

Bangladeshi peacekeepers win hearts of Liberians

BSS, Monrovia

Bangladeshi peacekeepers working in the UN mission in Liberia have won the hearts of Liberian people for their role in bringing back and maintaining peace in the civil war-torn West African country.

"We are grateful to Bangladeshi peacekeepers for their vital contribution to the return of peace in the war-ravaged country. We have no means to repay their contribution," said several Liberians, conveying the sentiment of general people.

In recognition of Bangladeshi peacekeeper Major Fazle's role in bringing peace in the Buchanan county, a school has been named after him.

"This is our humble expression of gratitude to Bangladesh," said the local people.

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No govt school set up in Dhaka in 25 years

Capacity slides to one-fifth of demand

ASHIQUR RAHMAN

Not a single government high school has been established in the capital in the last 25 years while the number of school students has mounted sharply during this period.

After the establishment of Gana Bhaban Govt High School in 1980, no initiative has so far been taken to add to 24 government high schools in the capital.

Statistics of Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis) show that as many as 13 government high schools of the city were established between 1970 and 1980.

It was also learnt from the statistics that the number of students of the government schools in the greater Dhaka region including present Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Manikganj and Munshiganj districts was 1,93,270

in 1978. But the number in case of only Dhaka Metropolitan City reached 2,82,426 in 2003.

Five students vying for a seat in the admission tests for classes I to IX in the city's 24 government schools this year also gives a clear idea about the acute pressure on those schools.

Meanwhile, most of the city's non-government high schools that have mushroomed in the recent years, have been established without fulfilling minimum requirements as per the government rules, and fail to provide standard education.

A few renowned non-government schools charge high admission and other fees, creating burden on the average guardians.

The city's well-known Viharunnisa Noon School and College and Ideal School and College charged Tk 20,000 as 'development fees' only from this

year's newly admitted school students.

Several education ministry officials said the government does not feel the necessity to increase the number of government high schools in the capital as sufficient non-government schools have already been established to meet the growing demands for secondary education institutions.

An official requesting anonymity, however, said the government had to stop adding to the government schools in the capital as well as across the country to tackle the problem arising due to pressure from the powerful political leaders who lobby for establishing new government schools and colleges in their own constituencies.

"No one has so far demanded increasing the number of government high schools in the capital for which the government may not feel

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2 Shibir men linked to JMB arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested the president and general secretary of Patharghata upazila unit Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) for their links to outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Patharghata unit Shibir President Shohag Khan, 24, and General Secretary Marfat Ullah, 24, admitted during primary interrogation that they had attended several JMB meetings, sources said.

The two were arrested following information provided by JMB regional commander of Barguna Masum Billah, who surrendered before the Rab on February 11.

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A girl greets Prime Minister Khaleda Zia with a bouquet at Chaklala airbase in Islamabad as her Pakistan counterpart Shaukat Aziz looks on. The premier reached Islamabad yesterday on a three-day state visit.

4 live grenades recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered four live grenades, one from a dustbin and three near a drain, at Moghbazar in the capital. Some 40 hours after a live grenade was recovered from Doctor's Lane area Friday, three more were spotted in the same place yesterday.

Referring to the four grenades recovered yesterday, a Rab explo-

sives expert said, "These are of Arges84 model."

Grenades of the same model were used in August 21 attempt on the life of Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in 2004, attack on Sylhet Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran on August 7 and ASM Kibria killing on January 21 last year, said investigators. They also

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Trader, guard shot dead in Ctg village

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two people were shot dead by unidentified miscreants at a village in Boalkhali upazila of the district early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Mozaffar Ahmed alias Mazu Sowdagar, 52, and Saleh Zahur alias Bulu Chowkidar, 50, of Khatbar village under Sarwatoli union of

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Transport strike in Ctg called off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation (BRTWF) Chittagong unit called off its 48-hour strike in greater Chittagong yesterday after a fruitful meeting with the administration concerned.

The strike, which started in the morning, was called off around

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Dutch minister due tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven will arrive here tomorrow on a three-day visit.

The purpose of her visit is to take stock of the current development cooperation programme

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PHOTO: STAR

Physically challenged people take out a procession in front of Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday, demanding privilege for free movement and ensuring their rights.

Euro standard rules to better air quality introduced

UNB, Dhaka

The government has introduced emission rules for vehicles in Bangladesh as per European standards and adopted a road map to improve the air purity of the capital and other cities.

The newly introduced emission norms, 'Bangladesh-I and II', will

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Tight security planned for Shaheed Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has planned to take up stringent security measures with deployment of adequate forces and installation of security equipment to ensure peaceful observance of the Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day.

At a meeting in the home ministry yesterday, it has also been decided to install close-circuit televisions (CCTV) on the Central Shaheed Minar premises and the adjoining areas as part of foolproof

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INTERROGATION OF RU TEACHER Taher killing planned two months back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University teacher Dr Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin has admitted during police interrogation that he and Shibir leader Shalehi orchestrated the murder of Prof S Taher Ahmed two months ago to remove the impediment to his promotion.

Police sources said Mohiuddin planned the murder in frustration and to take revenge on Prof Taher as his promotion proposal was repeatedly rejected due to his incompetence.

They said Mohiuddin's statement

might be recorded before a magistrate in a day or two, adding, Shalehi helped him for his departmental and political gain.

Mohiuddin told police Prof Taher was the main hindrance to his promotion as he rejected his application five times at the planning committee.

University sources said Prof Taher had questioned the quality and trustworthiness of Mohiuddin's international publications and mentioned different anomalies in them.

Taher came to Rajshahi from

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US drawing up plans for attack on Iran

Reports Sunday Telegraph

AFP, London

US military strategists are drawing up plans for an attack on Iran as a last resort to stop the Islamic republic from developing nuclear weapons, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper in London reported.

In a front-page dispatch from Washington, it said Central Command and Strategic Command planners were "identifying

targets, assessing weaponloads and working on logistics for an operation".

The planners are reporting to the office of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld with a view to having a military option if diplomatic efforts fail to put the brakes on Iran's suspected quest for nuclear weaponry.

"This is more than just the

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Prayer Timing		
February 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Notice
The results of written admission test of cadet colleges for class VII and VIII held on January 20 are published today on page-15.