

Economics of Coronavirus: In search of best alternative amid Covid-19

Kazi Muzafar Ahammed*

Abstract

Economics of Coronavirus (Coronamics) will deal with the economies facing severe crises like the Novel Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19). This article advises people not to panic about Covid-19. Coronamics aim to find out ways and means to face any crisis caused by man-made calamities like pandemics or embargoes or sanctions and help the affected people who can survive by maintaining their livelihood mainly with food, medicine and other essentials and can steer the economy, the nation and the country again to the right direction for further development during the bad times and beyond when these will be over. Accelerating the growth of domestic production of goods and services will be one of the best alternatives to minimise the impacts of the pandemic through creating and retaining employment and providing sustainable livelihood for all, including infected, cured and healthy residents of the country. Export trade has been frustrated due to the global lockdown. Now it is a turn for a domestic economy that has to be cared for stabilising supplies, prices and growth, and mitigating loss of export earnings and remittances with all efforts and judgments.

Keywords COVID-19 ·

1. Introduction

The world came to know the current outbreak of Covid-19 that was first reported from Wuhan, China, on 31 December 2019. Since then, Covid-19 has spread all over the globe and forced most governments to lockdown their countries affecting the economies in terms of a slowdown in production, loss of exports, loss of employment and disruption of supply chains and markets.

The human race has been passing through a difficult path where Covid-19 is not the only obstacle. Amid the Covid-19 outbreak, people of the world

* Secretary, Bangladesh Tea Association. Email: muzafarbd@gmail.com

have been witnessing some opportunist countries which have been relentlessly intimidating the warmongering superpowers into war with some Middle Eastern and Asian Countries that Covid-19 and embargoes have already weakened. Any such imprudent decision of warmongering states will further aggravate the world, which has already been in crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Middle East countries are facing unprecedented economic shock due to the reducing volume of oil trade as well as the declining price of oil. Export-oriented countries have been facing a reduction in export earnings and foreign remittance. Consequently, the economic growth of these countries has been reduced. Thus, Covid-19 has yielded a new economic order for the nations with an emphasis on enhancing domestic production of enough goods and services for their consumers and retaining and generating more employment opportunities to sustain the livelihood of all amid any pandemic and natural or man-made disasters.

2. Islamic teachings and ways of life to face an outbreak of pandemic

According to the Holy Quran, calamities have appeared on land and sea because of what the hands of the people have earned so that He (Allah) makes them taste some of what they did so that they may return (to the right way as chosen by Allah) (referred to Al Quran, Surah 30, Ar-Rum, Ayat 41). For example, the Covid-19 pandemic is one of the calamities. Calamities have widespread impacts on the lives and well-being of humans and animals. Calamities have resulted in the loss of lives, wealth, jobs and incomes, shortfall of crops and fruits followed by lack of livelihood and famine.

Teachings and ways of life of Islam shape and develop the behaviour of Muslims throughout their life that builds confidence and courage to face an outbreak of a pandemic. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said about travel bans and quarantine during an episode of epidemic/pandemic, “If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a land, then do not enter into it; but if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place” (Sahih al-Bukhari, Volume 007, Book 071, Hadith number 625). The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Purity is half of faith (iman)” (a Nawawi’s Hadith number 022). Purity can be obtained through cleansing oneself after using the toilet and practising ablution. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) also advised to wash hands frequently, maintain cleanliness and social distancing to avert a lethal infectious disease when it outbreaks a pandemic. If the advice of the above Hadiths were complied with, then the Covid-19 should be cured in Wuhan. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has a chance to spread worldwide from Wuhan due to a lack of travel ban and quarantine.

As far as Islam is concerned, if anybody, who is a believer, dies from the Covid-19 pandemic, then s/he will be treated as a Martyr (Shahid). Those believers who stay in their country and escape this disease will also be regarded as Shahid.

