

PM's call to members of armed forces

Discharge duties imbued with spirit of Liberation War

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for the armed forces to discharge their duties for development of the country with the same spirit of unity, sacrifice and diligence shown during the great Liberation War, reports UNB.

"I hope the members to the armed forces will stand beside the people in any necessity of the country, including poverty alleviation and facing natural calamity, as you did in the past besides your great duty of safeguarding the country," she said.

Addressing the graduating ceremony of 23rd Army, 17th Naval Staff Course and 19th Air Staff Course at Defence Service Command and Staff College at Mirpur yesterday afternoon she hoped that the graduated officials would render their best possible services to the nation.

This year, 124 student officers, including 25 overseas students-officers from China, India, Kuwait, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Turkey and the United States, graduated from the staff college.

The Prime Minister said training has no alternative in attaining skill and excellence and the government had already taken measures to improve further the training facilities for the high officials of the armed forces.

She said the National Defence College started functioning side by side the Staff College. The curricular activity of Army War College is also going to begin from 2001.

Hasina said the members of the armed forces would have to take the responsibility of making the independence meaningful and reach its bene-

fits to the doorstep of commonman.

"We are trying hard to establish ourselves as a self-respecting nation in the World arena. Since our assumption of office, we have been working for establishing the rule of law, transparency and accountability in all spheres of life. We have established people's franchise."

The government has signed the Chittagong Hill Tracts agreement to restore peace at that rugged region, she said, adding that the government is striving to solve all national problems, including poverty, illiteracy and population boom.

Speaking on the foreign policy of the government the Prime Minister said it is being pursued in light of the policy adopted by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

We believe in friendship with all, malice to none. We want to resolve all the contentious problems by peaceful means. We've reached effective agreements and understanding with our neighbouring countries and took the decision considering the present situation, the release added.

No visa required for 2-week stays in Hong Kong

Bangladeshi passport holders can enter Hong Kong without visas for visits up to two weeks, a Foreign Ministry press release said yesterday, reports APB.

However, visas would be required for longer stays.

Hong Kong visas can be obtained from Chinese diplomatic and consular missions or from the Hong Kong Immigration Department either directly or through a local sponsor.

The Hong Kong administration recently reviewed the matter of visa free access by nationals of South Asian countries and took the decision considering the present situation, the release added.

Art exhibition on DU campus

A five-day long open art exhibition of seven self-taught artists began on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Hasina said the government is determined to uphold the ideals of SAARC and had taken initiative to build up close relations in economic and commercial fields with the neighbours by forming Sub Regional Economic Cooperation Forum alongside the SAARC.

Killing of Kazi Aref, other associates condemned

Ministers, political leaders and chiefs of the socio-cultural organizations yesterday strongly condemned the killings of JSD leader Kazi Aref Ahmed and other leaders of the party by terrorists yesterday and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the culprits, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam expressed his deep shock at the death of JSD leader Kazi Aref Ahmed and said that at his death the nation had lost a veteran and patriotic politician.

The minister went to the residence of the late leader and informed the members of bereaved family that all out measures had been taken to arrest the terrorists who gunned down Kazi Aref and other leaders.

Rafiq prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

However, visas would be required for longer stays.

Hong Kong visas can be obtained from Chinese diplomatic and consular missions or from the Hong Kong Immigration Department either directly or through a local sponsor.

Speaking on the foreign policy of the government the Prime Minister said it is being pursued in light of the policy adopted by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

We believe in friendship with all, malice to none. We want to resolve all the contentious problems by peaceful means. We've reached effective agreements and understanding with our neighbouring countries and took the decision considering the present situation, the release added.

Art exhibition on DU campus

A five-day long open art exhibition of seven self-taught artists began on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Hasina said the government is determined to uphold the ideals of SAARC and had taken initiative to build up close relations in economic and commercial fields with the neighbours by forming Sub Regional Economic Cooperation Forum alongside the SAARC.

Accusing the government of its failure to maintain law and order, the JP chief said, "These days murder, rape and extortion have become a common feature. Public life and property are not safe in the hands of this government."

Recalling the contributions of Kazi Aref to the country's politics, Ershad prayed for salvation of the departed souls and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

In a statement, he said killing of some political leaders in front of thousand of people proved that law and order situation of the country had collapsed.

Accusing the government of its failure to maintain law and order, the JP chief said, "These days murder, rape and extortion have become a common feature. Public life and property are not safe in the hands of this government."

