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Get more organised to resist bombers

PM asks ansar, VDP men

UNB, Shafigar, Gazipur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the members of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) to be more organised to resist the bombers.

She said the misguided Islamist militants are misinterpreting Islam, which is a religion of peace.

The prime minister made the call while addressing the 27th national rally 2006 and parade of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP at the parade ground of the Ansar-VDP Academy.

She said when her government was trying to fulfil the aspiration of the peace-loving people, a certain quarter has started bomb terrorism to kill innocent people in the name of Islam.

"They are impeding our forward march... You will have to be more organised to resist these evil forces", she told the auxiliary forces to monitor their movement in the remote areas and inform the government about their whereabouts.

work honestly and sincerely to make the country's independence meaningful and to ensure economic prosperity, social peace and political stability.

She said it is imperative to ensure peace and discipline so that the momentum of development is not obstructed.

"Let us go ahead with a spirit of patriotism to achieve the goals towards welfare of the people," she told the function attended by officers and members of ansar-VDP, senior civil and military officials, diplomats and distinguished personalities.

Listing various pragmatic decisions and steps taken by the government for development and welfare of the auxiliary forces, the prime minister said the parliament amended a law to make the job of battalion ansars permanent in 12 years instead of 15 years.

The prime minister said for the first time 20 ansars, including one officer, have been sent to Ivory Coast as UN peacekeepers and the

process will continue. The prime minister appreciated the performance of ansar-VDP members in various fields, specially in maintaining law and order during the recently held 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka.

She witnessed the impressive march past of the Ansar-VDP contingent and took salute from a decorated podium.

The prime minister gave away the President's Ansar Padak to Ansar Abul Khair for his extraordinary performance in maintaining law and order.

She also inaugurated the newly constructed Zia Training Bhaban on the Ansar-VDP Academy premises.

Later, the prime minister witnessed a colourful cultural function at the academy lakeside performed by ansar and VDP members.

Earlier, State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar and Director General (DG) of Ansar-VDP Major General M Akbar Akhter received the prime minister at the venue.

Grafts can be halved in a year: ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Identifying political will as the key to address the issue of corruption, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Justice Sultan Hossain Khan yesterday said corruption in the country can come down to a half within a year.

The offenders should be punished without wasting any time and awareness should be created among all concerned against corruption, he said, adding, "Unless

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2 die, 10 fall ill after eating puffer fish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two children died and 10 others became critically ill after eating poisonous puffer fish at South Gohira in Anwara upazila on Monday night.

The dead are Shamima Akhtar, 7, and Forkan, 10. They are the children of two brothers, Saleh Ahmad and Jalal Ahmad.

Parveen Akhtar, 22, Mohiuddin, 13, Joynab Akhtar, 16, Touhidul Alam, 5, Irfan, 4, Imran, 7, Selina Akhtar, 20, Osman, 13, Borhan 6,

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2 outlaws killed in Rab 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two armed cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Jahajuddha faction were killed during an encounter between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and their associates yesterday in Khulna.

They dead are Mofazzel Hossain alias Mofa, 32, and Sheikh Golam Mostafa alias Mosto, 30.

The encounter between the Rab members and the PBCP outlaws took place at 9:30pm during an

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Remains smoulder after a fire gutted the shanties of Koratitola slum at Doyaganj in the city's Demra area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

BCIC in cash crunch as finance sits on subsidy

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) is facing a severe liquidity crisis because the finance ministry failed to pay over Tk 1,000 crore of outstanding subsidy due to the corporation that has accumulated over the last five years.

Official sources said, due to a price gap between the production cost of urea and its subsidised selling rate, the BCIC has been incurring an average financial loss of over Tk 200 crore a year for the last five years since the subsidies were not paid.

The BCIC is now handicapped

in overhauling its aging factories six of which produce 18 to 20 lakh tonnes of urea, meeting roughly two-third of domestic yearly requirement.

The cash-strapped corporation's poor maintenance budget could hardly ensure round-the-year smooth operation of all the six state-run urea factories in the country, forcing the government to import urea from abroad at rates three times higher on an average.

For over two weeks now production at Zia Fertiliser Company Limited has been suspended due to mechanical faults, sources said recalling that Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company (CUFL) was out

of operation for a record 61 days last year.

It costs the BCIC Tk 6,000 to produce each tonne of urea in any of its six factories while the government's subsidy policy forces it to sell the same at Tk 4,800 a tonne creating a price gap of Tk 1,200 in its disfavour.

