

Indian NDC team in city

A 20-member delegation from Indian National Defence College (NDC) led by Sri Alok Jain arrived Dhaka on a four-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh yesterday, says an ISPR release.

Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Admin) Air Commodore Aung Saw Tun received them at the Zia International Airport.

During their stay here, the team members are expected to pay a courtesy call on President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

Delegation members will also call on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, Defence Secretary K M Ehsanul Haq, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General A M Mahmuduzzaman, Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, BB and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operations and Training) Air Commodore M Shafiqul Islam at their respective offices.

Besides, team leader Sri Alok Jain will place wreath at Shikha Anirban (the Eternal Flame) at Dhaka Cantonment to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.



The Greenforce stages a demonstration near the TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding steps to protect the playgrounds from land grabbers.

AL accuses govt of harbouring militants

UNB, Dhaka

The Awami League yesterday alleged that the Islamic extremist groups are expanding their networks under different names under the shelter of the BNP-Jamaat government, pushing the country towards a confrontational situation.

Expressing the party's concern at the activities of the militants such as fund collection and distribution of leaflets at Boalmari of Faridpur, AL general secretary Abdul Jalil MP observed that such militant outfits were mushrooming in the name of religion.

The country is being turned into a safe sanctuary of militants, he said and cited the incidents of Islamic extremism at Kotalipara and Baniarchar church in Gopalganj, Udichi function in Jessore, Ramna Batamul, Joypurhat, Satkhira, Narikelbaria of Rajshahi, cinema halls in Mymensingh, Jahanbad of Dinajpur, Hujrapur of Chapainawabganj, Sylhet and Sunamganj.

The AL leader accused the BNP-Jamaat government of defending the militants by not taking any action against them.

He said that despite recovery of huge arms and ammunition from the Islamic extremists at Khelal in Joypurhat, the home minister had stated that the incident was not a threat to Bangladesh as the militants don't have much stock of weapons.

Citing newspaper reports on the arrest of Islamic extremists from a BNP leader's house at Boalmari, and publication of photos of the state minister and ministers with criminals in Chittagong and the photo of an MP with three top criminals, Jalil asked if the home minister could "deny the facts".

Mentioning the names of various Islamic outfits such as Harkatul Jihad, Jibbut Touhid, Shahadat-e-Al Hikma,

Allar Dal, Islami Juba Sangha and Jama'atul Mujahidin, the AL leader said, "It is not unknown to the people why the government mysteriously keeps silent about these organisations when the newspapers are carrying the reports of their activities."

He demanded immediate arrest of the "fundamentalist militants" and "identified terrorists".

Italian envoy meets DATCO chairman

Dr Pietro Ballero, Italian ambassador to Bangladesh, called on Dr Moosa Bin Shamsheer, chairman of DATCO, in Dhaka on Sunday last.

Dr Moosa helped in the induction of Bangladesh in the list of countries for legal workers for Italy, says a press release.

They exchanged views on matters relating to the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers for Italy.

The envoy hoped that the induction of Bangladesh for legal workers would usher in a new era in the history of Italy-Bangladesh bilateral relations.