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## Qureshi blames govt for move to release corrupt suspects

UNB, Chittagong

Convener of Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi yesterday blamed the government for its move to release some of the detained high-profile 'corrupt suspects' saying that the achievement of the 1/11 will go in vain if they keep coming out of jails.

"The rule of corrupt people, terrorists and godfathers will be established again if the government allows the mass release of the corrupt suspects on bail," Qureshi told journalists at a view exchange meeting at local press club.

He said no one would have questioned had Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia been released only for medical treatment, "but the process of releasing Hasina is not transparent".

## Workers' Party renamed

UNB, Dhaka

Workers' Party of Bangladesh led by Khondoker Ali Abbas has been renamed 'Revolutionary Workers' Party of Bangladesh'.

The party leaders during the third working session of the three-day central extended plenum yesterday have also decided to absorb minimum one-third of women members at its all front organisations, a party press release said.

Presided over by party President Khondoker Ali Abbas, the sessions were attended by central leaders Raja Miah, Bohnishika Jamali and Shibli Bari Raju.

Party General Secretary Saiful Huq placed the party programmes, amendments and additions in the meeting while Nasiruddin Ahmed Nasu, in-charge of organising division, presented the central guidelines and the organising report.

Some 191 representatives and observers from 28 districts are taking part in the extended session to be concluded today, the release said.

## Lightning kills 1, injures 11 in C'nawabganj

UNB, C'nawabganj

A man was killed and 11 others were injured in lightning strike at Aramari village in Shibganj upazila yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Lodon Ali, 55, of the village.

Lodon died on the spot and 11 villagers were injured when thunderbolts struck them during rain in the morning.

Nine of the injured were admitted to the upazila health complex while two others to sadar hospital.

# A drawing competition with a difference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanisa Tanam Mumu, an autistic child, was very happy yesterday as she took part in a drawing competition organised only for them in the city.

"My daughter was very excited for being able to take part in the competition as she likes drawing very much and she had been waiting for this moment for last one month," said Tahmida Parvin, mother of Tanisa.

"I like to draw picture of animal, and here I am drawing the picture of a tiger," said Sajib Chandra Sarkar, another autistic child, with great enthusiasm.

"I am drawing trees, rivers and home, and I will draw many other things," said Arnab with a big smile on his face.

Dr Mohammad Taiyebur Rahman, who brought his son Navid Ahmed to take part in the competition, said his son is very good in games and sports and won four prizes in his school recently.

"It is a must for everybody to behave well with an autistic child," he added.

The open drawing competition and cultural programme, first of its kind in the country, was organised by SEID Trust for the children with autism at the LGED Bhaban.

Around 115 autistic children from different institutes including Scholar Special School, SEID Trust, SWID Bangladesh, Tauri Foundation, SWAC, Autistic Welfare Fund, CSID, Caring Glory and Bangladesh Pronbandhi Foundation took part in the competition.

The autistic children also per-

formed in the cultural programme which was followed by the drawing competition.

Four autistic children Mithu, Sheuli, Sathi and Shammil sang songs while Mithu, Nipa and Ethu performed dances like professional artists.

"We have organised the programme as we want to show that the children with autism are also able to do everything," said Director of SEID Trust Dilara Sattar Mithu.

She said they have a plan to arrange this type of competition every year including an exhibition of the drawings by the autistic children.

Prof Abul Barak Alvi, Prof Lalarukh Selim and Prof Nisar Hossain of the Institute of Fine Arts were the judges of the competition.

Prof Mohammad Farashuddin, chairman of Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation, addressed the function as chief guest.

Prof Gitara Nasrin of mass communication and journalism

department of Dhaka University, Mahbub Kabir, theme leader of ActionAid Bangladesh, and Khandaker Jahurul Alam, president of Jatiya Protibandhi Forum, also spoke on the occasion.



Rajes Krishnamoorthy, president of Sri Lanka Women's Association 'Seva Vanitha' in Dhaka, presents a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, yesterday for the construction of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital. The funds were raised through a cultural show titled 'Lakrangana' held at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city on May 22.

## Sri Lankan women's support for cancer hospital

Sri Lankan Women's Association (Seva Vanitha-Dhaka) has donated Tk 5 lakh to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) for the construction of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) in the city, says a press release.

Seva Vanitha Dhaka unit President Rajes Krishnamoorthy, also wife of Sri Lankan high commissioner, yesterday handed over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at the mission building.

Seva Vanitha president, while handing over the cheque, said a charity show was organised in the name of 'Lakrangana' at a city hotel and the proceeds have been donated to the AMCH.

Seva Vanitha Dhaka unit Treasurer Dilrukshi Udagedera and members Dilma Ranatunge, Chathuri Thilakarathne and Ira Fernando were also present on the occasion.

## Raise allowance to Tk 5000

Demand war heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters yesterday called on the government to raise the allowance for them to Tk 5000 and reintroduce 30 percent quota for the children of freedom fighters in government services.

At a roundtable, they also demanded renaming the 'Allowance for Insolvent Freedom Fighters' as 'State honorarium for Freedom Fighters' and declaring the freedom fighters as 'National Hero'.

The war heroes also warned that they would launch tougher movement if their demands are not met by June 30.

Jatiya Muktiyoddha Andolon organised the roundtable at Comrade Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust conference room in the city, with its Convener MA Khalek in the chair.

In the budget for 2008-09, the government has proposed to enhance the allowance for insolvent freedom fighters from Tk 600 to Tk 720.

Expressing resentment at the increase of only Tk 120, Vice Chairman of Muktiyoddha Samannay Parishad Monoranjon Ghoshal posed a question: "What can you buy for Tk 120 in the current market situation?"

Such a decision of the government is 'insulting' to the freedom fighters, he added.

Freedom fighter Md Shahjahan Mia said, "Anti-liberation forces still exist in the administration."

The freedom fighters also called for immediate arrest of the war

criminals.

Chairman of Muktiyoddha Samannay Parishad Abir Ahad, Shahjahan Kabir Bir Pratik, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmik, former state minister Syed Didar Bakht, Rashiduzzaman Shahin, Rekha Rani Goon and Munshi Abu Taleb also spoke at the roundtable.

## 240 bottles of phensidyl seized in Dinajpur

UNB, Dinajpur

A drug dealer was arrested and 240 bottles of Indian phensidyl recovered in separate drives in Sadar and Parbattipur thanas yesterday.

Officials of Narcotics Control and police raided Dainur village in Sadar upazila and arrested a man identified as Jalal Uddin and recovered 100 bottles of phensidyl from his possession at about 10:00am.

Later, the arrested along with the phensidyl was handed over to local police station.

In another raid, police recovered 140 bottles of phensidyl from the house of Shahidul Haque at Abbaspara village under Parbattipur Police Station.

The house owner fled sensing the arrival of law enforcers.

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