



Presence of staffs at different offices was thin yesterday, the first working day after Eid holidays. This picture was taken at the Sonali Bank head office in Motijheel area.

Aga Khan may arrive early next yr

UNB, Dhaka

Prince Karim Aga Khan is likely to visit Bangladesh early next year, which will mark the Golden Jubilee of his Imamate.

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During the meeting, Hirji also discussed the Ismaili community's role in the post-cyclone relief operations and announced a donation of 50,000 pieces of blankets.

Iftikhar said: "Aga Khan is very highly regarded in this country, and we still fondly recall his visit to Dhaka in 1993. The people of Bangladesh wish him well and would be delighted to greet him again on his Golden Jubilee."

AMCH receives Tk 20.72 lakh in November

People from all walks of life donated over Tk 20.72 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) in the month of November, says a press release.

The construction work of the 500-bed hospital located at Uttara is going on in full swing. The construction work of the 10th floor and two basements has been completed.

The donors are: Gyas Uddin Ahmed and Nurjahan Sultana (Tk 10 lakh each), Bushra Haque (Tk 34000), Zahirunnessa (Tk 20000), Sharifunnessa Islam, Lutfunnessa Rahman (in memory of her sister Zobeida Khatun) and Shamima Ferdous (Tk 5000 each), Razia Chowdhury Tk 2000, Atiya Begum Tk 1000 and Nazma Siddique Tk 500.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has sought more donations from all quarters for timely completion of the project, which needs Tk 200 crore in total.

Madrassa teachers can draw grant money by Jan 7

BSS, Dhaka

Teachers of subsidised independent ebteyde madrasas under Monthly Pay Order (MPO) have been requested to draw their grant money from the respective branches of Sonali, Janata, Agrani and Rupali Bank by January 7 next.

Teachers those who could not draw their salaries from July to September, will be able to draw their outstanding salaries at the same time, a press release said yesterday.

The cheques were deposited to the head offices of the above banks on Dec 19.



Winners of Patua Quamrul Hassan Children's Art Competition pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium at the National Museum in the city recently. Quamrul Hassan Art School organised the event to mark the 86th birth anniversary of the eminent artist.

NICVD fails to cope with growing number of patients

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Nurunnahar, 29, was waiting in a long queue at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in the city with her five-year-old son in her lap, who looks like a boy of two years because of his stunted physical growth.

Doctors of paediatric medicine at the institute advised the boy to undergo a cardiac surgery, which is quite expensive. Yet, his mother had managed the money by selling off their home to save her son's life and had been waiting for a vacant seat at the hospital and the serial number for surgery.

"The boy was released from the department of paediatric medicine a week ago as the doctors said he now needs to undergo surgery. On the other hand, the surgeons told me to go back home and maintain contact with the institution as to when seats will be vacant and the serial number for surgery will be given. But it is not possible for me to come here everyday," said Nurunnahar, who resides in Madaripur.

"Although the hospital authorities gave me a discharge notice a week ago, I am still staying here on the corridor and trying to share the foods served by the hospital for the child," Nurunnahar told this correspondent recently.

"I am not buying foods from outside as I have got only the money needed for the surgery. I had to sell off my home to collect the amount," she said, with tears rolling down her cheeks.

She has been coming to this hospital since 2004 and by this time she has become a destitute, she added.

"When I came here for the first time, I did not know where to go and who I needed to approach. Then a man, who I now think is a broker, took me to a doctor who told me to meet him at his clinic at Farmgate.

The doctor had been treating the boy since then and I have spent a large amount of money on the treatment. Three years later, the doctor asked me to take my child to the hospital," said Nurunnahar, wife of a day labourer.

"Nurunnahar is not the only one facing such harassment. Many patients have to wait for even three months for children's ASD (Atrial Septal Defect) and VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect)



PHOTO: STAR

The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases.

surgery because of absence of paediatric surgery unit. Paediatric medicine unit has been set up in 2003 and in most cases children need to go through cardiac surgery (90 percent cases)" said Dr Kamrul Hasan, a paediatric surgeon.

Nearly 50 percent of children with cardiac problems fail to get admitted to this hospital because of seat crisis, he added.

There are many examples where the schedule of a child cardiac surgery is given even a year later, said Dr Zulfikar.

Patients are being deprived of better treatment at this institute due to shortage of manpower and lack of equipments and reagents, he added.

This institute even do not have the system of testing the levels of Homocysteine, hSCRIP and other elements in blood, which increases the risk of heart attack, he added.

The National Institute of

Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) fails to provide better services and cope with the increasing number of heart patients due to lack of manpower, equipments and proper budgetary allocation.

The record of patients' admission in the hospital points out the need for more government intervention. A total of 24,958 cardiac patients were admitted to the hospital in 2006, up from 21,803 in 2004.

The number of patients admitted to the hospital from January to September this year stands at 22,153, the hospital authorities said.

The hospital has only 250 beds but it is now accommodating around 500 to 600 patients. It also cannot provide enough medicines for the patients. As a result, poor patients have to buy drugs from outside.

"The hospital can supply only 5 to 10 percent of the required medi-

cine to the patients. We can provide drugs free of cost only on the first day," said a physician preferring anonymity.

Talking to The Daily Star, Matin Mia, a retired government official who came to seek treatment here, said, "I have been waiting here for two hours to collect a signature from the Resident Physician (RP) through which I can manage ten tablets worth Tk 50 at a time, although I need medicines worth Tk 1200 every month."

Shudha Rani Kundu, 35, was seen groaning with severe pain in her chest and walking to the X-ray corner.

"The ward boys just brought me down from the 3rd floor and went away. But I don't know where to go for X-ray," said Shudha who came from Madaripur.