According to Hadith compiled in the Sahih Bukhari, "... it (plague) was a punishment sent by Allah on whom he wished, and Allah made it a source of mercy for the believers, for if one in the time of an epidemic plague stays in his country patiently hoping for Allah's reward and believing that nothing will befall him except what Allah has written for him, he will get the reward of a martyr," narrated by Hazarat Aisha (R) (the wife of the Prophet). Thus, both situations seem beneficial for the believers in Islam, which is Allah's first and only religion bestowed on humanity. Therefore, it is straightforward for a Muslim to embrace death, which is the ending of the first chapter of life, the starting point of the second chapter of life in the grave and the final chapter that starts with the resurrection to eternal life.

3. Impacts on healthcare facilities due to Covid-19

Globally, 252,321,780 persons have been infected with Coronavirus, 5,092,088 persons died and 228,348,780 persons recovered from this disease as of 11.11.2021. In Bangladesh, there have been 1,571,669 infections, 27,906 coronavirus-related deaths and recovered 1,535,661 up to 11.11.2021 since the pandemic began.

Lockdown was imposed several times in many countries to face Covid-19. Many hospitals, clinics, banks, financial institutions and government and private offices were fully or partially closed. On the other hand, many patients did not go to hospitals and clinics due to fear of Covid-19 infection. Sometimes patients with severe health conditions cannot take necessary medical helps to cure or prevent diseases other than Covid-19 due to a lack of required services at hospitals that patients and the want of doctors partially run. All country residents face enormous pressures to maintain health through procuring necessary medicines, protective devices such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Covid-19, and essential commodities.

Covid-19 creates many health-related problems, mainly local and international, significant in magnitude and multidimensional in socio-economic perspective. Covid-19 has put stress and strain on the supply of medicines and healthcare facilities like masks, sanitisation, cleaning agents, and detergent since the disease outbreak on 31 December 2019. The pharmacies run short of supply of these items to sell to the customers due to lack of stock. For example, from the beginning of the pandemic, the mask has been proved to be very effective in escaping Corona Virus infection. Therefore, some famous slogans that various offices use at their entrances to inspire people to wear masks are: "No mask, no entry", "Wear Mask, Get-Service", etc. Many people could not buy masks from the shops due to shortages created by panic purchasing this item by the privileged groups at the beginning of the pandemic.

Similarly, hand sanitisers and antiseptics could not be bought from the shops due to a supply shortage. Frequent hand wash has been proven to be most effective in removing Covid-19 infection. However, hand wash facilities could not be extended to all till now due to lack of provision.

Covid-19 test facilities were minimal and highly expensive at the beginning of the pandemic. Unscrupulous people took advantage of the conditions, and they cheated many patients.

Lockdowns, countrywide and worldwide, during pandemics, caused to disrupt many essential routine check-ups for healthcare services for maintaining health and hygiene, which are as under:

- Firstly, Antenatal care (ANC) was seriously hampered for women throughout their pregnancy who could not access micronutrient supplementation, treatment for hypertension to prevent eclampsia, and immunisation against tetanus.
- Secondly, neonatal healthcare services were also hampered due to the Covid-19 surge.
- Thirdly, managing severe acute malnutrition in infants and children was hampered due to the Covid-19 surge.
- Fourthly, routine immunisation has been hampered due to lockdown that will pose a long-term threat to the future generation's health.

3.1 Covid-19 vaccines

The health sector has diverted resources from routine works to develop, manufacture and deploy safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines. Equitable access to safe and effective vaccination is critical to ending the COVID-19. Presently at least 200 countries have started vaccinating against Covid-19. More than 7.43 billion doses have been administered across 184 countries, and the rate is roughly 33.80 million daily doses as of 13.11.2021. As of today in Bangladesh total of 82.60 million doses have been given out of that 32.30 million people, i.e. 19.6% of the population have been fully vaccinated. The impact of vaccination is spectacular; that helps people to come together in travelling from one place to another, workstations, educational institutions, communities and places of worship. To end the Covid-19, we must ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines and ensure everyone gets vaccinated to protect them from the disease.

4. Impact on transport facilities

Travelling facilities were reduced due to a shortage of public transport available on the roads. As far as sitting arrangement is concerned, two seats were allotted for one person, i.e. public transport would run with 50% of passenger's capacity, and the fares for passengers were raised by 60% to compensate bus owners (the Dhaka Tribune, 30 March 2021).

