Change negative attitude towards 2,000 GMG people with disabilities

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing their concern over on Sunday. the negative attitudes of society towards people with disabilities, speakers at a discussion have said little care and recognition can surely change the ties are getting the opportunity for scenario.

natory towards the people with mainstream schools. disabilities that only 4.0 percent physically challenged children are getting opportunities to go to schools whereas 80 percent of the government should collect them have ability to go to schools information on people with disand learn, they added.

The discussion titled 'Recogniorganised by National Forum for Organisations Working with

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad at the Cirdap auditorium in the city

Bangladesh Economic ties. Association President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman said only 4.0 percent of the children with disabilieducation while 80 percent of them The situation is such discrimi- have the ability to study at the 3.9 percent are speech impaired

> Mentioning lacking of proper multiple disabilities. data, Dr Kholiquzzaman while presenting the keynote paper said abilities during census.

He further said "The governtion of people with disabilities in ment allocated Tk 898 crore in the national development policy and last budget for them. But there was budget allocation' was jointly no specific guideline on how this fund should be spent."

According to a survey by Disabilities (NFOWD) and NFOWD and Handicap

International in 2005, a total of 5.6 schools for the hearing impaired percent of the total population lives with some kinds of disabili-

visually challenged, 27.8 percent are physically challenged, 18.7 percent are hearing impaired, 6.7 percent are intellectually disabled, and 10.7 percent are living with

During the open discussion, people with disabilities and those working with them expressed their views, suggestions and emotions on what should be done.

Osman Khaled, a hearing impaired architect, said if sign language is used for the hearing impaired at all levels, they can easily study and work with the mainstream people.

"During my visit to several

across the country, I saw that most of the teachers of these schools do not know sign language. They do Among them, 32.2 percent are not have proper training and are teaching the students the way they think is fine. There is no monitoring system at the government level,' said Khaled.

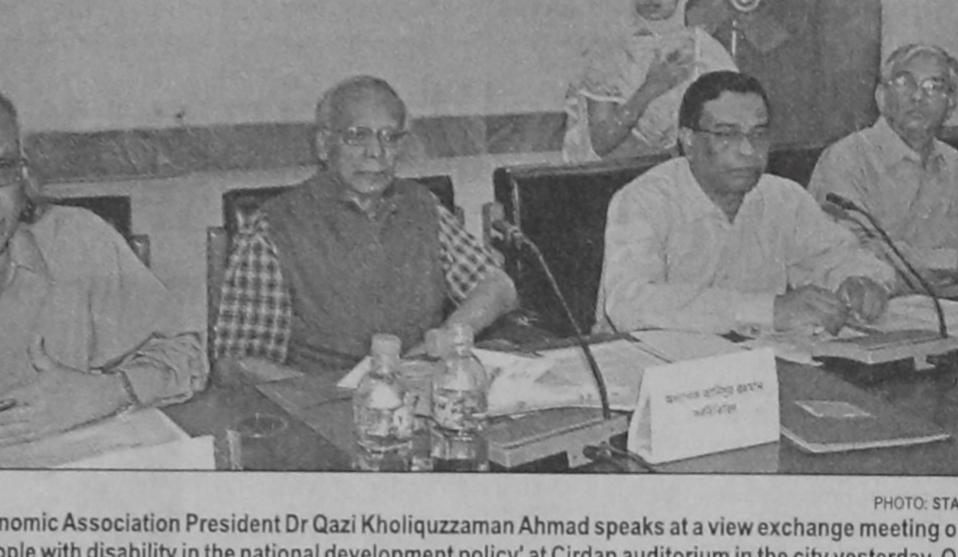
Solaiman, a visually challenged person, used to do a programme 'Prottoy' at Bangladesh Betar for people with disabilities, said the programme discontinued since June 2006 due to lack of budget allocation.

Kazi Abdul Gafur, a visually challenged teacher at The Salvation Army, an integrated children centre at Savar, said more accountability is needed while working with people with disabili-

National Association of Sports for People with Disabilities (NASPD) President MA Baten said at least one playground should be allocated for the sports of children with disabilities.