Recalling the contributions of Kazi Aref to the country's politics, Ershad prayed for salvation of the departed souls and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Life sketch of Kazi Aref

Paying glowing tribute to slain JSD leader Kazi Aref Ahmed, his friends in different political parties sought the unity of pro-liberation forces which the national hero worked for till last day of his life, reports UNB.

"Aref has been killed by those who don't believe in the spirit of Liberation War. The evil forces whom we fought in 1971 have killed him," said Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak.

Razzak, who was a colleague of Kazi Aref Ahmed in the Chhatra League and in the struggle against war criminals, said: Aref is the symbol of unity of Liberation War. He always wanted to see the pro-liberation forces united and worked for it."

Another Awami League leader, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, a disciple of Kazi Aref, said: "A vanguard of the long freedom struggle of the nation and a pioneer of the Liberation War has been killed. It's a pre-planned murder."

"After the gruesome killing of a national leader and freedom fighter like Aref, now it is clear none is safe in this land," said Shahjahan Siraj, one of the founders of militant JSD along with Kazi Aref Ahmed.

Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon, who was shot at in 1993, said: "I

could survive the assassins' bullets, Aref couldn't. He brought all of us together against killings and terrorism by sacrificing his own life."

Communist Party general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim urged the people to wake up and help eliminate terrorism, while National Professor Kabir Chowdhury termed the murder as part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to create a civil war-like situation in the country.

Also ministers Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Chowdhury and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, during the funeral of Aref, called upon all pro-liberation forces to stand united.

Veteran freedom fighter and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Kazi Aref Ahmed was born in 1948 in Kushtia, reports BSS.

Kazi Aref started his political career in the 60s as a member of the then East Pakistan Chhatra League. In 1962, he along with Abdur Razzak, now Water Resources Minister, formed "Swadhin Bangla Biplobi Parishad, popularly known as 'Swadhin Bangla Nucleus," for establishing a sovereign state for the Bangladeshi people in 1962.

As elected president of Dhaka City Chhatra League in 1966, Kazi Aref was the first among the national and student

leaders to raise voice for the six-point demands declared by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

During 1968-69, when Bangabandhu was implicated in the "Agartala Conspiracy Case," he along with others organised the student movement and led the mass upsurge against the Pakistani rulers demanding Bangabandhu's release and for realising the six point demands.

Kazi Aref actively participated in the War of Liberation in 1971. He was the deputy commander-in-chief of the Mujib Bahini.

He was one of the front-ranking leaders who formed Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) after the emergence of Bangladesh.

Under his leadership, JSD took part in the political movement against the military rulers Ziaur Rahman and H M Ershad.

Throughout his life Kazi Aref Ahmed raised his voice against the anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces. He played a pioneering role in organising a fresh movement in 1992 against the war criminals under the banner of "Ghatak Dal Nirmul Jatiya Samannay Committee" led by Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.

Kazi Aref was second-in-command of Ganobabini, the armed wing of JSD during its post-independence political debut.

In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials to flourish", said Yunus. He answered to critics of Grameen Bank's high rate of interest saying that "Poor have to flourish competitiveness. In the name of offering low-interest loan, conventional banking system had just provided assistance to a handful of their selected poor while vast majority remained left out."

The University Press Limited (UPL), a prestigious house of quality book publication,

"Poverty should be seen as an alien artifact in the museum," said Prof Rehman, also

presented the 230-page book in English, a French edition of which first came to world market in 1997. The French edition when put on display at Frankfurt Book Fair the same year succeeded to draw attention of world intelligentsia and so far the book has been published in about a dozen languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish, Greek, and Italian.

These remarks were made by Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world's biggest micro-credit institution, Grameen Bank. Yunus was reciprocating all the good words said about him and his achievements at a book presentation ceremony in the city yesterday.

The South Asian edition of Yunus' autobiography titled "Banker To The Poor" was introduced at a capacity crowd at Jatiya Press Club auditorium amidst applause and enthusiasm about a man who brought proud for Bangladesh through his unique micro-credit venture.

"In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials to flourish", said Yunus. He answered to critics of Grameen Bank's high rate of interest saying that "Poor have to flourish competitiveness. In the name of offering low-interest loan, conventional banking system had just provided assistance to a handful of their selected poor while vast majority remained left out."

The University Press Limited (UPL), a prestigious house of quality book publication,

"Poverty should be seen as an alien artifact in the museum," said Prof Rehman, also

presented the 230-page book in English, a French edition of which first came to world market in 1997. The French edition when put on display at Frankfurt Book Fair the same year succeeded to draw attention of world intelligentsia and so far the book has been published in about a dozen languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish, Greek, and Italian.

