

# Govt firm to protect rights of people with disability

Says minister

BSS, Faridpur

Labour, Employment and Expatriates' Welfare Minister Engineer Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has said the present government is trying to turn the people with disability into skilled manpower by imparting necessary training.

He was addressing a view exchange meeting organised by the National Grassroots Disabled Organisation (NGDO) at the conference room of the deputy commissioner yesterday.

The minister said the government is committed to protect the rights of the people with disability.

He said with this objective, the

government has enhanced the allocation for their welfare in the current budget.

Mosharraf said he would personally take initiatives to ease the admission process for the students with disability in Technical Training Centers (TTC) of the country so that they can pursue their necessary education with stipends.

He called upon the NGOs to help develop the faculty of the people with disability numbering one crore fifty lakh and employ them with 'sympathy' and not as 'charity' because it is their birth-right.

A man with disability is not personally

responsible for his own impairment, he is impaired because the Creator has made him so, he added.

Presided over by NGDO President Akhtar Hossain, the meeting was also addressed by Country Director of Action on Disability and Development (ADD) Mosharraf Hossain, Faridpur Civil Surgeon Dr Bashirul Islam, NGDO Secretary Habibur Rahman and Faridpur Bar Association President Shahidullah Jahangir.

A paper titled 'Employment: Rights of the people with disability' was presented by Nur Akhtar Mini, a physically challenged member of NGO Astha Pratibandhi.



President Zillur Rahman administers oath to new minister and state ministers at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## INTERNATIONAL MATH OLYMPIAD

### Winners accorded reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee (BMOC) yesterday accorded a reception to little mathematicians who won bronze medals in the 50th International Math Olympiad (IMO) in Germany for the first time for Bangladesh.

"This is like a dream come true," said a delighted Samin Riasat, one of the two winners of the bronze medals.

"It was a huge hall room where 565 students of my age from 104 countries were trying to find out the solution to an equation. I had a dream of taking part in such a mega contest and finally I have done well in the contest," he said. "It was an amazing experience."

Nazia Chowdhury is the other winner of the bronze medal. They along with four others students took part in the competition as a team from Bangladesh.

The four others are Tarik Adnan Moon, Haque Muhammad Ishfaq, Pranav Rahman Khan and Kazi Hasan Zubayer.

Ishfaq said they also got an opportunity to share their views with six world famous mathematicians who attended the competition.

"They were very friendly with us. We shared views with them and they taught and inspired us," he said.

Tarik, who was just one point away from winning the bronze medal, said the experiences of the competition would remain alive in their hearts forever.

Dr Mahbub Mazumder, who accompanied the team members as their coach, said, "They are very talented students and exceptionally well. It has been proved that if the talents of our students are nurtured, they will be the real stars."

Appreciating the Prothom Alo and Dutch-Bangla Bank for patronising such activities, BMOC President Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said they will try to spread the math competition across the country.

"Now we have to work towards materialising our next dream of winning the gold medal," he said.

Noted writer and BMOC

Vice-President Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said, "I am extremely happy and I will dedicate two books for you all."

Badiul Alam Majumder said he believes that the children of this country can win any competition with other nations, if they are given proper opportunities.

Prof Kaikobad of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said it is an amazing achievement that Bangladesh won two bronze medals and ranked 58th among the 104 countries.

Editor of the Prothom Alo Matur Rahman said, "We would like to see a new Bangladesh built by the competent leadership enriched with the knowledge of science and technology."

Former Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, Deputy Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank KS Tabrez, Jewel Aich and Joint Editor of the Prothom Alo Abdul Quayyum and its Deputy Editor Anisul Haque also spoke.



Members of Bangladesh team who won bronze medals in the International Math Olympiad in Germany pose for photo with the guests at a reception ceremony at the CA Bhaban auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Foreign national held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a foreign national with equipment for making fake notes in the city.

The arrestee was identified as Kamano, 37, a citizen of the Republic of Guinea in West Africa.

Officer-in-Charge of Airport Police Station Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury told The Daily Star that acting on a tip-off, they arrested Kamano from a local sports club at Kawla Bazar at around 9:30am.

He came to Dhaka on May 21 and was living in the area.

