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Mitford Hospital makes a difference

Service quality, cleanliness improve as strong administrative measures taken

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Once notorious for its lack of cleanliness and poor services, the country's oldest public hospital Mitford has recently turned itself around as a public hospital that the common people can trust and count on.

The management of the hospital has established an example of how dedication, proper planning and managerial skills can help run a hospital like an ideal

healthcare centre for the masses.

Mitford Hospital, established in 1820, is now miles apart from the country's other public hospitals where patients continuously complain of shortage of drugs, low quality food and inadequate pathological test facilities.

Patients seeking treatment at the hospital say that they have been receiving most of the drugs free of cost and are also able to get pathological tests done at low costs compared to laboratories outside.

Shila Baroi, from Keraniganj, says that she has been using this hospital's health services for the last ten years, and she has noticed an immense change here in the past one year.

"My five year old son suffering from typhoid was admitted here for 13 days last month. Not only did I get all necessary drugs free of cost, but the food served to him was also very good. I couldn't have expected this a few years ago," she said.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

3 electrocuted, 30 injured in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Three people were electrocuted and 30 others suffered shock in a pre-wedding function at Keruntoli village in Moheshkhali Island early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Manjurul Alam, 15, Nurul Alam, 20, and Nur Mohammad, 12.

Police and witnesses said a good number of guests were enjoying a cultural programme following henna ceremony on the eve of marriage of Nurul Hashem, son of Sultan Ahmed, in the village.

At one stage, a 33-kv

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Move to free Gulshan Lake of pollution

Experts' team to be formed to assess pollution level, find ways to check it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of experts will be formed to analyse the kind and extent of pollution in Gulshan Lake and devise means of purifying its water.

The decision came at a joint meeting of Gulshan Society (GS) and Paribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) at the park on road No-63 in Gulshan yesterday.

They also decided that Gulshan Lake Park would come under biological management to make its water congenial to aquatic life.

In March 2008, the GS got a periodic lease for

maintenance of the park and the lake from Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

Just a week ago, a GS sub-committee on the lake management led by Rahmatullah convinced the Dhaka City Corporation to find a bypass sewer as three huge drainage outlets had long been dumping untreated liquid waste in the lake.

Rahmatullah said, "We will drain out water from the lake, dig out layers of toxic wastes from the lake bed and fill it with fresh water next winter."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Thousands join rally, human chain to save Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand people joined a boat rally and formed a human chain on the Buriganga yesterday demanding the river be made pollution- and land-grabber-free.

Dhaka Nagorik and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the event along Lalbagh, Kamrangirchar and Keraniganj on the river.

State Minister for Law Kamrul Islam speaking at the human chain yesterday morning said the present government would take necessary steps to free the Buriganga of encroachers and pollution.

State Minister Kamrul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE Hearing resumes soon: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hearing on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case will resume at the Supreme Court within a few days, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

"The president has already created four new posts in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for this," he said in an exclusive interview with private television channel ATN Bangla.

"Four senior-most judges of the High Court will be appointed to the new posts within the next seven days," Shafique said.

With the new appointments, the Appellate Division will have 11 judges.

"After the appointments, the hearing on Bangabandhu murder case will resume along with other cases," he added.

The four posts were created to give the activities of the apex court momentum, the law minister said.

"Necessary directives in this regard have already been given to the Attorney General's Office," Shafique said.

He also said necessary paperwork would be done in a very short time.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

2 killed in lift fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed as a goods lift fell on ground from the seventh floor of a building in the capital's Kamrangirchar area yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Momin, 42, a worker and Ripon, 35, a production manager of Mahtab Flexible Printing Press -- generally prints poly packs of a processed milk company -- at Ashrafabad in Kamrangirchar.

Witnesses said the lift, carrying the two and some plastic goods, fell off as its cables were snapped around 11:30 am. Momin was spot dead while Ripon sustained severe injuries.

