

The “Trump” Buffalo: How a Viral Meme Exposed bankruptcy of Trump’s Leadership and the Illusion of Political Sovereignty of Bangladesh

News:

A rare albino buffalo in Bangladesh nicknamed “Donald Trump” for its distinctive blond tuft has been spared from Eid al-Adha sacrifice after a last-minute government intervention, according to a home ministry official. The nearly 700kg (1,543lb) animal had already been sold for ritual slaughter when authorities stepped in, citing security concerns after a surge of public interest before Thursday’s festival. The minister of home affairs, Salahuddin Ahmed, ordered the buffalo be spared, the buyer refunded, and the animal moved to the national zoo in Dhaka. “At the last moment, the decision was taken to spare the buffalo from sacrifice due to security concerns and the unusual level of public interest,” a ministry official said (The Guardian, 28 May, 2026).

Comment:

The bizarre saga of "Trump" - the 700-kilogram albino buffalo from Dhaka - is a uniquely 2026 phenomenon. What began as a lighthearted viral sensation quickly transformed into a stark demonstration of how the modern nation-state operates under the shadow of Western hegemony.

The animal initially gained notoriety for its rare physical traits: a cream-colored coat, a pinkish nose, and a distinctive blond tuft of hair that bore a humorous resemblance to the US President. As photos exploded across TikTok and Facebook, the buffalo became a nationwide tourist attraction. On social media, the public seized the opportunity to use the animal as a satirical tool, drawing comparisons to criticize Trump’s leadership capacity. Calling someone a "goru" (cow) in Bengali is a common, mild insult implying that the person is foolish or lacks understanding. Thus, the people are intrigued to compare this ‘Trump-Like-Bufferalo’ with bankruptcy of Trump’s leadership (in terms of stupidity). Reflecting a deeper disdain, social media users argued that Trump’s leadership capacity perfectly illustrates the behavior warned against in the Quran: *أَمْ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ أَوْ يَعْقِلُونَ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ*

﴿سَبِيحًا﴾ **“Or do you think that most of them listen or understand? They are only like cattle - no, more than that, they are astray from the (Right) Way!”** [TMQ Al-Furqan: 44] arguing that the beast possessed more inherent value than the politician Trump.

However, the narrative took a political turn when the state intervened. Purchased by a businessman for ritual sacrifice during Eid ul-Adha, the buffalo’s slaughter was halted by the Ministry of Home Affairs mere hours before the event. Officially, bureaucrats cited public security, uncontrollable crowds, and the biological necessity of preserving rare albino genetics for breeding.

Yet, for the average citizen, this state intervention feels far more insidious than simple crowd management. It has sparked public outrage, leaving many to question the reality of their independence. To the local populace, the government’s sudden interference in a private, religious rite looks less like wildlife conservation and more like geopolitical cowardice.

The subtext of the decision is clear: our rulers are so deeply intimidated by the US-led world order that they cannot even allow the sacrifice of an animal bearing a Western leader's name. If a sovereign state lacks the autonomy to navigate a viral media moment without panic, it naturally raises a darker question: how can these same leaders be trusted to defend national sovereignty against major foreign encroaches, such as controversial defense and trade pacts like ACSA, GSOMIA, ART? In the end, it did not take a diplomatic crisis to expose the fragility of our independence - it only took one viral buffalo.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by
Irtiza Chowdhury – Wilayah Bangladesh