5. Acceleration of domestic production of enough goods and services

During the pandemic, all individuals, including infected, cured and healthy residents of the country, are to be provided with their sustainable livelihood in terms of basic needs that cover Food, Shelter, Health, Cloth and Education. This article mainly

concerns all sustainable livelihood, such as during and beyond Covid-19 when it will be over Inca Allah. During the pandemic, we have to think for our present generation immediately. Beyond the pandemic, we must keep provision for future generations for those who will escape from this disease for their survival in this world in the coming days.

Due to the global lockdown, world food production is likely to be reduced substantially. Two possible immediate impacts are apprehended here. Firstly, the country will be unable to import any food from abroad due to the global lockdown. Secondly, the tight supply of world food will also dry up prospects of imports and food aid. Further export trade has been frustrated due to the global lockdown. In the present global lockdown, the best alternative is to minimise the impacts of Covid-19 by exploring the potential domestic economy, which is almost in our grips, for producing goods and services with all efforts and judgements to stabilise supplies, prices and growth.

6. Strategy for boosting internal food production

An efficient policy has to be planned and executed to stabilise price and food supply and distribution in the entire year and beyond. As far as food security is concerned, we have to ensure core food items for the consumers, which are as follows:

6.1 Core food items

We have to fulfil the requirements of core food items of the citizens/residents of the country. The core food items as chosen by the Bangladeshis are rice, pulse, edible oil, wheat (coarse flour & flour), milk/powdered milk, salt, sugar, potato, chickpea/gram/pea, fish & fish products, livestock & livestock products, chilli, onion, garlic, ginger, etc. We are fortunate that Allah has given us a country capable of producing our core food items abundantly in alluvial soils by millions of small farmers for our people and the international communities.

6.2 Incentives for sustainable self-sufficiency in core food items

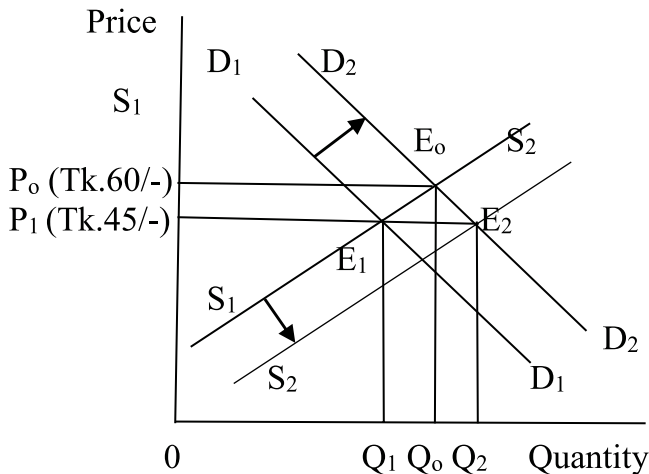
Incentive package induces millions of small farmers to produce more food. Bangladesh has plenty of scopes to avail full potential of 3 seasons in a year to make its core food items and reduce dependency on imports to a large extent.

6.2.1 Price Policy

The right price is one of the main incentives for farmers to produce more food. Thus, as an instrument, we have to ensure the correct prices for increasing domestic products. For an analytical tool, we can give an example of the local production of onion. If we can provide the correct prices for onion, then many small farmers of the country will be eager to produce a greater volume of onion, even with the prevailing price. Let us

suppose the overall average price of onion is Tk.45/- (at P_1), as shown in figure-1 at P_1 . The producers and consumers are happy with the present price P_1 and quantity Q_1 that has been settled by supply (S_1S_1) and demand (D_1D_1) at E_1 . Demand for domestic onion will increase to D_2D_2 due to a lack of imports for global lockdown. The onion producers will also increase their production, thereby enhancing supply by S_2S_2 . The consumers will be able to buy a larger quantity of onion Q_2 with the same price P_1 settled by supply S_2S_2 and demand D_2D_2 at E_2 . The consumers will be protected with a stable price and stable supply of onion. The total income of onion producers will increase with the sale at the same price level, which will increase the country's Gross Domestic Product. This example can be replicated to other core food items with modification if required. Conversely, if we cannot increase domestic production (S_1S_1), then higher demand for the trained product (D_2D_2) will enhance the price to P_0 (Tk.60/-) with a higher quantity Q_0 (Giffen good) at E_0 , which is less than Q_2 . Thus, the consumers will be affected by the higher price and lower quantity.

