

## Two kidnapped youths found dead

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
After 20 days of the killing of two youths at the capital's Uttarkhan, police recovered their bodies on September 9 while digging the soil of a forest in Gazipur and arrested three youths in this connection. Identified as mason Mohammad Sabuj, 24, and his friend Zakir Rahman, 23, who was a lift-technician, the two were kidnapped allegedly by four youths on August 20 and were buried at Badun in Gazipur forest after being slaughtered. Detective Branch (DB) on September 9 arrested three youths -- Kausar Mollah, 24, Suruj Miah, 20, and Tuhin

Matabbar, 16, from Satpoa village of Pubail union in Gazipur district. M o h a m m a d Moniruzzaman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-North) of DB, said one Farhad of Satpoa village hired Kausar, Suruj and Tuhin to kill Sabuj and Kausar as Sabuj had an affair with the sister of Farhad. He also said all the three detainees admitted during the interrogation that they killed Sabuj and Zakir being hired by Farhad who is now on the run. "They took Sabuj and Zakir to Pubail tactfully on September 9 and killed them (Sabuj and Zakir) inside the forest", the ADC said.

## 16 more contract anthrax

**STAR REPORT**  
The Institution of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) has confirmed 16 more anthrax patients across the country in the last three days. With this the total number of confirmed anthrax infected patients at 15 upazilas of nine districts rose to 495. Of the freshly infected, two are from Sirajganj, three from Meherpur, four from Lalmonirhat and seven from Charghat upazila in Rajshahi. Meanwhile, nine more people are feared to have contracted anthrax at a village in Araihaaz upazila, reports our Narayanganj correspondent, adding that the infected were admitted to upazila health complex yesterday.

The patients said they might have consumed meat of sick cattle. Our Rajshahi correspondent adds: three of a family and four others have been infected with anthrax on Thursday in Charghat upazila. The government at a recent press note claimed that the anthrax situation in the country is under control. It also said more than 94 cows died of the disease but not a single person, as the treatment is available in the country. Meanwhile, a significant number of birds, a dog and a cat were found dead at a village in Dhamrai Sunday. The livestock department confirmed that it did not happen due to anthrax infection; rather poisoning might have caused the deaths.

# DMCH sees surge of patients

**MAHUBA ZANNAT and SHAHEEN MOLLAH**

Though almost all private and public hospitals in the capital saw a minimum rush of patients during the Eid holidays, Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on the other hand experienced an influx of treatment seekers. The Eid holidays left an impact on both patients and health professionals, resulting in a sharp cut in the number of patients. A significant number of doctors and nurses also went on leave to celebrate the Eid, the largest festival of the Muslims. Many hospitals did not admit critical patients due to the holidays and leave. They rather referred them to DMCH, causing a surge of patients there, said Director of the hospital Brig Gen Shahidul Haque Mallik. The director added though comparatively fewer patients were admitted to the hospital in the last few days, the number was much higher than that of any other hospitals. According to the DMCH authorities, the numbers of patients admitted to the hospital on Eid day and the day before were 1,064 and 1,131 respectively against the average daily admission of 2,200. "As 40 percent of our 1,600 doctors have been on leave for the Eid, we are struggling to handle the patients," said Dr Mallik. He added the hospital saw 138 operations on Eid day and



Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) experiences an influx of treatment seekers during the Eid holidays. The picture was taken from the ward number 14 yesterday.

they are trying their best to provide proper services. However, many of the patients were not happy with the services they have been receiving at DMCH. Enamul Haque, 15, was found lying on the corridor in front of the neurology department.

"The boy was brought from Noakhali and admitted just before the Eid. But he has yet to get a bed. Not a single doctor visited him on the Eid day or afterwards. Though the nurses are working, they are coming once a day to provide the medicines," complained

Enamul's uncle Kamal Uddin while fanning his patient with a hand fan. During a visit to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), popularly known as Pongu Hospital, it was found that a significant

number of beds were vacant there. Managing a bed at the country's largest orthopaedic hospital is normally a very tough task. Patients at NITOR also alleged of an insignificant number of doctors and nurses.

Abdun Noor, 60, of JJ Ward was admitted to the hospital 15 days ago due to his road accident injuries. He told The Daily Star that after four days the brother came to him for dressing though he was supposed to have it on alternate days. At the emergency department only one doctor was found trying to attend some 13 patients. Shahidul Islam, 50 another victim of road accident who came from Dhamrai, was bleeding as his left hand was broken. He complained that he was waiting for 40 minutes but no-one came to him as only one doctor was struggling to serve the patients. The same situation was found at the Suhrawardi Hospital, Mitford Hospital, National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology and National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. Many beds were found vacant at these usually overcrowded hospitals. Though the outdoor was open at all the hospitals yesterday, the number of patients was apparently thin. The outdoor of the National Institute of Mental Health was closed by 11:00am. Asked, one of the staff said only four to five patients came and they closed the outdoor after giving them treatment. The authorities of CARE hospital said they are receiving only the critical patients. "On average, 55 patients show up every day. But now we have only 30 and on Eid day the number was only 25," said the information desk.