Economist Anisur Rahman was present at the programme as the chief guest and NFOWD President Dr Md Farashuddin as the special guest with NFOWD President Khandakar Jahurul Alam in the

Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation Managing Director Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, NFOWD Secretary General Jawaherul Islam Mamun, Mahbub Kabir of ActionAid Bangladesh, Assistant Prof Sharmind Nilormi of Economics Department at Jahangirnagar University, Director (acting) SM Keramat Ali of Media Centre at Bangladesh Open University, former education minister Dr Osman Farrug and former lawmakers Col (Retd) Farug Khan, Rashed Khan Menon and GM Quader took part in the



Bangladesh Economic Association President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad speaks at a view exchange meeting on 'Rights of the people with disability in the national development policy' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Anisur Rahman, Khandaker Zahurul Alam and Dr Mohammad Farashuddin. National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad jointly organised the event.

discussion.

Says Pak foreign minister

DU CORRESPONDENT

DU likely to

budget for

next fiscal

place Tk 152cr

Dhaka University (DU) is likely to place its annual budget of around Tk 152 crore for the fiscal 2008-09 at its senate meeting next month.

Of the total amount, Tk 135.90 core will be received in the government grants while Tk 16.10 core is expected to come from the internal income sources of the university, sources said.

In a letter sent to DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz on May 22, the University Grants Commission (UGC) said the government will allocate Tk 135.90 crore for the university.

Sources said Tk 121 core will be spent on salary, pension and other allowances of teachers, officers and employees while only Tk 15 core would be spent on academic sector for the fiscal 2008-09.

No special allocations have been made for research and other academic purposes.

Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad said the proposed budget would be placed in the Finance Committee (FC) of the university and later it would also be placed in the senate meeting.

The university's budget for fiscal 2007-08 was Tk 142.45 crore.

Move to abolish Pirojpur-2 constituency protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local people of Kaukhali and Bhandaria in Pirojpur yesterday protested the Election Commission's decision to abolish the Pirojpur-2 constituency comprising the two areas.

Members of Pirojpur-2 Constituency Protection Committee (PCPC) at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city said they have collected about 40,000 mass signatures in favour of protecting the constituency.

In a written speech, PCPC Convener Md Taslim Uddin Chunnu said local people would face problems in communication system with the delimitation of the constituency.

Geographical stance and communication system of Kaukhali and Bhandaria area were not considered while delimiting the con-

stituency, he said. PCPC joint conveners Selim Hawlader, HM Ahsan Habib and Atiqur Rahman Dilu and Member Secretary SM Ahsan Habib took part in the conference.

Bangladesh gets priority in new Pak foreign policy

UNB, Islamabad

Pakistan Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi yesterday said he has initiated a move to pursue an east- some impediments including ward foreign policy with absence of direct shipping service, Bangladesh receiving the top prior-

Talking to a delegation of journalists from Bangladesh at his office Qureshi said the newly elected government considers Bangladesh as an important and strategic partner in the region of Saarc and on global issues.

"We have adopted an eastward looking policy and Bangladesh is our top priority ... The world focus is on Asian region because of its strategic position and a huge consumer market."

Bangladesh the foreign minister said peoples of the two countries are bound by religion, culture and heritage. Bangladesh and Pakistan can work together as two brotherly countries in various fields towards development of the region.

Emphasising on increased his death. relations between the two brotherly countries he said people to people contact should be enhanced at various levels through exchange of delegations.

Expressing hope that Bangladesh will soon return to rule by the elected government Qureshi said the two countries can be the

flag carrier of democracy.

He stressed the importance of strengthening trade relations saying there are scopes for raising the volume of trade. He admitted which, he said, should be removed at the earliest.

Asked if he has plan to visit Bangladesh soon the Pakistan foreign minister said, "Insha Allah, as soon as God wishes I'll visit Bangladesh."

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Moulana Abul Khair Bikrampuri, noted Islamic scholar and central Citing the historic relations with leader of Islamic Constitution Movement, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Jaldhaka upazila in Nilphamari on Monday night at the age of 60.

He left behind his wife, three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Maghrib prayers yesterday.

Ameer of Islamic Constitution Movement and Peer of Charmonai Mufti Syed Mohammad Rezaul Karim and other Islamic leaders expressed profound shock at his



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Bogra and lowest 22.5 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/ Iown	Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	23.2	88	73
Chittagong	30.8	26.0	82	76
Rajshahi	35.4	25.0	87	84
Khulna	33.8	26.4	77	69
Barisal	32.0	25.5	83	77
Sylhet	28.5	24.4	98	81
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.4	96	81

Jubo Dal demands release of Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth front of BNP, yesterday announced its 12-point demand including release of former premier Khaleda Zia after withdrawal of all cases so that she can participate in the formal talks.