Figure 1: Domestic onion production under lockdown due to Covid-19



6.2.2 Input Policy

The present policy for providing essential inputs with subsidies is to continue to sustain growth of domestic production to attain food security. Provision for subsidised inputs may be justified for the nation's survival with dignity, human development and overall socio-economic development. Thus, due to uncertainty of the world food markets and lack of food aid subsidy for accelerating domestic food production is to be treated as a premium for national food security. The following inputs are needed to be made available urgently at subsidised prices:

Seed: The self-reliance on quality seeds for the country can be achieved by promoting in-country research for innovation, saving, multiplication and making available to the producers at a lower cost.

Fertiliser: Prices of fertilisers must be kept minimum to induce farmers to increase production. To promote sustainable food production in Bangladesh, fertilisers should be produced, procured and made available.

Irrigation: Bangladesh aims to promote irrigation technologies to bring more areas under irrigation at a lower cost to increase productivity and production of quality food and to combat desertification caused due to diverting water flows by the upstream river nations.

6.2.3 Credit Policy

Necessary credit facilities are to be extended to the farmers at lower interest rates. Recently, various stimulus packages have been announced as incentives by the Governments of most countries, including the Bangladesh Government for inducing farmers to boost production.

6.2.4 Transport Policy

During the lockdown, necessary transport facilities have to be provided so that workforce can move to their workplaces, products can be sent to markets for sale, and supply chains are sustained.

7. Management of food for food security

The main objectives of food policy are to stabilise supplies and prices of food items and bring forth the poor under price support and charitable food programmes. Food management is vested in a man who controls its supply, distribution and consumption. Man can promote food security through proper management and can also cause food insecurity and famine through mismanagement.

7.1 Famines in Bangladesh

Let's go back to the past of this country. We can see that the world's worst famines took place in Bangladesh in 1769, 1770, 1943 and 1974 due to instability and high variation of domestic food production and price reduced income of the wage labourers, marginal and landless farmers, fishers, blacksmiths, potter and service providers like haircutters, rickshaw drivers or rendered them jobless. They failed to acquire food due to a lack of purchasing power, price support, and charity. The country also came across a Silent Famine or Hidden Hunger in 2008 that took place due to crop failures for two devastating floods and one super cyclone (SIDR), import problems for restrictions imposed by surplus countries, tight supply, lack of foreign aid and impacts of State of Emergency set in 2007 and 2008. We have to guard against famine in this country by ensuring food security to all at all times by applying food policy instruments.

7.2 Supply side food policy instruments

The food supply can be obtained by increasing domestic production, import or food aid or a combination. Without import or food aid, the acceleration of domestic

food production is the only way to acquire supply. A viable storage facility must be built up by contracted supply, which all can access.

7.3 Distribution side food policy instruments

Benevolent distribution can ensure food security through efficient and transparent marketing and income transfers, the opportunity for buying food, increasing purchasing power by generating employment or income transfers, controlled distribution and saving of seeds and prohibition of alternative uses of food and agricultural lands.

7.4 Consumption side food policy instruments

The ultimate objectives of food policy are to increase consumption. The policy instruments are to interact with evolving a policy check-valve to stop the leakage of the benefits streams generated by positive transfers of all policy instruments to maximise food consumption.

7.5 Population census, household Survey and agricultural survey

Population census, household survey and agricultural survey are urgently needed to get up-to-date data to help and guide the planners, the policymakers and the administrators of the state to launch appropriate programmes to enhance the production of domestic food and for proper distribution of food so that everybody gets their provision for food thereof based on gathered information.

7.6 Optimum utilisation of wealth and resources of the State

For proper attainment of the objectives of accelerating domestic production of goods and services, all wealth and resources of the state (land, labour and capital) have to be utilised optimally with wisdom and skills as per censuses, household surveys and agricultural surveys. The stimulus packages announced by the Governments have to be targeted and used accordingly.

