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No Eid joy for old home residents

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE, Gazipur

They wore new clothes and had special food on Eid day but that did not make them feel any good at the Old Rehabilitation Centre in Gazipur.

Away from family and children, the day was like any other day of the year, said the old home's residents, many of whom were not visited by their dear ones on the special occasion.

"I cannot meet my family members even on this Eid day. This is not life," said octogenarian Tafazzal Hossain.

He came to the rehabilitation centre at Bishya Kuribari in Gazipur sadar upazila two years back after the death of his wife.

Tafazzal badly missed his grandchildren, son, daughter-in-law, daughter and relatives at the centre and so went back home in Haatpagla village of Mymensingh after three months.

But his destiny brought him to the old home again two months back.

Tafazzal's son Ruhul Amin, a worker of a ready-made garment factory in Gazipur, said no one was there to look after his elderly father at home, which was why he had left him at the old home.

"My sister Parul was admitted to a private clinic in Mymensingh a week before Eid. Had I taken my father home, who would have looked after him? Besides, he might have a heart attack if he got to know about Parul," Ruhul said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



As he has nothing else to do, a man, in his 80s, trying to pass his time reading an old newspaper at an old rehabilitation centre in Gazipur on Eid day. For many of the home's residents, Eid was not a special day as they were not visited by their loved ones. *Inset*, the entrance to the centre.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE



Qulkhwani of Faraaz today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Qulkhwani of Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, who was brutally killed along with 19 other hostages in a militant attack on a Dhaka café on July 1, will be held after Asr prayers in Gulshan today.

His family expects the presence of his relatives, friends and well-wishers at house-NE (I)-4, road-83, Gulshan-2 in the capital.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

PEACE TV Cable operators await govt decision

STAR REPORT

Cable operators are awaiting government directives on whether to stop transmission of Peace TV throughout the country, reports UNB.

"We will implement any decision to be taken by the government in this connection," the news agency quoted Mir Hossain Akhter, president of Bangladesh Cable Owners Association, as saying.

Akhter later told The Daily Star: "We've discussed the matter with the [information] minister and he told us that the government would make a decision tomorrow [today]."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7



Inform police about your missing sons

PM urges parents

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Thursday urged parents and guardians to inform the law enforcement agencies about missing of their any college or university going child, saying the government would extend all possible support including technological helps to trace them and come back home.

She also asked the authorities of the colleges and universities to inform the police about the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Sholakia: an attack on tradition

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Kishoreganj

With the exception of four years when he was abroad, 62-year-old Ashrafuzzaman Mohabbat had offered every single Eid prayer at Sholakia Eidgah since the country was liberated in 1971.

Offering Eid prayers at Sholakia, the largest Eid congregation in the country, is an integral part of the yearly plan of the businessman.

On this Eid, like previous years, he offered his prayers with tens of thousands of Muslims. But what he heard immediately after was beyond his wildest imagination.

First he was in denial and then stunned. "I didn't believe when my daughter first told me about the attack," said Ashrafuzzaman, whose home is virtually on the prayer ground.

Like him, people of Kishoreganj, around 130km away from the capital, were taken aback by the brutal attack near the Eidgah that left four people dead, including two policemen, a woman and a suspected assailant.

According to locals, the first Eid congregation at the ground of Sholakia was held in 1828. Nearly 1.25 lakh (Soa lakh in Bangla) devotees had joined the Eid prayers then. The ground was then renamed "Soa Lakh Math" which became Sholakia later on, locals said.

The gathering of people has increased over the years. According to the official website of Kishoreganj district, some three to four lakh people offer Eid prayers on the ground every year, making it the largest Eid congregation of Asia.

As time passed, holding the largest Eid congregation of the country became a matter of pride for the people of Kishoreganj and they have become emotionally attached to the event.

When this newspaper sought comment from M Sanaul Huq, a former inspector general of police from Kishoreganj, he first said, "It's an attack on our pride... an attack on our tradition."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

'GUNFIGHT' WITH COPS 2 suspects in Mitu murder case killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two suspects in the Mitu murder case have been killed in a "gunfight" with police in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong.

The dead are Nurul Islam alias Rashed, 27, of Islampur and Mohammad Nurunnabi alias Nabi, 28, of the upazila's Rajanagar area.

However, Rashed's family alleged that police had picked up the two last month and "cooked up the shootout story after murdering them".

Recently, the law enforcement agency had issued a ban on the two leaving the country.

Officer-in-Charge Humayun Kabir of Rangunia Police Station said acting on a tip off, the Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) raided Ranirhat around 3:10am on Tuesday to arrest the "killers" of Mitu, wife of SP Babul Akter.

When the police reached Thandachhari area, criminals, who were hiding, opened fire and swooped on the law enforcers with sharp weapons. Police retaliated with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Kerala slaps 'fat tax' on junk food

AFP, New Delhi



India's peaceful tourist hotspot Kerala has become the first state in the country to impose a "fat tax" on junk food in a bid to counter rising obesity.

The state's finance minister Thomas Isaac announced a 14.5 percent tax on food including burgers, pizzas and sandwiches sold at restaurants and fast-food chains, as part of the local government's annual budget.

The government said it hopes that the move will not only generate additional revenue for the state but also deter people from consuming junk food.

"There has been an alarming trend in growth of unhealthy eating habits among Keralites and we hope the fat tax will be a deterrent," Rajan N Khobragade, the state's commissioner of commercial taxes, told The Times of India newspaper.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 10

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55
JAMAAT	4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00
				8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Police 'robot bomb' kills Dallas shooter

AFP, Washington

A suspect in the Dallas police shootings who holed himself up in a multi-story car park was killed by a police bomb after an hours-long standoff.

Police sources said the suspect had threatened to kill more police and was alternating between exchanging gunfire with officers and attempting negotiations.

When negotiations broke down, police sent in a robot armed with an explosive device. It was detonated, and the explosion killed the suspect.

The 'robot-bomb' incident may be the first lethal use of an automated device by American police, and underscores the growing role of technology in law enforcement.

City police chief David Brown told reporters Friday that officials "saw no other option but to use our bomb robot" to detonate to avoid any further danger after sniper fire killed five

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



People rally in Dallas, Texas, on Thursday to protest the deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. Black motorist Philando Castile, 32, was shot at close range by a Minnesota policeman and seen bleeding to death in a graphic video shot by his girlfriend that went viral Thursday.

Protests spread in US cities

Thousands take to the streets after black extremist shoots dead 5 cops in Dallas

AFP, Dallas

Thousands of protesters marched in US cities late Friday, one day after a black extremist shot dead five cops who were protecting a peaceful march against police brutality in Texas.

President Barack Obama said he will cut short a foreign trip and visit Dallas next week as the shooting rampage by the black army veteran, who said he wanted to kill white cops, triggered urgent calls to mend troubled race relations in the United States.

While many remembered the slain officers, anger simmered as crowds overnight Friday to Saturday protested the deaths of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, two African-American men killed by cops. Video footage of their final moments went viral online.

"As Americans, we are wounded by all of these deaths," Vice President Joe Biden said Saturday.

"It's on all of us to stand up, to speak out about disparities in our criminal justice system -- just as it's on all of us to stand up for the police who protect us in our communities every day," he said.

Biden praised the slain officers, whom he said joined the force because they thought they could help.

"So when an assassin's bullet targeted the police force in



Micah Johnson

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5