonnes of sacrificial waste cleared in Dhaka, say officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka's city corporations, in collaboration with residents, successfully cleared sacrificial animal waste within three days of Eid-ul-Azha.

Thanks to proactive efforts and community participation, the city remained relatively clean during and after the festival. Residents were encouraged to disinfect their surroundings with bleach, and many complied.

"After sacrificing our cattle, we cleaned the area and left the waste by the roadside. Conservancy workers cleared it quickly," said Ziauddin Alam, a resident of Gandaria.

Muzahidul Islam of Mirpur-12 shared a similar experience: "We cleaned the place ourselves, and the city corporation helped with waste removal."

Before Eid, the administrators Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) promised to clean the city within 72 hours.

According to official statements, a total of 52,115 tonnes of waste were removed during the post-Eid operation – 31,226 tonnes from DSCC and 20,889 tonnes from DNCC.

The waste management drive began

on Eid day (Saturday) and continued until 2:00pm on Monday. A total of 632,834 animals were sacrificed in Dhaka—466,755 in DNCC and 166,754 in DSCC areas.

In his briefing, DNCC administrator Mohammad Azaz said on the first day of Eid alone, 10,614 tonnes of waste were collected from DNCC's 54 wards through 1,902 waste transport trips. On the second day (Sunday), 7,353 tonnes were removed in 1,429 trips, and by 2:00pm Monday, 2,922 tonnes were cleared.

Addressing concerns about waste seen on roadsides, Azaz explained that each Secondary Transfer Station (STS) has a 5-tonne capacity, which was overwhelmed during Eid as volumes soared to five to six times the normal rate. "These were cleared as quickly as possible," he said, acknowledging minor delays due to manpower shortages.

At another press briefing, DSCC Administrator Shahjahan Mia officially announced the end of the waste removal campaign. He said that this year's waste was cleared ahead of schedule, surpassing targets.

He added that most temporary cattle market waste – including bamboo



The Mayor Hanif Flyover in the capital remained largely empty yesterday, the fourth day of Eid-ul-Azha, as many residents had yet to return from their hometowns and villages. Earlier in May, the interim government had declared a ten-day holiday for the Eid celebrations, from June 5 to June 14.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN