

PM ASKS ARMY TO KEEP VIGIL

'Risk could come not only from outside but also from within'

UNB, Ghatail, Tangail

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked army personnel to keep a vigil, saying that attacks on independence and sovereignty could come not only from outside but also from within the country.

"Internal clash and anarchy could be the reason," the prime minister said while addressing an army Darbar at Ghatail Cantonment.

She said army members cooperated a lot in developing socio-economic condition of the country and also in forming skilled, powerful and modern Armed Forces for protecting country's independence and sovereignty.

They also help the government in developing the professional standard of the forces, she added.

The prime minister mentioned

the role of the Armed Forces during the War of Liberation and said that the people would always remember their glorious role and sacrifice.

They also stood by the people every time disaster hit the country and in every hour of their need during post-independence days, she said.

She noted with satisfaction that they earned the love and admiration of the countrymen for their role as sentinels in protecting national sovereignty, status, democracy and the public rights.

"I am here to thank you personally for your support and cooperation," the prime minister told the assembly of army officers and the rank and file.

Mentioning various programmes implemented by her government for modernising and enhancing skills of the army, she said the government

has also taken initiative to modernise the country's main fighting force, infantry. New production line has also been opened for manufacturing firearms at the ordnance factory in Gazipur.

The process of increasing and modernising the quality of other corps of the army is also being continued, she said.

Keeping the demands of the new century and millennium in mind, the government is implementing Vision-2020 Programme to make the Armed Forces keep abreast with the new times, she added.

Earlier, Army Chief Moeen U Ahmed and GOC and Area Commander Major General M Ishtiaq received the prime minister on her arrival at the cantonment.

2nd S Asian Confce on Sanitation begins today

ABDUL JALIL BHUYIAN, from Islamabad

A two-day Second South Asian Conference on Sanitation will begin at Islamabad in Pakistan today to accelerate the progress of sanitation and hygiene works in South Asia.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will inaugurate the conference as the chief guest, environment ministry sources said.

The goal of the conference is to improve the standard of living of the people of this region in fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the commitments made in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.

The conference will also review the progresses made in implementation of the Dhaka Declaration of the 1st South Asian Conference on Sanitation.

On Monday night, Pakistan Minister for Environment Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat at a briefing at Marriott Hotel told the journalists that 80 crore, out of 140 crore people in South Asia, have no access to sanitation.

About 300 foreign delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka and 150 from Pakistan will participate in the conference, he said.

Leaders from non-government organisations, business firms and other major groups will focus the region's attention and direction towards meeting the difficult challenges to ensure access to safe sanitation facilities through articulated policies and concrete action plans.

Faisal said this high profile conference will enhance the level of awareness about health and other social and economic issues related to insufficient and inappropriate sanitation system.

NCBs asked to submit reports of default loans by Oct 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chiefs of Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) yesterday expressed their concern over the liquidity crisis the banks are now facing due to huge amount of default loans.

In response to their concern, the finance ministry at a review meeting instructed the NCBs to send detailed reports of default loans in their banks by October 31.

Additional Secretary Abdul Mazid chaired the meeting. Till June 30, four nationalised banks had loans totalling Tk 11,000 crore, including Tk 7,000 crore default loans, said NCB sources.

Due to huge default loans, NCBs often fail to fulfil Bangladesh Bank's Statutory Liquidity Requirement (SLR) and eventually pay fines, the sources added.

Involve planners in public sector dev projects BIP urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) yesterday urged the government to involve planners in public sector development projects for their proper implementation.

At a view-exchange meeting with journalists in the city, BIP, a forum of professional planners, also urged the government to recruit qualified planners giving them a scope to apply their academic knowledge in executing public sector works.

The inclusion of a planner is a must to carryout any project involving land as the country specially the big cities have huge scarcity of land, said Dr Toufiq M Seraj, president of BIP.

"For every one lakh people one planner is required, where as there are only 10 planners for entire Dhaka, a city of nearly two crore people," said M Akter Mahmud, assistant professor of urban and regional planning department at Jahangirnagar University.

