



Gurdwara Nanak Shahi beside DU Arts Faculty was known as Sikh Sangat of Sujatpur. The sixth Guru sent Almast, a preacher who founded this Gurdwara or Sikh temple. Preacher Naath Sahib headed the temple after Almast. According to Dani, the temple was founded in the early 18th century. He believes Naath Sahib could have founded the temple. It was abandoned from 1947 to 1960 and renovated after independence.

# Bringing Dhaka Zoo to life again

A hundred new members from 11 different species to join the show



A DAY AT DHAKA ZOO: Children enjoying elephant rides, some visitors strolling on the walkway and a pair of zebras munching on some leaves.

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Dhaka zoo authority is planning to add new attractions for visitors very soon. In addition to the current array of species, in a few months zoo visitors will be able to discover around a hundred new members from eleven different species on display, said zoo officials.

The new attractions include giraffe, zebra, chimpanzee, impala, kudu, elan, lemur, horse, donkey and several species of monkeys. However, to avoid possible infestation of bird flu they will not bring in any birds. Among these animals impala, kudu, elan and lemur are new names for the visitors.

Impala is a reddish African antelope noted for its leaping ability and for having ridged, curved horns in the male.

Kudu is a large African antelope with a brownish coat with narrow, white vertical stripes and, in the male, long, spirally curved horns.

Elan belongs to the deer tribe and is found in Alaska, Canada, the United States and the northern part of Europe.

The lemur is a kind of primate with a long, pointy nose and has a strong sense of smell. It is commonly found in Madagascar and the neighbouring Comores Islands. Lemurs vary in colour from reddish brown to grey, and come in all different sizes too. The smallest lemur is called the pygmy

mouse lemur, which weighs only one ounce.

Our source at the zoo told Star City that the tender for the purchase would be invited by the end of August. Officials are hoping that the new guests will begin to arrive at the Dhaka zoo by the end of December.

He added that for the last ten years there was no giraffe in the zoo. "We were planning to purchase more animals for the last few years but for budget constraints it was not possible", he said.

"Last year the ministry contributed some money to the zoo for new purchase, however, for some reason they took it back", he added. Fisheries and Livestock

ministry finally allotted Tk 6 crore for the purchase this year.

The yearly budget of Dhaka zoo is Tk 3.75 crore, said the official, out of which Tk 2.50 crore is spent to feed the animals. A large segment of their income comes from leasing out the ticket booth. This year the ticket counter was leased out for Tk 2.7 crore.

To cope with the extra expense and maintain the new species, a 10 per cent increase will be added to the budget this fiscal year.

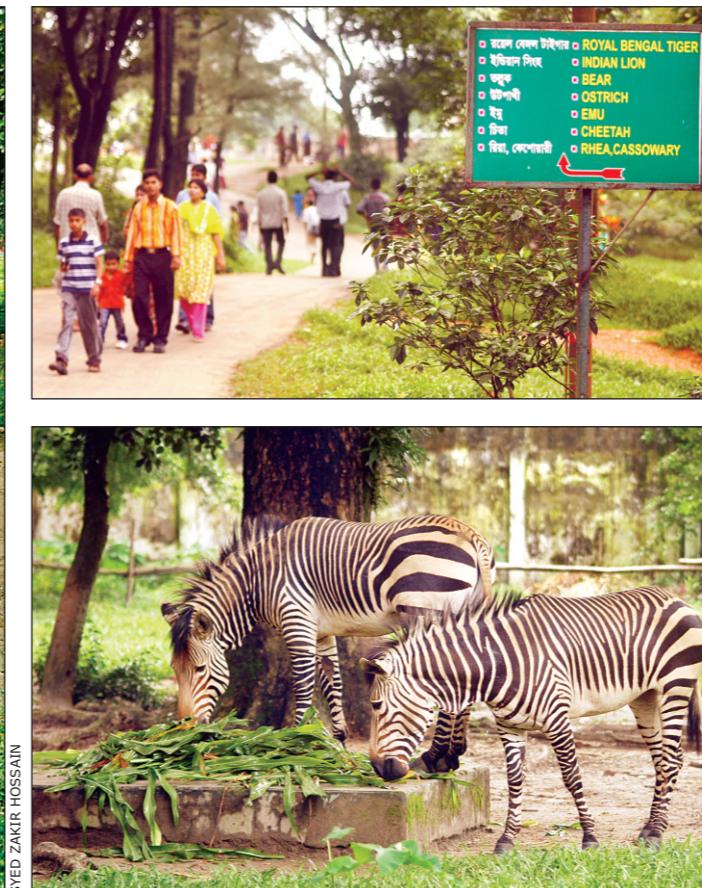
"Most of the species we are bringing are herbivorous. Maintaining carnivorous animals requires more money," said the official.