8. Employment generation and employment retention during Covid-19

Employment opens up the scope for selling labour for decent work that is a suitable means of earning income to procure livelihood for own and their families. Covid-19 has triggered one of the worst jobs crises, increased poverty, and widened inequalities since the Great Depression. Soon after the pandemic, informal jobs in our country fell drastically like haircutters, beauticians, potters, daily wage workers, domestic workers, garment workers, fishers, blacksmiths, transport workers, rickshaw driver's office clerks and officers of private offices, beggars, and so many others who lost their jobs, incomes and livelihoods.

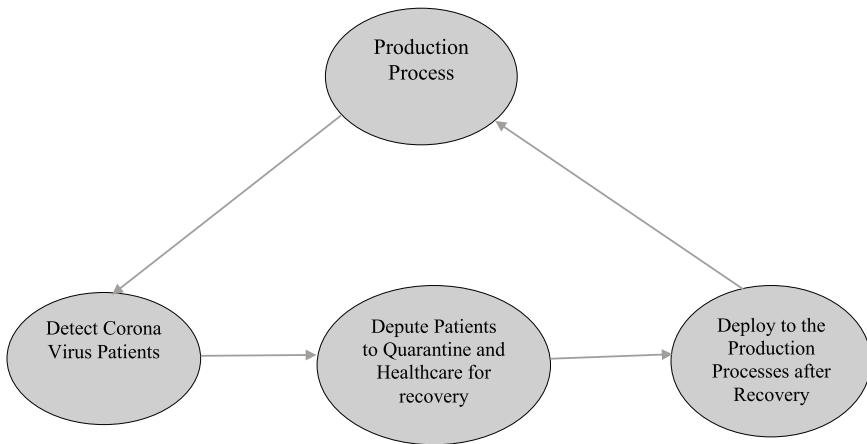
During the worldwide shutdown, the domestic farms and enterprises have to be kept open mainly for two reasons, e.g. firstly, to produce enough goods and services for all domestic consumers as well as to retain and generate employment of the thousands of local workers to enable them to earn income for procuring livelihood

of their own and millions of their dependents. A simple operational strategy for keeping on production as well as retention and generation of employment during Covid-19 will be as follows:

To meet the demands for goods and services of the people of the world, the production processes will have to be opened by observing necessary health precautions and protective measures prescribed by the physicians to face Covid-19. However, it is not easy to keep on the production processes due to the pressures exerted by Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) leaders who have been trying to stop the production process but accessing the benefits of the various stimulus packages as declared by the Governments. Sometimes the news agencies also publish dubious news and create chaos and confusion in the minds of the leaders of CBA and the workers.

Now we are talking about a simple production process that produces rice in Bangladesh for domestic and international consumers. The current cropping seasons of 2021 must be used in full swing to continue the supply of good rice for the people.

Figure 2: Rice production process under lockdown due to Covid-19



Production Process: Safe zones have to be established for rice production. Most paddy fields are located in remote villages in alluvial soils covered and protected with natural beauty and environment. Each paddy field is divided into many small pieces of land owned by different persons. People do not work simultaneously in their areas, so social distancing is maintained naturally. If anybody falls sick during work, a Coronavirus test must be done immediately. If the patient is detected positive, s/he will be deputed to quarantine and healthcare for recovery. During quarantine and healthcare, each patient will be treated as on duty or work and receive their salary as usual. In case of any death, their dependents will receive pensions up to their maturity and earning family members.

The state will provide necessary funds out of relief fund and stimulus package as announced by the Government to overcome the crisis along with matching funds if there is any form part of employers on account of food, medicines and salary for the ailing citizens during this pandemic and pension and jobs for dependents in case of death due to Covid-19. We have seen that people have been recovering much more than death from Covid-19. When anybody recovers from Covid-19, then s/he can be deployed to the production process again. Thus, our fields will be filled in with golden paddy. Likewise, the same system can be replicated in the production processes of Tea and other sectors if required with slight modification.

