



WAR CRIMINALS  
Freedom fighters, parties boycott Bangabhaban Eid reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters and major political parties boycotted the presidential reception programme at Bangabhaban on Eid day to protest against invitation of the war criminals in Jamaat-e-Islami.

However, BNP leaders who were invited attended the reception hosted by President Iajuddin Ahmed and his wife Anwara Begum at the presidential palace.

The invited leaders of Awami League (AL), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Workers Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), and the Sector Commanders Forum refused to attend.

They also boycotted the Victory

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## Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Eid-ul-Azha, the second greatest religious festival of the Muslims, was observed on Friday across the country with due religious fervour.

The Muslims celebrate the Eid-ul-Azha commemorating the readiness of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) to sacrifice his beloved son Hazrat Ismail (AS) to fulfil the wish of Almighty Allah. Marking the occasion, the Muslims all over the world sacrifice animals and distribute meats among the poor and relatives.

The main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah Maidan on the premises of the Supreme Court under the auspices of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in the morning.

President Iajuddin Ahmed offered his Eid prayer at the National Eidgah. Besides, five Eid congregations were held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am and 10:45am.

Eid jamaats were held at 361 other venues in 90 wards of the capital while another Eid-jamaat was organised on the Dhaka University playground.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, advisers of the caretaker government, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain

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## 2 Paris-bound statues stolen from ZIA

France finds it 'highly suspicious'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid tight security, two 1,500-year-old terracotta Vishnu statues bound for an exhibition in Paris were stolen while in the custody of Air France at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) Saturday.

Named 'Vishnu' and 'Bust of Vishnu', the statues are from Gupta era of the seventh century. Since being discovered in a dig at Mahasthangarh of Bogra, they had been kept at the National Museum.

Their insurance value totalled 45,000 euros that is equivalent to around Tk 45 lakh, sources at the cultural ministry said.

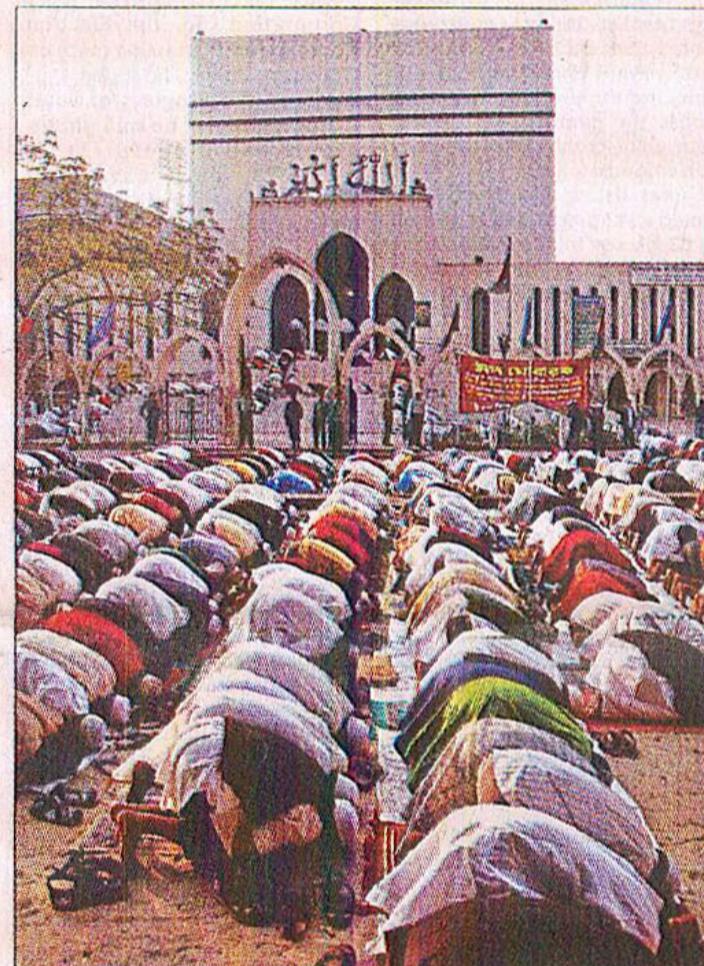
Despite protest from art connoisseurs, the government was sending the statues along with 143 other artefacts to the Guimet Museum in the French capital under a deal signed with France. In the first phase, it sent 42 relics on December 1.