## Khaleda protests move to burn Quran

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Friday strongly protested and condemned the threat of a Christian cleric of the United States to burn the holy Quran on the anniversary of 9/11. In a statement, Khaleda said the attempt would hurt the sentiment of the Muslims across the world. Rev. Terry Jones from the Dove Outreach Center in Florida triggered outrage by announcing he would burn the Quran on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. On Thursday, Rev. Jones first announced that he would cancel the plan to burn the Quran, but later said he is still reconsidering the move. She expressed her surprise over the government's silence on the issue.

## 65th UNGA begins Sept 23 PM leaves for New York Sept 18

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave here for New York on September 18 to attend the 65th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) beginning September 23. On her way to New York, she will make a 20-hour stop-over in Brussels where she is expected to hold meetings with the EU leaders. She will reach New York on Sept 19. The prime minister will attend the high level plenary meeting on MDGs of the UNGA on September 20. The first roundtable on 'Addressing challenge of poverty, hunger and gender equality' will begin on September 20. There will be six roundtable meetings on MDGs from September 20-22

and the prime minister may preside over one session. On September 21, Hasina will attend the heads of LDCs breakfast meeting on MDGs where Nepal will chair the session. Saarc heads of states/governments will gather for a meeting on 'Climate vulnerability and its impact on MDGs'. Bangladesh is the lead sponsor of the event and the PM is expected to chair it. India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and the Maldives agreed to co-sponsor the meeting with technical support from the UNDP. There will be two panel discussions in addition to the country statements. On the sidelines of the

UNGA, the Biodiversity Summit will be held on September 22 with the president of the 65th UN General Assembly in the chair. The prime minister along with her younger sister, Sheikh Rehana, will also attend a reception to be hosted by US first lady Michelle Obama. Hasina will visit the new chancery of Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the United Nations on September 26. She will formally inaugurate the chancery as she laid the foundation stone during the 64th UNGA. The prime minister will deliver her UNGA address on September 27. She will leave New York for Dhaka via Dubai on September 28.



The three victims of Nimtoli inferno-Runa, Ratna and Asma, along with their husbands, meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday evening to exchange Eid greetings.

## Runa, Ratna, Asma meet PM

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Three victims of Nimtoli inferno-Runa, Ratna and Asma, along with their husbands, met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday to convey Eid greetings to her. Hasina, who had arranged their wedding at Gono Bhaban after the deadly fire of June 3, embraced the three couples with motherly affection and blessed them. They presented Holy Quran, Jainamaj (prayer mat) and handmade replica of mosque to the PM as Eid gifts. The three girls, who lost their parents in the blaze, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Hasina for her personal initiative to get them married, paving the way for their family life and building their future. Before the Eid-ul-Fitr, the PM sent Eid gifts to them and other victims of the Nimtoli fire.



Shajib, the only surviving member of his family, breaks into tears on Eid day as he reminisces on his mother and sisters who died in the Nimtoli inferno at Hosni Dalan on June 3.

## Cabinet body okays import of 1.3 lakh tonnes of rice, wheat

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved import of 1.30 lakh metric tonnes of rice and wheat. The committee in its meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair also approved purchase of 175 CNG-run buses from China at a cost of Tk 57 crore to ease the sufferings of passengers in Dhaka. Import of one lakh tonnes of wheat was approved under two packages. Of the total amount, 50,000 tonnes was procured at a rate of US \$ 315 per metric tonne while the rest at \$329 per metric tonne. A total of 30,000 metric tons of rice was purchased at US \$ 493 per tonne.

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## One killed by friend

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg**  
A man was stabbed to death by his friend inside a bus at Majijyartek under Karnaphuli Police Station in the city early hours of yesterday. The deceased was identified as Rana, 26, owner of a tea stall at Hill View Residential Area under the city's Bayezid Police Station. Police arrested the alleged killer Mamun, 26, a hawkker of the same residential area. Police said Rana and Mamun were returning with friends to the city by bus after visiting Cox's Bazar on Sunday night. As the bus reached Jilani filling station at Moijiyartek, Mamun and Rana locked in a quarrel over switching off the lights inside the bus at around 10:30pm. At one stage Mamun stabbed Rana, injuring the latter critically. Rana was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in the city where he succumbed to his injuries in the morning, said police. Rana's mother Nurjahan Begum filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station in this connection.

## REMEMBRANCE

With great love and respect, we remember today our beloved father, husband and founder Chairman, Mr. S. S. F. Ahmed, FCA. He left us 9 years ago, on September 15, 2001, for his eternal abode.

May Allah Grant him Blessings and Eternal Peace, and ease our hearts from the pain of his absence.

A Milad Mehfil will be held on this occasion at his village home of Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif on 15th September, after Asr prayers.

Family, friends and colleagues are cordially invited to attend.

**Family and Colleagues**

