

Engineer company leaves Dhaka to join UNMIL

BSS, Dhaka

A team of 140 members of the Bangladesh Multirole Engineer Company, led by Major Md Kamal Uddin, left Dhaka yesterday to join the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) by a UN chartered aircraft.

The advanced team of this company, led by Lieutenant Colonel Md Jasim Uddin Sarker, has already joined UNMIL on November 1, said an ISPR press release.

The engineer company will be deployed in UNMIL for different kinds of engineering work.



Students of Dhaka University took out a procession on the campus yesterday protesting the Banshkhali incident in which 11 members of a family were burnt to death.

PHOTO STAR

Banshkhali arson

Judicial probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, socio-cultural, human rights and students' organisations yesterday strongly protested and condemned the Banshkhali incident in which 11 members of a family were burnt to death as robbers set fire to a two-storey earthen house.

In its primary investigation, the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights found that the Wednesday's incident was not merely a

robbery, rather it was a pre-planned action.

The organisation has decided to provide legal assistance to the victims' family.

It also demanded judicial investigation into the incident and immediate arrest of the culprits.

Some organisations also believe that the incident was a pre-planned attack on the religious minorities.

At a protest rally in the city, leaders of the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal said

the 'barbaric' incident was carried out just to grab the property of the religious minorities through intimidation.

They alleged that the government is patronising the killers by suppressing the fact.

Condemning the attack, the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote urged the government to investigate whether any armed extremist group is involved.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad said the attack was a part of the 'continuing

process to root out the religious minorities'.

They urged all to stand against such heinous acts carried out by the religious fanatics.

The Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, Bangladesh Abriti Sammnoi Parishad, Bangladesh Khetmajur Union, Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front also condemned the raid.

The general students of Dhaka University took out a protest procession on the campus and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

They also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office in support of their demand.

Govt salary for non-govt teachers uncertain before Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand non-government teachers may not get the government portion of their salary for the months of October and November ahead of Eid-

ul-Fitr, said the leaders of National Front of Teachers and Employees yesterday.

They said although a total of seven thousand non-government teachers of schools, colleges and madrassahs across the country have fulfilled the government criteria for monthly pay order (MPO), they do not know when the money will be disbursed.

The front leaders were speaking at a press conference organised at the office of Bangladesh Teachers' Association Federation in the city.

"If the government wants honestly, it can disburse the salary among the newly selected non-government teachers from the undisbursed money lying at the designated banks," said Prof Qazi Faruq Ahmed, convenor of the front.

"Despite the pledges made by the education minister and the state minister for education that the non-government teachers would be given festival bonus, it has not come into effect yet," he added.

Sources at the education ministry said as the government has selected more institutions under MPO, it will

take more time to disburse the money. However, the entitled teachers will get their benefits either before or after the Eid.

Neither the Education Secretary Shahidul Alam nor the Deputy Secretary Afzal Rahman was available for comments in this regard.

The front leaders also demanded elimination of discrimination in dearness allowances between the government and the non-government teachers, formation of a judicial committee to probe 'rampant corruption at the education ministry and National University', and accountability in the UNESCO-funded 650 crore taka project.

To press for its eight-point demand, the front has asked all member-teachers to hoist black flag atop their houses from November 23 to 26, demonstrate in all district headquarters including Dhaka on December 11, and join indefinite hunger strike in Dhaka from December 21.

Principal Kamruzzaman, Sheikh Amanullah, Mosharrif Hossain and Abdul Qaiyum were present at the press conference.

11 party programmes to make hartal a success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-leaning 11 party yesterday announced a series of programmes to make its dawn-to-dusk hartal successful on December 13.

The programmes include public relations from November 21 to 30 across the country, bringing out of procession with black badges on December 1, and visits to different districts by party leaders on December 2, 3 and 4.

Besides, the party will observe countrywide 'demand implementation day' on December 6, 'corruption and anti-criminal activity day' on December 7, 'anti-imperialism day' on December 8, 'anti-communal day' on December 10 and 'student-youth rights day' on December 11 to press home its various demands.

At a press conference in the city, 11 party coordinator and President of the Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon said the people have now realised that only the removal of the coalition government led by BNP, can rid the country from the current worsening situation.

Hasina hosts iftar party

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday hosted an iftar party in honour of the foreign diplomats at the party's Dhanmondi office.

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and central Awami League leaders attended the party.

Deputy Chief of US Embassy Judith A Chammas, Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Margaret Barker, British High Commissioner David Carter, Chinese Ambassador Chai Xi, Danish Ambassador Niel Severin Munk, French Ambassador Michel Lummaux, Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi, Deputy Head of the Mission of German Embassy Hermann Nicolai, Italian

Ambassador Pietro Ballero and acting High Commissioner of India Dilip Sinha, Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Beheshti Monfared, South Korean Ambassador Kang Chang Ryol, North Korean Ambassador Lee Kyu-Hyung, Malaysian Ambassador Ashaary bin Sani, Pakistani High Commissioner Manzar Shafique, Palestinian Ambassador and Dean of the diplomatic corp Mohammad Shahta Zarab, Philippines Ambassador Candidato B Gutoe, Russian Ambassador Oleg S Malginov, Singapore's Consul Ramachandra, Swedish Ambassador Mats Borje Mattsson, Swiss Charge d' Affairs Jurg Casserini and Turkish Ambassador Ferit Ergin were present at the iftar party.