The party leaders, activists and supporters will wear black badges on June 1 to realise their demands, party leaders said this at a press briefing at BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain's Nam flat in the city.

"We have announced our own programmes to realise the demands. We will join the main party (BNP) if it announces any agitation programme," said Jubo Dal President (acting) Miah Mohammad Selim, while General Secretary (acting) Abdus Salam Azad read out a written speech.

He also said, "There is no alternative of movement to make Khaleda Zia free. Grassroots-level leaders and workers also want agitation programmes."

"One year and a half have already passed and we cannot give more time," said Organising Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon, asking the government to announce a fixed date for general election.

The demands include release of all political detainees including Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, BNP leader Tarique Rahman, Judo Dal General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal, lifting of the state of emergency, scrapping EPRs, holding national elections prior to all other polls and curbing prices of essentials.

Appeal for help



old boy, has been suffering from aplastic anaemia, a serious rare disease that develops when

Md Jamil Khan,

an eight-year-

the bone marrow fails to produce blood cells, says a press release. According to doctors, he needs to be taken abroad for bone mar-

row transplantation, which involves about Tk 15 to Tk 20 lakh. But it is impossible for his poor father, who is a farmer, to manage such a huge amount.

So, his parents have appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save their son's life. Contributions can be sent to Afroza Banu, Savings A/C No.

34009379, National Bank,

Mohammadpur Branch, Dhaka. Interested persons can also call at 01711-003339 to contact his family

passengers stranded for technical maintenance UNB, Dhaka

Some 2,000 passengers of GMG Airlines got stranded as its Dubaibound airplane Boeing-747 was grounded for "technical maintenance" at Zia International Airport on Monday.

GMG spokesperson ATM Nazrul Islam told the news agency that it seemed Boeing-747 would need technical maintenance after few more days as it was taken under FCMI or wetleasing. "So, the flight schedules were

given... But, the technical maintenance is needed now and it will take six days." To mitigate the problems of stranded passengers, Islam said,

the GMG authority sorted out them in three categories -- emergency, less emergency and normal. "The passengers under emer-

gency category will be carried to their destination through different airliners," he said. The passengers of lessemergency category would be kept

in hotels and also be carried out to

their destination after two or three And the normal passengers, the GMG spokesperson said, were asked to take refund of their ticket money if they want. "Or they can leave their addresses to us so that we can call them when the flight

schedule is readjusted," he added. Those who would like to take the readjusted flight were also offered transportation cost in cash for coming to the city and again going backhome.

US DIVERSITY VISA Two brokers arrested

The US Embassy in Dhaka congratu lates Dhaka Metropolitan Police for arresting two men alleged to be involved in an extortion scheme against a US diversity visa winner

The US Embassy is following the case very closely and will support the Bangladesh police in their endeavours to bring these two suspects to justice, says a press release issued by the US Embassy yesterday. The press release also said the US

Embassy would like to remind the public to be wary of unscrupulous 'self-styled experts'. Diversity visas do not require an intermediary to process. All other US visas are available only through the US Embassy. All forms and procedures are

available free of charge online at http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/consul Any persons victimised by an

agent can seek help from the US Embassy. They are requested to contact the embassy at DhakaDV@state.gov.

DU student missing DU CORRESPONDENT



Abdullahil Kamil Shiblee, a fourth year honours student of Persian language and literature department of University (DU), has been missing

for the last 13 days, says a DU press Shiblee, who stays at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, also works part-time

for USD Service Engine at Mahakhali. His roommates said he has been out of the hall since May 15. They

even could not reach him over his mobile phone. His office sources said he went on a leave from May 15 to 17. On

that night, Shiblee was scheduled to leave for Rajshahi. He also did not contact his office.

Anyone knowing his whereabouts has been requested to call at 01819454941 or 8121236 or contact his family members at 47/2 Maneshar Road, Jhigatala, Dhaka.

TODAY

Discussion

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organises a discussion on reduction in maternal mortality. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Certificate awarding The certificate awarding ceremony of the training on victim support services under Police Reform Programme will be held. Venue: Police Telecom

Seminar A seminar on 'Dismantling Hindu-Muslim hostile images' will be held.

