

Shape defence forces in tune with tech advancement: CA

UNB, Dhaka

President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed has called for preparing military leaders and shaping the defence forces in tune with the rapid development in technology that brought about revolutionary and epoch-making changes in the planning and conduct of warfare in today's world.

Addressing the graduation ceremony of National Defence College at Mirpur as the chief guest yesterday, he expressed satisfaction that the curriculum of the armed forces war course has been designed keeping all this in view.

pants would best utilise the knowledge and expertise attained in this course in their future assignments and take Bangladesh Armed Forces to greater heights of capability, competence and professionalism.

In the 21st century, defence and national security depend not only on military power, but also on national power and capacity, he said.

"In view of this, the government has taken massive initiatives for the development of Bangladesh Armed Forces," he added.

President Iajuddin highly lauded the role of the armed forces for nation building activities

as well as maintaining global peace under the aegis of the United Nations through their professionalism, commitment, efficiency and dedication alongside safeguarding national sovereignty and security.

He congratulated those who received the graduation certificates after successfully completing this dignified course.

Earlier, on his arrival on the college premises, Commandant of the college Major General Abu Tayab Mohammad Zahirul Alam welcomed the president/Chief Adviser.

A total of 32 members, including 10 foreign military members and 22

from Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Forces and civil administration, completed the National Defence Course 2006 and another 19 members of Bangladesh Armed Forces completed the Armed Forces War Course-2006.

Iajuddin later distributed certificates among the participants of the two courses.

Advisers to the Caretaker Government, chiefs of three services, Defence Secretary Abu Mohammad Moniruzzaman Khan, diplomats, military attaches, Vice Chancellors of Dhaka University and National University, high civil and military officials were also present on the occasion.



Danish Ambassador Einer H Jensen inaugurates an exhibition of anti-corruption cartoons organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at Drik Gallery in the city yesterday.

TIB exhibition of anti-corruption cartoons begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To intensify public awareness and inculcate anti-corruption values in younger generation, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) launched a three-day exhibition of anti-corruption cartoons at Drik Gallery in the city yesterday.

Inaugurated by Ambassador of Denmark Einer H Jensen, the exhibition brought together more than 50 cartoons by young cartoonists from all over the country. These cartoonists, belonging to two age groups, submitted their works to a TIB cartoon competition in October and November.

"Under group A, 76 participants aged between 13 and 18 submitted 148 cartoons while 71 cartoonists aged between 19 and 35 submitted 168 entries under group B," said TIB Executive Director Iftekaruzzaman at the inaugural ceremony.

Eminent artist and cartoonist Rafiqun Nabi and cartoonist Ahsan Habib, who were on a five-member panel of judges of the competition, also spoke.

Danish Ambassador Jensen said that while Denmark has recently been ranked the 4th least corrupt country in the corruption index of Transparency International (TI), Bangladesh held the 153rd position because it practises certain code of conducts, he added.

"Our officers are trained on how to behave properly. We have come a long way. I hope Bangladesh will also move on," he said, emphasising the need for political will to build a corruption-free society.

TIB Executive Director Iftekaruzzaman said the TIB has decided to involve the young generation in its efforts to make the anti-corruption movement a success in the long term. As part of it and to mark the International Anti-corruption Day (December 9), the TIB has arranged the cartoon competition and exhibition.

Winners of the competition are Mahdeen Rahman, Masum Billal and Minara Akter from group A and Sumon Wahed, Mamun Hossain and Arifur Rahman from group B.

Bakery staff robbed of Tk 50,000 in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A gang of muggers yesterday mugged Tk 50 thousand from an employee of a bakery in the district town.

Narayan Chandra Das, an employee of A-One Bakery of Chadnighat area, was going to a local branch of Islami Bank at West Market in a rickshaw to deposit the money.

As Narayan reached in front of Moulvibazar town police outpost (Old police station) at about 9:00am, three muggers riding a yellow motorcycle stopped his rickshaw and took away the money from him at gunpoint.

