# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## 'Disabled-friendly technology needed to mainstream them'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Dr M M Azizul Islam yesterday said disabledfriendly technology would have to be introduced to incorporate people with disabilities into the mainstream of development.

"Disabled-friendly technology is essential for people with disabilities. Such technology has to be made available at an affordable price for effective participation of people with disabilities," he said at a conference on people with disabilities in the city.

The adviser said the caretaker government has taken a national policy and a national action plan for people with disabilities.

"This is for the first time that people with disabilities have been mentioned as special target area in the national budget for 2007-08 fiscal. We have allocated Tk 530 million for incorporating disabled people into mainstream of the development," he pointed out while addressing as chief guest at the concluding session of the third general assembly and conference of Asia and Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) at Bangladesh-

Hospital on Thursday.

laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

yesterday.

janaza.

ment.

press release.

and Hospital.

press release.

meeting.

Ruhul Amin Kaisar

Sangsad at 3:00pm.

coffin of the deceased.

Ex-lawmaker

Shamsul Haque

Former lawmaker Advocate M

Shamsul Haque, who died of old-

age complications at Birdem

Hospital on Thursday, was laid to

rest at the Martyred Intellectuals'

Graveyard at Mirpur in the city

held at south plaza of Jatiya

Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid

Siddiqui and former chief whip

Khandaker Delwar Hossain,

among others, attended the

speaker placed wreaths on the

the coffin on behalf of former

leader of parliament and former

leader of the opposition in parlia-

Death anniversary

Today is the 24th death anniversary

of Comrade Tajul Islam, says a

workers of the Communist Party of

Bangladesh (CPB) will place

wreaths to his portrait and on the

temporary altar to pay tribute to

the comrade at CPB office. A memo-

Tajul Islam was injured seri-

ously by the attack of hooligans

patronised by the autocratic gov-

ernment for bringing out a proces-

sion supporting a hartal in 1984. He

succumbed to his injury soon after

taken to the Dhaka Medical College

Sramik Federation (BSSF), says a

On the occasion, a reminis-

Central leaders of the federation

will speak in the reminiscence

cence meeting and doa mahfil will

be held at the federation office

(23/2, Topkhana Road) at 3:00pm.

Today is the

33rd death

anniversary of

Ruhul Amin

Kaisar, founder

general secre-

Bangladesh

Sanjukta

o f

rial meeting will also be held.

On the occasion, leaders and

The speaker and the deputy

Wreaths were also placed on

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar,

China Friendship Conference participants, 114 were people with

The three-day conference was organised jointly by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and APDF in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The theme of the conference was 'Disability and Development: Practical Strategies'.

Social Welfare Secretary MA Hye Howlader said ignoring huge number of people with disability, the country cannot attain its desired development.

M Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairperson of the conference organising committee, moderated the closing session which was also addressed by World Bank Acting Country Director Mohammad Alhousseyni Tour, Department of Social Services Director General Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation Managing Director Dr Khandaker Shoukat Hossain and NFOWD President Khandaker Zahurul Alam.

The conference was attended by 456 participants including 150 from 26 countries. Of the total sion.

Awami League leaders place wreaths on the coffin of former lawmaker Advocate M Shamsul Haque in front of the

party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. Shamsul Haque died of old-age complications at Birdem

first anti-piracy

canine unit

Malaysia will launch the world's

first anti-piracy canine unit to fight

compact disc piracy, an industry

Association (MPA) said it had

donated the two Labradors,

Paddy and Manny, to the ministry

of domestic and consumer affairs

and they would make their first

public appearance on Monday

when they woul dbe used to sniff

take up the challenge to test the

capability of working dogs and we

have discovered that using dogs to

battle piracy can greatly assist

enforcement efforts," a senior

industry official told AFP on condi-

Last year, two black Labradors,

Lucky and Flo, were brought in by

the US-based MPA which investi-

gates piracy for major movie com-

"Malaysia is the first country to

The Motion Picture

UNB, Kuala Lumpur

watchdog said yesterday.

out CDs and DVDs.

tion of anonymity.

UNB, Dhaka

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

disabilities.

A total of 44 papers were presented during three plenary and 12 concurrent sessions.

The inaugural session of the conference was graced by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Catholic Health Service Commission in association with Caritas and World Vision organised a daylong seminar at Pen Placid High School in the port city where Father Philip D Rozario said people with disability could take active part in society if they get proper education and training.