Auditorium. Time: 4:15pm.

in Humanities, DU. Time: 4:00pm. Nari Maitree Seminar Nari Maltree organises a seminar to mark the International Safe Motherhood Day. Venue: Institution of

Diploma Engineers. Time: 10:30am.

Venue: Centre for Advanced Research



Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman speaks at a press briefing on HSC examinations at the conference room of the ministry yesterday.

Call for greater unity of Muslim Ummah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday underscored the need for greater unity among the Muslim Ummah, saying the lack of unity has led to factions and sufferings among the Muslims across the

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamat Bangladesh organised the daylong programme at its central mosque in the city to celebrate 100 years of the sect's Khilafat. The community, whose motto is

'Love for all, Hatred for none', was founded in 1889 by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian in India and the 'Khilafat' or divinely guided spiritual leadership was established on May 27, 1908. Members of the civil society

nity for a 'commendable' spiritual leadership and an exemplary unity among the people of the sect since Ahmadiyya Jamat's National Ameer Mobasher ur Rahman chaired the daylong programme,

thanked the Ahmadiyya commu-

of foods, sweets and gifts in the society, blood donation and discussion.

which included special

thanksgiving prayers, distribution

Ameer of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamat in Bangladesh Mobasher ur Rahman speaks at a discussion on the occasion of 100 years of 'Khilafat' at its office in the city yesterday.

Rashed Khan Menon, Executive Chairman of JSD Mainuddin Khan Badal, writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir, Dr Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University, columnist Nayeem Mohaimen, human rights activists Father Tim and Taleya Rahman and freedom fighter Ziauddin Tareq Ali also spoke on the occasion.

In the afternoon, the address of Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the present spiritual leader of Ahmadiyya Jamat, from the Excel Centre in Workers' Party president London was relayed.

RMG worker murdered, teenager found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A garment worker was beaten and stabbed to death in Khilgaon neighbourhood in the city early yesterday, police said.

Meantime, a youth, who was death was asphyxiation. severely beaten up by neighbours for alleged theft, succumbed to his injuries early yesterday while railway police Monday recovered the body of a teenager from the rooftop of a train at Kamlapur

Railway Station. Khilgaon police said they found the body of garment worker Sajib Hossain, 20, on a Goran alley at about 6:00am yesterday, adding that they found injury marks in different parts of the body and a

stab injury in the abdomen. The deceased's uncle said some of his friends called him out of his Goran house in Monday afternoon.

In Kamrangirchar, neighbours severely beat up 22-year-old Mohammad Roni of Signboard area for alleged theft on May 25. He breathed his last at Dhaka Medical

College Hospital early yesterday. Roni's mother said he worked at a local screen-print house.

Railway police Monday recovered the body of a 13-year-old from the rooftop of Upalul Express after the train pulled in to Kamlapur

Railway Station. Autopsy report said the cause of

Tele link in 8 dists to remain suspended for 3 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to repairing works of optical fiber cable at Bogra-Rangpur route, BTTB telecommunication service will remain suspended tomorrow from 12:00am to 3:00pm in eight districts -- Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur,

Thakurgaon and Panchagarh. Mobile phone service of Tele Talk and land phone service of Onetel will also be suspended, says a BTTB press release.

Khaleda's petition

case on June 1.

FROM PAGE 1

said there is no legal bar anymore in continuing with the Niko corruption case trial pending with the Special Court-9 set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) had filed the case against BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia and several others in connection with abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko. On May 18, Khaleda Zia filed the

petition with the HC to quash the case. The next day a different HC bench felt embarrassed to hear the petition. ACC's lawyer advocate Anisul Huq told newsmen yesterday that as the HC wanted to pass an order on

the petition, Khaleda's counsels

declined to continue with the petition in that court. The bench then rejected the prayer considering it as not pressed. "The bench could not be convinced with the submissions and arguments made by her [Khaleda's] counsels. They could not present before the court sufficient evidence and documents, apart from the first

information report and the charge

Ziainnocent," he said. Counsel for Khaleda advocate Khandaker Mahbub Uddin Ahmed said the HC order means that Khaleda can now make another move in that court against the proceedings of the Niko corruption case.

He said they would take their Niko.

next course of action after the spe cial court starts proceedings of the

During the hearing of the petition, Khaleda's counsel barrister Rafigul Islam Miah told the HC bench that she did not indulge in any sort of corruption in her dealings with Niko's contract for gas exploration and extraction.

