

# PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Cabinet hails PM as UN adopts her model

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday adopted two felicitation motions greeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the recent adoption of Bangladesh's two resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on "People's Empowerment and Development Model", and on autism.

The proposals for note of felicitations were approved at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at the Bangladesh Secretariat with the prime minister in the chair.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the cabinet adopted two felicitation proposals at the meeting congratulating the prime minister as the two models were adopted as resolutions at the UNGA, brightening the image of the country in international arena.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's proposal for people's empowerment has unanimously been adopted in the 67th UNGA as a resolution with support from

193 member states of the UN at the general assembly held in New York on December 18.

Musharraf said the cabinet also extended its thanks to the prime minister as Bangladesh's proposal on autism has been adopted by the UN as a resolution due to sincere efforts of her daughter, renowned autism expert Saima Wajed Putul.

The resolution, "addressing the socio-economic needs of individuals, families and societies affected by autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disorders", proposed by Bangladesh was adopted in the 67th UNGA on December 12 this year.

The cabinet also approved the short version of the speech of the president, which he will deliver at the next year's opening session of the 9th parliament.

Cabinet members, advisers to the prime minister, state ministers, and secretaries concerned also attended the meeting.

# Left parties protest decision to hike power price again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of some left-leaning parties, yesterday protested the government's recent decision to hike power price for yet another time.

The government has already raised power tariff six times, and people should not bear with the increased electricity price this time and rise against the decision, the platform leaders told a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

They alleged that the government had been raising power tariff over and over again only to make up for the money misappropriated by the ruling party leaders and their associates from rental and quick rental power plant projects.

The alliance leaders also alleged that a section of people were benefiting from the government's suicidal decision of not repairing the national power plants anymore. They demanded shutting down of the rental and quick rental power plants and repairing of the national power production units to meet the country's electricity demand.

The left-leaning parties will besiege the power, energy and mineral resources ministry on December 30 to protest another round of power tariff hike.

At the same rally, the left leaders rejected the government probe report on Tazreen garment factory fire, saying the report reflected "the prime minister's wish".

# Jobs for returnee female migrant workers sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should formulate a policy to reintegrate into the job market female migrant workers who return home from abroad, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Institutional reintegration, instead of individual, will play a more effective role to enable returnee female migrant workers to be engaged in productive and profitable activities in the country, they opined at a national consultation.

With assistance from UN, the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) organised the programme titled "Reintegration of Returnee Woman Migrant Workers" in the capital's Jatiya Mahila Sangstha conference room.

Currently around two lakh Bangladeshi female migrant workers are working in 15 countries across the world, said Sumaiya Islam, director of Bangladesh Obhivashi Mohila Sramik Association.

Naheed Ahmed, national programme manager of UNWomen, said it is difficult to bring the returnees under the reintegration programme as the government still does not have any database regarding

their specific number.

She urged the government authorities concerned including the BMET to make a database and identify the number of female migrants who have returned home.

Shamsoor Nahar, BMET director general, admitted that they did not have any direct programme to reintegrate migrant workers especially the female but added that the government was working to bring the migrant workers under a database.

As the number of female migrant workers is increasing, it is important to reintegrate them to make them self-reliant, she said.

Md Hazrat Ali, additional secretary at the expatriate's welfare and overseas employment ministry, said the returnees have many opportunities to utilise their savings from abroad after returning home.

They can receive training in different areas and be involved in different activities, he said.

Selima Ahmed, founder president of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among others, also spoke.

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# NGOs to start governance reform campaign Jan 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Governance Advocacy Forum, a platform of NGOs, will start a fortnight-long campaign in the country from January 1 demanding formulation of policies to strengthen local government administrations and decentralise power in every tier of administration.

The announcement was made at a press conference organised at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, said a press release.

Addressing the conference, Dr Qazi Khaliqzaman Ahmed, chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Governance Advocacy Forum, said local government institutions were the main components for accelerating the country's development. These components are becoming dysfunctional as the power is not decentralised, he said.

He said they would conduct the campaign to collect opinions from root level leaders and general people, adding that the forum has already submitted a draft proposal to the government for formulation of policies of power decentralisation.

# RU PROF YUNUS MURDER Execution of verdict demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and staff of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded immediate execution of the verdict that gave capital punishment to two killers of its professor, Muhammad Yunus.

Prof Yunus of the economics department was hacked to death in Binodpur area near the campus on December 24, 2004. Later, a murder case was filed.

On January 28, 2010, a speedy trial tribunal in its verdict gave the death sentence to Sahidullah alias Mahbub, nephew-in-law of Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai, the executed ring-leader of JMB, and Sarifullah alias Tareque alias Abul Kalam, son of Rahman Master of Itgachha village in Satkhira. However, the verdict is yet to be executed.

Over 200 teachers, students and staff of the department yesterday brought out a mourning procession on the campus around 10:00am marking the 8th death anniversary of Prof Yunus, said campus sources.

Speakers at the event alleged that the anti-liberation forces killed Prof Yunus as he was one of the organisers of the Liberation War in 1971.

Earlier, they placed wreaths on the spot where the body of Prof Yunus was found.

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