

## Strong Eid Demand Lifts Livestock Sector

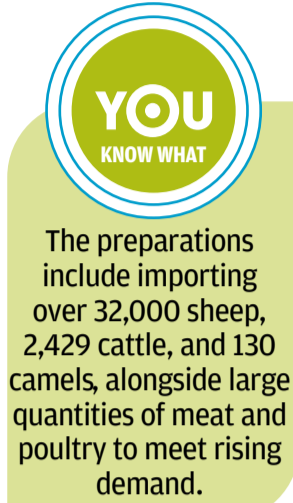
Butcheries and farms witness one of the busiest seasons of the year

TDT | Manama  
Ghadeer Alkumaish

Livestock markets and butcheries across Bahrain are witnessing a sharp rise in activity, with families actively seeking sacrificial animals as part of one of the most significant religious and social traditions in the Islamic calendar. The season brings heightened demand, busy markets, and careful purchasing decisions driven by both price and quality considerations.

Mustafa Mohsen Al Asfoor, manager of Al Qura Butchery in Sitra and a professional with nearly 25 years of experience in the meat and restaurant sector, says Eid Al-Adha represents the peak period for the industry, with demand increasing significantly during the first days of Dhul Hijjah and reaching its highest levels just before Eid.

"During Eid Al-Adha, demand shifts strongly toward sacrificial animals, especially for slaughtering services on behalf of customers," he said. "Eid gatherings also play a major role, as people prefer to serve high-quality meat to guests and relatives, which increases demand for local



and Arab meat."

He explained that the sacrificial animal (Udhiyah) is an act of worship performed by Muslims during Eid Al-Adha, inspired by the story of Prophet Ibrahim. Beyond its religious meaning, it also carries strong social values, as meat is typically distributed among family members, relatives, and those in need.

Al Asfoor noted that this season is among the busiest of the year for farms and butcheries, with activity rising sharply as Eid approaches. "It is one of the most active and high-demand seasons for livestock markets in the Kingdom," he said.



Mustafa Mohsen Al Asfoor

On pricing, he stated that sacrificial animals currently range between 70 and 200 Bahraini dinars, depending on type, size, and origin. He added that price differences are influenced by seasonal demand, shipping costs, and import-related challenges.

"The Somali sheep remains the most popular choice, priced between 70 and 95 dinars depending on size," he said. "It is preferred because it is widely available and more affordable, even though other options may offer higher quality at higher prices."

He also highlighted challenges faced by buyers, including limited experience and price variation in the market, which can make purchasing decisions difficult. He advised customers to consult experienced professionals before buying.

## Children Keep Al Heya Beya Alive

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

Bahraini children still carry 'Al Heya Beya' to the shore each Eid Al Adha, keeping alive a sea-facing custom in which small palm-frond baskets are grown at home, worn around the neck and then cast into the water on Arafat Day.

The rite, held by families and social centres across Bahrain, is among the best-known folk customs tied to the feast. It brings children, parents and neighbours together on the ninth day of Dhu Al Hijjah, with songs, old dress and a small act of farewell before Eid begins.

Girls wear the embroidered 'bukhnaq', worked with gold zari thread, while boys put on the thobe, waistcoat and 'gahfiya', the old head covering. The children then walk with their families to the nearest beach before sunset, the green 'Heya' hanging from their necks as they chant the words handed down through the years.

'Al Heya Beya' is a small palm-frond mat or basket planted with seeds such as wheat or barley. It is kept at home until the shoots grow, then taken to

the sea on Arafat Day and thrown into the water. Families pray for a joyful Eid and for pilgrims to return safely from Makkah, often with gifts for the children.

The best-known chant runs: 'Heya Beya... one Heya went and another came... on the road to Al Haniniya... we fed you, gave you lunch and threw you away... do not pray against me, forgive me, my Heya.'

The words differ from village to village. In some places, children sing lines about the pilgrim going to Makkah, visiting the holy sites and drinking from Zamzam, tying the custom more closely to Hajj and the hope of a safe return.

Some accounts say the name comes from 'Al Hajji Beyei', meaning 'the pilgrim will come', a phrase also known in Kuwait and the UAE after the Hajj season.

Bahraini researcher Mohammed Jamal said the custom had passed from parents and grandparents to their chil-

dren and had lasted because families, cultural groups and heritage societies still treat it as part of Eid Al Adha.

He said the day gives children a family outing by the sea and teaches them to care for something of their own before giving it up.

On the shore, children show off their clothes and the small green baskets they have tended, then sing together before throwing them into the sea. For families watching, the scene remains one of the clearest old marks of Eid in Bahrain.



On this blessed occasion,  
we extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to

**His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

**His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**

The Crown Prince & Prime Minister

the Royal family, the Government and loyal people of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and  
to our valued patients and community

عِيدُ أَضْحَى مُبَارَكٌ

Eid Al Adha Mubarak



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