Ripon was rushed to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

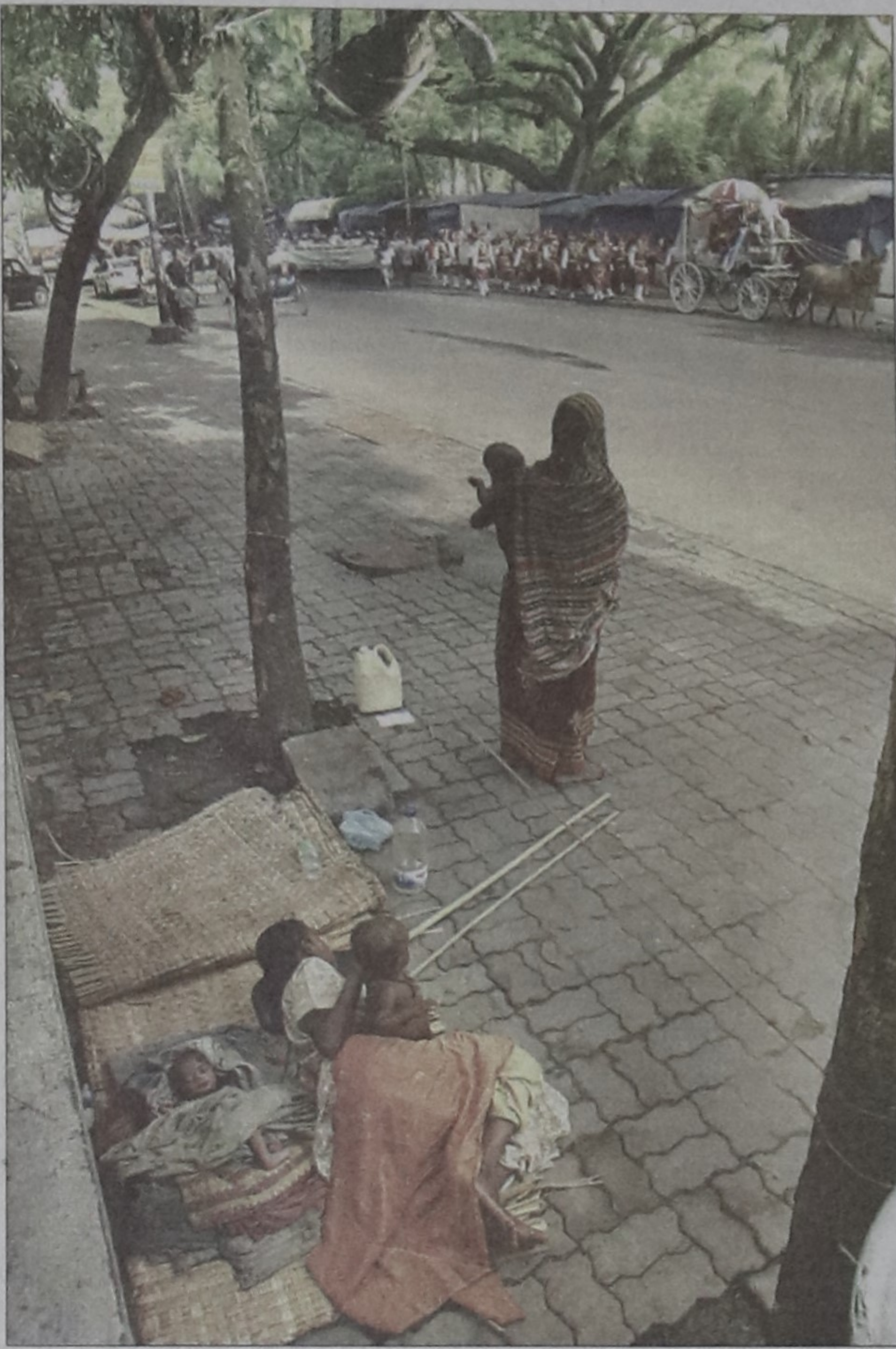


PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Members of a homeless family on the pavement of a street near Curzon Hall in the capital watch a colourful procession marking the World Population Day yesterday.

Fear of arrest, attacks haunts Uighur Muslims

AFP, Urumqi

Some Muslim Uighurs in this restive Chinese city remain in hiding nearly a week after deadly unrest as they are afraid of being attacked by Han Chinese or arrested, residents said yesterday.

Thousands of people Friday tried to flee Urumqi in China's Xinjiang region after deadly ethnic unrest with many mosques ordered shut for the Muslim day of prayer.

The exodus came as the authorities raised the toll from the violence that erupted on Sunday to more than 180 in the midst of growing international anger, especially in the Islamic world, at the plight of Xinjiang's Uighurs.

Authorities said they had put on extra bus services out of the regional capital Urumqi, but demand outstripped seats and scalpers told AFP they were charging up to five times the

normal price for tickets.

"It is just too risky to stay here. We are scared of the violence," said Xu Qiugen, a 23-year-old construction worker from central China who had been living in Urumqi for five years and had bought a bus ticket out with his wife.

Halisha, an eye doctor who works in the Uighur part of town, said he was too afraid to return to his home in a district of Urumqi city where mainly people from China's dominant Han ethnic group live.

"I am still scared because, you know, there are a lot of Han where I live," the 30-year-old Uighur told AFP after six nights staying at his employer's clinic.

"I am afraid of getting beaten because there have been a lot of Uighurs beaten up there. All of us just hope that everything can return to normal soon."

One Uighur businessman, who did not want

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

BDR-BSF conference starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day director general-level conference between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) begins in Dhaka today.

An 18-member delegation led by BSF Director General (DG) ML Kumawat arrived here yesterday afternoon to attend the conference at the BDR Pithana Headquarters.

BDR DG Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam will lead a 22-member delegation.

Strengthening joint patrol and preventing trans-border smuggling of illegal goods, especially drugs, will figure prominently at the conference.

In a bid to strengthen relationship between BDR and BSF holding of regular flag meetings and friendly sport matches are also likely to be the agendas, sources at the home ministry said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

11 hurt in school roof collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least nine students and two teachers were injured critically as part of the roof of a room collapsed at Gerakul government primary school in Gournadi upazila yesterday.

They were admitted to the upazila health complex.

The injured teachers are Amulya Ratan Kar and Mokhesur Rahman, and the students include Kulsum, Mukta, Fatima, Sharmin, Shihab, Faisal, Khadija, Sakina and Sakib.

Contacted, Headmistress

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

4 killed as bus rams taxicab

UNB, Savar

Four people were killed and 10 others injured as a bus collided with a taxicab in Bishmle area under Ashulia Police Station yesterday.

The deceased were identified as taxicab driver Jewel, 50, its passengers Sohel, 30,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

FIRST TEST UPDATE

West Indies 228/6 (73 overs) were trailing Bangladesh by 10 runs in the 1st innings on day three. Mahmudullah was on a hat-trick, claiming two wickets just before tea.

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with PM Sheikh Hasina that TIB's recent report 'Parliament Watch 2009' where it says the ninth parliament faced quorum crisis on almost every working day, is ill motivated?

☐ Yes (23.5%)
☐ No (71.8%)
☐ No Comments (2.7%)

Total votes: 976

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should take harshest possible measure against the dishonest fruit traders who ripen fruits by using harmful chemicals?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

July 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Maghrib	7-55	8-00
Esha	9-17	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Environment groups Bapa and Dhaka Nagorik hold a rally on boats yesterday morning demanding the Buriganga be saved from encroachers and pollution. The photo was taken at Swari Ghat.

PHOTO: STAR