**RASHED SHUMON** 

A boy jumps from a structure on the Buriganga, used for measuring water level of the river, while others await their turn. They also use the small steps attached to the structure to climb up and jump again. This has become a regular pastime of children in the area and it's all fun and games until someone gets hurt. The photo was taken near Kamrangirchar recently.

#### Ershad's organs not improving

Says GM Quader STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ailing Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad's internal organs were not improving according to expectations, his brother and the party's acting Chairman GM Quader said yesterday.

Briefing media about Ershad's latest health condition at the JP chairman's Banani office, he quoted doctors at Combined Military Hospital -- where Ershad is undergoing treatment since June 26 -- saying his brother's health condition was not "out of danger".

"At present, his blood has no infection. However, his other organs are not improving to the expectation," he said.

Quader said Ershad's body was responding to treatment, and he will be treated in life support until he recovers. The 89-year old opposition leader in parliament was put on life support on July 4.

He had been suffering from health issues for the last couple of months.

INCIDENTS OF RAPE, KILLING

#### BNP urges president to arrange dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Senior BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday urged President Abdul Hamid to take steps for holding a national dialogue to find a way out of the growing incidents of rape and killing across the country.

"The incidents of rape, killing and enforced disappearance have turned epidemic due to serious degradation of social values. Democracy must be restored to check it," he said while addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club, organised by Nagorik Odhikar Andolon Forum.

Mosharraf further said, "The president can take an immediate initiative for holding a national dialogue to save the country from such incidents." On another note, he criticised the government for its

failure to end waterlogging in Dhaka and Chattogram cities, though it spent huge amounts of money on different development projects.

"We are witnessing signs of the government's development. People have gone through serious sufferings in Dhaka and Chattogram due to waterlogging over the last few days. What have you developed spending so much money? Are people getting the benefits of development?" the BNP leader questioned.

He criticised the government for making AHM Mustafa Kamal -- who he termed "a business tycoon" -- the finance minister of the country.

"He is one of the 10 richest persons of the country. Rich businessmen are not made finance minister in any country. For the first time in our country, a rich man has been made finance minister."

Mosharraf alleged that the finance minister is protecting the interests of the rich, not of the commoners. He also accused the government of taking a position

against people by widening the areas of tax and Vat, and raising gas price.

## Minor house help falls off building while trying to escape

5 family members where he used to work detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor house help was injured after falling from the sixth floor of a 13-storey building in Dhanmondi while he and another house help were trying to escape torture by their employers, said police. Injured Sharif and another house

help Swapan -- both 11-year-old -were trying to escape from the house of one Golam Kibria, owner of a brick kiln in Noakhali, through a small bathroom ventilator around 9:45am, said Kajal Mia, senior station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Mohammadpur.

They tried to climb down using a rope, the official said. While doing so, Sharif slipped and fell on the ground and Swapan got stuck on the window

sun-shade on the fifth floor, he added quoting witnesses.

Locals rescued Sharif and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Firefighters reached the spot around 10:30am and rescued Swapan, who remained stuck on the sunset for around 30 minutes.

Sharif's left leg was broken and he got hurt in the head while Shwapan sustained minor injuries, Kajal Mia said. Police took Swapan into custody.

Kibria, his wife and two children have been living in the apartment for around six years, said Jahidul Islam, manager of the building.

Talking to this correspondent at DMCH, Sharif alleged that the family members used to keep them confined to the house and often tortured them.

Both hailing from Noakhali, Swapan worked at the house for over a year while Sharif started working from this month. When asked, Kibria's driver Khairul

Islam said the two boys were not allowed to go outside without the family's permission. He did not provide any other information. Police detained five members of the

family, including Kibria and his wife, for interrogation, said Abdul Latif, officerin-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station.

The incident also angered many locals in the area who threw brickbats at police van while it was taking the family members to the police station, said Jahidul Islam. Afterwards, they chanted slogans and demanded justice for the two boys, he added.

## Universities are not factories: Prof Serajul

Says education should not only be for acquiring degrees but to change the world



From left, Dr Ahrar Ahmad, Prof Imran Rahman, Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, Prof Niaz Zaman and Abul Khair at the event. PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Serajul Choudhury yesterday said the country is passing through "a tremendous political and social crisis", and pursuit of knowledge is the way out of the crisis.

He also said knowledge should not only be acquired for obtaining degrees, but also it has to be to break the cycle and to change the world.

He was addressing the closing ceremony of the "Higher course-1 on society and human education", held at the Gyantapas

Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth in Dhanmondi. Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation organised the event in collaboration with

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. "Universities are not factories; rather it's a social institution to practice knowledge. Social change would be its ultimate goal,"

Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said. "Climate change, drugs, pornography,

violence and absolute consumerism have threatened our existence," said the eminent academician, saying there are apprehensions whether the world will remain suitable for humans. Adding that this problem could not

be resolved through rhetoric and false promises, the intellectual said knowledge is instrumental for this.

