

## MEDAL OF FREEDOM Khaleda hails Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday congratulated Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus on his attaining Presidential Medal of Freedom Award, the highest civilian honour of the United States of America.

A five-member delegation led by party's Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan handed over Khaleda's letter of felicitation to Prof Yunus at his Grameen Bank office at Mirpur in the capital.

"Before this, as a first Bangladeshi you have brought extraordinary honour for this country through achieving Nobel Prize," she wrote to Yunus in the letter.

"I hope you continue to use your talent and eminence to benefit our nation and to improve the country's image worldwide," she added.

Yunus said thanking Khaleda for her gesture. "The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Swine flu menacingly poised

STAR REPORT

Thousands of people -- young and old -- streaming into shopping malls, walking close to each other, sifting through gift items, and then cramming into buses and launches for their journey home during the Eid vacation.

Nothing could be a better theatre for the deadly swine flu or H1N1 virus to jump from one human to another. It is already transmitting fast, infecting an ever increasing number of people.

Swine flu is probably one of the greatest threats the world faces today, and Bangladesh cannot escape the onslaught. But as it looks till now, people in general are not taking the pandemic that seriously, having the general notion that Bangladeshis are too resilient to be seriously harmed by the flu strain. The reality could be much harsher for them.

Most countries struck by the flu have been taking extreme care to contain the infection. India issued an advice for its citizens not to undertake 'non-essential' tours outside their states.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

## 5 more infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five fresh cases were detected with swine flu yesterday raising the toll to 199 since June 18.

Most of them have been cured and the rest are suffering from mild swine flu, said government officials.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 4 more children end up with renal failure

Rid's banned paracetamol syrup prescribed to them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Four children aged between seven and ten were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Friday with renal failure after being given Rid Pharma's paracetamol syrup.

"The children suffered from fever and were given Temset paracetamol suspension and Ridaplex eight to ten days ago as per prescription of local physicians. They are out of danger now," medical college Principal Prof Syed Zakir Hossain told The Daily Star.

The four children are Abir, 10, son of Anwar Hossain in Barisal, Hawa Akter, 8, daughter of

Mokter Hossain in Barisal, Ridoy, 7, son of Majibur Rahman in Jhalakathi and Ridoy Sikder, 8, son of Nirmal Sikder in Patuakhali.

Hawa's mother Aklima Akhter said, "My daughter had high fever for six days. When I went to a nearby pharmacy for medicine, they gave me Temset. Hawa took the medicine for six days but her temperature continued to rise prompting us to bring her to the hospital."

"We were not aware of the banned medicine or the deaths of children caused by the banned drug as we don't have access to radio or television," she said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Govt escaped legal disaster

Several verdicts show its sending of 2 judges into retirement totally illegal

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Sending of two district judges into forced retirement was illegal as the government took the disciplinary action against them without consulting with the Supreme Court, according to several verdicts of the Appellate Division.

In a surprise move on July 30, the government sent Abdul Gafur, district and sessions judge in Dhaka, and Mohammad Shahjahan, women and children repression prevention tribunal judge in Gazipur, into retirement for their involvement in a demonstration at the secretariat on July 27.

The judges were preparing to file writ petitions with the SC challenging the government order, sources said.

The government, however, reinstated the two judges after

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

## Suranjit fires back

He reaffirms JS body's unanimous decision to summon HT Imam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief of parliamentary standing committee on law, Suranjit Sengupta, yesterday rebutted the claim of state minister for law that the committee had not decided to summon Prime Minister's Adviser HT Imam.

"The committee on Thursday unanimously decided to ask HT Imam and the secretaries of law and establishment ministries to appear before it to explain their actions of sending two judges to retirement," Suranjit said in a media conference at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

Suranjit, also an adviser to ruling Awami League (AL), blasted the premier's adviser for his comment on the committee's decision to hear him regarding his role in sending the two judges into retirement.



Suranjit Sengupta

HT Imam

"His remarks are unnecessary, based on imaginations, indecent, improper, unconstitutional, undemocratic, and unparliamentary," the committee chief said.

On Friday in a media briefing, Imam said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



SILVER LINING... A large number of hilsa are netted and brought to Fishery Ghat in Chittagong yesterday after a slump in fishing for some days. PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

## ORPHANAGE CASE Khaleda summoned again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again summoned former premier Khaleda Zia and four others to appear before it on September 7 in connection with a case of embezzling Tk 2.10 crore through forming fraudulent Zia Orphanage Trust.

The court will give its decision on the same day whether the charges would be taken into cognisance in presence of the accused.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed the date after

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## VGF cards go to Pabna's ruling party poor

40pc of Chatmohor upazila's cards allocated for them

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Ruling Awami League men have got an unofficial 40 per cent quota to select beneficiaries under the government's vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programme in Chatmohor upazila of Pabna this year.

Eleven unions under Chatmohor upazila have already prepared the lists by accommodating 40 per cent beneficiary names given by local AL leaders while Chatmohor municipality is still waiting for the names to be provided by AL for the list.

Chatmohor municipality and 11 unions will get 2,000 VGF cards each this year. According to the rule, the UP chairmen and VGF committees comprised of local government officials and the elite are supposed to prepare the lists of the poor.

But the ruling AL men in Chatmohor upazila have given 40 per cent names on political consideration for the lists.

Terming the process of preparing the list proper, Bilchalan Union Parishad Chairman Md Akter Hossain told The Daily Star that they

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## BDR names 23 fugitive jawans

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday published the names of 23 jawans who remained fugitive since the February 25-26 massacre in its headquarters at Pilkhana.

People have been requested to inform about the hiding jawans to the nearest police station.

The fugitives are: Main Uddin (Naogaon), Bishu Mitra Barua (Chittagong), Rezaul Karim (Chittagong), Ayub Ali (Brahmanbaria), Baki Billah (Nilphamari), Atiqur Rahman

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Govt to open 7 new foreign missions

Move to serve migrant workers better

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government considers opening seven new missions, and strengthening the existing ones in the major labour receiving countries with skilled personnel to better serve the expatriate workers.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith told this to reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting held at the ministry yesterday.

The finance minister said now there are 31 training institutes for the overseas jobseekers and the government will set up 34 more institutes.

The new mission will be opened in Mauritius, Botswana, Romania, Lebanon, Angola, Sudan and Greece, he said.

Muhith said many missions in the major labour receiving countries do not have adequate trained staff. So, those missions will also be strengthened.

"Our expatriate workers suffer while going and staying abroad and even sending money home, but we cannot provide them adequate services," he said, adding that the government would do everything required to ensure migrants' welfare.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## JAPAN ELECTION

## Opposition wins after 54yrs

AP, AFP, Tokyo

Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso conceded defeat in elections yesterday as media exit polls indicated the opposition had won by a landslide, sending the conservatives out of power after 54 years of nearly unbroken rule amid widespread economic anxiety and desire for change.

"These results are very severe," Aso said in a news conference at party headquarters, conceding his party was headed for a big loss. "There has been a deep dissatisfaction with our party."

Aso said he would have to accept responsibility for the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## BANDARBAN

## Dist admin stops illegal plantation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

All ongoing plantation programmes of Destiny Group in Bandarban hill district were stopped yesterday following an official order from the district administration.

Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban Mizanur Rahman issued the order in the wake of grabbing of khas land and illegal plantations by displacing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

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