



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at the concluding session of the 5th Conference of International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) at Brac Inn Centre in the city yesterday. On her right are Akku Chowdhury and Elizabeth Sikes and on her left are Wang Shanfeng and Chanho Kim.

PHOTO: STAR

49,000 policemen punished in 41 months

BSS, DHAKA

Some 49,000 police personnel, including 12 police superiors (SPs) and 10 additional SPs, were punished during the last three years and five months in a bid to uphold the image and discipline of the force.

A top official at the police headquarters said the home ministry and main units of the police department gave these punishments on the basis of allegations against them from January 2007 to May this year.

Of them, 12 are SPs, 10 additional SPs and 31 assistant superintendents of police (ASPs), 248 inspectors and 48,600 are from different ranks starting from sub-inspectors (SI) to constables.

According to a statistics available with the police headquarters, the government

gave forced retirement to an SP three months ago for his alleged involvement in massive corruption. Three other SPs were also given minor punishment in 2007, four in 2008, one in 2009 and three others during the period of this government. An Additional SP was given major punishment in 2008 while three others were given minor punishment in 2007, two in 2008 and four in 2009, the statistics added.

Besides, two ASPs were given forced retirement for their alleged involvement in gross misconduct and corruption in 2007, another was given punishment few months back for the same reason, eight ASPs were given minor punishment in 2007, four in 2008 and 11 in 2009 and in the last five months.

Of 248 inspectors, 13 were dismissed

for corruption, 32 were given major punishment and 203 were awarded minor punishment during the time.

At the lower level, 218 police personnel were given forced retirement for their alleged involvement in gross misconduct and corruption during the time while 360 were suspended for the same. Besides, 3,348 were given major punishment during the last 41 months while 8677 police personnel were given minor punishment at that time.

When contacted, Nabo Bikram Kishore Tripura, Additional Inspector General of Police, said the home ministry and the police department have taken action against a large number of officers and forces to maintain chain of command in the force.

Bangladesh to open mission in Lisbon

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh is planning to open a resident mission in Lisbon soon to cater the needs of the growing Bangladesh community in Portugal.

She said this when the Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister of Portugal Pedro Catarino called on her at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said a foreign ministry press release.

Dipu Moni called upon the Portuguese Special Envoy to consider opening a resident mission of Portugal in Dhaka to mitigate the sufferings of people travelling from Bangladesh to Portugal as well as to explore full trade and economic potential between the two countries.

She said there is ample potential and wide scope for developing meaningful collaborative

relationship between the two friendly countries.

She added Bangladesh attached great importance to her relations with Portugal and considered Portugal a very good friend. Dipu Moni mentioned the high priority to Foreign Director Investment (FDI) and congenial atmosphere for foreign investors.

Dipu Moni hoped that the Portuguese entrepreneurs would avail themselves of these opportunities as well as the package of incentives offered to the foreign investors in Bangladesh.

They underscored the necessity of interaction between the business communities of the two countries through exchange of business delegations.

They also discussed issues related to cooperation between the two countries in all multi-lateral forums, including at the United Nations.



Gonotntra Unnayan Committee stages a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday to create awareness among the people against hartal as it tarnishes image of the country.

PHOTO: STAR

Physically Challenged Four NGOs, seven individuals awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four NGOs, 7 individuals yesterday received awards for their contribution to physically challenged people in becoming self-reliant.

Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity (BKPS) gave away Disabilities Self Initiatives to Development (PSID) awards at a ceremony held at the National Press Club.

Chittagong Disabled Development Society, Bangladesh Protibandhi Unnayan Songstha, Disabled Peoples' Organisation to Development (DPOD) of Tangail and Manikganj-DPOD received awards for their role in developing physically challenged people.

Executive director of National Fellowship for the Advancement of Visually Handicapped Md Jahangir Alam, executive director of Tangail Protibandhi Unnayan Songstha, Md Saiful Islam and president of National Disabled Development Society Md Showkat Hossain Bhuiyan were handed over the awards.

Former president of Mymensingh-DPOD Md Ismail Hossain and chairman of Bandarban-DPOD Lal Mun Thang were given awards as best leaders at grassroots level while director of Chandpur-DPOD Mohammad Momtaj Uddin Milon and development worker of Barishal-DPOD Rehena Begum received best development workers award.

Prof Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, ATN Bangla adviser Nawazish Ali Khan and South Asia Coordinator of Caritas Australia Danielle Atkins distributed the awards among the winners.

Two DU students stabbed in city

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two students of Dhaka University (DU) were stabbed by a gang of miscreants in Dhanmondi area of the capital yesterday.

The injured Rifat Jaman and Hafizur Rahman are fourth-year honours students at the public administration department.

After the stabbing, they were rushed to DU medical centre and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rifat told reporters that some 10 to 15 people intercepted their rickshaw and asked them to get off it on a road in front of Medinova Medical Centre in Dhanmondi at around 12:00pm. Suddenly, they started stabbing them with sharp weapons, he added.

The students, however, could not identify the attackers. Rifat said they had gone to Dhanmondi to meet one of his friends from college.

DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam told reporters that the injured students told him that muggers attacked them.

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