



**SIMPLE JOYS OF LIFE...** A girl plays with bubbles in her balcony in Barishal city's Chadmari area. Her face lights up as she dips one end of a pipe into soap water and blows through it to shoot bubbles into the air.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## DG of drug admin gets 'integrity award'

STAR REPORT

Major General Mohammad Yousuf, director general of the Directorate General of Drug Administration, has received the "Integrity Award 2022-23".

He received the award among the heads of the affiliated directorates of the health ministry.

Integrity award is given to the officers and employees of the government for their outstanding contributions for prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity.

Mohammad Yousuf was among the four officers and employees of the Health Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who received the award, according to a circular published recently.

## Arafat's

FROM PAGE 3  
three areas. He had a fever. Therefore, he did not come to the meeting considering the risk to his own health and that of others. He will get tested for Covid-19," he added.

Meanwhile, at the meeting, the CEC warned that they would monitor the polls through CCTV camera and would "stop the election" if there is any electoral irregularity.

# Blacksmiths back in business



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DIPAN NANDY

With only two days left for Eid-ul-Azha, one of the biggest religious festival of Muslims, blacksmiths and the knife sharpeners all over the capital are experiencing busy times in their shops.

Akbar, a blacksmith in Karwan Bazar, shared his experience while forging a burnt iron sheet to create a sharp knife locally known as a "Chapati".

"Prior to Eid-ul-Azha, we find ourselves swamped with work, while remaining relatively idle for the rest of the year. Although we do have wholesale buyers for knives and slaughtering tools throughout the year, it is during Eid-ul-Azha that retail buyers flock to us in large numbers," said Akbar.

The price of these essential tools vary based on the quality and quantity of iron used. Presently, Chapatis are being sold for Tk 450-900, butcher knives for Tk 150-300, small knives for Tk 50-250, and cleavers for Tk 250-450.

Adjacent to the blacksmith workshops in Karwan Bazar, there are shops dedicated to selling cut outs of tree trunks that are used for chopping large pieces of meat and bone. These tree trunks are priced at Tk 150-450 for general consumers whereas sturdier trunks, intended for professional butchers, cost Tk 800-2,000.

Not only are the city's blacksmiths reaping the benefits of this peak season for their ironwork, but knife sharpeners are also capitalising on the increased demand.

These knife sharpeners can be spotted along various city roads, offering their sharpening services at a reasonable cost ranging from Tk 50-100 per piece.

Ashraf Miah, a knife sharpener operating in the Segun Bagicha area, highlighted, "I provide this service throughout the year, but the period leading up to Eid-ul-Azha is particularly busy for us."

## Dengue

FROM PAGE 5  
of whom 1,795 are from outside Dhaka.

Some 1,410 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment, of whom 399 are from outside the capital.

A total of 6,297 dengue patients were released from hospitals across the country so far.

Total number of deaths in dengue was 281 last year while the total number of cases was 62,382, of whom 23,162 were from outside Dhaka.

As many residents are expected to leave Dhaka for the Eid vacation, experts are concerned about the potential increase in dengue breeding grounds that may emerge during this period of vacant households. Without adequate measures in place, the empty houses become potential hotspots for stagnant water accumulation, the ideal breeding habitat for Aedes mosquitoes.

## Rain falls

FROM PAGE 3  
"I have already sold six sheep, the price of which is between Tk 8,000-11,000. I was able to make profits as fewer sheep were brought to the market this year. I hope to sell all the animals by tomorrow," said Uzzal, who sold 15 sheep last year.

Khorsheed Alam, who sold six sheep out of his eight for Tk 10,000-13,000, making Tk 1,000 in profits for each, expressed his satisfaction.

"Sheep ensure profits in the markets almost every year," he said.

# National Zoo ready to welcome Eid visitors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the National Zoo is being prepared to entertain the city-dwellers during the Eid holidays.

Cleaning and decoration works are going on in various animal sheds. The authorities are expecting at least 1.5 lakh visitors to visit the zoo during this holiday.

The Daily Star spoke to National Zoo curator Mazibur Rahman about the upcoming Eid preparations.

"As always, this time too, we anticipate an increase in visitors during Eid," he said. "We have two tasks for Eid, one is organising the zoo and the other is cleaning the animal sheds."

The number of directional sign boards will be increased for easier movement and also for beautification.

The authorities have taken various initiatives considering the needs and benefits of the visitors coming to this zoo located in Mirpur of the capital. Some designs have also been made to modernise the zoo.

At the same time, new animals have

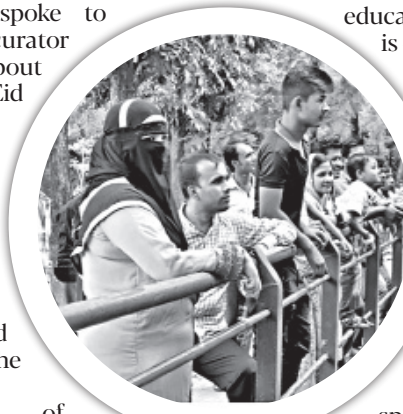
been brought from different parts of the world in last year. So far 16 animals of five species have been brought. These include four African lions, three pelicans, three wildebeests, two kangaroos from the Netherlands and four llamas, he said.

Mazibur Rahman said, "There is a children's park and a museum in the zoo. Since children are the main visitors of the zoos and it's also a great medium of education for them -- the park is designed to give children a different taste."

The largest zoo in the country is spread over an area of 186 acres. Established in 1974, thousands of visitors come from far and wide to this entertainment center every day. The zoo has 42 animals of eight species of carnivores, 271 of 19 species of large animals (herbivores) and 198 of 18 species of small mammals.