Narayan told the police that he failed to identify the muggers as they were wearing helmets and there was no number plate of the motorcycle.

A case was filed with Moulvibazar Police Station in this regard.

Nasirul Islam, assistant police super (Sadar circle) told this correspondent that police are investigating the matter.

Theft, mugging and other anti-social activities are now on increase in the district town, said sources.

CU admission test begins today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for first year honours courses of 2006-2007 session at Chittagong University (CU) begins today.

Tests for 'Ja' unit (Biological Science) and 'Cha' unit (Forest and Environmental Science) will be held today at 10:00am and 2:30pm respectively.

Around 22 admission seekers will vie for a seat under 'Ja' unit while 28 under 'Cha' unit.

A total of 5,681 forms were sold against 254 seats under 'Ja' unit and 1330 forms under 'Cha' unit, university sources said.

Schedules for other tests: 'Ka' unit (Science) at 10:30am today and 'Chha' unit (Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries) at 2:30pm tomorrow. 'Ga' unit (Commerce Humanity and Science) at 10:30am on Sunday. 'Gha' unit (Commerce) at 10:30am on Monday. 'Gha' unit (Social Science) at 10:30am on Tuesday. 'Uma' unit (Law) at 10:30am on Wednesday. 'Kha' unit (Arts) at 10:00am on December 15 and 'Kha' unit (Fine Arts, Arabic, Islamic Studies, Pali and Sanskrit) at 10:30am on December 17.

A total of 65,695 candidates collected forms against 2,505 seats under different faculties this year, which are 562 less than those sold in the previous year.

13 arms seized in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested two arm dealers and seized 13 foreign firearms and 13 rounds of bullets following a three-hour chase and gunfight at Babupur in Shibganj, Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The arrestees are identified as Badiur Rahman, son of Saifuddin of Babupur and Rafikul Islam, son of late Altaf Hossain of Bablabonapara in Shibganj.

On information, four members of Rab-10 went to the arm dealers in the morning in guise of buyers while a team of 15 Rab officials were chasing them, sources said.

The gunfight began at noon when Rab members challenged the arm peddlers at Babupur. Several rounds of gun shots were fired where Badiur injured his right leg, said Rab members adding that five to eight of their accomplices managed to flee away.

Rab team led by Major Sumon later recovered 11 revolvers, 2 pistols, 4 magazines with 13 rounds of bullets from the bed room of Badiur's one-storied building. Rab officials said the arms and ammunitions were brand new and smuggled into the country from India.

Meanwhile, Sub Inspector Shahidul Islam of Shibganj Police Station on December 2 arrested two miscreants identified as Sarwar Shikdar and Benjamin Mithu Lion of Gaonadi in Barisal along with 2 smuggled pistols and 11 rounds of bullets.

Police sources said different groups have become active in Khaserhat belt of Binodpur union in Shibganj in arms dealing since the caretaker government sworn in.

Discussion on 'Kartini Network'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University in cooperation with United Nations Information Centre, Dhaka, yesterday organised a discussion on 'Kartini Network' at IDB Bhaban in the city with the participation of different representatives of NGOs and donor agencies.

The discussant discussed about the potential area of cooperation with the department.

Dr Nazma Chowdhury, founding chairperson of Women and Gender Studies department, described the history of the department while Ayesha Banu, present chairperson of the department, discussed about the aim of Kartini Network.

Women for Women, Brac, Naripakkha, Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB), Action Aid, Save the Children (UK) and Sweden, Manusher Jonno, Marie Stopes Clinic, Uddipan, Disha, Breaking the Silence and Gender Studies department took part in the discussion.

Change in intelligence soon Says Adviser Dhiraj

UNB, Dhaka

Adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath has said the caretaker government will reshuffle the intelligence agencies alongside bringing about more changes in the entire police administration.

"Changes in the police and intelligence agencies are necessary," the adviser told newsmen at his office yesterday.

Dhiraj, adviser for livestock, fisheries, housing and public works, said the government was considering the transfer of Election Commission Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar even though it is difficult to find a competent person to replace him.