He also mentioned that the zoo currently has around 400 sheds. New sheds will not be built for the guests. Instead, some of the empty sheds will be repaired to accommodate them.

The zoo made its last purchase in the year 2002. Around Tk. 50 lakh was spent to purchase two cheetahs, two zebras, three greater flamingos and two golden pheasants.

Established in 1974, currently the zoo has about 165 species of animals in the facility, out of which 55 are mammals, 72 birds and 26 are fish.

The entire fleet consists of around 1823 animals, which attracts around 10, 000 visitors every day.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

## city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.

*"I will do politics as long as the countrymen want me."*

-- Khaleda Zia  
BNP Chairperson

Said in a teleconference with expatriate Bangladeshis in Japan, on Thursday. Source: The Daily Star

*"At the beginning I started it with great enthusiasm. But now I have realised the reality. I have realised that corruption is too sticky."*

-- Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury  
Chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission

Said at a press briefing, on Thursday. Source: Prothom Alo

*"We do not do anything out of anger ... We will not be able to set all the examples as we are an interim government."*

-- Barrister Mainul Hosein  
Law and Public Works Adviser

Told reporters after the Supreme Court judgment on Rangs Bhaban was announced, on Thursday. Source: The Daily Star

*"The structure is so rickety that if there is a storm outside we feel as if it is going on inside."*

-- MA Majid  
Nurse-in-charge, Emergency, Mitford Hospital

Told a reporter about the bad shape of emergency section of the hospital, on Sunday. Source: The Daily Star

*"Water level is decreasing but not my hunger."*

-- Bahutun  
A flood-hit old woman

Told a reporter as she took shelter on the Ratankandi dam of Kazipur in Sirajganj to escape flood, on Saturday. Source: Prothom Alo

Compiled by Durdana Ghias

## FOLLOW-UP: DAYAGONJ SWEEPERS COLONY

# Faulty design, poor building materials caused collapse

TAWFIQUE ALI

Construction materials of extremely poor quality and gross negligence in monitoring and quality control caused the collapse of the six-storey sweepers' colony building on May 25, said sources in the expert investigation committee.

The building, constructed by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at Dayaganj in the city, collapsed only a week before it was scheduled to be open to 60 sweeper families.

A five-member team, comprising two professors of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) including one geo-technologist, one engineer from army, one from Public Works Department and chief conservancy officer of DCC, was formed to look into what exactly caused the disaster.

"Very poor quality concrete was used in the building," said a member of the expert team on condition of anonymity. "Concrete may have weakness to a tolerable extent, but the kind of weakness we found in concrete used in the collapsed building has no match. Quality control on the other hand was absolutely ignored."

Analysis shows that there was no accountability or monitoring in the process of construction work of the building, said committee sources.

The expert team carried out laboratory tests of soil, iron rod and concrete at Buet and come to a conclusion that use of sub-standard construction materials had triggered failure of the structure. The committee is expected to submit the report in next one week.



The demolition work of the collapsed Dayaganj sweepers colony continues.

Collapse of buildings, even while under construction, has become a regular phenomenon in the city because of foundation failure or poor quality materials or poor construction work in recent times, said experts.

The expert team is now waiting for complete removal of the building to examine whether there was any foundation subsidence or piling failure in the construction.

Engineers concerned and the contractor became part of corrupt practice instead of maintaining quality in the construction, said a source adding that the local ward commissioner exercised undue power and the contractor manipulated the work.

