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**Asia Pacific Scout team starts visiting Bangladesh activities**

DU CORRESPONDENT

An eight-member representative team of Asia Pacific region Scout yesterday started visiting scout activities of Bangladesh.

During their three-day visit, the team will be informed about formation, mission, vision, management, youth programme and communication of scouts in Bangladesh, says a press release.

They will also visit the day camps of scouts in the country.

At the end of the visit, the team will provide recommendations to expand the scout activities in Bangladesh and exchange views regarding the 24th scouts conference, scheduled to be held here in 2012.

The members of the team include -- Prokup Mukura, Dr Mufiuddin Bin Sarwani, Md Ali Khaled, Dr Chao Sau Po, Ram Lamisami, Abdullah Rashid, S Prosanyo and Yao Binte Mohammad.

The three-day visiting programme was launched at a ceremony at the national office of Bangladesh Scouts at Kakrail in the city yesterday. The chief national commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Abul Kalam Azad gave the welcome address at the function.



## MEENA DAY OBSERVED

# Primary teachers to be sent abroad to gain experience

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin yesterday once again said newly appointed primary school teachers were recruited through a transparent process and only meritorious people were appointed.

Speaking as the chief guest at the celebration of Meena Day, the minister also said the present government is committed to ensure quality of primary education for all children.

Directorate of Primary Education organised the celebration with the slogan "Going to school is the only work for children. No child will remain out of school anymore" at LGED auditorium in the city.

As meritorious people were

recruited in the primary schools, they will make the educational institutions child-friendly, the minister hoped.

Amin said teachers, employees and people from the school management committee from across the country would be sent abroad to gain experience.

The minister reiterated the government's pledge to bring all children to schools within 2011.

Meena Day was celebrated with colourful programmes such as puppet and muppet shows of popular characters like Meena, Raju, Mithu of the "Meena" cartoon. Hundreds of children attended the day's programme.

Speaking as special guest at the celebration, State Minister for Primary

and Mass Education Motahar Hossain said literacy and enrolment rate is getting higher but the quality of education is not at the satisfactory level.

Another special guest Nabendra Dahal, chief of education section of Unicef Bangladesh, said children of the country should be brought up to be quality citizens.

He urged all not to punish children, saying, "Say no to punishment".

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Abu Alam Shahid Khan said the character of Meena should be modified so that she talks about quality of education.

Cultural personalities Abul Hayat and Mamunur Rashid also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR  
Guests pose for a photograph with the mascots of Mina, Raju and Mithu of the cartoon "Mina" at the LGED auditorium in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Mina Day organised by Directorate of Primary Education.

## 5,000 more to get primary scholarship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has increased the number of scholarship by 10 percent for class V students who will appear at the primary terminal examinations.

Students who passed the exams last year will also be taken under the scheme.

In order of highest marks secured, 50,000 students in two categories -- talent pool and general-- receive the primary scholarship, which now will go to 5,000 students more.

"We would increase the number of scholarship further in the next year," Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan, secretary to the primary and mass education ministry, told The Daily Star on Thursday. According to new decision, 22,000 students in the talent pool and 33,000 in the general will be awarded the scholarship with an increase in the number by 2,000 and 3,000 respectively.

The education ministry was proposed to double the number of the scholarships since the number of students has risen.

But the finance ministry approved a 10 per cent increase, said the education ministry sources, adding the government has to run an additional cost of Tk 109.5 lakh for the increase.

Student eligible for scholarship in the talent pool is provided with Tk 200 per month, and one in the general is provided with Tk 150.



## Action can be taken against Jamaat leaders' lawyer

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said the law enforcers can take legal action against Barrister Fakhru Islam, a lawyer for detained Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, as he said that "no war took place between Bangladesh and Pakistan in 1971".

Fakhru Islam on September 21 told the International Crimes Tribunal that a war took place between India and Pakistan in 1971 in the territory of Bangladesh, and even the Mujibnagar government of Bangladesh did not declare any war against Pakistan.

Replying to a question regarding Fakhru's comment, the law minister told reporters at a briefing at the secretariat on Thursday afternoon that such comment is "arrogant, misleading, false and distorting."

The International Crimes Tribunal has the authority to take legal action against him, said Shafique.

Those, who are against the trial of the 1971 crimes against humanity and does not believe in the rule of law, can make such comment for denying the country's liberation war, he added.

## Chinese company to produce cellphone sets in Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Many mobile phone users will soon be using home-made sets as a Chinese company is expanding its manufacturing plant to Bangladesh to take benefit of the country's rapidly expanding mobile phone market.

The company, Phoenix Group, had already done market study on Bangladesh's mobile phone market and decided to set up a plant here for producing cellphone sets.

Representatives of the company last week met with Commerce Minister Faruk Khan during his visit to Beijing and discussed its investment plan in Bangladesh. The minister went to China to attend the "National Day" of Bangladesh at the Shanghai Expo 2010.

Faruk Khan told the news agency in

Shanghai that the company would add 60 percent value to their products from Bangladesh when it would only source basic material from China for manufacturing mobile phone sets.

He believes mobile phone users in Bangladesh would get cheaper sets once the company starts producing locally.

The company specialises in designing and developing GSM mobile phone and digital electronics equipment in China. Its product ranges cater to needs of both the low end and high end users.

With more than six crore mobile phone users in Bangladesh until last July, the market is expanding at a phenomenal growth rate, creating ever increasing demands for mobile phone sets.

But the market is flooded with imported sets mostly from China, South Korea and some other east Asian countries.



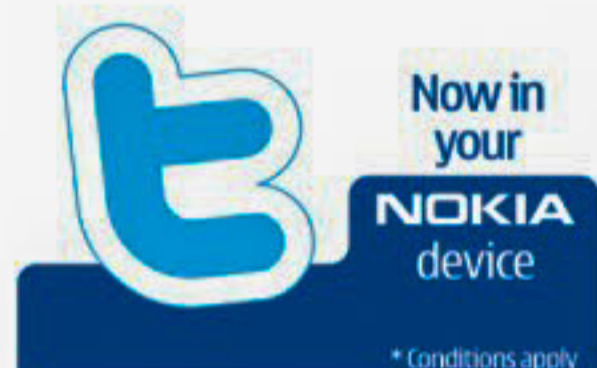
## 1,290 bottles of Phensidyl seized

UNB, Pabna

Some 1,290 bottles of Phensidyl were recovered at Kapaskanda in Bera upazila on Thursday night.

Police said smugglers by a microbus carrying the drugs were going to Dhaka at about 9:00pm when local police chased them.

Being challenged, the criminals left the microbus and fled away.



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