9. Social security/safety net: Exploring potentials of the festival economy in Bangladesh to face Covid-19

9.1 Economy of Ramadan

My Allah has blessed me to be present during the 61st Ramadan of my mortal life in this year 2021. Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. The Muslims have been fasting during Ramadan since 610 A.D. Ramadan teaches humanity to learn and practice Islam's economics. It has relevance to religious ritual, politics, and socio-economic perspectives.

9.1.1 Demand side of the Ramadan market

During this month, consumptions of various essentials go up usually because Allah has kindly permitted the fasting and hungry human beings to eat as much as they can during the night. The period of such demand ranges from the 1st day of Ramadan up to Eid-ul-Fitr ($30 + 3 = 33$ days), which is approximately 9.31% of the whole lunar year and the most extended religious programme of the Muslims. Demands for a few food items like chickpea/gram, lentils, onion, garlic, turmeric, edible oil, sugar, meat, egg, milk/milk powder, dates, salt, cucumber, eggplant, green chillies, potato, spices, soft drink, various fruits, etc. increase significantly during Ramadan. Apart from these, demands for cloth, leather and electronic goods, cosmetics, gold, and luxury items also increased during this period. This excess demand and related economic activities during holy Ramadan are known, confirmed, effective and rising, especially for Muslims, because this religious ritual is eternal.

9.1.2 Supply side of Ramadan market

The supply of goods for Ramadan comes from domestic production and import. The Government Departments and private entrepreneurs are engaged in augmenting supplies of essential commodities in Bangladesh for Ramadan. Stabilisation of prices depends on the stable supplies of the Commodities or products. However, the destabilisation of the supply of commodities caused by unscrupulous traders

affects the consumers; among them, the worst sufferers are the country's poor people, i.e. limited income and low-income people. The institutionalisation of the sub-sector can stabilise supplies of the commodities or products during one month of Ramadan. Stable supplies of essential commodities at fair prices can make friendships among the country's people.

9.1.3 Intervention by the law enforcement agency

Law enforcement agencies occasionally intervene in the market and foil attempts of wholesalers to sell goods at a higher price.

9.1.4 The size of the economy of Ramadan in Bangladesh

Ramadan disperses the spectrum among Muslims regarding its socio-economic impacts on their lives and well-being. During Ramadan, people spend vast amounts of money to fulfil their basic needs of food, cloth and other consumer goods that enhance their living standards. This effective demand boosts the domestic economy through related investments and employment creation. It also encourages Muslims to distribute their income through zakat, fitra and charitable that helps the poor escape poverty to some extent. According to various newspaper reports, the worth of the Ramadan economy is more than Tk.100,000 crores, equivalent to US\$ 11.76 billion (1 US\$ = Tk.85) per year in Bangladesh.

This year Ramadan arrives among us in such a situation when many people have lost their jobs due to quarantine and human distancing imposed by the authority to stop the spreading of Covid-19. The domestic production of Eid-related commodities can be strengthened in full swing to stabilise supplies and prices and retain and create jobs. The fund earmarked for zakat, fitra and charitable can be provided to the jobless as humanitarian assistance to keep alive of the working class during the pandemic so that they can survive and start careers again.

10. Economy of Eid-ul-Azha

Eid-ul-Azha is the biggest sacrificial religious festival observed by Muslims who sacrifice selected animals from the 10th to 12th of Dhul Hijjah (three days and two nights) to honour the Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim (PBUH) and distribute at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of meat and skin to the entitled poor. The size of the Eid-ul-Azha economy in Bangladesh is growing every year with the increase of the GDP and affects the lives and well-being of all Muslims through forwarding and backward linkages.

10.2.1 Demand side of the Eid-ul-Azha economy

Presently more than 100 thousand animals like cattle, goats, sheep, camels and others are sacrificed during Eid-ul-Azha. It creates ancillary demands for knives and machetes, spices, refrigerators, freezers and cooking, furniture, clothes, foot wears and other commodities, transportation, tourism and holidays.