Replying to a question, he said all the contractual appointments will be cancelled gradually.

About recent promotion of 361 officials, the adviser said the gov-

ernment tried to be neutral when considered their promotion.

Dhiraj said the promotion was timely too because some 60 to 70 senior officials will go on LPR between December 30 and end of January.

'Netrokona Bomb Blast Day' today

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi will observe 'Netrokona Bomb Blast Day' across the country today, says a press release.

To mark the day, Udichi organises a memorial meeting and cultural programme on the premises of Swaparjita Shadinata at Dhaka University.

Eminent personalities of the country, the injured of Netrokona as well as other blasts, relatives of the deceased and witnesses will take part in the discussion.

Ex-BNP lawmaker from Cox's Bazar blamed for corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the authorities concerned to investigate alleged corruption and irregularities made by immediate past lawmaker from Moheshkhali-Kutubdia constituency in Cox's Bazar, and take punitive action against him.

Under the banner of Nagorik Samaj Cox's Bazar, they also urged the political parties not to nominate Alamgir Muhammad Mahfuzullah Farid, who was elected member of parliament from the constituency in last two consecutive terms with BNP ticket, to contest from their constituency.

Bringing allegation of corruption, toll taking from various businesses and smuggling urea fertiliser to Myanmar against Alamgir, they said the lawmaker obstructed all kinds of development activities in their locality for the last 10 years.

They alleged that Alamgir also created a reign of terror in the area with his armed cadres.

"During last ten years, he rigged local elections capturing the polling centres with his armed cadres, and now he is using them to eliminate his political opponents," said organisation President Advocate Nurul Islam.

Nagorik Samaj Secretary Advocate MA Salam read out a written statement at the National Press Club in the city where its Vice-president Akhter Kamal Chowdhury, Dr Sirajul Islam, N Alam Chowdhury and Ansar Uddin were also present.

Obituary

Akbar Ameen, a retired joint secretary at law ministry of the then central government of Pakistan, passed away on December 7 at the age of 90, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and one son to mourn his death.

Sushila Das, wife of Jogesh Chandra Das, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Ambia Memorial Hospital in Barisal on December 3 at the age of 67, says a press release.

She left behind her six sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her funeral will be held on December 13 at her residence.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Naila Islam, wife of joint secretary ABM Kamarul Islam, will be held at her residence in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and doa mahfil will be held.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Meherun Nahar

Chehlum of Meherun Nahar, wife of Mahabubur Rahman, an official of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), will be held at Munsurabagh Mitfahul Ulm Madrasa and Orphanage at Savar today, says a press release.

She passed away due to adenocarcinoma of colon on October 28.

4 killed, 66 hurt in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and 66 injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Rajshahi and Pirojpur yesterday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Sirajganj reports: At least two people were killed and another was injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj yesterday.

Police and witnesses said rickshaw-van driver Jilur Rahman, 36, of Naimuri village in Ullapara upazila died on the spot when a speeding bus from Dhaka hit his vehicle from behind at Goza Bridge area on Dhaka-Bonpara highway at 6:30am.

On the other hand, Motorbike driver Momen Uddin, 29, of Khokshabari village died on the spot and his companion Abdul Alim, 12, of the same village was critically injured at 9:00am when a Sirajganj-bound bus from Enayetpur hit his Motorbike from behind at Enayetpur Bazar on Sirajganj-Kajuri Road.

The injured was rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Police sent the bodies to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Two separate cases were filed in this connection.

Our RU Correspondent says: One person was killed and 25 others injured when a passenger

bus fell into a ditch at Tanore yesterday.

The injured were admitted to a local health complex and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Of them, condition was stated to be critical.

Police and local sources at around 9:00 am.

The accident occurred when the driver of a Rajshahi-bound bus from Amnura (Chapainawabganj) lost his control over the steering reached while he tried to overtake a van at Debipur of Tanore upazila. The bus turned upside down and fell into a nearby ditch.

