

# Dhaka calls for low cost migration

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Lutfor Rahman Khan has called for ensuring unhindered market access for poor, unskilled and unemployed youths at a nominal cost.

He was speaking at a plenary session on 'High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development' at the 61st session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday, according to a message received yesterday.

The first-ever high level event is aimed at finding ways to maximise the benefits of migration by reducing difficulties. Representatives from 120 governments attended the two-day dialogue.

The state minister called on the

## 21 eminent artists condemn police action on Noor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one eminent artists have condemned police atrocities on Asaduzzaman Noor MP during Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine's programme of laying siege to Prime Minister's Office on September 12.

In a joint statement they expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation and said the behaviour of police with the opposition activists and general people have reached an intolerable and inhuman level in the last couple of days.

They said people have lost their faith in government and its law enforcement agencies as they continued to show disregard for people's sentiment and protest against their inhuman behaviour.

The government did not take any action against those responsible for the atrocities, rather it had filed cases against the victims which is an example of barbarism and political bankruptcy, they observed.

The signatories to the statement are Qaium Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Khushi Kabir, Mustafa Monwar, Shishir Bhattacharya, Safiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria, Imdad Hossain, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Abul Barak Alvi, Biren Shom, Farida Zaman, Dhali AL Mamun, Sheikh Afzal, Jamal Ahmed, Lalarukh Selim, Toufiqur Rahman, Moniruzzaman, Syedul Haq and Mohiuddin Shaker.

international community to take urgent steps for liberalisation of markets for the movement of service providers under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Service (GATS).

He proposed that all member of the labour sending countries can set up a negotiating forum for furthering the case of movement of service providers.

Terming the migrant workers "vulnerable to exploitation", he underscored the need for efforts to fully eliminate the exploitation and discrimination by ensuring fair treatment, decent work,

minimum wages and recognition of status of migrant workers.

"We are only beginning to learn how to make migration work more consistently for development," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in a report. He attended the inaugural session of the meeting.

The delegates also attended a roundtable on the themes such as 'Effects of international migration on economic and social development', 'Measures to ensure respect for and protection of human rights of all migrants' and 'Measures to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons'.



A little girl dresses up as a mermaid during a 'Dress as you like' competition organised by the National Press Club on its premises in the city yesterday on the occasion of its founding anniversary.

## S Asian Confce on sanitation begins Sept 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Second South Asian Conference on Sanitation will begin in Islamabad on September 20 with a view to promoting regional cooperation and accelerating the progress of sanitation and hygiene in South Asia.

The objective of the conference is to enhance the quality of life in the region in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments made in the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and other countries will take part in the conference.

The first conference on sanitation was held in Dhaka in October 2003.

The participants of the second conference will review the progress regarding the implementation of the Dhaka Declaration of the first conference.

They will also reiterate political commitment in each country of the region for furthering the sanitation agenda, facilitate development of country-specific as well as regional frameworks for sanitation, share experiences and lessons learnt in sanitation and hygiene promotion and increase outreach of sanitation agenda.

The environment ministry of Pakistan has organised the event with the support and cooperation of Water and Sanitation Programme - South Asia, ActionAid Pakistan, DFID, International Water Association, Mercy Corps Pakistan, Plan Pakistan, UNDP, Unicef, WaterAid and WHO.

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## 3rd 'Bangladesh Sanglap' today

BSS, Dhaka

The recording of 3rd edition of the BBC Bengali Service's 'Bangladesh Sanglap' will be held at 5:30pm today at the auditorium of National Academy of Primary Education (NAPE) in Mymensingh.

Representatives of two major political parties and members of the civil society will feature in a four-member panel and discuss major current affairs issues with 150 invited guests, a BBC press release said.

Former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, Awami League lawmaker Promod Mankin, Jatiya Party Presidium member Raushan Ershad MP and former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University Prof. M Aminul Islam will feature in the four-member panel.

The Sanglap programmes will be broadcast by BBC Bengali Radio on Sundays, and telecast by Channel i on Mondays.

Channel i will repeat the programmes on following Sundays, the press release added.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and other environmental organisations form a human chain in the city yesterday demanding an end to filling of water bodies and steps for permanent solution to waterlogging problems.