10.2.2 Supply side of Eid-ul-Azha economy

The economic activities begin with the raising of animals, feed industry, animal health, transportation of animals to the marketplace for sale, manufacturing and shunning of knife and machete, sacrificial function, meat preparation, collection, processing and storage of skins and hides create tremendous full-time and part-time employment opportunities. Eid-ul-Azha allows the poor to procure meat that fulfils their nutrient requirement to some extent. It also supplies more than 50% of raw materials for the industries like leather, leather goods and hides.

10.2.3 Size of Eid-ul-Azha economy in Bangladesh

Eid-ul-Azha demand and supply-related activities involve colossal demand and supply of money in the market that increase cash flow in the economy. The monetary involvement of Eid-ul-Azha is stated in Table 1. The economic activities involving buying, selling and slaughtering animals, processing, distribution, preserving, cooking and consuming meat and ancillary socio-economic functions require financial transactions of approximately Tk.39,480 crores, equivalent to US\$ 4.64 billion per year.

The total size of the Eid festival economy is worth US\$ 16.40 (11.76 + 4.64) billion per year. These Islamic festivals have an inbuilt mechanism of providing humanitarian assistance in the forms of Zakat, Fitra, Charitable, distribution of meat and skin of the sacrificed animals to the poor, which helps to escape poverty to some extent. The size of the Eid festival economy is about 5.73% of Bangladesh's GDP (US\$ 286 billion in 2019).

Table 1: Estimated monetary involvement of Eid-ul-Azha

Sl. No.	Items	Number/ Quantity	Rate in Taka	Money in Crore Taka	Money in US\$ (million)
1	Cattle sales	4,000,000	55,000	22,000	2,588.24
2	Feed for cattle	4,000,000	500	200	23.53
3	Goats and others sales	6,500,000	8,000	5,200	611.76
4	Feed for goat and others	6,500,000	200	130	15.29
5	Garment and miscellaneous	-	-	5,000	588.24
6	Electronics (refrigerators, freezers and cooking)	-	-	2500	294.12
7	Transport	-	-	2,000	235.29
8	Spices	-	-	1500	176.47
9	Slaughtering tools	-	-	500	58.82
10	Raw hide and skin	-	-	450	52.94
11				39,480	4,644.70
				Total	US\$ 4.64 billion

11. Policy Recommendations

- **Panic and fear about Covid-19:** The people should not panic about Covid-19. Because of panic and anxiety about Covid-19 caused an overall lockdown at home and abroad several times that resulted in a slowdown in production, loss of exports, loss of jobs, incomes and livelihoods and disruption of supply chains and markets.
- **Travel ban and quarantine:** The Islamic teachings and ways of life have been proved to be a practical and ultimate approach to facing any pandemic. Travel ban and quarantine are two main instruments for minimising impacts and ending the pandemic. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has a chance to spread worldwide from Wuhan due to a lack of travel ban and quarantine.
- **The domestic economy has to be cared for by stabilising supplies, prices and growth:** Accelerating the growth of the domestic economy through the production of core food items, textiles, garments, leather and leather goods, and all other local economic activities will help to stabilise supplies, prices and growth, retain and generate employment and mitigate the loss of export earnings and remittances.
- **Covid-19 medicines and Covid-19 vaccines to end pandemic:** In-country research and collaboration with international communities to develop, manufacture and deploy safe and effective Covid-19 medicines and Covid-19 vaccines are urgently needed to complete the pandemic.
- **Exploring potentials of the festival economy as social security to face Covid-19:** Potentials of the festival economy are to be explored in full swing for generating more employment and income as well as providing Zakat, Fitra and charitable to redress the sufferings of the poor.
- **Population census, household survey and agricultural survey:** Population census, household survey and agricultural survey are urgently needed to get up-to-date data to launch appropriate programmes to enhance the production of domestic goods and services and adequately distribute food to minimise food insecurity.
- **External trade and remittances:** Loss of external flow of incomes from export earnings and remittances have to be measured to compensate for the loss as much as we can by accelerating the growth of the domestic economy. Thus, the total impacts of CV-19 on GDP can be reduced to a great extent.
- **Guard against smuggling and syndicates:** We must guard so that no one can snatch our opportunities and prosperities through smuggling or unhealthy competition by unscrupulous syndicates and traders.

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