

## **Moin the smiling butcher**

Moin started working at a butcher shop at an early age of 17 years to support his family. Over years he has moved from a helper to being the second in command at Crown Mutton Shop in Russell Market. Today he does the most skilled job of taking out the meat from ribs and vertebrae. Customers coming back and praising the meat quality is the best feeling he gets from his job. Life is improved with technology as he is able to communicate with his customers through whatsapp and all accounts are clear too. His job otherwise was not very stressful.

Life has not been easy in the past couple of years though. The demand for red meat is reduced due to more health-conscious lifestyle. More over supply from the main butcher centre is not consistent that leads to unproductive days. He works part time as a kebab maker at a nearby restaurant but it is like having his legs in two different boats.

Bigger issue is the authorities digging the roads around the market for renovation. This has led to a very foul smell around the market and discourages the customer walk-ins. People prefer to buy from airconditioned malls now. There is no specific timeline given by the civic authorities as well.

He smiles and points at a cat who visits his store daily, never steals and only eats what she is given but will touch only kidney pieces. Moin says we are in some ways like her, honest and committed to our work.