The seminar was attended by people with disabilities from Rangamati, Noakhali and other parts of Chittagong.

Convener of Chittagong Catholic Health Service Commission Father Henry Riberu and Caritas Chittagong Regional Director James Gomes also spoke at the seminar.

Later, the children with disabilities performed a cultural function and brought out a peace proces-

The pair, who were not part of a

specific unit, were so successful

that piracy syndicates placed a

bounty on their heads. They helped

Malaysia sniff out fake music and

movie discs worth millions of

have to live up to their seniors'

detect polycarbonate and other

chemicals used in optical discs.

They either freeze or sit when they

worldwide Internet piracy

amounted to 6.1 billion dollars in

was lost to bootlegging, 1.4 billion

to illegal copying and 2.3 billion to

Losses to the MPA studios due to

Of that, about 2.4 billion dollars

Humidityin

percentage

Morning Evening

57

63

50

52

45

55

reputation," the official said.

sniff the chemicals.

Internet piracy.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.9 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 6:01pm and rises at 6:20am tomor

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

Min

15.8

15.5

13.0

15.5

14.3

15.0

16.4

recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 10.6 degrees at Srimongal.

Temperature

in celsius

Max

29.5

29.8

29.5

29.8

31.8

31.2

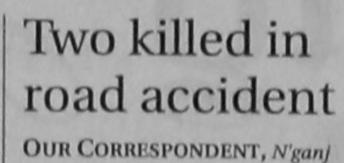
country during early morning, Met Office said.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

accounted for 1.3 billion.

"Paddy and Manny will now

The new dogs are trained to



Two children of a family were killed in

a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Madanpur bus stand in Narayanganj yesterday. They were identified as Harunur-Rashid, 14, and his sister

Habiba, 7, of Arihazar. The accident occurred when a

truck ran over them while they were going by rickshaw. Police seized the truck.

### Outlawed party leader arrested

UNB, Rajbari

An outlawed party leader was arrested with two firearms, 11 rounds of bullet and one cartridge at Saurail village in Pangsha upazila on Thursday.

The arrestee was identified as Abul Kalam Azad alias Kala, 40, regional commander of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). Acting on a tip-off, the police raided a house and arrested him.

They said Azad, a resident of Dakkinbari village, was wanted in five cases.

## Qulkhwani of Bazlur Rahman held

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Bazlur Rahman eminent journalist and editor of the daily Sangbad, was held at his Ramna residence in the city after Asr prayers yesterday.

Bazlur Rahman passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Tuesday

Speaker Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar, Adviser for Health and Family Welfare Dr AMM Shwakat Ali, Acting President of Awami League (AL) Zillur Rahman, AL Presidium Members Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu and Suranjit Sengupta, AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mostofa Jamal Haider of Jatiya Party, former AL lawmaker Col (retd) Faruk Khan, former adviser of caretaker government Geeti Ara Safiya Chowdhury, CPD Chairman Rehman Sobhan, Barrister Amirul Islam, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Editor of The Daily Financial Express Moazzem Hossain and Executive Editor of the daily Sangbad Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul attended the qulkhwani.







Jahurul Islam CM Shafi Sami Gulshan Society executives

CM Shafi Sami, former adviser to the caretaker government, and Jahurul Islam Chowdhury, a businessman, have been elected president and general secretary of Gulshan Society for 2008-09, says a press release.

Shafi Sami will replace incumbent President of the Society Dr Akbar Ali Khan, who is also the chairman of the Regulatory Reforms Commission.

Other office-bearers of the executive committee are: Quamrul Islam Siddique, Delwar H Dulal and Prof Salma Rahman -- vice presidents; Anhar A Chowdhury treasurer; Dr Md Wahidduzzaman, Maizuddin Ahmed and Shirin Shila -- joint secretaries; and Habibur Rahman -- joint treasurer.

#### As a regional breakdown, Abdul Matin gets approximately 1.2 billion dollars were losses from piracy across the Matribhasha Padak Asia-Pacific, while the US



instituted by Tamuddin Majlish since 2000 when the Unesco decided to observe February 21 as International Mother Language Day. Matin was the convener of

Munshiganj (Bikrampur) Sarbodalio Rashtrabhasha Committee in 1952.

He suffered imprisonment several times in connection with the language movement.

Before joining the government service, Matin served the then Pakistan Observer and the Sangbad.

