

## 8TH NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE



Scouts take part in different activities at the 8th National Scout Jamboree at Mouchak in Gazipur yesterday. The nine-day event ends tomorrow.

1. A participant crosses a Burma Bridge.
2. Boy Scouts are swimming as part of their training.
3. The Scouts are trained on how to put up special tents during natural disasters.
4. Girl Scouts prepare meals.
5. Scouts with disabilities take part in the Jamboree.
6. A Boy Scout does the Tarzan Swing.
7. Girl Scouts do community work like cleaning their tent area.

(Story on Page 16)  
PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

### JCD demands withdrawal of case

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday placed a five-point demand, including withdrawal of the case filed against its eight leaders in connection with the Monday's infighting on the Dhaka University campus.

The JCD leaders also threatened to call strike at educational institutions across the country if their demands are not met within February 2.

They placed the demands at a press conference at the Engineers' Institute in the city.

They also demanded resignation of DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, alleging that he is not cooperating with the organisation leaders on the campus.

Other demands included punishment to the BCL men and ensuring congenial atmosphere on the campus and peaceful co-existence at DU dormitories.

Reading out a written statement, JCD vice-president Haider Ali Lenin claimed that Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists swooped on the JCD leaders and beat them mercilessly during the Monday's clash.

He also termed the case "false and politically motivated."

The organisation also declared a series of protest programmes to realise their demands. The Chhatra Dal men will hold a protest procession at its central office in the city on January 26, arrange protest programmes at all educational institutions across the country on January 28 and submit a memorandum to the home ministry on February 2.

Meanwhile, the rebel faction of JCD yesterday staged a showdown on the campus at noon.

## Cellphones for women migrant workers to address problems

Expatriates' welfare minister tells BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will provide mobile phones for the female migrant workers in a bid to address any problems fast, said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain yesterday.

"We shall implement the decision immediately... provide mobile phones to female job seekers when they complete training before migration and SIM cards after their arrival overseas," he said at a special BBC dialogue by BBC Bangla Service at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in the city.

The announcement came when the audience, many of whom returned from abroad, brought allegations of not getting adequate cooperation from the Bangladesh missions when they fell in trouble overseas.

Some female migrant returnees even

said they were tortured in Lebanon and that the government officials back at home were negligent to provide compensation money for those who died abroad.

Expatriates from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Canada put a number of questions on high migration costs, dominance of middlemen and use of unofficial channel to remit money.

The minister said he is well aware of the problems, but there are shortages of manpower and logistics at the embassies. "We shall provide the mobile phones to the female migrants so that we can fast address their problems, if any, and also to help them overcome cultural shocks," he said.

He said the government has already written letters to the upazila and union parishads so that the overseas job seekers can have access to information at local government levels on jobs abroad.

To avoid middlemen, he asked the job seekers to get registered at the databank

of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training from where the recruiting agencies will select for recruitment.

Besides, the expatriates' welfare ministry is working in line with the foreign ministry to strengthen economic diplomacy, especially with the countries employing Bangladeshi labour.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) President Ghulam Mustafa suggested introducing a new cadre service on migration for efficient migration management.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, recommended that accountability and transparency of the recruiting agencies be ensured to check fraudulence.

Sumaiya Islam of Bangladesh Obhibashi Mahila Sramik Association said remittance of the migrants is the lifeline of the national economy. So, their rights should get the highest priority.

## 'Bring domestic helps under labour law'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for preserving the rights of the domestic helps by bringing them under the purview of the labour law.

Domestic Workers Right Network in association with International Labour Organisation (ILO) arranged the roundtable titled 'Code of Conduct to Ensure Rights for the Domestic Workers' at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain said the government will take necessary actions to include the domestic helps in the Labour Act 2006.

To this end, he sought cooperation of all stakeholders concerned.

There is a high demand for Bangladeshi domestic helps in the international market, he said, adding, "If such domestic workers are not sent legally, they might be trafficked illegally."

This can be prevented if the domestic workers are provided with necessary capacity building training.

While presenting the keynote paper, Dr Wazedul Islam Khan, coordinator of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad, placed a set of recommendations before the government to ensure the rights of the domestic workers.

The speakers also said that changing the attitude towards the domestic helps is a must.

They urged the government and members of the civil society to work together to establish the rights of the domestic helps

and give them due status.

Gagan Rajbhandari, deputy director of ILO in Dhaka, Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan, general secretary, Bangladesh Labour Foundation, and Advocate AKM Nasim also spoke at the programme with Habibur Rahman Seraz, chairman of Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies (BILS), in the chair.

Hosne Ara Kashem, executive director of Shoishob Bangladesh, Abdul Kader Howlader, president of Jatiya Sramik Jote, Taleya Rahman, executive director of Democracywatch, Md Zafrul Hasan, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Ratan Sarkar, coordinator of Together with Working Children, Wahida Banu, chairman of the Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, and Abdul Matin Master, chairman of NCCWE, also spoke.

### Kabita Utsab begins on Feb 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 24th Kabita Utsab (Poetry Festival) will begin on February 1 on the Dhaka University Central Library premises, says a press release.

The schedule of the two-day programme was announced at a press conference at the TSC of Dhaka University yesterday.

Writer Syed Shamsul Haque will inaugurate the event.

More than 400 poets will attend the programme. Besides, poets from India, UK and Kuwait will attend the festival.

This year's slogan of the festival is 'Natun Kavita Natun Samoy' (New poem of new time).

### Foundation of 15-storey car-parking building laid

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Advocate Abdul Mannan yesterday underlined the need for constructing multi-storey car-parking lots to ease traffic jam in the city.

"People should abide by laws when they are driving vehicles. The haphazard parking of vehicles causes suffering to passers-by," he said.

The minister was addressing a foundation-laying ceremony of a 15-storey car-parking building at Gulshan in the city as the chief guest.

The 15-storey building is being constructed at a cost of Tk 34.39 crore on 20 acres of land in Gulshan-1. The area of the building is 1,39,260 square feet, including two basements.



Happy Birthday to **Diamoni**  
21 January 2010  
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**Time for submission of nominations:**  
January 21 - March 20, 2010

All submissions should be made online • You can submit only one nomination for one category.

For details and submission of your nominations please visit: <http://naward.dnet.org.bd>

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