

Organisational structure of armed forces to be recast: PM

CHITTAGONG, Dec 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the government has taken all steps to build modern and strong armed forces by recasting organisational structure, reports UNB.

"We are committed to building a skilled, strong, well-equipped and modern armed forces suitable for a sovereign and independent country," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the President's Parade marking the commissioning of the 39th BMA Long Course, 12th BMA Special Course and Sri Lanka Course-3, at the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) Parade ground at Bhatri.

Prime Minister reviewed the parade and took salute at the impressive march past by passed-out gentlemen cadets, including a group of Sri Lanka cadets.

Company Senior Under-Officer Muhammad Sultan Mahmood Shyamol was adjudged. See Page 12 Col 3

Reinstate DMD, HC orders Biman

By Staff Correspondent
The High Court has directed the government and Bangladesh Biman to reinstate Lt. Col (Rtd) Zainul Abedin, Deputy Managing Director of Biman, with all benefits within 60 days.

The court order, issued on Tuesday, also declared the order for retirement of Zainul Abedin illegal and ultra-vires.

A High Court Bench comprising Justice Mr Mohammed Mozammel Huq and Justice Mr ABM Khairul Huq passed the order. Advocate Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, assisted by advocate Shahidur Rahman Khushnabish and advocate Ruhul Quddus Kazal, appeared for Zainul Abedin and advocate Amir Hussain Khandaker, assisted by M A Tasek, appeared for Biman, according to a press release issued by Khandakar Mahbubuddin & Associates.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, in a notification on August 27 this year, sent Zainul Abedin on premature retirement without showing any reason. Abedin challenged this order and filed a writ in the High Court.

The High Court earlier stayed the operation of the retirement order on August 31. But Biman did not allow Abedin to join.

Sirajganj Poura chairman suspended

The government has suspended Sirajganj Pourasava Chairman TRM Noor-e-Alam Helal from his post with effect from December 1, reports UNB.

Local Government and Rural Development Ministry issued the suspension order under Section 136 (1) of Pourasava Ordinance 1977 on Tuesday, said a LGRD Ministry announcement yesterday.

The suspension order came following the arrest of Helal in five criminal cases on November 27.

Apart from being accused in See Page 12 Col 3

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Khaleda warns at public meeting

Non-stop hartal if Pabna polls rigged

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition leader, Khaleda Zia has warned of a "non-stop hartal until this government falls" if it rigs the Pabna-2 by-elections scheduled for December 10.

"BNP candidate will surely win the by-election if it is free and fair. But there is every possibility that the ruling party will rig the polls. It has taken all preparations to manipulate the poll results and snatch victory from BNP," said the former prime minister.

The opposition leader was addressing a big public meeting yesterday before the breaking of nine-hour mass hunger strike at the city's Paltan Maidan, called by the BNP-led Seven Party Alliance.

She said if the government rigs the by-polls, the opposition will instantly go for a 48-hour

hartal across the country and then start a non-stop hartal till its fall.

Thousands of leaders, workers and supporters of BNP and its front organisations in group processions started gathering at the Paltan Maidan since early yesterday morning. The processionists came with bouquets for Khaleda Zia and joined the fasting. The BNP chief announced a countrywide demonstration programme on December 7.

Khaleda said: We will not tolerate any rigging in this by-election. The government has rigged all the by-elections and snatched away polls results. But this time there will be no concession. If the government rigs the polls then it will be their last vote theft.

The Leader of the Opposition

in the Jatiya Sangead said although she does not like hartals and her party is also not interested in calling the same, the government is forcing the opposition to go for hartals. During her 40-minute speech, Khaleda referred to 173 days of hartal called by Awami League during BNP rule and said the country incurred a loss of Tk 67,000 crore because of that.

On BNP-called hartals, she said the government always claims that those were not observed and were rejected by people. But the finance minister recently said a day-long hartal caused the nation a loss of Tk 386 crore. "Then which is correct... whether the hartals are observed or not."