The civil aviation authorities formed a five-member investigation committee yesterday to find out within the next three days those responsible for the heist.

"I had committed myself to bringing those back home safely. But I am shocked that such an unpleasant incident has occurred even before sending them."

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Hundreds of people offer Eid prayers on the road along Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the capital as the national mosque could not give space to all devotees.

Education and Cultural Affairs Adviser Ayub Quadri told The Daily Star at his office yesterday.

Lately at a press conference he had said it was a government level exhibition and all the artefacts would surely be returned by April 2008.

A statement from the French Embassy in Dhaka yesterday described the disappearance of the box as highly suspicious and said it could be the result of a conspiracy to embarrass France and Bangladesh.

About importance of the stolen works of art, Dr Shamsuzzaman

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Govt to think about lifting emergency if EC wants so

Says Mainul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday said the caretaker government would discuss lifting the state of emergency if the Election Commission (EC) wants so in the interests of local government elections.

"It is the Election Commission who will fix the schedule and hold the elections. So let them say first what they want. We will discuss it with the chief adviser," he said replying to a query.

The present government does not need the state of emergency to remain in power, he said adding that they would withdraw emergency

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## Public servants asked to disclose wealth by Dec 31

SHAMIM ASHRAF

All government servants must declare the amounts of their wealth by December 31 as required by the government as part of its newest move to boost the ongoing anti-corruption drive through ensuring transparency in the administration.

The move requires public servants to declare the amounts of their wealth at the time of their joining the service and updating those every five years.

While issuing an order regarding the matter in the third week of this month, the establishment ministry circulated two tables one for statements listing movable and immovable properties owned at the time of joining the service and

another for updating the declared list for preparing a central database of wealth of about 10 lakh public servants.

Meanwhile, there is a strong possibility of extending the December 31 deadline as the establishment ministry received a number of requests for the extension, according to reliable sources.

The Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979, which requires every government servant to declare his or her or any of the family members' movable and immovable properties at the time of joining the service, and an update showing any increase or decrease in the amount of the declared property every five years, has not been followed properly for a long time, according to the estab-

lishment ministry.

In the wake of the ongoing anti-corruption drive, Joint Secretary (Admin) to the Establishment Ministry Main Uddin Khondoker issued an order on August 28 asking all public servants to declare to the government through proper channels by December 31 any purchase and sale of valuable properties by them, construction of buildings on owned lands, and the amount of their wealth.

Establishment Secretary M Abdus Salam Khan issued another order on December 10 asking government servants to declare the amounts of their wealth in compliance with Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1979.

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## Road accidents kill 41 during Eid holidays

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BSS

The government offices, banks and courts opened yesterday after a three-day Eid-ul-Azha holiday with the capital still wearing a rare deserted look.

As

tomorrow

will be a public holiday for Christmas, most of the city-dwellers who had left for their village homes on Eid vacation, did not return.

In

addition

many government and private employees have taken additional two days' leave ahead of the weekly holiday to enjoy an extended period of vacation. As a result, the usual office work is expected to resume by next week.

Many

businessmen

especially

the

small

traders

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garments

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are

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capital

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homes

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The

bus

collided

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Sayedabad

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Dhaka

Bogra

Highway

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General

Hospital

Bogra

Mohammad

Ali

Hospital

and

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local

clinics.

BOGRA

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people

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road

accidents

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Bogra

correspondent.

The

dead

are

Mohammad

Selim

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