

Build a crime-free nation

Khaleda asks probationary ASPs

UNB, Sardah (Rajshahi)

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called upon the probationary assistant police super (ASPs) for maximum application of their merit and efforts to build a peaceful nation free from crimes.

"You must discharge your duties rising above all personal greed to uphold the mission of people's welfare with which you have joined the profession," she said while addressing the passing out ceremony of the probationary ASPs at Sardah Police Academy ground here yesterday.

Referring to the outstanding contributions of the police force in the War of Liberation, Khaleda said the police force is responsible for maintaining country's law and order and for protecting public life and property.

"And the patriot police force is discharging their responsibilities with utmost sincerity," she added.

The Prime Minister prayed for the salvation of the departed souls of those police members who had sacrificed their lives during the War of Liberation in 1971 and in preserving public safety.

Reminding the police force that their duties are service-oriented, she asked them to be impartial, attentive and careful to gain professional skills through training and exercise.

She sought cooperation of all

concerned in uprooting terrorism from the country, saying that the present government is pledged-bound to build a "terrorism-free Bangladesh."

Mentioning the government's multi-faceted measures in strengthening the police force, she said the budgetary allocation for police was increased to Tk 1,702 crore in fiscal 2005-06 from Tk 889 crore in FY 2000-01.

Besides, appointments were made against 14,797 newly created posts with different ranks from constable to ASP during the last four and a half year to increase the manpower and mobility of the police force, she added.

Moreover, Khaleda said the members of the police force were provided with modern arms, equipment and transport and more than 200 police officials have been sent to USA, UK, China, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and other countries for advanced training.

Listing different welfare and development works for the police force, she said 10 percent quota has been kept reserved for employment of the children and dependants of the members of the police force for the posts of constable.

She also mentioned some ongoing schemes, including creation of new units of police, construction of new barracks and in-service training centres in 30 districts, modernisa-

tion of police hospitals and reconstruction of thana buildings.

"Members of our police force have been playing a praiseworthy role in UN peacekeeping missions abroad alongside protecting life and property in the country," she said.

She added that sending of three Formed Police Units (FPU) recently to the UN mission has added a new dimension in the success of the police force.

The Prime Minister mentioned that different laws have been updated and the Police Academy manual has been amended to raise the mobility and standard of the police force.

Referring to the formation of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), she said police and Rab have earned acclamation at home and abroad with the arrest of top militant leaders and terrorists in recent times.

Khaleda said the government has already undertaken some steps in developing the Sardah Police Academy, one of the oldest police training centres in the sub-continent.

In this context, she mentioned the construction of the pucca parade ground, four new classrooms for the cadet sub-inspectors and new dining hall for the probationary ASPs.

Besides, she added, works are going on for a new academic building, a five-storied dormitory for the probationary ASPs, separate bar-

rack for women trainees, and stable for 50 horses and a modern firing range.

The Prime Minister assured that necessary steps would be taken for setting up a modern computer lab and a language lab for improving the standard of training.

Earlier, on arrival at the academy, the Prime Minister was received by State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, Inspector General of Police M Abdul Qayyum and Principal of Sardah Police Academy Hasan Mahmud Khandaker.

A smartly turned out contingent of police, including the probationary officers, accorded a guard of honour to the Prime Minister who inspected the parade and took salute from a decorated podium.

The Prime Minister distributed trophies among the best performers during the training. Mohammad Mahbub Hasan was adjudged the best probationary officer and best rider while Moshir Rahman as the best academic.

Some 205 probationary ASPs, including 19 females, of the 24th BCS completed the nine-month basic training course.

Ministers, MPs, senior police officials and guardians of the probationary ASPs were present on the occasion.



Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister David Malone, second from left, speaks at a dialogue on 'Is multilateralism in crisis?' at a city hotel yesterday. On his left are CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan and Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan and on his right is Syed Ashrafur Islam MP. Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the dialogue.

DEALINGS WITH BIG POWERS

Small countries should prefer multilateralism to bilateralism

CPD discussion observes

STFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday observed that small countries like Bangladesh should prefer multilateralism to bilateralism in dealings with big powers.

In bilateral dealings, the interest of small countries may not be protected, they added.

They, however, expressed concern over the crisis in global multilateralism, as the international body like United Nations (UN) is dominated by the conservatives. As a result, the democratic institutions are not functioning well, the speakers said.

They pointed out that the United Nations has been burdened with security related issues and it is

ignoring the matters of global human rights.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the discussion titled 'Is Multilateralism in Crisis?' in Dhaka. CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan presided over the discussion.

The speakers also called for a code of conduct for big powers for maintaining stability in the world.

Delivering a keynote speech, David Malone, assistant deputy minister (global issues) of Canadian ministry of foreign affairs, said health sector was benefited most from multilateralism as many deadly diseases were eliminated from the world through multilateral approaches.

He observed although the mili-

tary power becomes unilateral, the global economy is still competitive.

He said the UN spent 50 years in signing treaties and conventions and now is the time to implement those.

Taking part in the discussion, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs, observed that multilateralism should be reintroduced, as there is no balance of power in the present day world.

Former secretary Sheikh Maqsood Ali said the eastern countries were neglected by the West while dealing with global issues.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of CPD, said although Canada is one of the major eco-

nomics powers, it does not take a leading role in global issues.

It shies away when crisis arises in a certain country or a region, he pointed out.

Syed Ashrafur Islam MP, former foreign secretary Farooq Sobhan, and UNDP Resident Representative Reneta Dessalonn also took part in the discussion.

Talking to The Daily Star after the discussion, David Malone said he does not see any chance of US military invasion in Iran in near future.