The identity of the deceased could not be known. Injured Abbas, Nazma, Julekha, Nurul, Sabuj, Samiul, Masud, Dolon, Liton, Shaiful, Sabur of Tanore and Amnura were admitted to RMCH.

Tanore police station officer-in-charge (CO) Anisur Rahman said the driver and helper of the bus managed to flee.

UNB from Barisal says: A woman was killed and 40 people were injured, five of them critically, in a bus accident at Jugirkhal under Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Setara Begum, 40, of Barisal.

Local sources said the accident occurred at about 9:00am when a Pirojpur-bound bus from

Bhandaria fell into a ditch beside the Barisal-Pirojpur highway as the driver lost control over the steering due to dense fog, leaving Setara Begum dead on the spot and 40 injured.

The critically injured was rushed to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital while others to Bhandaria Health Complex.

The body has been sent to Hospital morgue for autopsy.

BCL withdraws strike at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University (CU) unit yesterday postponed its indefinite strike on the campus enforced on Wednesday.

They withdrew the strike after a fruitful meeting with university authorities at CU Teachers' Club yesterday afternoon.

BCL General Secretary Ershad Hossain said they called off the agitation following an assurance from the CU authorities that their demands would be met by December 30 and considering the admission test that begins today.

Judges to resume work Sunday

FROM PAGE 1

judges will also resume their work the same day, added the registrar.

However, he mentioned that the legal proceedings against the criminal incidents at the SC would go on.

The highest court of the country yesterday witnessed another day without court proceedings despite presence of the judges and lawyers.

There were more police than the clients to maintain law and order in the court yesterday as lawyers loyal to both alliances -- the four-party and the 14-party -- had been demonstrating their pressing their respective demands.

Sammitto Ainjibi Samannay Parishad, lawyers loyal to the 14-party alliance, yesterday demonstrated at the SC, as well as other courts across the country, urging the judges to resume their work.

The Parishad lawyers at a meeting at the SC premises yesterday condemned and demanded withdrawal of sedition charges filed

against eminent jurists including Dr Kamal Hossain, Barristers Amir-Ul Islam and Rakanuddin Mahmud.

They also condemned police raids at residences of lawyers and asked the chief adviser to hand over the home ministry responsibilities to an adviser.

Former Dhaka University (DU) vice-chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury, former DU Teachers' Association (DUTA) president AAMS Arefin Siddique and its present general secretary Dr Akhteruzzaman, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury attended the meeting among others.

Later, the Parishad lawyers brought out a procession and chanted slogans.

Jatiyatabadi Mohila Ainjibi Front, an association of pro-BNP women lawyers, yesterday held a human chain on the SC premises demanding punishment of the ones involved in the November 30 vandalism.

The legal officials of the attorney general's (AG) office yesterday held a token hunger strike for several hours in protest at the vandalism of the AG's office the same day.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Supreme Court Ainjibi Sahokary Samity, an association of the SC lawyers' assistants, yesterday threatened to go for tougher programmes unless their names are withdrawn from the cases filed for the November 30 vandalism by Saturday.

The decision came from an extended meeting of the Samity yesterday. The Samity activists handed over a memorandum to the SC registrar demanding withdrawal of the cases against them and later staged a peaceful sit-in at the SC gate.

Sit-in ends in polls mood

FROM PAGE 1

The 14-party alliance with its like-minded political parties, who also held similar programme yesterday, will stage a sit-in with 20 lakh people around the Bangabhaban on Sunday if their demands were not met by Saturday.

RUSSELL SQUARE The 14-party leaders and activists started to gather at Russell Square from 10:00am yesterday. The demonstrators tried to march towards the EC Secretariat around 2:30pm but law enforcers had closed off a part of Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi Road-27 with barbed wire barricades.

Bangladesh Mahila Awami League also brought out a procession with brooms in their hands.

Barred from going any further, the 14-party activists held a rally and concluded the day's programmes by burning effigies of President and Chief Adviser (CA) to the Caretaker Government (CG) Iajuddin Ahmed and Acting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mahfuzur Rahman.