## Extortionists kill schoolboy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Extortionists chopped to death a school student at Maniknagar village under Ishwardi upazila in Pabna yesterday when he was trying to save his father from attack of the extortionists.

The dead is identified as Jibon, 14, son of Ainul Haque Esken of Maniknagar village and a student of class VIII.

Police and locals said the criminals demanded money

from Esken. But he did not pay them. The criminals attacked him at his residence yesterday morning and beat mercilessly. Then Jibon rushed there to save his father. But the criminals chopped him with sharp weapons.

He was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to the injuries.

A case was filed with Ishwardi Police Station in this connection. Police arrested two extortionists.

## Prof Yunus honoured

FROM PAGE 1  
Obama will present the Presidential Medal of Freedom on August 12 to Tutu, a South African anti-apartheid veteran, British physicist Hawking and Yunus, a Bangladeshi micro-financier who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Other figures tapped to receive the nation's highest civilian honor included six women from sport, entertainment, science and government; a Native American war chief, a civil rights leader, an African-American actor, two US lawmakers and a doctor.

Harvey Milk, the first openly gay official of a major US city, will receive the award posthumously, along with long-time, self-described "bleeding heart conservative" lawmaker Jack Kemp, who passed away in May.

"These outstanding men and women represent an incredible diversity of backgrounds," Obama said in a statement.

"Yet they share one overarching trait: each has been an

agent of change. Each saw an imperfect world and set about improving it, often overcoming great obstacles along the way."

Hawking, who has overcome the debilitating effects of motor neuron disease to become an internationally recognized theoretical physicist, was hailed by the White House for unlocking "new pathways of discovery" and "inspiring everyday citizens."

In a statement, Hawking said he was "delighted and honored" to be chosen to receive the award, adding that he was "very much looking forward to travelling to Washington" to meet Obama, whom the physicist called a "remarkable man... whom I admire deeply."

Tutu, a 1984 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, was lauded for leading "a formidable crusade in support of justice and racial reconciliation in South Africa," and Yunus for his pioneering work against poverty.

Yunus founded the Grameen Bank to provide

micro-loans to poor people without collateral.

Among other recipients of the Medal of Freedom were Ireland's first woman president Mary Robinson, who left the presidency early to serve as the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, and Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman justice on the US Supreme Court.

US geneticist Janet Davison Rowley, whose studies of chromosome abnormalities in human leukemia and lymphoma have led to dramatically improved survival rates for previously incurable cancers, and Nancy Goodman Brinker, who founded the global breast cancer grassroots organization Susan G. Komen for the Cure in memory of her sister will also receive the coveted award.

Former tennis pro Billie Jean King, who became the first woman commissioner in professional sport after her court career ended; and Latina actress, dancer and singer Chita Rivera rounded out the

## Bus owners' assoc of SW dists goes on strike today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

The bus-truck owners' association in south-western districts, including Jhenaidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Magura, Kushtia and Rajbari, will go on strike from today if human haulers are not removed from the roads forever.

The bus, minibus owners' association, owners' group, bus-minibus workers' union and Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union have called the strike.

They demanded steps to remove all kinds of human haulers, including Nasimon, Korimon, Alam Sadhu, Gram Bangla and Lata Humba, from the local roads forever.

When contacted, Abdullah-Al-Baki, president of Jhenaidah bus and minibus owners' association, said all kinds of vehicles, including bus, minibus, truck and car, will go on the strike.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Md Lutfar Rahman, a tax lawyer in Chittagong, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfils will be held in Chittagong, Dhaka and Naogaon.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

## Qulkhawani

METRO DESK

Qulkhawani of Khodiza Adiba Khanum, former deputy director of Directorate of Education, Dhaka and mother of Humayara Ferdous, online journalist of The Daily Star, will be held today at her residence at 907/B, East Shawra Para in the city, says a press release.

She passed away on Thursday at the age of 63.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over the first meeting of the new presidium of Awami League at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## 'JS body soon to solve problems of indigenous people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha at a discussion in Rajshahi yesterday said an initiative has been taken to form a parliamentary body to resolve the problems of indigenous people in the plain land.

The JS body would play role in creating opinions in parliament for the formation of a separate land commission with a view to solving the sev-

eral decades old land-related problems, he added.