She called upon all opposition parties to unite on a single See Page 12 Col 7



BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia flanked by party leaders at the mass hunger strike at Paltan Maidan yesterday. — Star photo

Financial rules should be strictly followed in all cases: President

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the financial rules should be strictly followed in all cases, reports UNB.

He was talking to Comptroller and Auditor General M Hafizuddin Khan and Finance Secretary Dr Akber Ali Khan when they called on him at Bangabhaban.

They presented copies of the revised and updated accounts code, treasury rules and general financial rules to the President, said a press release.

The President appreciated completion of the work of revising and updating the above code and rules.

Pabna by-polls

Police file GD against 18 BNP leaders

PABNA, Dec 2: The Sujana-gar police have filed a general diary against 18 BNP leaders, including three MPs for alleged threat to them during the campaign for the December 10 by-election in Pabna-2 constituency, reports UNB.

The duty officer of Sujana-gar thana said the BNP leaders threatened the police personnel for implicating their activists in false cases.

Barrister Aminul Haq MP, Fazlur Rahman Patal MP, Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP and Pabna district BNP leader Noor Hossain Boga were among those against whom the GD was filed, informed sources said tonight.

Fire at Kamalapur slum: 2 arrested

By Staff Correspondent
Police yesterday arrested two persons in connection with fire incident at Titipara slum at Kamalapur in the city.

They were identified as Mithu, 22, and Santu, 25. According to the FIR, a gang of hoodlums first sprayed petrol and then set fire to the shanties. All the 473 shanties were gutted in the blaze.



PROVING A POINT: A handicapped girl learns the trade of weaving at Kalyani, a school for the disabled at Mouchak in the city. She joins millions across the world to observe the International Day of the Disabled today. — Star photo

Shantu Larma warns

Implement accord or I won't hesitate to shed blood

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 2: The first anniversary of signing of the historic CHT peace accord was observed peacefully in the three hill districts.

Rallies, processions and discussion meetings by different organisations marked the day. PCJSS chief Shantu Larma addressed a public meeting at Rangamati stadium.

BNP-backed Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad held a rally at Reserve Bazar to observe the day as 'protest day'.

The ruling party also organised a 'peace rally' at the 'Shapla Square' at Khagrachhari. Addressing the Rangamati rally, Shantu Larma threatened that PCJSS would also go for a

recourse if the government did not implement the accord fully.

"If necessary, I will not hesitate to shed my blood for full implementation of the accord" he announced at the meeting, attended by thousands of tribal people from the three hill districts.

The people at the meeting raised full-throated slogans 'Implement accord without delay'.

The rally was attended by Editor of Prothom Alo Matior Rahman, former deputy attorney general Hasan Arif and a Garo leader, Sanjib Drung, as special guests.

Former Chairman of See Page 12 Col 1

Over 1600 bombs recovered, 10 held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested ten people and recovered three revolvers, one pipegun and some 1600 bombs from their possessions in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Detective police, acting on a tip-off, arrested one wanted criminal, Tuhin, from a house in Mirpur. Acting on his statement, police arrested four other alleged criminals — Roni, Shahan, Khayer and Jahangir Alam and recovered two revolvers with bullets. Police said they were engaged in various crimes.

In another incident, Ramna police arrested two other miscreants — Shamim and Kapiluddin — from a house at Noyatola and recovered a pipegun and two bombs.

Lalbagh police arrested one Suresh Chandra and recovered 1610 handbombs.

Kewla police arrested four other alleged criminals — Matin, Mosharraf Hossain, Monsur Ahmed and Jakir Hossain and recovered one revolver and six handbombs.

Sikalbaha plant may be delayed by a yr

By Sharier Khan

Implementation of the 110 MW private sector barge-mounted power plant scheme in Sikalbaha is being delayed by more than a year due to "inefficiency" of its builder, sources said.

Multinational power company Smith Cogeneration has not even started the "basic work" for setting up the power plant although it has received "unprecedented" support from the government "time and again".