There are also 72 reptiles of 10 species, 1,162 birds of 56 species, 3,065 animals including 200 species of fish are kept in the aquarium. Altogether there are 162 animal and bird cages.

The authority said the zoo will be open from 9:00am and will close after sunset during Eid holidays.



## A leading cause of child death

FROM PAGE 5

death registration plays a crucial role in obtaining an accurate picture of child drowning fatalities.

Referring to the SDGs aimed at reducing child mortality, a spokesperson for SoMaSHTe stated, "If ward members are made aware, every drowning fatality can be registered and stored in the database. If each union receives instructions from the Ministry of Local Government, the UPs will accord them due consideration."

Despite frequent attempts via phone calls and messages over a three-day period, Md Rashidul Hassan, registrar general of the Local Government Division's Birth and Death Registration office,

could not be reached for comment.

Dr Robed Amin, the spokesperson for the Directorate General of Health Services, said since drowning is recognised as a community death, it requires verification through verbal autopsy.

"In a few upazilas, DGHS has launched a pilot project in which specially trained healthcare workers visit the deceased's home, interview the family, and analyse the data to identify the scientific cause of death. Expanding this project nationwide could provide a comprehensive understanding of community deaths, including drowning," he said.

He said with comprehensive data, they

can strategically plan interventions based on geographic locations with high death tolls, areas abundant with rivers, specific age groups facing higher risks, and areas requiring special attention.

According to SoMaSHTe data from January 2020 to May 2023, approximately 3,533 people died due to drowning in Bangladesh. Of these, 3,099 (87.71 percent) were children who drowned in nearby waterbodies while being unattended.

The highest number of deaths was documented in August 2021, indicating that the rainy seasons, when the waterbodies are filled, are the most critical periods.

## Another century-old building

FROM PAGE 5

ornaments -- a hallmark of heritage structures in Old Dhaka.

The rear of the building encompasses another open courtyard and a shorter block that extends towards the back boundary. However, it is the building's street-side appearance that captivates onlookers with its unique architectural style and ornamentation.

The structure exhibits two semi-octagonal blocks on either side, with a swing-porch nestled between them -- a characteristic influenced by French architecture, prevalent in the Farashganj-Sutrapur area.

Additionally, metal bracket supported balconies, a common feature in neighbouring buildings, further enhance the visual charm of Mangalaya.

Of particular note is the second floor of the building, where three decorative pediments [triangular upper parts of a building] grace the roof in the elegant French Rococo style. Among these, the central pediment prominently displays a portrait of its founder Ashutosh Babu.

The sale of Mangalaya by Dilip Das, the grandson of Ashutosh Das, who migrated to India, has cast a shadow of uncertainty over its future. Activists and concerned citizens are advocating for the

preservation of this cultural treasure, hoping to avert its potential demolition and ensure that Mangalaya continues to stand as a testament to Dhaka's rich heritage.

Taimur Islam, chief executive of the USG, said, "This building holds immense significance for all citizens passionate about preserving cultural heritage due to its aesthetic importance. The unique decorations and distinctive architectural elements make it unparalleled in Dhaka. The three decorative triangular pediments on the roof of this centennial two-story building are not found in any other building in Dhaka."

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## Caution issued

FROM PAGE 5  
utilisation of custom malware and payloads, defacements, sinkhole botnets, ransomware incidents, data destruction, sensitive data disclosure, and impersonation, among others, according to the notice.

To mitigate these risks, BGD e-GOV CIRT recommends several measures, including strict 24/7 monitoring of network and user activity, especially during non-office hours. Entities should remain vigilant for any signs of data exfiltration, repeated patterns indicating lateral movement, discovery, or command and control behaviour.

Furthermore, mobile users have been advised to exercise caution while browsing the internet, refraining from accessing untrusted sites or downloading files from them.

Entities are also encouraged to enhance their capability to combat evolving cyber threats and promptly report any suspicious activities observed within their environment. Reports of such attacks can be submitted through the BGD e-GOV CIRT's incident reporting portal at <https://www.cirt.gov.bd/incident-reporting/> or by emailing [cti@cirt.gov.bd](mailto:cti@cirt.gov.bd).

## Tripled in last 3 years

FROM PAGE 5  
initiated by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Shishu Academy, said Mir Masrur Zaman, director of Society for Media and Suitable Human communication

Techniques, an organisation committed to prevent drowning deaths through media campaigning.

"Such cases usually rise during the monsoon. Children should not be allowed to bathe in ponds

or play around them without adult supervision," he added.

Meanwhile, locals also urged that the authorities must scale up drowning prevention programmes in the district.

## Cattle trouble on Eid? Call 999

FROM PAGE 3  
vehicles on empty Dhaka roads.

He delivered this statement while addressing the media at the Mohakhali bus terminal yesterday.

He advised individuals to report any complaints they have by contacting the national emergency helpline number, assuring that lawful actions will be taken against all irregularities.

"We implemented effective security measures

during the previous Eid, resulting in a peaceful environment in empty Dhaka. This time, we have also taken ample security precautions. Alongside uniformed officers, undercover law enforcers will be on duty," Faruq added.

The DMP commissioner said a special operation against theft and drug gangs has been conducted over the past month before Eid.

"We have apprehended 600 individuals involved

in such incidents and brought them to justice. Additionally, our efforts to confiscate counterfeit currency are ongoing, with a significant amount already recovered and several individuals, including a gang leader, arrested," he explained.

Faruq further disclosed that CCTV cameras, watch towers and counterfeit money detection machines have been arranged to ensure the security of the 21 cattle markets.

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