"We are quite helpless here. Nobody wants to listen or pay attention to us," she added.

UK Visa 7 arrested for document forgery

Bangladesh Police have arrested seven people last month in connection with the production of forged documents, used to support fraudulent visa applications, says a press release.

Police arrested them after receiving information from the British High Commission Immigration Section.

Arrested visa agents were found to have forged numerous documents, including bank statements, marriage certificates and sponsorship declarations. The forged documents were being sold to individuals making fraudulent student visa applications. Police have also arrested visa applicants who have illegally submitted forged documents with their student, visit and working holidaymaker applications.

A senior police officer said, "We are pleased with the outcome of these raids. Agents who produce and sell forged documents are simply exploiting people. Visa applicants should steer clear of them. Those who use forged documents will not only have their applications refused, but can face arrest and imprisonment under Bangladesh law. We welcome the cooperation of the British High Commission."

Jon Verney, head of Immigration at the British High Commission, said, "We warmly welcome genuine applicants for visits, study and work in the UK and we are always looking to provide the best possible service to them. Our systems help us recognise genuine applicants so that we can facilitate their legitimate travel to the UK more easily and protect them from identity fraud."

Theft in city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh were stolen from four flats of a multi-storied building in the city on the night of Eid-ul-Azha.

Sutrapur police said the theft was committed at the flats located on the third and fourth floors of a six-storey building owned by one Abdul Matin of Jugnagar.

At the time of theft, the inmates of the flats were absent as they went to their village homes to celebrate the Eid, police said.

In another incident, the burglars took away cash money and other valuables from Senbagh Store, a roadside stationery shop at Shantinagar.

Sources said taking the advantages of the absence of city dwellers on the occasion of Eid festival, such incidents of theft were also reported from different parts of the city.

DCC yet to complete disposal of waste of sacrificial animals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has been continuing its efforts to remove the wastes of sacrificial animals since the day of Eid-ul-Azha on Friday and it will take more time to complete the task of cleaning the city.

"We are trying our best to make the capital clean by removing all the wastes of the sacrificial animals and we are satisfied with the progress of our task," said DCC Chief Conservancy Officer (CCO) Commander Maksudur Rahman Chowdhury while talking to The Daily Star.

"Despite our various attempts to make the city dwellers aware

about the cleanliness of the city, they neither obeyed the DCC rules nor followed our request. They slaughtered animals here and there leading to a sorry condition of the capital city," he added.

The CCO said, "In future, we will strengthen our awareness building programme so that the city dwellers follow the DCC rules to keep the city clean."

The DCC mayor and the CCO have also visited the cattle markets and other spots to witness the condition of the city after the Eid.

Earlier, the DCC cancelled Eid holidays of the staffs of conservancy and other departments concerned to carry out cleanliness

drive during the religious festival.

It also deployed about 5000 sweepers, cleaners, labourers and other workers to remove the wastes of sacrificial animals and clean the cattle markets.

The DCC also engaged 160 trucks, 400 containers, nine trawlers, six pray loaders, two tire-dodgers, 20 dump trucks and 10 water lorries for this purpose.

It allocated around Tk 7.74 lakh in this regard, sources added.

A total of 11 makeshift cattle markets were set up at various places in the city on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha and several thousand animals were sacrificed on this occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka City Corporation workers clean up blood and waste of sacrificial animals in Naya Pallan area yesterday.

2 stabbed to death, another shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were stabbed to death and another person was shot dead in and around the capital in separate incidents on Thursday.

The victims are Habibur Rahman, 36, Majibur Rahman, 45, and Monir Hossain, 32.

A gang of muggers stabbed Habib, a cloth trader, and took away his money in Banagram area at around 6:00am when he was going to Narayanganj to buy clothes, Sutrapur police said.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital

(DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

On Thursday night, a gang of criminals shot Majibur Rahman dead at Adarshanagar, Lalmatia.

Family members said Majibur was a Ward 5 Juba League leader. But they could not say why he was killed.

In another incident, Monir Hossain, a daylabourer, was stabbed to death at Aganagar Bus Stand of South Keraniganj on Thursday night.

Three murder cases were filed with Sutrapur, Pallabi and South Keraniganj police stations.

'Bangla-Nepal ties on strong footing'

BSS, Dhaka

The newly appointed Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh Pradeep Khatriwada called on Foreign Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the latter's office yesterday.

"We have discussed the total gamut of bilateral relations. I am pleased to be able to say that these are on an excellent footing. I have invited Foreign Minister of Nepal Sahana Pradhan to visit Bangladesh and I hope she is able to do this soon," the foreign adviser told reporters following the meeting.

Earlier, Khatriwada presented his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

দেশকে বার্ড ফু রোগ মুক্ত রাখতে

আমাদের করণীয়

অতিথি পাখি ধরা, মারা ও শিকার করা থেকে নিজে বিরত থাকুন এবং অন্যদেরকেও বিরত রাখুন।

অতিথি ও বন্য পাখির সাথে আপনার হাঁস মুরগিকে মিশতে দেবেন না।

বন্য পাখি অথবা অতিথি পাখির অস্বাভাবিক আচরণ/ মৃত্যু দেখা দিলে সাথে সাথে স্থানীয় বন বিভাগ অথবা পশুসম্পদ অফিসে খবর দিন বা ওয়ার্ড মেম্বারকে জানান।

মনে রাখবেন, অতিথি পাখিসহ যে কোন ধরনের বন্য পাখি শিকার করা একটি শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ

প্রচারে : এভিয়ান ইনফ্লুয়েঞ্জা প্রিগেয়ার্ডনেস এন্ড রেসপন্স প্রজেক্ট

পশুসম্পদ অধিদপ্তর, মৎস্য ও পশুসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়।