He said there are only two planners under Chittagong Development Authority, five planners under Khulna Development Authority and two planners under Rajshahi Development Authority.

But there are 300 planners for executing various projects in Kuala Lumpur city and 400 planners for Tokyo city, he added.

Prof Gulam M Firdos, vice-president of BIP, said three public universities of the country produce 80-90 planners every year, but they cannot utilise their academic knowledge as the government does not recruit them.

Thus the nation is being deprived of getting service from the planners, he pointed out.



Newly elected president of Chittagong Wasa CBA Md Nurul Islam greets Awami League President Sheikh Hasina with a bouquet at the AL party office at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Bomb explodes in front of DUJA office

DU CORRESPONDENT

A small bomb exploded in front of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) office at TSC yesterday just before beginning of a DUJA procession organised to mark the 21st founding anniversary of the association.

An unknown caller has threatened DUJA president and general secretary over mobile phone that they would face dire consequence if they do not withdraw the case filed against 12 BCL activists responsible for the attack on journalists at Modhu's Canteen on Saturday.

The procession, inaugurated by DU VC SMA Faiz, did not start in time due to the explosion. However, surrounded by a huge number of police members, the procession began after some time and ended peacefully.

Members of the security forces said BCL activists might have orchestrated the incident in a bid to create panic among the journalists.

A number of police has been deployed in and around DUJA office to ensure security of the journalists.

Witnesses said the bomb exploded at 10:40am when the DUJA members were taking preparation to begin the procession.

DU VC SMA Faiz and Proctor AKA Firoz Ahmed visited the spot after the incident and ordered the police to arrest the 12 BCL activists immediately.

Later, the procession began in presence of DU VC, Proctor, DU teachers Golam Rahman, Robayet Ferdous and former and present members of DUJA.

The disgruntled BCL leaders alleged that they are also receiving death threat from the activists loyal to the president and the general secretary of the organisation.

A group of BCL activists foiled a press conference of its disgruntled group at Modhu's Canteen on Saturday and attacked five journalists, leaving them injured seriously.

Mobile court fines two restaurants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined two restaurants for selling stale food and storing raw ingredients in an unhygienic way in the city.

The Khushbu on Elephant Road was fined Tk 60,000 for storing stale meat and fishes in three refrigerators, said a Dhaka City Corporation official who accompanied the court.

The court fined Anging Chinese Restaurant Tk 20,000 for its unclean kitchen.

It also fined General Medical Hospital Ltd on Elephant Road Tk 10,000 for not renewing its licence.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

PM donates

Tk 5 lakh to 6 families

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday donated Tk 5 lakh to the family members of six victims of terrorist attacks that took place in Chuadanga in different time.

Families of four people, who were killed in the attacks, received Tk one lakh each while two injured people got Tk 50,000 each.

The prime minister handed over the cheques to Atia Begum, wife of late Shaquiqul Islam, Fatema Khatun, wife of late Abdul Hashem, Anwara Begum, wife of late Haider Ali, Halima Khatun, wife of late Abdul Haq, and injured M Jahangir Alam and Kalimuddin.

COP-MOB CLASH

100 injured in Pirganj over polls result row

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least one hundred people, including 15 policemen, were injured during a series of clashes over row on election results at Baraolampur in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur on Monday night.

At least 35 critically injured people were hospitalised at Pirganj Upazila Health Complex and different private clinics in Rangpur town.

Police fired tear shell and rubber bullets on the villagers and brought the situation under control after four hours of efforts.

Row over the results of Boro Alampur Union Parishad election that was held on Monday caused the clash between police and villagers.

Supporters of Abdur Rahman, who was defeated by Hafizur Rahman by 205 votes, rejected the result and urged the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to hold fresh election.

They brought an allegation of manipulation and corruption against the returning officer and two presiding officers.

Police said supporters of Abdur Rahman entered the office of Pirganj UNO on Monday night breaking the grill and collapsible gate open and ransacked several rooms of the office demanding fresh election.