Awami Swechchhasebak League and Awami Jubo League also set-up Bjoy Mancha (victory stage) and Jubo Mancha (youth stage) and held separate rallies on Mirpur Road. A Jatiya Party (Ershad) procession also went to Dhanmondi Road-27 via Russell Square around 2:30pm and marched back towards the way it

came from.

Addressing rallies there, 14-party leaders called upon its activists to prepare for the next polls, as their demands are on the verge of being fulfilled. They also urged them to continue their movement until the CG's package-reforms are implemented.

The AL-led 14-party alliance will hold preparatory meetings, for a sit-in around the Bangabhaban on Sunday, at Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal office today. They will also hold another preparatory meeting at the AL central office tomorrow and agitation rallies at city ward areas tomorrow afternoon.

Despite the advisory council to the CG's decisions, the EC has not yet been made neutral by changing two partisan election commissioners, said Mohammad Nasim. "This means 'the conspirators' are continuing with their plot," he said.

Fourteen-party leader Obaidul Quader accused that the four-party alliance violated the constitution hundreds of times.

Mukul Bose, Abdul Mannan, Abdur Rahman, Dr Abdur Razzak, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Shahara Khatun, Asit Baran Roy, Bahauddin Nasim also addressed the rally chaired by Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

A huge contingent of police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel patrolled the area to make sure no processions entered the EC Secretariat.

AGARGAON

The 14-party leaders and activists from Mirpur, Pallabi and Kafur areas attempted to march towards the EC Secretariat with processions around 10:30am. But police, who had set up barbed wire barricades on the Rokeya Sarani at Agargaon, intercepted them.

The 14-party activists, led by Kamal Ahmed Majumder and Ilias Mollah, used two trucks as podiums and held rallies there. Zaker Party leaders and activists had another podium there to hold a rally.

Artists rendered patriotic songs and parodies from all the three podiums to cheer up their activists during the intervals between their leaders' speeches.

While addressing the rallies from two 14-party podiums, senior Awami League (AL) leader Motia Chowdhury alleged that the BNP-led four-party alliance is afraid of the administration being depoliticised as they fear a huge defeat in the elections if held in a free and fair manner.

She urged 14-party activists to work sincerely and make sure that the alliance comes out victorious in the next elections to form a new government.

MA Gani and Kamrul Islam also addressed the rallies while Kamal Majumder and Ilias Mollah addressed only their own rallies.

MOHAKHALI

Activists of 14-party, led by AL leaders ASHK Sadeq and AKM Rahmatullah, attempted to march to the EC Secretariat with a procession but they were intercepted at Mohakhali. They later held a rally under the Mohakhali flyover.

Meanwhile, Zaker Party activists vandalised 11 vehicles at Moghbazar and Banglamotor areas in the city as their processions went there.

When the activists, bringing out a procession from their office at FDC intersection, reached Banglamotor, police intercepted it. The activists then vandalised six cars, one three-wheeler and two rickshaws. Police charged truncheons to disperse them.

When they reached Moghbazar, they again vandalised a double-decker bus, one public bus and two private cars until the police managed to disperse them again.

During the vandalism police arrested 20 Zaker Party activists.

Leaders of the party, however, alleged at a press conference in the capital that police swooped on them without being provoked.

"Although activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir attacked Zaker Party men, hurled bricks at police and vandalised vehicles, the police only arrested Zaker Party activists," Shamim Haider, assistant press secretary of the party, said in a press release.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a press conference organised by Sushashoner Jonno Pracharabhiyan (Supra) at Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Dr Badrul Alam Mazumder and on his right is Syed Abul Maksud.



Light to moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning. Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.8 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.11pm today and rises at 6:30am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.3	15.8	78	51
Chittagong	29.5	16.3	68	80
Rajshahi	28.0	13.1	94	85
Khulna	28.0	15.8	90	87
Barisal	28.6	14.5	80	90
Sylhet	29.0	15.3	73	69
Cox's Bazar	30.2	16.4	68	74