"I do not think that Iran is going to be attacked very soon as lots of diplomatic efforts are yet to be taken," he said.

Court orders to produce JMB commander Sunny, 4 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to produce military commander of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Ataur Rahman Sunny and four others before it on May 8 in two cases.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date and directed the authorities concerned to publish an advertisement in two national dailies regarding the fugitives—Alamgir and Zahidul.

The two cases were filed with Sabujbagh Police Station, one under Arms Act and the other under Explosive Substances Act, against Sunny and six others on December 14 last year.

On March 14, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) pressed charges against Sunny and four others.

The other accused are Sunny's friend Fariduzzaman Swapan, JMB regional commander of Gazipur Enayet Ullah (Jewel), Kamrul (Sumon, also known as Zahidul) and Alamgir (Bijoy).

Sumon and Alamgir have been absconding while others are now in custody.

Rab dropped the names of Monir and Abul Khair, landlords of Sunny, from the charge sheet, as evidence leading to their involvement with JMB was inconclusive.

Sunny, younger brother of Abdur Rahman and also a member of JMB's top tier Majlish-e-Shura, masterminded the countrywide August 17 blasts. He was arrested at Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute on December 13 last year.



Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a press conference at Bangladesh Bar Council auditorium in the city yesterday.

COLLEGE STUDENT MURDER

Fair investigation demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of slain college student Kamrul Islam Momin yesterday demanded a fair investigation into Momin murder case.

They also demanded that the case be transferred from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to other agency or a judicial inquiry be conducted.

They alleged that Investigation Officer (IO) ASP Abdus Sabur is trying to save the prime accused of

the murder case, former Officer-in-Charge of Mottijheel Police Station Rafiq, who had worked at the CID office for a long time and has good relations with the IO.

Although the monitoring cell of

the home ministry gave an order on February 12 to take steps so that the accused cannot be released, the IO produced a report in a way so that the accused can get bail, the family members said at a press conference in the city.

The High Court also asked for the statement of Momin's younger brother, but the IO didn't submit it, they added.

They also alleged that the IO has harassed the eyewitnesses of the case and didn't record their statement properly.

They said the accused who are now out on bail have been threatening them with death.

The family members also demanded that the case be shifted to speedy trial tribunal.

They also urged the government to ensure security for them.

Momin's father Abdur Razzak, mother Rahima Khatun, brothers Shamsul Islam, Taufiqul Islam, Nazrul Islam and Enamul Islam and sisters Shahana Akhter and Farzana Akhter were present at the press conference.

Momin, a third year student of Dhaka Commerce College, was killed over a land dispute at Kafrul on September 13 last year.

BCL leader succumbs to injuries

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader of Suhrawardi College unit succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the city yesterday.

The deceased identified as Abdur Rahim alias Akash, 22, was the son of Sheikh Ishaq Ali of Zianagar in Proipur district. He was the joint secretary of the college unit.

The cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) beat him indiscriminately on April 12 over a political feud.

Later, he was rushed to Nerosurgery unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious wounds in different parts of his body. He succumbed to his injuries after a six-day struggle for life.

Hundreds of students of Suhrawardi College staged a demonstration at the DMCH and on the college campus protesting the killing. They also demanded arrest and punishment to the killers.

Tenure of two ECs ends today

BSS, Dhaka

The five-year term of Election Commissioners AK Mohammad Ali and MM Munsef Ali ends today.

They will take farewell from the Election Commission (EC) after discharging their last official duty today, EC sources said here yesterday.

The sources said steps would be taken soon to fill the vacant posts.



Dhaka Reporters' Unity stages a token hunger strike in front of its office yesterday in protest against Sunday's police attack on photojournalists in Chittagong.

'Allocate fund for nationalisation of non-govt teachers' jobs'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-government Primary School Teachers' Association (NPSTA) yesterday announced fresh programmes to press for their one-point demand for nationalisation of their jobs.

On May 28, they will hold a grand rally at 1:00pm, take out a hunger procession with plates in hands, submit a memorandum to the prime minister (PM) at 2:00pm and start a 48-hour hunger strike at 4:00pm if their demand is not met by May 25.

President of the Association Mohammad Shamsul Alam announced the programmes at a press conference in the city.

Alam said although Haris Chowdhury, political secretary to the PM, made a pledge to meet their demands in phases, nothing has

been done as of today.

He urged the PM to initiate the process including allocation of money for them in the upcoming budget to meet their demand.

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, when she was the Leader of Opposition, had assured us of nationalising our jobs if her party (BNP) goes to power. But now she forgot her promise," he added.

"When asked if Akkas Ali, who led a rally and fast unto death programme in December last year as secretary general of the same association, is with them, he replied, "He had worked for the association two years back, now he is not with us."

"We have been agitating for 11 years to realise our only one demand to nationalise our jobs, but Akkas, on December 29, made a 14-point

demand instead of one", he added.

"NPSTA is committed to working for the teachers, not for the government," he said.

Akkas will join the May 28 programme, he hoped.

Secretary General Babu Mrigendra Mohan Saha, Senior Vice President Alhaj Shahidul Islam Khan, Vice President Swapan Kumar Roy, Joint Secretary General Qazi Mozammel, Treasurer Qazi Kamal Pasha and General Secretary Saiful Islam were also present at the conference.

Earlier on December 29 last year, over 1000 non-government primary school teachers held a grand rally at Central Shaheed Minar to press their demand for nationalisation of jobs where Haris Chowdhury assured them to meet their demand in phases.



Dr Alamgir Muhammad Sirajuddin, former vice-chancellor of Chittagong University, speaks at the inaugural ceremony of a weeklong debate competition titled 'Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star 6th Inter-School English Debate' at Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Chittagong yesterday.