

British expert urges Use defence technologies for civil purposes

Dr R Mathews, a British-born defence economist, yesterday laid emphasis on using defence technologies for civil purposes in view of the changing world scenario, reports BSS.

Talking on "Defence technology transfer in the Asia-Pacific" organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in the city yesterday, he said, "Old fashioned military is dead" in the modern era and the developed and developing countries are now working for development, coordinating the civil and military activities.

Dr Mathews, a professor of Royal Military College of Science, UK, cited an example of Indonesia where the defence industries are now being used for civil sector applications which he termed as 'dual usage'.

The British expert observed that the defence industries in the developed world are facing crisis with the reduction of defence expenditure over the past one decade, with the end of Cold War era, and they survive on barter and counter exchange

trading with the developing countries instead of cash exchange.

He recalled that South Africa exported weapons to both Iran and Iraq in exchange of oil during the Gulf War in the 1980s. Such barter exchanges can also be based on tripartite agreements, he said.

Citing another example, Dr Mathews said the Rolls Royce Company of England supplied aero engines to Russia but instead of taking payments in weak rouble, it took Indian textiles and other goods as payment in a tripartite arrangement.

Dr Mathews observed that the developing countries have a scope to enter into the defence industries of the advanced world as they can add values to the defence equipment produced in the western defence industries.

Director General of BISS Brigadier Shahedul Anam Khan chaired the function, participated by defence officials, academics and defence experts.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of its ninth national conference. — Star photo

Aziz appointed new envoy to Qatar

The government has appointed Abdul Aziz as the ambassador of Bangladesh to Qatar, said an official announcement yesterday, reports UNB.

An education expert, Aziz is currently working with Stapathi Sangsad Limited Dhaka.

During his career, he was DG of Secondary and Higher Education, worked as chief marketing and procurement officer in Bangladesh Education and Equipment Board, Deputy Director (curriculum and research) in Directorate of Primary Education, Primary and Mass Education Division, and consultant (Education Section) in UNICEF.

Swedish envoy meets Khasru

The Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Anders Johnson, called on Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed various ongoing reform programmes being implemented in the field of law with particular reference to the proposed introduction of the 'ombudsman' system in Bangladesh.

Nirmul Committee reception

Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday accorded a reception to three awardees of "Swadhinata Padak-97", reports UNB.

They are poet Begum Sufia Kamal, litterateur Shawkat Osman and Prof Kabir Chowdhury. Sufia Kamal could not attend the reception due to illness, said a press release.

FFs vow to foil conspiracy against Shikha Chirantan

Freedom fighters yesterday at a rally in the city took a fresh vow to foil any conspiracy against the 'Eternal Flame' (Shikha Chirantan) and called upon the people to resist the anti-liberation forces, reports BSS.

Held at Shapla Circle, the rally was organised by Mukti-juddha Sanghati Parishad (MSP) with its chairman Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, MP in the chair. Among others, it was addressed by, MSP secretary general Habibur Rahman Habib and Major (ret'd) Rezaul Karim Reza.

Speakers at the rally said, the Eternal Flame is the symbol of our great Liberation War and it should be protected at any cost for enlightening the future

generation with the spirit of the Liberation War.

They said, "If we fail to protect the Shikha Chirantan, none will be inspired to make supreme sacrifices for the motherland in future."

The speakers said, the anti-liberation forces have been creating confusion about Shikha Chirantan in the name of religion.

They warned that all attempts of fanning up religious sentiment against the Shikha Chirantan will be resisted.

Later, a procession was brought which terminated at Suhrawardy Udayan after parading the city streets. Shikha Chairman was installed at Suhrawardy Udayan on March 26.

PWD may allocate Ramna Park land to Kakrail Mosque

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly 2.6 acres of land from the Ramna Park in the city may be allocated to the Kakrail Mosque for construction of 'accommodation and other facilities' for the 'growing number' of people visiting the site, sources at the Public Works Department (PWD) disclosed.

The mosque committee, in a letter to the Ministry of Public Works last year, formally requested that the land should be allocated to it so that a complex can be built. The Kakrail Mosque, a centre of the Tablig Jamaat Bangladesh, also or-

ganises the *Biswas Estema*, the second largest religious congregation of the Muslim world in Tongi every year.

Sources at the PWD said that the concerned ministry was now considering how much of the park area could be handed over to the mosque. "Suggestion for allocating up to two acres from the park land has been made and the authorities are considering the matter," said an official requesting anonymity. The mosque is situated on 1.6 acres of land.

Premiere show of Dukhai tomorrow

The premiere show of *Dukhai*, a film on the life of coastal people, will be held at the auditorium of National Museum in the city Saturday evening, reports UNB.

Directed by Morshedul Islam, theme of the 128-minute film is the struggle for survival of people living in the coastal areas of Bangladesh during storms and tidal surges.

Produced under the banner of *Monon Chalachitra* and funded by Digital Media Lab, Japan, *Dukhai* is picturised in Eastman Colour and subtitled in English, said a press release.

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What's on today . . .

- Musical evening:** Music Promoters' Group has arranged a musical soiree. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbag. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Rally:** National Garments Workers Federation will hold a rally protesting load-shedding. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5 pm.
- BPMPA:** The installation ceremony of the newly-elected central executive council of Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association will be held. Venue: NIPSOM auditorium, Mahakhali. Time: 9:00 am. Chief guest: Speaker Humayun Rashed Chowdhury.
- BRDEA confce:** The inaugural ceremony of a two-day national conference of Bangladesh Railway Diploma Engineers Association will be held. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 10 am.
- Discussion:** National Human Rights Journalists Association has arranged a discussion on 'Role of the state and civil society against human rights violations'. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited
9F, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
No. DSE-38(B)/97/550 03 April, 1997

Tender Notice for 250 KVA Generator Set

1. Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed Electrical Contractors enlisted with the Government, Semi-Government, autonomous bodies having experience for successfully completion of supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 250 KVA Generator Set in a single work order valued not less than Tk 30.00 (Taka thirty) lacs only during the last five years and having upto-date Electrical Contractors Licence category "ABC" for the undermentioned works. Tenders will be received by the undersigned at his office up to 12:00 Noon on 10 April, 1997 and the sealed tenders will be opened by the undersigned on the same date at 1:30 PM in presence of the contractors who may like to remain present. Cost of tender document is Tk 1000/- per set.

D-388 Executive Director

Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited
9F, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
No. DSE-38(B)/97/550 03 April, 1997

Tender Notice for 500 KVA Sub-Station

1. Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed Electrical Contractors enlisted with the Government, Semi-Government, autonomous bodies having experience for successfully completion of supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 500 KVA Sub-Station equipment in a single work order valued not less than Tk 20.00 (Taka twenty) lacs only during the last five years and having upto-date Electrical Contractors Licence category "ABC" for the undermentioned works. Tenders will be received by the undersigned at his office up to 12:00 Noon on 10 April, 1997 and the sealed tenders will be opened by the undersigned on the same date at 1:30 PM in presence of the contractors who may like to remain present. Cost of tender document is Tk 1000/- per set.

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