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BUGGED by BEGGARS

Their number shoots up as Eid draws nearer

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Hands for alms go up in many folds ahead of Eid in Dhaka.

It is a time when people are more generous with bonuses in their pockets and their businesses doing well. But you do not have to be generous; the beggars have techniques to get money out of you.

Quite often they extend their hands when you pull out your wallet or stick your hand into your purse to pay the rickshaw puller or a street vendor; you are virtually caught with money in your hands. How do you then say no to someone asking for "spare change"?

You can't just ignore when they are constantly tapping the window of your car stuck in traffic. You'd just pay them so that they stop the knocking.

These people asking you for money could actually be earning more than you did this month. They are probably not poor or physically challenged at all.

From toddlers to octogenarians and pretend handicaps to homeless, all amateur part-time beggars throng the capital ahead of Eid to grab a slice of what is apparently a large pie.

Around 11:00am during Ramadan at Nilkhet intersection, an elderly man was training another on how to go about



Beggars on Dhaka streets, at intersections and in front of markets. Hundreds of them arrive in the capital before Eid to earn some quick bucks with almost no effort at all. They tap on car windows until its annoyed, passengers give in and pay them to stop the knocking. They keep nagging people for money at kitchen markets and shopping malls. The photos were taken at different places in the capital recently.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, SK ENAMUL HAQ

AVIJIT MURDER Cops claim 7 identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have identified seven persons in connection with the murder of writer-blogger Avijit Roy, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam yesterday.

"We have identified their faces and nicknames," the DMP spokesperson told journalists at his office. He, however, said the suspects' addresses and other details are not known yet.

Since the Federal Bureau of Investigation is involved in the investigation, the

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ZAFRULLAH CHY Contempt petition filed again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five individuals yesterday filed a petition with the International Crimes Tribunal-2 for initiating contempt of court proceedings against Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafurullah Chowdhury for his comments over the tribunal.

The tribunal fixed today for hearing the petition, petitioners' lawyer Khan Mohammad Shameem Aziz told reporters after submitting the petition to

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1,200kg explosive materials seized

4 held in Dhaka, Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have seized 1,200 kgs of explosive materials during separate raids in Dhaka and Chittagong and arrested four people in this connection.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam yesterday at a press conference at the DMP media centre told reporters that law enforcers were investigating to get to the source of the materials.

Although the seized materials -- sulphur, hexachloride and lithium -- are used in different industrial works, those cannot be bought or sold without government permission, he added.

The materials are also used for making firecrackers and crude bombs, Monirul said. The arrestees are Awal, Alam, Sharif and Saidul.

Detectives arrested Awal while he was selling two kgs of explosive materials in the capital on Sunday night.

Based on his information, they arrested his associates Alam and Sharif at Lalbagh and Chakbazar area the same night.



After questioning them, detectives conducted a raid in the port city's Sadarghat area and arrested Saidul with nearly 1,200 kgs of the explosive materials.

"Two kgs of the substance were seized at Lalbagh in the capital while the rest in Chittagong. We suspect that professional criminals were going to buy those," Monirul said.

Detectives last month arrested a Dhaka University laboratory assistant and three chemical traders in connection with supplying bomb-making chemicals to militants.

Go to grassroots, mobilise anti-govt opinion

Khaleda to senior BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night instructed the senior leaders to meet party grassroots and conduct mass campaigns during the Eid holidays so that the party can wage a strong anti-government movement.

"She directed us to visit our home districts during the Eid vacation as it is an opportunity to mobilise public opinion against the government's misrule," BNP chairperson's adviser Ahmed Aazam Khan told The Daily Star.

This was the first formal meeting of the BNP high-ups since January 5 when the party enforced an indefinite blockade demanding a midterm national election. The two-hour-long meeting started around 9:00pm at Khaleda's Gulshan office.

She asked the BNP leaders to convey her message to other senior leaders so that they could conduct campaigns in their constituencies.

The former prime minister told the meeting that the BNP would wage an

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Survey begins in 162 enclaves

Many residents of Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh do want to leave

STAR REPORT

Most residents in two Indian enclaves inside Lalmonirhat and Kurigram want to get Bangladeshi citizenship as the two neighbouring countries jointly launched a survey on 162 enclaves yesterday.

A total of 190 enumerators -- 95 each from Bangladesh and India -- started the survey at 10:00am. Of them, 136 are conducting the survey in 111 Indian enclaves in four districts of Bangladesh -- 12 in Kurigram, 59 in Lalmonirhat, 36 in Panchagarh and four in Nilphamari.

The enumerators will carry out the survey on the enclave population and land area and find out the residents' choice of nationality. The survey will continue till July 16 and the results will be published on July 20.

The survey comes after the signing of a protocol by the two countries last month to ratify the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA). It will bring an end to the long-standing unresolved issue of nationality of thousands of enclave residents.

The two countries have imposed a ban on sale and purchase of land in the enclaves till midnight July 31 when the formal handover will begin. The ban has been in force to

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SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO ON ENCLAVE SURVEY

TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE "1" NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER" FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.



National award for rag pickers!

THE HINDU ONLINE

Now, rag pickers' services will be recognised by the Indian government, which has decided to give national award for their contribution to keep India clean.

"There are millions of rag pickers in the country. This informal sector has saved the country. They are doing a good job and I have decided to recognise their efforts. We will grant national award," Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said at an event on waste management in New Delhi.

The national award, with a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh, will be given to three best rag pickers and

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A joint survey team of India and Bangladesh checking names of inhabitants in the enclaves of the two countries. The official survey that began yesterday will seek to know the enclave dwellers' choice of nationality. The photo was taken in the Indian enclave of Bashpatai in Lalmonirhat of Bangladesh yesterday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS			
Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
19	7		6-54
20	8	3-45	6-54
21	9	3-46	6-53

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

JAZAN	3-45	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-17
JAMAAT	3-55	1-15	5-15	6-64	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION