

# EID FESTIVITIES IN FRAME



**Clockwise from top left, A girl is all smiles as she holds onto the harness of the chair carousel ride in the capital's Shishu Park at Shahbagh. President Abdul Hamid during a reception at Bangabhaban on Eid day. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks with foreign diplomats at the Eid reception held at Gono Bhaban. A child in festive attire at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka yesterday. People enjoy a temporarily set up traditional Ferris wheel (nagordola) ride at the park. Eid holidaymakers throng popular tourist spot Bismakandi in Sylhet's Gowainghaty area.**

PHOTO: PID, STAR

## Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated

**STAR REPORT**

Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the two largest religious festivals of the Muslims, was celebrated amid much enthusiasm and religious fervour all over the country on Monday.

The main thoroughfares of the capital were decorated with the national flag and banners inscribed with "Eid Mubarak" in Bangla and Arabic. Public buildings were illuminated on the occasion.

Improved diets were served at hospitals, prisons and children homes and vagrant welfare centres run by the government. State-run Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and private television channels and radio stations aired special programmes, reports UNB.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia issued separate messages greeting the people on the occasion.

The country's largest Eid congregation in the capital was held at the Latiya Eidgah at 8:30am while five congregations were held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque from 7:00am till 10:45am.

President Abdul Hamid, members of the cabinet, members of the parliament, judges of the Supreme Court, senior politicians, civil and military high officials joined hundreds during the Eid prayer at Latiya Eidgah.

In his message, the president said after a month-long observance of Ramadan, the Eid-ul-Fitr brings messages of pure joy and pleasure for the mankind.

## Risky living on hill slopes

MINTU DESHWARA

With over hundreds of people dead in recent landslides in some districts of the country including two in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar, low-income people in Sylhet city are still living beneath hills risking their lives.

Rampant hill cutting and incessant rain that cause the soil of the hills to become soft, could result in deadly accidents anytime. Recently, some parts of a hill collapsed in Baluchar area of the city, but none was injured.

Rahat Anwar, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said, "We had already directed all the Upazila Nirbahi Officers to tell the people living on the hill slopes to take shelters in safer places.

There is no accurate statistics of the number of families living on the slopes, he added.

Gias Mia, member of Ward-6 in Tooltikar Union Parishad of Sylhet Sadar, said, "Though two to three families moved to safer places after the announcement, most of the families are still living in the area. Over a hundred people

live on the hill slopes in my ward."

"We wanted to stop hill cutting in the city but could not do so because of the influential people who are involved in the illegal act," he added.

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Sylhet unit Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon

*Over a hundred families are still living on the hill slopes. Due to soil erosion, some hills have already become risky.*

(Bapa) said hill cutting continues in Baluchar, Fakiritila, Noabazar, Somratila, Pathantula, Kekna Tila and Apara in the city.

After flattening hills, tin-roofed houses are built on the slopes to rent out to poor people, he said, adding that these people are living in a risky condition. The government is not paying due attention to the matter, he said.

Visiting the areas recently, this correspon-

dent found that over a hundred families are still living on the hill slopes. Due to soil erosion, some hills have already become risky.

Muslim Mia, a day labourer who leaves in Kekna Tila, said, "We are staying here because the house rent is reasonable for us. Most of the families living here are poor."

Hormuz Ali, a resident of the same area, said, "We rented a one-room house for Tk 1,000. When it rains I get scared. But if I leave this house, I may not be able to rent one again."

"If the government allocates safer places for lower-income families like us, then we will be able to save ourselves," he added.

Abdul Hye Al-Hadi, chief executive of Save the Heritage and Environment, said hundreds of families are living in fear of landslides in Sylhet city.

Vested quarters for their own interest have put the people at risk, he alleged.

The administration should relocate the people to safer places and show zero tolerance to the people who are engaged in illegal hill-cutting, he said.



**Over 100 families living on the hill slopes in Arambagh residential area at Tutukor of Moulvibazar, ignoring the risk of landslides during the monsoon season. The photo was taken recently.**

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## 3 murdered in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were killed – two were by mobs and the other stabbed to death – during the last three days in the capital's Mohakhali, Mohammadpur and Kadamtoli areas.

Shafiqul Islam, 30, an employee of a cable TV service provider, was stabbed to death in Mohakhali early Tuesday.

A resident of Dakshinpara, Shafiqul was being working at "Maisha Cables" for the last five years, his elder brother Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star.

Shafiqul went out of his residence around 11:30pm on Tuesday to buy chips for his daughter when he encountered waylaid and stabbed him, he said.

Hearing Shafiqul's scream, locals rushed to send him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He succumbed to his injuries on the way around 1:30am, Rafiqul added.

A murder case was filed with Banani Police Station against unidentified assailants.

Last Sunday, a suspected mugger was killed in a mob beating in Mohammadpur.

Identity of the deceased could not be known till yesterday evening, said Jamsal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station.

A group of people caught him following his suspicious movement in Chan Mia Housing area and beat him up, the OC added.

He was sent to Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Later, the body was sent to DMCH for an autopsy.

In Kadamtoli on last Sunday, a truck driver was allegedly beaten to death after he hit a private car near the Lal mosque area in Shyamapur.

The deceased is Sajib, 23, of Mymensingh's Sajufoan.

Saju Mia, inspector (investigation) of Kadamtoli Police Station, said they have arrested three persons in this regard. They are Habibur Rahman and his associates Alamgir and Kader.

The trio along with some others beat Sajib to death as he accidentally hit Habibur's vehicle while driving, said the inspector. They were placed on a three-day remand for interrogation, he added.

## 5 Jamaat, Shibir men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police arrested five activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhattr Shibir in Mollahkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar when they were holding a "secret meeting". The meeting was being held at upazila unit Amir Jakir Hossain's house on the night of Eid-ul-Fitr, said police.

Jamaat Shaplapur union Amir Mohammad Sabidullah, former secretary of Jamaat Mollahkhali upazila unit Shaukat Alam, Jakir's younger brother Ashraf Hossain Saddam. President of the union unit of Shibir Mohammad Hanif and Shibir activist Anwar Rahman were held with four local pistols, six bullets and four machetes, said police.

A case was filed. The five are accused in several other cases, police said.