He headed Bangladesh Film Censor Board, Department of Films and Publications, and Press Information Department for a short time before retiring as director general of External Publicity in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, right, Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, Bir Uttam, 2nd from right, and Maj Gen (retd) K M Shafiullah, left, present a crest to Maj Gen (retd) BG Gupta at Liberation War Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Pneumonia major killer of children in Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Pneumonia has been claiming the highest number of child lives in the country, despite a remarkable progress in under-five child survival for immunization and oral saline over the last three decades, pediatricians and health scientists said here yesterday.

"Pneumonia is still the leading cause of childhood deaths in Bangladesh," Steve Luby, agency head of Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), US Embassy in Dhaka, told a sympo-

Bangladesh Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (BSPID), a newly formed body of Paediatricians and health scientists, organised the two-day function at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, where experts from home and abroad are participating BSPID President and former

director of Dhaka Shishu Hospital Prof Manzoor Hussain chaired the inaugural function, addressed by National Prof M R Khan, noted paediatrician Prof MQK Talukder, Prof Dr Satish Deopoojari of India, BSPID Secretary General Dr Samir K Saha, and BSPID Executives Dr Reaz Mobarak and Dr Mizanur Rahman.

Steve Luby, also head of the programme on infectious disease of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), said one in five children per 1,000 died within five years of their age during 1975,

75 percent over the last three "There is a 90 percent reduction

alone in diarrhoea-specific deaths over last 30 years," he said referring to the statistics of the latest Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS). He said Bangladesh is one of the

three to four developing countries heading successfully towards achieving millennium development goals (MDGs). Steve Luby referred to the find-

ings of a three-year community and hospital-based surveillance in urban Dhaka ended in 2007 and said meningitis, pneumonia, severe pneumonia and very severe pneumonia were common causes of child illnesses. He also said streptococcus, and influenza are important paediatric pathogens in Bangladesh.

Answering to a question he said the problem of pneumonia necessitates a combined effort from paediatricians, parents and policymakers for further reduction in under-five child mortality and morbidity in the country, where prevalence of pneumonia is around 40 percent among sick

He also expressed hope that the World Health Organization (WHO) would soon recommend alternative antibiotics of ampicillin and penicillin for such treatments at a

Prof Talukder underscored the need for popularising breastfeeding further among mothers from all

but this number has come down by walks of life. The children who are not breastfed are four times susceptible to infection than the breastfed children, he pointed out and added that breastfeeding could be one of the best means to prevent child mortality.

Prof Manzoor Hussain said the BSPID has been formed to work as a catalyst to groom specialised paediatricians and train general practitioners across the country to treat emerging and reemerging infections among children.

The incidence and prevalence of infectious diseases among children are very high, despite successful running of the extended programme for immunization (EPI).

"The emerging infection diseases such as nipah virus and HIV/AIDS need specialised persons to deal with," he said, adding that the DSPID would work as an umbrella organisation to help the doctors who want to develop their career as 'infectious disease' paediatricians.'

A total of 125 doctors have already joined in BSPID for the purpose, he added.

According to Unicef statistics, under-five child mortality mostly results from neonatal mortality, which makes up 55 percent of such deaths in Bangladesh.

More than 120,000 neonates die within four weeks of their birth every year and most of these deaths occur at homes, where 90 percent of deliveries take place without proper safety. Malnutrition and lack of health education are seen two other factors killing children.

NAT'L TV SCHOOL DEBATE Rangpur Cadet College becomes champion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rangpur Cadet College became the champion while Shaheed Bir Uttam Lieutenant Anwar Girls College runner-up in the 10th National Television School Debate. said a press release on Thursday.

Motijheel Government Boys High School and Bir Shrestha Nur Mohammad Rifles Public School secured third and fourth position respectively.

Khaled, Muntasir and Galib were the debaters of the champion team while the runner-up team included Nafisa Hasan Basma. Sarabon Tohura and Masrura Mariam Oishi. Galib was adjudged the best debater.

The final round of the debate titled 'Independence will be meaningful if a successful Bangladesh free from corruption is achieved' was held at the TV auditorium of Rampura in the city on Wednesday.

A total of 62 educational institutions took part in the competition.

