

# Move to privatise Rupali Bank protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Front (LDF) Wednesday staged a demonstration in the city protesting the government move to privatise the Rupali Bank.

Addressing a rally in front of the head office of the bank at Motijheel, the front leaders said a vested quarter wants to plunder the state assets in the name of selling out the bank.

They also protested the wastage of crores of taka in the name of appointing foreign advisors in different government organisations.

The leaders demanded payment of wage arrears of workers in Khulna, reopening of closed mills and factories, and compensation for the victims of Tengratia Gas blow-out.

CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal

Biswas were present on the occasion.

The LDF will stage a sit-in at the Shapla Chattar in Motijheel on July 4 to press home their demands.

# Bangladesh envoy to UN honoured

BDNEWS, New York

Dr Ifekhar Ahmad Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, received the annual 'International Service Award' from the City of New York at a ceremony at the Rotunda-lobby of the New York Supreme Court on Tuesday evening.

The largely attended occasion marked the celebration of South Asian Heritage by the New York City.

# Eye camp brightens their future

## Hanifa, Jalil get back vision after surgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was beyond their imagination that they would be able to see again after losing eyesight seven years ago. Both Hanifa and her brother Jalil of Ishwardi in Pabna now can read and write after cataract surgery in their eyes.

The doctor of an eye camp changed the world of Hanifa and Jalil when he suggested immediate operation for their cataract. Their father, a day-labourer, rushed them to Islamia Eye Hospital in the capital accordingly.

"No-one was happier than I once my children got back their eyesight," said Hannan Sarker, who also finds the cost of the operation is too small compared to the benefit achieved.

Now their days are filled with happiness, but the situation was totally different seven years ago.

Hanifa was a student of class five when darkness came down on her in a stroke of fate, putting an end to her education life.

Her father tried his best to cure her blindness. Living hand to mouth, he had already spent Tk 1.5 lakh for his two children, but without success.

When an organisation called 'Child Sight Foundation (CSF)' opened an eye camp in Ishwardi recently, Hannan rushed there with a renewed hope. A CSF eye specialist examined his 16-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son and advised immediate cataract surgery in their eyes.

The father then managed money and took his children to Islamia Eye Hospital in Dhaka where they underwent operation, which restored their vision.

The CSF organised the eye camp titled 'Free Eye Examination and Treatment Programme for Blind Children' at the School Health



Centre in Pabna on June 7. Solim, a 13-year-old boy born blind, came to the camp for treatment. The doctors said his eyes could be cured if operated on. Solim's uncle Abdus Sattar said he would take the boy to BNSB Eye Hospital in Sirajganj for an operation.

The eye camp was financed by International Centre for Eye Health, London and Muslim Aid, UK.

"One in every three blind children in Bangladesh could get back their vision through cataract surgery," said Shehab Chowdhury, programme organiser of the CSF.

Before forming the CSF, its Founder-President Dr MA Muhit conducted a three-year research in the country from 2001 with the assistance from International

Centre for Eye Health, London. Later, he established the CSF on the basis of his findings of extensive research on childhood blindness.

Dr Muhit said there are about 40,000 blind children in Bangladesh. Of them, 12,000 are cataract blind, which is curable. So far, the CSF has identified 3,600 blind children aged up to 15 years, he added.

But most parents of blind children are reluctant to take them to hospital despite assurance of free operation, he said.

"If the conscious people in villages come forward to raise awareness about the issue, we will be able to help restore vision of the children born blind through our programme," said Dr Muhit.



# BPJA executives

DU CORRESPONDENT

AKM Mohsin of The Daily Star and Mir Ahmed Miru of Janakantha have been elected president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association (BPJA) yesterday, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Vice Presidents: Shafiuddin Ahmed Bitu of Naya Diganto and Asaduzzaman Asad of BSS, Joint Secretary: Kajol Hazra of Samokal, Treasurer: Khaled Haider of Dinkal, Office Secretary: SME Hai Swapon of Manabjamin.

Executive Mcommittee members are Golam Mostafa of Samokal, Wasay Ansari of Naya Diganto and Khan Mohammad Nazrul of Jugantor.

Election for one joint secretary and one executive member will be held later on as the candidates got equal votes.