Statistics show that over the last couple of fiscals the government raised its budgetary allocation for farm subsidy from Tk 300 crore to Tk 600 crore and then again from Tk 600 crore to Tk 1,200 crore but things brought no good to the limping BCIC.

As the government is importing

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3 boys hurt as bomb goes off at school

UNB, Munshiganj

Three schoolboys were injured in a bomb explosion at a school in Sreenagar upazila of the district yesterday.

Locals said the bomb exploded in the room of class X at Shamaspur

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Prayer Timing		
January 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

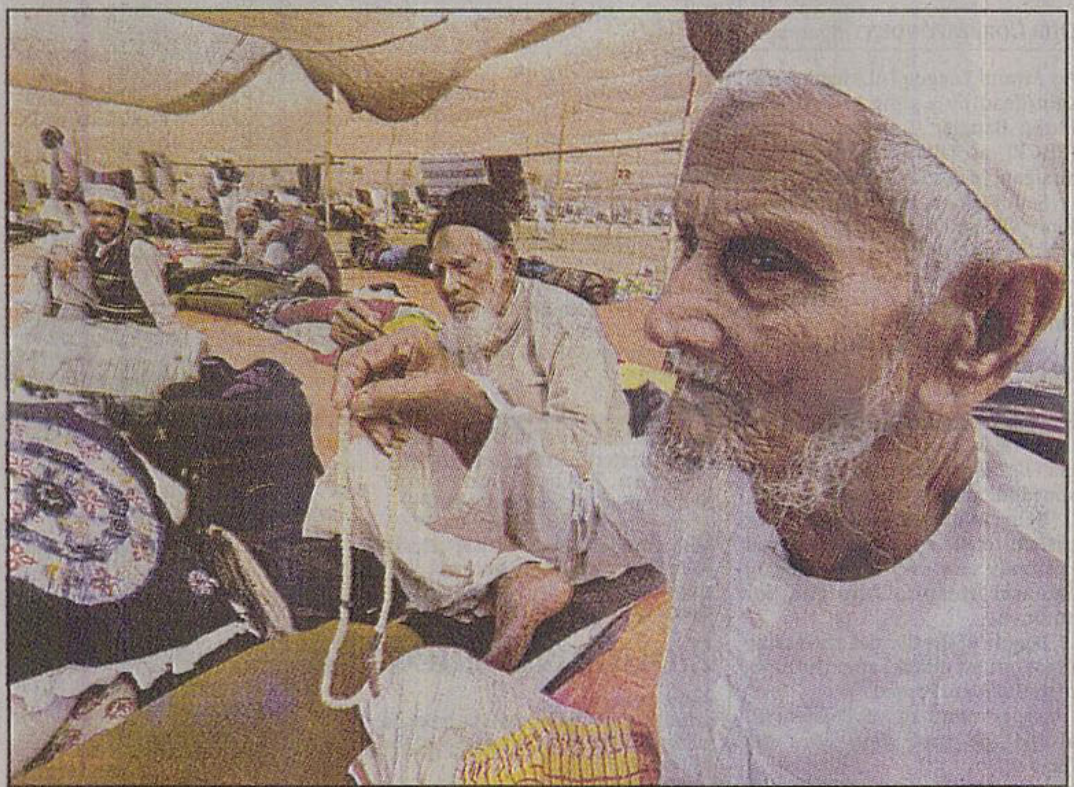


PHOTO: STAR

People from home and abroad start gathering on the bank of Turag in Tongi for the three-day Biswa Jitema that begins on Friday.

8 killed in twin Iran blasts

AFF, Tehran

Eight people were killed and dozens more injured in a double bomb attack yesterday in the restive city of Ahvaz in southwest Iran where a scheduled visit by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was cancelled at the last minute.

Witnesses said the first bomb to rock the city -- dominated by ethnic minority Arabs and capital of oil-rich Khuzestan province -- was in front of a private bank and busy commercial area, while the second was in front of a government building.

The latest toll was eight dead and 46 injured, local hospital director Mansoor Soltanzadeh told official media.

"The president had been scheduled to give a speech this morning in Ahvaz, although the bombs did not explode in the same place where the speech was scheduled to have been delivered," an aide to the president told AFP.

"President Ahmadinejad's visit to the province was cancelled yesterday (Monday) afternoon because of bad weather."

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Reshuffle of secys

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday transferred five secretaries and two additional secretaries.

