

Guidelines for services of Imam soon

UNB, Dhaka

The government will soon formulate guidelines for the Imams' job and management of mosques in the country.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan disclosed the plan in parliament yesterday in response to a call attention notice moved by Jamaat lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saydee.

"It's important to frame rules for the imam services and smooth management of mosques," the minister said.



PHOTO: STAR
The Action on Disability and Development stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding that 12 seats in parliament be reserved for the disabled.

Reinstatement of non-formal edn employees demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The terminated employees of the Directorate of Non-formal Education (DNFE) yesterday demanded their reinstatement under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

"We were terminated despite a commitment by the prime minister to transferring our jobs to revenue budget," said Abu Taleb, president of DNFE District Coordinators' Association, at a press conference in the city.

"But for unknown reasons our service was not transferred from

development budget to revenue one," he added.

The authorities concerned did not pay any heed to the PM's directive to absorb all the employees of the DNFE to different offices under the primary and mass education ministry, said Taleb.

Dr Tahmina Hossain, the then secretary of the ministry, did not implement the directive despite vacant posts of the same status in different offices under the ministry, he claimed.

The association leaders also alleged that the Post-literacy and Continuing Education for Human

Development Programme is being hampered due to closure of the DNFE. Books worth Tk 400 crore remained undistributed, they added.

The leaders said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) did not disburse fund amounting to Tk 500 crore because of breaching the contract, and the bank, in a recent letter, has asked the government to clarify the situation.

Association General Secretary Md Zakir Hossain, Organising Secretary Jahangir Hossain and Delwar Hossain also addressed the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR
Trevor Macdonald, general manager of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, hands over a cheque for Tk 4.9 lakh to Morten Giersing, country representative of the Unicef, Bangladesh for its 'Check out for Children' programme yesterday.

Abdul Kader murder

Bail of Mobile Kader cancelled

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the lawyer of former JP lawmaker Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, an accused in the Abdul Kader murder case, to produce his client before it today.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 issued the order as Iqbal did not appear in the court on three consecutive dates.

The court also cancelled the bail of Mohammad Abdul Kader alias Mobile Kader, the principal accused in the case, as he did not appear before it on six consecutive dates.

The arguments by the two sides concluded yesterday and the court will fix the date of judgement today.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 18 prosecution witnesses.

Abdul Kader, an industrialist, was killed in front of his Motijheel office by a gang of assailants on October 17, 2001.

The victim's elder brother filed a murder case with Motijheel police the same day.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police pressed charges against Mobile Kader, a business rival of the victim, and 10 others, including the former MP, on May 8 last year.

Iqbal Hossain and two other accused are now on bail while two others are in the custody. Mobile Kader and five others have been at large.

Special Public Prosecutor Abdul Latif Talukder and advocate AFM Abdul Wadud appeared for the state while advocates ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Mosharrif Hossain Kajal defended the accused.

HIV positives on the rise

BSS, Dhaka

The number of HIV positives is increasing in the country, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharrif Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The number of Aids patients rose to 115 last year from two in 1990, he said.

"At present, the number of identified HIV positives stands at 363 while 30 of them died so far," he said while replying to a question from BNP lawmaker Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu.

However, the minister said, the rate of infection of the killer disease is much lower than that of other

countries.

Replying to another question, Dr Mosharrif said the government does not have any immediate plan to set up a specialised Aids hospital. The Aids patients are being treated at the infectious diseases hospital in city's Mohakhali area, he added.

The minister said the government had taken various steps to prevent the spread of the deadly disease.

Formation of Aids technical committee, training to 55 health workers and enactment of save blood transfusion law would help prevent the spread of Aids in the country, he added.

No headway in Rupali Bank theft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Until yesterday evening police could not recover the money stolen from the vault of Rupali Bank's DIT Road branch at Malibagh on Friday.

Nor could they nab any of the suspects who decamped with over Tk 8 lakh.

Meanwhile, bank guard Abul Kalam and peon Aftabul Islam and local night guard Mosharrif Hossain, all held on Saturday morning for their alleged link with the burglary, were taken on remand.

Motijheel police produced them before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday with a seven-day remand prayer for each.

However, the court placed Kalam on a three-day remand

while each of Aftab and Mosharrif were given two days' remand.

Plan to ease traffic jam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to take various measures including restriction on the movement of train at peak hour to ease serious traffic congestion in the city.

In response to a call attention notice, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury informed the House yesterday that as many as 72 trains run through 20 rail crossings in the capital causing serious delay in traffic movement.