At the beginning of the programme, a minute of silence was held in honour of recently-passed media personality Muhammad Jahangir.

Prof Imran Ahmed, former Vicechancellor of ULAB; Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation; and Dr Ahrai Ahmad, director general of the Foundation, spoke at the programme among others.

#### Dr Yunus summoned by labour court

Bss, Dhaka

A labour court in Dhaka has summoned Grameen Bank founder Dr Muhammad Yunus and two others over sacking of three employees of Grameen Communications, the IT wing of Grameen Bank.

is the Dr Yunus chairman of Grameen Communications. The two others summoned by the court are Managing Director Naznin Sultana Deputy General Manager Khandaker Abu Abedin.

Dhaka 3rd Labour Court asked the trio to appear before it on October 8, as three former employees of Grameen Communications filed three criminal against Grameen Communications, and the aforementioned trio.

The labour court issued the order on July 10, but it came to light yesterday when the complainants made the revelation.

"We filed three separate cases for transferring us as part of harassment, threats, issuing and subsequently sacking for forming trade union. The court has summoned them for explanations," said Emranul Haque, one of the complainants, said.

Abdus Salam, Shah Alam and Emranul, junior MIS officers of Grameen Communications, were sacked last month for their role in formation of trade union at their workplace.

# State Minister Imran Ahmad, who was

promoted to full minister, and newlyappointed State Minister Fazilatunnesa Indira took oath of office yesterday. President Abdul Hamid administered

the oath to them at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban in the evening. Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul

Alam conducted the oath-taking ceremony. At the end of the oath-taking ceremony, the president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings with the new minister and the state minister.

Hasan Mahmud; Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin;

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader; Information Minister

# Imran, Indira take Six young mathletes to oath of govt office participate in 60th IMO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi young mathematicians will take part in this year's International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), the world's biggest math competition for school and college students, that begins tomorrow in Bath, UK. M Ahsan Al Mahir of SOS

Hermann Gmeiner College, Dhaka; Soumitra Das of Government Rajendra College in Faridpur; Ahmed Ittihad Hasib of Dhaka Residential Model College; Md Maruf Hasan Rubab of Mymensingh Zilla School; Dewan Saadman Hasan of St Joseph Higher Secondary School Dhaka; and Mashroor Hasan Bhuiyan of

Notre Dame College Dhaka will be among some 600 students from 116 countries taking part in IMO.

The team, led by coach Prof Mahbub Majumdar, will fly to the UK today. Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee (BdMOC) General Secretary Munir Hasan and the country's first Olympiad gold medalist Ahmed Zawad Chowdhury will also be with them.

**BdMOC** President Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury introduced the mathletes to the media at a press

conference yesterday. Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited are sponsoring the Bangladesh team.

## 'Hang child rapists'

Activists demand from human chains at Jatiya Press Club

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists from several organisations yesterday demanded quick trial of child rapes and death penalty for the rapists. To raise the demands, they formed separate human

Nasimun Ara Huq Minu, president of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra (BNSK), said, "The current situation of rape and murder is alarming. Misuse of internet, drug addiction and gender discrimination are responsible for the incidents.

Such social degradation will be the most obvious barrier to the country's development, she said. So, strict monitoring

one should patronise rape accused. Political parties have to come forward in this regard, she said.

said a separate court has to be formed only to dispose of rape cases.

Jote, said, "It is concerning that general people have to take to the streets to save their daughters."

Abdul Matin Bhuiya, presidium member of Kendrio Khelaghar Asar, stressed strict implementation of law to

perverted and insane people to rape children. Md Rakib, president of Anonno Foundation, said all

chains in front of Jatiya Press Club. and mass awareness are needed to prevent those. BNSK General Secretary Parveen Sultana Jhuma said no Addressing a human chain, rights activist Khushi Kabir Golam Quddus, president of Sammilita Sangskritik Degeneration of culture has triggered such rape incidents, he said, adding that we should practise culture considering moral development of young generation. stop those. Amy Jannat, a writer, said culture of impunity encourages political parties are busy with their own interest. They should raise their voice against rapists, he said.

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra demands a stop to child rape and murder. PHOTO: STAR

### 2 Biman staffers held with 38 gold bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) yesterday detained two staff members of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and recovered 38 gold bars, weighing around four kilogrammes, at Dhaka airport.

Both detainees -- Emdad Hossain Chowdhury, 46, and Abdur Rahim, 35 -- are traffic helpers of Biman, said Alamgir Hossain Shimul, additional superintendent (ops and media) of APBn.

The officer said the gold bars were brought to the airport from Thailand through a cargo around 12:45pm, and Emdad collected them from the import cargo area.

As Emdad had no security pass and ID card with him, officials became suspicious and detained him. They took him to the hanger gate area and recovered the gold bars after searching him, Alamgir said.

Based on his information, the officials arrested his accomplice Rahim from the airport, he added.