### Obituary



Ashraful Haq Jami, a computer engineer and CEO of Leadsoft, passed away due to treatment related complications at a hospital in the USA on

Thursday night, says a press Jami, son of late Prof M Shamsul

Haq and Begum Anowara Haq, is survived by his wife and two sons. His namaz-e-janaza will be held

in Maryland, USA and he will be

buried there. His eldest brother is M Anwarul Haq, director of public affairs and communications of Brac. His other brother is a software engineer of

Radio Shack in Dallas, USA. A doa mahfil will be held at his elder brother's residence at A-7, Bashati Castle, Road No-30 (Old), Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers

### Rosy Begum

Rosy Begum, founding president of Sanjukta Mahila Parishad (SMP) and executive member of Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramik Federation (BSSF), passed away at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) yesterday at the age of 52, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janeza at Victoria Park Jame Mosque premises after Maghrib prayers.

Bangladesh Sanjukta Tanti Samity, Sanjukta Garments Sramik Federation, Karmajibi Nari, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), Nari Sramik Jote, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote condoled the death of Rosy Begum.

#### AKM Nurunnabi Chowdhury BSS, Dhaka

AKM Nurunnabi Chowdhury, former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM) and son of former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury, passed away due to heart attack at Ibrahim

day at the age of 61. He left behind his wife Prof Khaleda Khanam, former whip of Jatiya Sangsad, a son and two daughters to mourn his death.

Cardiac Hospital in the city yester-

He will be buried after return of his eldest daughter from USA.

### Govinda Paul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Govinda Paul, a lyricist and politician, passed away in Dhaka early yesterday at the age of 53. He left behind his mother, one

son and a daughter to mourn his Paul suffered chest pain at

midnight and then he was taken to the DMCH, where the on duty

doctor declared him dead. He was the general secretary of Khelaghar Asar, Sylhet chapter and

general secretary of Sylhet district

## Wabidul Islam Lal

RU CORRESPONDENT

Wabidul Islam Lal, vice-president of Rajshahi City BNP and former president of Rajshahi Jubo Dal, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Rajshahi Medical Collage Hospital on Thursday night at the age of 55.

He left behind his wife, two sons, mother and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at city Kadirganj graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Shah Mukdum Darga Mazar. Rajshahi City Corporation

Acting Mayor Rezaun Nabi Dudu, BNP Rajshahi district unit President Azizur Rahman and Jubo Dal leader Mufizul Islam in separate statements expressed deep shocked at his death.



Former students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology pose for photograph at a reunion of the '91 batch on the campus yesterday. Buet Club '91 organised the programme.

## Prof Tamim to attend confce on renewable

Resources Prof M Tamim leaves for the USA today to attend a conference titled 'Washington International Renewable Energy

Seventy-five ministerial-level representatives from different countries are likely to participate in the conference, organised jointly by American Council on Renewable Energy and an organisation of 14 international businesses dealing with renewable The first and second confer-

ences on renewable energy were held in Germany and China in 2004 and 2005 respectively with the participation of world leaders.

Central bank governor Tarisa

rules, imposed in December 2006, would stop being effective from Monday. "The central bank decided to lift the capital controls because of the

improving economic situation and the balance in capital inflows and outflows," she said. The capital controls were imposed by the military regime

The reversal was announced just one day after Thaksin staged a dramatic homecoming, ending

nearly one and a half years of selfimposed exile. Finance Minister Surapong Suebwonglee said Thursday that

he might consult with Thaksin on the capital controls, but it was not known if the two had actually discussed the issue. The capital controls required 30

percent of all incoming investments to be held by financial institutions for up to one year. But the controls spooked foreign investors, who saw the regula-

tions as a steep tax on equity investments, and caused the biggest one-day drop in the Thai stock market in late 2006, involving losses worth 23 billion dollars. Many exemptions were later

made to the currency rules, but the general 30-percent requirement had remained in place until now. The military regime had hoped

## Thailand lifts currency

Watanagase told reporters that the

that toppled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, in a bid to curb the Thai baht's rise against the

gains against the dollar.

the controls would slow the baht's

#### awarded the 'Matribhasha Padak 2008' to ABM Abdul controls Matin for his significant contributions AFP, Bangok energy in USA to historic Language Movement, Dry weather likely says a press release. The Bank of Thailand said yester-Matribhasha Padak has been UNB, Dhaka day it will lift the remaining currency controls imposed by the Chief Adviser's Special Assistant previous military regime, marking Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky for Power, Energy and Mineral a sharp shift in economic policy. over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

The Tamuddin

Majlish has