



Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee Ole Danbolt Mjøs delivers a lecture on 'Some Reflections on the Nobel Peace Prize' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 2)

## Semifinal of MTB-Daily Star Debate held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The semifinals of Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Contest 2008 was held in the port city yesterday.

Under the school debate category, Chittagong Collegiate School and Chittagong Government High School emerged as finalists after defeating Silver Bells High School and Agrabad Girls' High School respectively in the semifinal.

In the first child debate, Agrabad Girls' High School and Ispahani Public School reached the final round defeating Collegiate School and Sunny Tutorial respectively.

The finalists of the 5th university debate are Chittagong University and Premier University. They defeated Haji Mohsin College and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology respectively in the semifinal.

The final round and prize giving ceremony of the contest will be held at the Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) at 10:00am tomorrow.

Former president of Bangladesh Economic Society Prof Dr Mainul Islam will attend the ceremony as the chief guest.

Drishya, an educational and cultural organisation, has organised the contest in association with the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA).

Radio Foorti is the radio partner of the event.

**অভিনন্দন**

পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর ৭৩ তম বোর্ড সভায় জনাব বি.এম ইউসুফ আলী, অতিরিক্ত ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক কে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক পদে পদোন্নতি প্রদান করায় আমরা আনন্দিত ও পর্বিত।

**কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীবৃন্দ**

**পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**

পিপলস ইনস্যুরেন্স ভবন, ৩৬ দিলকুশা বা/এ (৪র্থ তলা)

ঢাকা-১০০০।

## Singer Farida Parveen wins Fukuoka Prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Singer Farida Parveen has been awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Cultural Prize 2008.

The prize instituted by Fukuoka City in Japan and Yokatopia Foundation was officially announced in Japan on June 24.

This was disclosed at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Farida Parveen won the prize for her contribution to raising the standing of Lalon song and promoting it internationally.

The prize giving ceremony will be held in Fukuoka City on September 10. The city mayor will hand over the prizes to the winners.

The other winners are Ann Hui of Hong Kong (Grand Prize), Savitri Goonesekere of Sri Lanka (Academic Prize) and Shamsul Amri Baharuddin of Malaysia (Academic Prize).

The Fukuoka Prize was instituted in 1990 to honour the outstanding work of individuals or groups to preserve and create unique and diverse cultures of Asia.

Farida Parveen is the second Bangladeshi to be honoured with Fukuoka Prize. Dr Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Fukuoka Grand Prize in 2001.

Speaking at the press conference, Japanese Ambassador Masayuki Inoue said Japan has been assisting Bangladesh in different sectors since the Liberation War and that the friendship of Japan and Bangladesh would be strengthened in the future.

"The recognition of Fukuoka has once again proved that ours is a rich culture. Bangladesh needs artists like Farida very much and to protect the original songs of the artists, we would have to resist piracy through coordinated effort," said Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury as the chief guest.

"The Fukuoka Prize is undoubtedly a great achievement for me, for the country and for the people of Bangladesh," said Farida.

Prof Tomoaki Fujii, member of Fukuoka Asia Cultural Prize, Art and Cultural Section Committee, Masakazu Nishijima of Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize Section and Dr Mahbubur Rahman, secretary, ministry of communications, also spoke.

## Ikhtiar made envoy to Philippines

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed Ikhtiar M Chowdhury, currently serving as director general of the South East Asia and Parliamentary Affairs, and the External Publicity Wing of Foreign Ministry, as ambassador to the Philippines.

Ikhtiar has served Bangladesh's different missions in different capacities during his diplomatic career in the foreign service for more than two decades.

## Anti-corruption campaign to be strengthened

ACC, TIB to hold youth gathering titled 'Jago Manush... Durniti Protirodhe Jago' from July 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) are going to hold youth gatherings at district level to engage people in strengthening the ongoing anti-corruption movement in the country.

The gatherings will include cultural programmes, cartoon exhibitions, game competitions, information fairs, distribution of anti-corruption posters, leaflets, stickers and swearing saying 'no' to corruption.

This was stated by ACC and TIB officials at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital yesterday.

The first youth gathering titled 'Jago Manush... Durniti Protirodhe Jago' (wake up to resist corruption) will be held in Chapainawabganj on July 23, which will be followed by Satkhira on August 12, Barisal on August 19, Rangpur on August 26, Srimangal on October 13, Chandpur on October 20, Comilla on October 23, Mymensingh on October 29 and Faridpur on November 5.

The final youth gathering will be held in Dhaka on December 16 or 17, said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

He said local conscious citizens committees and youth engagement and support groups, which were formed earlier under the encouragement of TIB, will help in holding the gatherings.

"Through these campaigns the youths will be provided with various information on corruption and ways to curb them. We are expecting to involve 2.5 lakh youths in this social movement," he added.

ACC Deputy Director Afzalur Rahman said despite various anti-corruption drives corruption at the field level could not be curbed yet.

He said during previous awareness programmes there had been demands from the youths to organise gatherings for them at district level.

"Students often express their bad feelings about corruption. We are encouraged by them and so we are trying to involve them in anti-corruption campaigns," he added.

Asked about the success of the youth concerts held earlier in the capital and Chittagong, Dr Iftekharuzzaman said they are trying

to instill values in the minds of the youths through programmes liked by them and the concert is one of them.

"We need values as well as strong judicial system," he said, adding, "We are trying to awaken people who are victims of corruption so that they do not take corrupt practices granted, rather they protest them."

Popular singer Meherin said it is not possible to remove corruption from the society unless the parents, especially the mothers do not educate their children to refrain from involving themselves in corrupt practices.

Earlier, youth gatherings were held at Gulshan Youth Club in Dhaka on March 8 and at Patia of Chittagong on May 10 and 11 this year, said TIB Senior Advocacy Officer Sazzad Hussain in a written statement.

ACC and TIB began this campaign on December 9 last year.



TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday. On his right is ACC Deputy Director Afzalur Rahman and on his left is TIB Senior Advocacy Officer Sazzad Hussain.

## Seminars on Canadian edn in 3 cities from July 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several seminars on higher education in Canada will begin in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet beginning from July 21.

The seminars will provide information on higher education at different public and private and technical universities in Canada.

Schedules of the seminars are: at Hotel Land Mark in Chittagong on July 21 and 22, at Hotel Supreme in Sylhet on July 23, and at Victoria Hotel in Dhaka on July 25 and 26.

"We will organise the seminars in the Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet to inform interested students how to apply for getting admission in Canadian Universities," said Kamal Mir, coordinator of Canadian Education Seminar-2008, at a press conference at National Press Club.

## WFP representative presents credentials

UNB, Dhaka

The new representative of the World Food Programme John Aylieff presented his credentials to Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the foreign ministry yesterday.

The foreign adviser welcomed the new representative and thanked the WFP for the support received from the agency in the aftermath of last year's floods and cyclone Sidr, said a press release.

The WFP representative highly praised the preparedness of the Bangladesh Government during those crises that "saved so many lives."

He said Bangladesh's disaster-preparedness was a "model worthy of emulation by others."

Iftekhar explained Bangladesh's current food policy particularly the 'safety nets' to ensure 'vulnerable group feeding'.

The WFP representative assured the foreign adviser of every support to the government's programme in future.

The WFP played a good cooperative role in the past, as I am sure they will in the future," the foreign adviser told the media afterwards.

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