"They (the power plant builders) have not developed the power plant site and to our knowledge, they have not yet gathered the investment necessary for the plant," said an official source.

Bangladesh Power Development Board's contract with the company for setting up the plant expired in August and now it is enjoying a six-month extension. "But it will again fail to meet the second deadline as it is still progressing slowly", the source said.

The contract was signed in

late 97 and the scheme was to be completed in 10 months' time. During the signing, BPDB favoured Smith Cogeneration by drastically reducing the security guarantee to 1.5 million US dollars from 10 million dollars. This was an exception considering the other barge-mount power plant agreements where the builders provided the PDB the full 10 million dollars guarantee.

Despite this favour, the company's work suffered heavily due to lack of funds. Sources said, by the time it ensured supply of power units, its contract period expired.

Under the terms of the agreement, the company would get an additional time of one month to complete the project by paying a daily demurrage of 10,000 US dollars. If the company fails, PDB will encash the security guarantee.

But as per a suggestion by the Energy Ministry, the PDB made an exception for the second time and gave Smith Cogeneration See Page 12 Col 8

Land dispute Two killed, 10 hurt in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 2: Two persons were killed and 10 others injured in a clash over land dispute at village Natun Sunampur under Balaganj thana this morning.

Of the injured, six were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police said, there had been a dispute over some croplands in the area for long. Several clashes had earlier taken place over the same dispute.

The clash erupted at 7:30 am when one group went to the field for harvesting paddy. The rivals swooped on them with lethal weapons. Both the groups were locked in a clash, and used lethal weapons leaving one Ibrahim Ali, 50, killed on the spot.

Luthfur Rahman, 30, of the rival group who was taken to the hospital with serious injuries again came under attack there. The rivals stabbed him in presence of hospital staff, leaving him dead on the spot. He was the convener of the See Page 12 Col 6

'I want to see the killers of my son punished'

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

"It is beyond my imagination how accused killers can move freely in front of police," said Rimon's father Amzad Hossain.

Rimon was killed along with his friend Imrul on Friday outside the Mirpur Stadium, while a concert was going on inside to raise funds for the flood affected people.

"My son would never come back to me. But I will be happy to see that the killers are punished as per the law," Amzad, a senior principal officer of Janata Bank, said in an emotion-choked voice talking to this correspondent at his Mirpur residence yesterday.

Rimon's parents were not in Dhaka on that fateful day. They had gone to Gazipur on a private trip. As they came back to Mirpur just after the incident, they were informed that their son was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with critical injuries. The parents then rushed to the DMCH only to see their son lying dead at the emergency

unit. Rimon's mother Rashida Hossain, a house wife, said Rimon and Imrul, two close friends, were killed following an altercation with the hoodlums regarding three girls who also went to enjoy the concert with them.

She said that her son and his friend were attacked in presence of the girls. But the girls did not even bother to inform police or their parents about the incident although they safely returned home, she said.

Rimon who passed his SSC examination this year scoring 825 marks with distinction in four subjects, is also a national award winning singer and a guitarist.

He was yet to start his classes in the BCIS Science College. He had prepared a routine for studies. The routine is still under the glass of his reading table. The guitar which he used to play is lying beside the table.

He also got the best Cub Scout Award in 1993. He was

rated as a good mannered boy by his neighbours and teachers, some of his friends in the neighbourhood said.

"We had planned to send him to India for higher studies. We also contacted the authorities concerned, but dropped the idea to avoid loss of an academic year. We were thinking of sending him to US after he completes the higher secondary level," Rashida said.

Rimon and Imrul were laid to rest side by side at the Mirpur Intellectuals Graveyard.

"The case has been transferred to the Detective Branch. We hope the criminals will be punished," Amzad said.

Rimon's parents alleged that their son and his friend could have been saved if police at the nearby Mirpur thana rushed to the spot immediately.

After the attack, Imrul was found lying unconscious on the thana premises. Rimon was, however, sent to the Heart Foundation hospital by local people where he was allegedly kept without treatment for one and a half hours.

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