Police rushed to the spot but the infuriated supporters swooped on the police. Police first lobbed 20 round tear gas shells on the mob, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of

Pirganj Police Station said.

Finally, we fired rubber bullets on them to bring the situation under control, the OC said.

When contacted, Returning Officer Azizur Rahman told The Daily Star that the allegation of manipulation was baseless and has no ground, adding "All polling agents signed on the result sheet. So, their allegation has no ground."

Abdur Rahman's supporters staged a demonstration on the upazila office premises throughout the day yesterday demanding cancellation of the election result. They also condemned police action on the innocent villagers.

Autorickshaw drivers observe dawn-to-dusk strike in city

Bangladesh Autorickshaw Sramik League (BASL), a platform of autorickshaw drivers, enforced a countywide dawn-to-dusk strike yesterday to press their ten-point demand including provision of a daily deposit of Tk 300 to the owners, says a press release.

The demands include an end to repression of the drivers by police and owners, repatriation of the two-stroke autorickshaw drivers who suffered due to a ban on two-stroke engines, providing appointment letters to the drivers, stopping corruption in Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and arrangement of parking space for the autorickshaws.

During the strike, autorickshaw drivers held a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue where BASL President Md Shah Alam Chowdhury, General Secretary of Jatiya Sramik League Roy Romesh Chandra and other leaders spoke.

They also threatened to enforce a two-day strike on October 11 and 12 in the city if their demands are not met by October 10.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over southern part of the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall slightly over southern part and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, it said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 24.0 degrees at Srirangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	25.3	71	69
Chittagong	32.8	24.5	83	72
Rajshahi	34.8	26.5	87	68
Khulna	33.4	24.5	65	93
Barisal	33.5	26.2	87	88
Sylhet	35.5	25.0	66	56
Cox's Bazar	28.5	25.3	77	87

Money-laundering

FROM PAGE 1

The BB had framed the 45 cases on the basis of some primary investigation soon after the Anti Money Laundering Act (AMLA) was made effective in 2002. But due to various bureaucratic and policy tangles, the central bank could not proceed further with these cases. Till date, no one has been formally charged in the cases.

The US government expressed its concern at the total stagnation of the cases and about the future direction of Bangladesh's anti-money laundering drive.

At the Cox's Bazar meeting held at a local hotel, it was decided that the central bank would review the 45 cases and forward those to the CID for further investigation. And on behalf of the BB, the CID would file the cases with the court under the AMLA, 2002.

A CID official will be tagged with the BB on deputation to facilitate doing this job. In future, the CID will file first information report (FIR) on behalf of the BB when a new case is ready.

The US officials said they want to see that by June next year,

Bangladesh has completed trial of at least one case and enforced the verdict.

Bangladesh's initiative for preventing money laundering activities was hammered by the US government from 2002 as part of America's global drive to check terror financing. At that time, militant activities in Bangladesh came to the notice of the US government and it asked Dhaka to investigate these cases and put an end to the avenues through which the militants receive money. Side by side, other money launderers including smugglers and big criminals should also be brought to book.

Under US pressure, the government amended then existing anti-money laundering act and enacted the AMLA, 2002. In 2005, a law was drafted to check terror financing, and forwarded to the cabinet for its approval.

This draft law, still unapproved, seeks to set up an independent unit of Financial Crime Investigation and Prosecution Office and also a Financial Intelligence Unit with the BB. The government has now

decided that the financial part of this draft will be incorporated in the AMLA by amending it. The law and order part of this draft will be translated into an Anti-Terrorism Act to be drafted by the home ministry.

Sources said the four-party alliance government will not however make any move to frame these new laws or make amendments during its tenure that expires next month.

A source, who was present at the Cox's Bazar meeting explained why it took place in Cox's Bazar amid secrecy, saying, "It is very difficult to coordinate schedules of all the officials of different departments concerned in Dhaka. We gathered at Cox's Bazar and that gave us exclusive focus on solving the problems."

The US government is pursuing anti-money laundering drives across the countries and it is motivating all nations. As part of this, it has sent many teams to Bangladesh including the DOJ delegation, he added.