According to an official hand-out, Religious Affairs Secretary Rafiqul Islam was transferred to the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Secretary to the Fisheries and Livestock

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Bangladesh Business Awards

WE WILL ONCE AGAIN HONOUR THE HIGHEST ACHIEVERS IN BUSINESS

SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS BY FEBRUARY 20, 2006

Criteria

Business Person of the year
The nominee will be selected for his/her leadership, financial performance, personal qualities, managerial skills and contribution to Bangladesh's development. In financial performance, the nominee must have made outstanding contribution to his/her organization. In case of a public company, he/she must have contributed to a substantial increase in the return on shareholders' funds. In case of a private company or sole proprietorship, he/she must have contributed to an improvement in return on capital investment. Personal qualities will include integrity, entrepreneurial abilities and personal leadership. Managerial skills will depend on depth of management, adaptability, tenacity, innovation, productivity, creativity and good labour management.

Outstanding Woman in Business
The nominee must be an entrepreneur who has proven her capability to successfully establish and run a business on her own. She must be a person of integrity and tenacity and her success should be a source of inspiration for others. She must be an example to others that women can be successful in business against all odds that they are faced with. Focus would also be given on her dynamism, innovation, determination, adaptability and depth of management.

Enterprise of the year
Open to small and medium-sized companies, the nomination will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean success of the company either in products, services or new markets. In financial performance/productivity, the enterprise must have made outstanding growth in profit. Company management will focus on creative management style in developing harmonious relations within the organisation.

Joint Venture Enterprise of the year
Open to joint venture enterprises, the nomination will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean success of the company in innovation of either products, services or new markets. In financial performance or productivity the company must have an outstanding and sustainable growth in profit.

The life span of the company will be taken into consideration in relation to profit track record. The company must also have clean banking and tax records. In the area of company management the organisation must display an effective management style and have a viable organisational structure. The company must have a track record of establishing and maintaining harmonious relations within the organisation and set examples for the industry. The company should have made positive contribution to Bangladesh's development.

Rules of Eligibility
The awardee should be involved in private business enterprise and must be a Bangladeshi citizen or ordinarily resident in Bangladesh. He/she must have clean banking and tax records. There is no restriction on age or race. In case of Enterprise Award, only Bangladeshi companies will be considered with published balanced sheets. In case of Joint Venture Enterprise Award, a company incorporated in Bangladesh for carrying out business activities jointly by Bangladeshi and foreign investors will be considered. The shares in the company are to be held by Bangladeshi and foreign shareholders as per joint venture agreement. The Bangladeshi investor must have invested at the start-up capital of the company. Shareholding by Bangladeshi shareholder(s) as a nominee shareholder in a subsidiary company in Bangladesh of a 100% foreign owned company will not fall under this category.

Rules of Selection Process
An independent eleven-member jury panel comprising of leading intellectuals, business persons, academicians, lawyers, financial experts and eminent personalities with high social standing, credibility and prestige including CEOs of the two sponsoring organisations shall select the winners.

The decisions of the Jury shall be final and binding and cannot be contested.

Please fill the attached form and send it to:

BBA Secretariat
CO DHL, World's Express, House - 01, Road - 05, Block - CEN (A), Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212
Tel: 9695610, Ext.: 337, Fax: 8823248, E-mail: bbawards@dhl.com

The Highest Achievers: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

Business Person of the year
Samson H. Chowdhury, Chairman, Square Group, 2000
Anisur Rahman Sinha, Chairman, Apex Group, 2001
Syed Manzur Elahi, Chairman, Apex Group, 2002
Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Chairman, PHP Group, 2003
Kazi Zahedul Hasan, Managing Director, Kazi Farms Group, 2004

Outstanding Woman in Business
Salina Akhter, Proprietor, Askor, 2000
Rehana Kashem, Proprietor, Saalrong Handicrafts & Fashion, 2001
Geetears Salfya Choudhury, Chairman & Managing Director, Adcom Ltd., 2002
Marjules Chakma, Proprietor, Bain Textiles, 2003
Selina Quader, Proprietor, Agroconcern, 2004

Enterprise of the year
Concord Engineers & Construction Ltd., 2000
Rahimafroz (Bangladesh) Ltd., 2000
Ozbi Ltd., 2001
Micro Electronics Ltd., 2002
M. M. Isphani Limited, 2003
Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 2004

Joint Venture Enterprise of the year
GrameenPhone Ltd., 2002
Coats Bangladesh Limited, 2003

Business Person of the year 2005
Nominee :
Company :
Why :

Outstanding Woman in Business 2005
Nominee :
Company :
Why :

Enterprise of the year 2005
Nominee :
Company :
Why :

Joint Venture Enterprise of the year 2005
Nominee :
Company :
Why :

Nominator :
Address :
Phone :
E-mail :
Fax :

NOMINATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 20, 2006

the nomination goes to