"The findings show that lack of supervision, fault in design and poor quality building materials caused the disaster," said another member of the expert committee.

Though required by the Building Construction Act of 1952, the DCC defiantly ignored obtaining approval of the building design from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripathkha (Rajuk).

According to the law, any person or organisation has to obtain approval of design to construct any building in any area within the Rajuk jurisdiction.

The sweeper families have been living on the roof of DCC's Sweeper Colony Market at Dayaganj since

May last year when the construction of the new colony building began.

Ripon Das, a resident of the sweepers colony, said the contractor Atiq Ullah's men have been demolishing the collapsed building and two floors are yet to be removed.

"A construction labourer engaged in removing the debris told me that it would take at least one more month to complete the work," he said.

The DCC sweepers alleged that the authorities undermined the lower level employees like them in developing the house that collapsed days after completion.

Immediately after the collapse experts suspected that structural weakness and geo-technical fault were the reasons behind failure of the building.

"Appropriate design, quality construction materials and consistent quality control of construction work are crucial for safety of a building," said a top engineer.

All the columns in the ground floor of the building broke down very strangely almost in a symmetrical manner and the first floor even flattened with the ground floor.

Mayor of DCC Sadeque Hossain Khoka following the building collapse said it might be that the contractor did not do piling of the foundation properly and the engineers responsible for the work did not monitor the construction.

"We hope to remove the collapsed building and begin construction of the new one within a month or two," he said at that time.

But wife of Liton Das, one of the 60 families that were expected to live in the newly constructed building, said none from the authorities concerned has so far told them anything about when they would be rehabilitated.

"We have no idea when we will be able to live in the new building," she said.

Chief Conservancy Officer of DCC Maqsudur Rahman Chowdhury said that demolishing and removal of the building is in the last stage.

The new building had two blocks with 30 rooms at each of them. The north block has collapsed. The south block of the building is of same design.

# Swindle in the name of giving tuition jobs

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

A good number of so-called private tuition providers are cheating students with empty promises of tuition opportunities only to rip them off their money.

With private tutoring emerged as an ideal occupation for students seeking self-reliance, the fraudulent tuition providers have taken it as a lucrative business.

These tuition providers attract the tuition-seeker students through newspaper advertisements with attractive monthly payments along with assurance of tuition jobs.

However, after taking money from them in the name of registration most of these tuition providers fail to arrange tuition job for the registered tutees.

Tanzil Zaman, an honours student from Jagannath University, expectantly contacted one of these agencies for tuition opportunities. He was asked to pay Tk 250 to register himself as a member of the tuition media. After the registration process was over, the agency officials told Zaman that they would call him back within a week.

"They made me pay the registration fee and told me that they would contact me within a week. But two months have passed and I have not got any tuition," said Zaman.

"I tried to contact them several times in the last few weeks but they told me that they are yet to find any tuition job for me," said a frustrated Zaman.

MS Subed, a BBA student from Dhaka University, is another victim. "I went to a tuition provider after seeing a newspaper advertisement. It has been six months since then and they have failed to provide me with any private tuition job," he said.

While most of these agencies tend to collect money in the name of membership or registration, others claim half the tuition salary from the tutor for the first six months or so.

Some fraudulent tuition agencies take a fee of Tk 100-300 from the aspiring private tutees only to provide them with false tuition addresses before vanishing in the air.

Most of these agencies do not have

any permanent office address. Inquiries revealed that these agencies do not stay in the same office for more than six months. Even the contact numbers provided in the advertisements tend to go offline in a matter of weeks.

A number of these tuition media have spawned in Nilkhel, Kataban, Fakirpul, Elephant Road, Malibagh, Banani, Farmgate, Purana Paltan and other places throughout the city.

"I registered myself with a tuition agency expecting tuition opportunities. Although they assured me that I would have my tuition within a few days, they never called me back. Few weeks later when I went to their office, I found it closed. Nobody was there," said Mohammad Shah Alam, a student of Dhaka University.

Following tips from the tuition seekers who claimed to have been conned by such a tuition agency, this correspondent tried to contact the