"Then prime minister Khaleda Zia approved the deal with Niko on completion of all necessary procedures of the committees and people concerned. But, she did not sign the

deal," he said On December 9 last year, the ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda Zia, former law minister Moudud Ahmed and former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam and vice-president (South Asia) of Niko Resources

Bangladesh Ltd Kashem Sharif. Six others were named as defendants after probes found their involvement.

The same day with the same police station the ACC brought similar charges against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as

sheet of the case, to prove Khaleda On May 5, SM Sahidur Rahman, ACC assistant director and the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka against Khaleda Zia and 10 others in connection with abusing power and indulging in corruption in awarding the deal to

Dhanmodi Police Station OC, 2 SIs suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officer-in-charge (OC) and two sub-inspectors (SI) of Dhanmodi Police Station were suspended yesterday on charges of registering a robbery case as a theft case.

"OC Monwar Hossain and SIs Masud Karim and Rafiqul Islam were suspended as they did not file the case under the proper section of the law," Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Ramna zone Atiqur Rahman told The Daily Star last night.

Sources said a robbery was committed in a house at Dhanmondi on May 22. But when the complainant came to the police station to file a robbery case, the OC and the SIs filed it as a theft case.

The higher authorities suspended the policemen after they came to know of it.

Govt sits

FROM PAGE 1

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Annisul Huq confirmed The Daily Star about the invitation but said the time of the meeting was yet to be fixed as of 5:30pm.

From now on, the government will hold political dialogue with one party a day in the morning, Adviser Zillur told reporters after their meeting. The government is set to sit with

Islami Shashantantra Andolon The dialogue will resume on June 2 after the weekend and a cabinet meeting on June 1.

Asked about Awami League and BNP's demand for involving their detained chiefs in the dialogue, Zillur said, "All the necessities are under our consideration." He denied that the government

had put pressure on the political

parties to join the dialogue with the government. "The overall statements of the political parties are itself the proof of a sense of their responsibility...There has been nothing like putting pressure. It is you who

informed me of the matter for the first time," he said. He expressed hope that everyone concerned would feel the necessity to make the dialogue fruitful and

move forward. The political dialogue is not merely a government initiative rather a reflection of the nation's aspirations, Zillur said, adding, "So, it is everyone's responsibility to make it a success. Besides the political parties, the media also have to

Asked if the government respects public opinion about the dialogue, he replied in the positive, saying, "That is why the government took the initiative of holding the dialogue."

play a positive role."

Asked how things would be if the dialogue fails, Zillur declined to waste time worrying about "ifs", saying, "We are working heart and soul to make the dialogue fruitful."

Manpower export

FROM PAGE 16 had left them in shock and said officials would appeal against it. "For one person the government

is punishing a whole nation, which is not acceptable to us," he said. "We will appeal to the government to reconsider this and I will contact the interior minister and other highranking officials." Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary

Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday

told The Daily Star they have not yet

received the news from Bahrain but readit on newspapers. "Our mission in Bahrain is already contacting Bahrain side about the matter," he said.

In a reaction to the ban, a recruit-

ing agent said this particular country is not a very big labour market for Bangladesh, but the fact is that it will have bad impact on Bangladeshi Meanwhile, vehemently opposing the Bahraini MPs' demand,

Human Rights vice-president Nabeel Rajab told The Gulf Daily News on Monday the move is "racist" and "shameful". "If a Bahraini commits a similar or even worse crime what action

now-dissolved Bahrain Centre for

would they take? Would they deport all Bahrainis from here? "If an American or a European had committed the crime instead of the Bangladeshi, would the MPs dare raise their voice against them, forget imposing a ban on their countries? This is pure racial dis-

crimination. "Bangladeshis, like all other expatriate nationalities, should first be appreciated for all the contributions they have made to our country. Instead, our MPs forget the hard work and sweat of thousands of expatriates and plan to deport them

Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society regional and international relations director Faisal Fulad said a group of lawmakers' proposal was against Bahraini culture and heritage. "We are against this move because it is absolutely wrong to

all based on one person's actions."

crime," said Mr Fulad, who is also a Shura Council member. "People from every country have flaws in their characters in one way or the other, including Bahrainis. That doesn't mean that all of them

ban a whole nation for one person's

"It is up to the court to decide the punishment and not MPs."

should be sent back home.