

Free eye care kindles hope

Faraaz Hossain Foundation hosts the event marking Faraaz's 22nd birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For over two years, Samad Sheikh has been suffering from a poor vision and several other problems in his eyes.

But due to a financial crisis, the 70-year-old could not afford treatment.

Life is hard for him. He can barely make ends meet, let alone pay for his medical expenses with the money he makes seeking alms.

"I cannot move around that much due to my blurry vision. It is getting difficult for me to continue like this," he said.

Yesterday turned out to be a special day for Samad as he finally received treatment to remedy his discomfort at a free eye screening camp organised for underprivileged people in the capital.

"I will finally be able to get remedy for my eyes as the treatment is free for people like us," said Samad.

Faraaz Hossain Foundation in collaboration with Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) of the USA and its Bangladesh chapter Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) organised the daylong camp at a building on Shah Ali Major Road in Mirpur 1.

The purpose of the camp is to give free eye treatment to the needy. During the event, they were given medicines and eye glasses free of charge.

In addition, people who were suffering from cataracts would undergo free surgeries, if required, with the help of BNSB Dhaka Eye Hospital, according to the organisers.

Yesterday, the eye camp was held marking the 22nd birthday of Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain.

Faraaz has become an epitome of supreme sacrifice for the cause of humanity. His refusal to leave his friends during the militant attack at Gulshan's Holey Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016 was not only an act of bravery that the world saluted but also set the burning example of what a pristine youthful mind can do when it comes to choosing the right path at the expense of mere mortality.

Since morning till the afternoon there were long queues of people at the camp where the doctors treated over 300 eye patients.

Samirunessa came all the way from Comilla to receive treatment at the camp. "My brother, who lives in the area [Mirpur], heard about the eye camp and brought me here."

The doctors at the camp said she is suffering from cataracts. They said they will arrange treatment for her.

While inaugurating the eye camp, celebrated actress Farida Akhter Bobita said through his sacrifice, Faraaz taught the new generation

about the value of friendship, humanity and courage.

"The sacrifice Faraaz made (for his friends), the courage he showed and the example of humanity he established do not need any reintroduction," she added. "He was such a young soul... but he was brave, caring and courageous."

Zaraif Ayaat Hossain, elder brother of Faraaz, said the Faraaz Hossain Foundation was established to spread the humanitarian and courageous spirit of his younger brother.

"We all know Faraaz. We want to commemorate him on his birthday by working for the benefit of humankind."

He said the foundation will arrange more eye camps with a mission to help the destitute and prevent childhood blindness.

"We are all Faraaz...," he said while encouraging all to work towards a better future.

Dr Ehsan Hoque, executive director of Distressed Children and Infants International, said they will keep providing treatment for the needy imbued with the spirit of selflessness and courage, which Faraaz epitomised.

He said they will arrange more such eye camps across the country, especially for the children.

DEATH IN COLLISION Iranian tanker co compensates Bangladeshi family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) yesterday provided financial aid to the family of a Bangladeshi sailor who died following a collision between two ships in China Sea on January 6.

Seyyed Ahmed Moghimi, board chairman of NITC, handed over a cheque for Tk 3.85 lakh to the family members of Harun Or Rashid during a ceremony in a Chittagong hotel.


NITC official Alireza Seyfari and general secretary of Bangladesh Shipping Agent Association Abdul Gaffar were, among others, present on the occasion.

On January 6, a Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier, CF Crystal, and Iranian oil tanker ship, MT Sanchi,

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- He was the Head of Neurosurgery Department in Dhaka Medical College Hospital for 3 years.
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Top, A member of the health crew examines an elderly man at a free eye camp organised by Faraaz Hossain Foundation on Shah Ali Major Road in the capital's Mirpur yesterday. Left, People wait for their turn. Right, Zaraif Ayaat Hossain, elder brother of Faraaz, cuts a cake on the occasion of Faraaz's birthday while film actress Bobita looks on. Earlier, she inaugurated the eye camp. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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FARMERS BANK: TK 160CR SCAM

ACC grills Chisty

Ministry suspends shipping dept chief engineer who was held for bribery on Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated former chairman of Farmers Bank Audit Committee Mahabubul Haque Chisty, his son and two officials of the bank in connection with a Tk 160-crore laundering case filed last week.

On Wednesday, Mahabubul, his son Rashedul Haque Chisty, the bank's Senior Vice President Zia Uddin Ahmed and First Vice President Muhammad Masudur Rahman Khan were produced before a Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court that sent them to prison.

It placed Mahabubul on remand for five days and the others for four days.

Yesterday, an ACC team interrogated them for about four hours from noon at the commission's Segunbagicha headquarters, said an ACC official, seeking anonymity.

ACC filed the case with Gulshan Police Station, accusing six persons, including the four.

The other two are Mahabubul's wife Ruzi Chisty and ex-manager of the bank's Gulshan Corporate Branch Delwar Hossain.

In December last year, the central bank unearthed that Farmers Bank's Motijheel branch disbursed more than Tk 500 crore, sanctioned to 11 companies in violation of the banking norms and procedures.

Of the amount, loans of Tk 367 crore that the branch gave to 10 of the firms from November 2013 to November last year have become defaulted. Some of the firms are either obscure or little-known.

According to a BB probe report, Mahabubul was involved in the financial scams that took place in the bank's Gulshan and Mowna branches.

The central bank has held the private bank's ex-chairman Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir and Mahabubul largely responsible for the scams.

The ACC found that between November 18, 2013 and January 30 this year, Tk 138.82 crore was deposited with the

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