"After the body is formed, it will hear opinions of the indigenous people for helping the parliament make a law, if necessary, as well as pressurise the government for establishing social status of the underprivileged ethnic minority," said Badsha.

The grand alliance lawmaker warned that many officials in the police and district administrations are still loyal to the four-party alliance and the government is facing problems in functioning properly for them.

"The pro-BNP-Jamaat officials are desperate enough to allow BNP hooligans to set fire to the houses of indigenous families in Naogaon."

Badsha, a lawmaker from Rajshahi-2 and politburo member of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, was speaking as the chief guest at the discussion on 'Separate land commission for the indigenous people and role of media' at the GDRC auditorium in the city.

Asthma Network, a Rajshahi-based NGO with assistance from Oxfam GB organised the discussion with Ganesh Mardi, president of the NGO, in the chair.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Anil Marandi, General Secretary Rabinranath Saren, Public Prosecutor Rabiul Haque, language movement veteran Mosharraf Hossain Akhuni, Rajshahi Raksha Sangram Parishad Convener Zamat Khan, Rajshahi University teacher Dr Sujit Sarker, Rajshahi Blast Coordinator Abdus Salam, indigenous leaders Naren Pahan, Sabin Munda and Harendranath Singh and journalist Hasan Millat also spoke.

The speakers demanded the government constitute a permanent land commission to protect the land rights of the indigenous people in the plain land.

The indigenous people must be brought to the mainstream for proper development, they said.

## ARMY PULLOUT 48-hr ultimatum to govt to change decision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad yesterday issued a 48 hours' ultimatum to the government to change its decision to withdraw one brigade of army and 35 temporary camps from several places in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Termining the decision controversial, they said it would help indigenous people in every sector, while CHT Bangalees would be deprived in most sectors.

They said that if the government implements the decision, it would make the CHT area chaotic and most people would feel insecure.

The leaders of the organisation said this at a press conference at the Khagrachhari Press Club.

Central committee President of the organisation Mohammad Alamgir Kabir read out a keynote paper and placed a six-point demand.

The leaders also declared a 48-hour agitation programme, including protest procession, protest meeting in all upazilas in CHT, human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club today and protest meeting and protest procession at Rangamati tomorrow.

## Jalil to work for party if there is scope

UNB, Dhaka

Member of the newly formed Awami League Advisory Council Abdul Jalil MP yesterday said he would continue to work for the party if there is opportunity.

"If anybody wants to work, definitely there is a scope for that," he told UNB over phone when asked if he has any scope for work as a member of the party's Advisory Council.

Jalil who served as Awami League general secretary for more than six years relinquished his post on July 20 as he was denied his right to perform his responsibilities as general secretary ahead of the party council.

"It's my fate," said Jalil who landed in jail during the caretaker regime and later lost the party's vital post.

About the party's new central working committee and expansion of the cabinet, he said it is a new exercise of moving forward with combined forces of new and old. He wished them success.

## Appeal for help

METRO DESK

Kiron Chandra Mandol, 35, an employee of a private company in Dhaka, has been critically ill with kidney ailments, says a press release.

According to doctors, both of his kidneys are dysfunctional. But he is financially incapable to afford an expensive medical treatment at home or abroad.

His family has requested generous people to extend financial assistance to Mandol to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to his wife's bank account: Tripti Biswas, A/C No. SIB 13400130086, Social Islami Bank Ltd, Principal Branch, Dilkusha.

Mandol hails from Kotlipara, Gopalganj.



## Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, MetOffice said.

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:41pm today and rises at 6:28am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Feni.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	25.6	86	69
Chittagong	28.0	24.8	98	93
Rajshahi	36.0	26.3	81	76
Khulna	34.1	26.6	92	79
Barisal	32.0	25.4	100	87
Sylhet	29.0	25.6	97	91
Cox's Bazar	29.2	26.0	97	92

## DHAKA TODAY

### Seminar

Economic Reporters' Forum organises a seminar on state of the national economy. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 2:30pm.

### Mourning day

Bangabandhu Samajkalyan Parishad (Bangladesh) organises a discussion to mark the national mourning day. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Roundtable

Development Initiative for Inclusive People organises a roundtable on life and culture of indigenous people and our views. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.