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Physically challenged Russel works on a computer at his CDD office. He also imparts capacity building training, oversees field work and library management, and accompanies foreign visitors on tours. PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



POSITIVE

BANGLADESH

positivebangladesh@thedailystar.net

Disability no liability

NGO holds hopes for challenged people

NAZIBA BASHER

Stepping into the offices of the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), one will definitely get a whiff or two of positive energy from the people around. While a man, visually impaired, takes you on a tour of the office, a woman in a wheelchair shows you how their jobs are done. With a building design

ed especially for the disabled, CDD manages to bring hope and spirit to many lives.

Russel works at the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD). He does not have arms; and he types with his feet. "I have a lot of responsibilities here at the CDD," he says. "I do capacity building training for groups, go to the field to oversee the work," he says. In addition

n, Russel is also busy with library management and composing reports in the computer section. From time to time, he also accompanies visitors from abroad on field tours. "CDD has hired me on the basis of my merit," asserts Russel. "Nobody in the organisation has ever made me feel different or handicapped."

Like Russel, many others who are disabled are now getting the opportunity to work and earn on their own. Back in 2002, the CDD had conducted a study on employment for the disabled. After getting disappointing

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Militants storm Indian bases in Kashmir

12 killed; Manmohan says talks on with Pakistan, slams 'enemies of peace'

AGENCIES

Militants stormed a police station and an army base in Indian Kashmir yesterday, killing at least twelve, in an attack the Indian prime minister said was aimed at derailing peace talks between India and Pakistan.

At least three militants wearing army fatigues lobbed grenades and opened fire early yesterday at the Hiranagar police station near the border with Pakistan, around 200 kilometres from the main Kashmiri city of Srinagar, police said.

They then hijacked a truck and drove to a nearby army base in Samba district in the southernmost part of the state where a fierce gunbattle with soldiers took place and Indian tanks were deployed, eyewitnesses and police said.

An unknown outfit Shahada Brigade, suspected to be Lashkar-e-Taiba's shadow or proxy name, has


claimed responsibility for the attack. The dead include a lieutenant colonel of the Indian Army.

The attacks are set to overshadow a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this weekend, the first top-level dialogue in three years.

"This attack in Jammu is aimed at derailing the dialogue process," said Omar Abdullah, chief minister of Jammu and

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the Election Commission is now totally independent and discharging its duties without any government interference?

Yes

(17%)

No

(83%)

TOTAL VOTES: 281

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for a ruling Awami League policymaker to threaten public servants of facing "bad consequences" if they do not perform per the government's directives until January 24?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

September 27

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

4-35

5-10

Juma

12-30

1-15

Asr

4-15

4-30

Maghrib

6-00

6-05

Esha

7-30

8-00



Source: Islamic Foundation



Incredible and yet true! It's a plant that produces both tomatoes and potatoes.

The TomTato

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A plant which produces both potatoes and tomatoes, described as a "veg plot in a pot", has been launched in the UK.

The TomTato can grow more than 500 sweet cherry tomatoes while producing white potatoes.

Horticultural mail order company Thompson & Morgan, which is selling the plants for £14.99 each, said the hybrid plants were individually hand-crafted and not a product of genetic engineering.

Grafted potato-tomato plants have already been produced in the UK, but Thompson & Morgan

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WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

Notice served on Channel 24, participants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday served a show cause notice on five officials of Channel 24 and three others to explain why contempt of court proceedings would not be initiated against them for a talk show comment on the ongoing trial.

The tribunal asked all of them, including the talk show moderator, to respond to the notice on October 10. It also ordered participants Zafrullah Chowdhury, trustee of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, and Mahfuz Ullah, secretary general of Centre for Sustainable Development, to appear before the tribunal on the day.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also put a ban on further broadcast of the programme moderated by Mahmudur Rahman Manna.

The prosecution on September 24 in a petition drew the tribunal's attention to an episode of the talk show Muktobaak aired on Channel 24 on September 18. They said both Zafrullah and Mahfuz had claimed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

RAMPAL PROJECT

Press note

BSS, Dhaka

The government in a press note yesterday sought cooperation of people to implement the planned Rampal power plant project.

The press note said the government has taken initiatives to install the 1,320-MW coal-based power plant jointly with India at Rampal in Bagerhat.

But a segment of people and few organisation

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LONG MARCH STORY -- PAGE 17

HOW NOT TO LOVE NATURE -- PAGE 9





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