

## BJP leader's comment protested

UNB, Dhaka

Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Welfare Front yesterday protested Indian BJP leader's plea for launching attack on Bangladesh territory in pursuit of insurgents.

Convenor of the front and State Minister for Water Resources Goutam Chakravarty made the strong protest at a function to exchange greetings with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on the eve of Janmastami.

"We, from this function, are formally and strongly protesting the Indian BJP leader's remark," Goutam said, amid claps from the leaders of various components of the Front, who came from across the country to attend the function at the ICC.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan and PM's political secretary Harris Chowdhury were also present at the function.

## One electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor boy was electrocuted while playing football in the city yesterday.

The accident took place when Mohammad Azad, 11, son of a day labourer at Kalyanpur Poora Basti area, came in contact with some electric wires left over on the ground.

He died on the spot.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.



War-wounded freedom fighters and Shaheed Muktijoddha Paribar Kalyan and Bastobayan Parishad form a human chain at Asad Gate in the city yesterday demanding execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case.

PHOTO: STAR

## Court accepts charge sheet against 11 JCD men

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the charge sheet of the case against 11 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists arrested in connection with preventing prospective bidders from buying schedules and bidding in a tender at the Construction Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) of the health ministry on July 30.

After scrutinizing the case docket (CD), statements of witnesses and other relevant documents of the case, Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza of the Speedy Trial Court-6 directed the authorities concerned to transfer the case to the trial court for quick disposal.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on August 10 pressed charges against 11 JCD leaders and activists, showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

The charge-sheeted accused are Imtiazur Rahman Prokash, Sahabur Rahman, Humayun Kabir, Mafzur Rahman, F Kabir Khan Shilpi, Sajjad Hossain Robin, Shariful Islam Sabuj, Majedul Islam, Abu Bakar Siddiqui, Asaduzzaman Asad and AKM Azad Swadhin.

Of them, Asad and Swadhin are still at large while the remaining nine were earlier arrested and are now in the custody.

The court issued warrant of arrest against the two and ordered attachment of their moveable properties following a prayer by the investigation officer (IO).

The IO dropped names of five others as their names and addresses, given by four accused in their confessional statements, were incorrect.

The four arrestees told a metropolitan magistrate on August 6 that two JCD leaders of Fazlul Haq Muslim Hall of Dhaka University — Shaikat and Asad — engaged them to obstruct buying and dropping of tender schedules for jobs worth around Tk 400 crore.

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) picked up 13 people on July 30 at CMMU of the health ministry on charge of creating obstacles to those who intended to buy or drop schedules.

Sources said August 1 was the last date for buying the schedules for three projects involving around Tk 400 crore under the development budget. August 2 was the last date for dropping the tender schedules, which were being sold at 36 places across the country, they added.

## 'Help children with disabilities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"I want to tell a story — the story is all about empathy, inspiration and courage. One morning I found myself paralysed. I was then only 15 years old. I lost the ability to walk, my parents came forward to rescue me from that abyss of misery. If we had lost the courage at the moment, I might not have been here at the podium today,"

eminent litterateur Selina Hossain thus started her speech to inspire mothers of mentally and physically challenged children.

SEID Trust, working to incorporate the children with disabilities into the mainstream, organised the meeting styled 'Experience exchange meeting with mothers of children with intellectual and multiple disabilities' at the LGED-RDC Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Narrating her experience, a mother said, "My daughter Mitu is now an adolescent. She is doubly helpless — intellectually disabled and adolescent. I am afraid of the bullies in society. Earlier, she was criticised for her disabilities and now she has become the target of social bugs."

Selina Hossain consoled them, saying, "I went to India in May and took part in a programme of a foundation for children with disabilities called 'Masum'. The programme started with a concert where 15 such children played 15 different instruments. Do not lose heart, these children some day will bring dignity to your lives."

Dilara Satter Mitu, director of SEID Trust, spoke of the organisation's activities and its integration programme that covers games, cognitive training and medical, physiology and vocational training.

It is now providing treatment facilities for 70 children with disabilities with the help of the corporate sector, she said and called for more financial assistance.

Prof Dr Geeti Ara Nasreen of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University, urged all to explore space for all. "The highest interest of all should be ensured in every sphere."

Prof Abdulla Abu Sayeed, president of Bishwa Sahitya Kendro, said the responsibility to look after these children lies on every citizen.

He called on the corporate sector to come forward to help these children.

GrameenPhone sponsored the programme and gave a cheque for Tk 3.5 lakh to the SEID Trust with promise of further assistance.

Ranjana Karmakar, director of Steps Towards Development, Dr Naim Ahmed, chairperson of SEID Trust, George Cage, principal of Aga Khan School, and Emadul Amin, director, HR Department, GrameenPhone, also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

SEID Trust organises a meeting styled 'Experience exchange meeting with mothers of children with intellectual and multiple disabilities' at LGED-RDC Bhaban in the city yesterday.

## Stop 'crossfire'

Left leaders urge govt

Leaders of Five Left Political Parties in a meeting yesterday urged the government to take measures to stop 'crossfire' by the law enforcers immediately, says a press release.

They also demanded to ensure constitutional rights for all and judicial investigation into each and every incident of 'crossfire'.

Speakers at the programme also said despite the stipulation in the constitution for the security and honour of arrested persons, their fundamental rights are being violated every day.

The press release also said that to press their demand for stopping 'crossfire', Five Left Political Parties with Gono Mukti Andolon and Communist Party of Bangladesh would hold a rally and stage demonstrations on August 22 at Muktangan in the city.

Junaid Saki chaired the meeting while other leaders of the parties Tipu Bishwas, Advocate Abdus Salam, Abdul Matin Talukdar, Moshrefa Mishu and Nazrul Islam were also present.

## 25 more to back home from Lebanon today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-five more Bangladeshis, who remained stranded in Lebanon following the Israeli attacks, return home from Damascus this morning.

Ethihad Airlines, carrying the Bangladeshis, will arrive at Zia International Airport at 8:00am.

Earlier, the government, with the financial assistance of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), brought 536 Bangladeshis home from the Syrian capital where they had gathered after registration for returning home from Lebanon.

IOM officials said 166 Bangladeshis are now waiting at different transit points in Syria. They will be brought home on availability of flights, the officials added.

## Girl found dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police recovered body of an unidentified young girl early yesterday morning from in front of Phultala Police Station here.

The body bore marks of injuries. Police suspect that the girl might be killed after gangrape.