These remarks were made by Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world's biggest micro-credit institution, Grameen Bank. Yunus was reciprocating all the good words said about him and his achievements at a book presentation ceremony in the city yesterday.

The South Asian edition of Yunus' autobiography titled "Banker To The Poor" was introduced at a capacity crowd at Jatiya Press Club auditorium amidst applause and enthusiasm about a man who brought proud for Bangladesh through his unique micro-credit venture.

"In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials to flourish", said Yunus. He answered to critics of Grameen Bank's high rate of interest saying that "Poor have to flourish competitiveness. In the name of offering low-interest loan, conventional banking system had just provided assistance to a handful of their selected poor while vast majority remained left out."

The University Press Limited (UPL), a prestigious house of quality book publication,

"Poverty should be seen as an alien artifact in the museum," said Prof Rehman, also

presented the 230-page book in English, a French edition of which first came to world market in 1997. The French edition when put on display at Frankfurt Book Fair the same year succeeded to draw attention of world intelligentsia and so far the book has been published in about a dozen languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish, Greek, and Italian.

These remarks were made by Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world's biggest micro-credit institution, Grameen Bank. Yunus was reciprocating all the good words said about him and his achievements at a book presentation ceremony in the city yesterday.

The South Asian edition of Yunus' autobiography titled "Banker To The Poor" was introduced at a capacity crowd at Jatiya Press Club auditorium amidst applause and enthusiasm about a man who brought proud for Bangladesh through his unique micro-credit venture.

"In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials to flourish", said Yunus. He answered to critics of Grameen Bank's high rate of interest saying that "Poor have to flourish competitiveness. In the name of offering low-interest loan, conventional banking system had just provided assistance to a handful of their selected poor while vast majority remained left out."

The University Press Limited (UPL), a prestigious house of quality book publication,

"Poverty should be seen as an alien artifact in the museum," said Prof Rehman, also

presented the 230-page book in English, a French edition of which first came to world market in 1997. The French edition when put on display at Frankfurt Book Fair the same year succeeded to draw attention of world intelligentsia and so far the book has been published in about a dozen languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish, Greek, and Italian.

These remarks were made by Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world's biggest micro-credit institution, Grameen Bank. Yunus was reciprocating all the good words said about him and his achievements at a book presentation ceremony in the city yesterday.

The South Asian edition of Yunus' autobiography titled "Banker To The Poor" was introduced at a capacity crowd at Jatiya Press Club auditorium amidst applause and enthusiasm about a man who brought proud for Bangladesh through his unique micro-credit venture.

"In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials to flourish", said Yunus. He answered to critics of Grameen Bank's high rate of interest saying that "Poor have to flourish competitiveness. In the name of offering low-interest loan, conventional banking system had just provided assistance to a handful of their selected poor while vast majority remained left out."

The University Press Limited (UPL), a prestigious house of quality book publication,

"Poverty should be seen as an alien artifact in the museum," said Prof Rehman, also

presented the 230-page book in English, a French edition of which first came to world market in 1997. The French edition when put on display at Frankfurt Book Fair the same year succeeded to draw attention of world intelligentsia and so far the book has been published in about a dozen languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish, Greek, and Italian.

These remarks were made by Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world's biggest micro-credit institution, Grameen Bank. Yunus was reciprocating all the good words said about him and his achievements at a book presentation ceremony in the city yesterday.

The South Asian edition of Yunus' autobiography titled "Banker To The Poor" was introduced at a capacity crowd at Jatiya Press Club auditorium amidst applause and enthusiasm about a man who brought proud for Bangladesh through his unique micro-credit venture.

"In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials to flourish", said Yunus. He answered to critics of Grameen Bank's high rate of interest saying that "Poor have to flourish competitiveness. In the name of offering low-interest loan, conventional banking system had just provided assistance to a handful of their selected poor while vast majority remained left out."

The University Press Limited (UPL), a prestigious house of quality book publication,

"Poverty should be seen as an alien artifact in the museum," said Prof Rehman, also

presented the 230-page book in English, a French edition of which first came to world market in 1997. The French edition when put on display at Frankfurt Book Fair the same year succeeded to draw attention of world intelligentsia and so far the book has been published in about a dozen languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish, Greek, and Italian.

These remarks were made by Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world's biggest micro-credit institution, Grameen Bank. Yunus was reciprocating all the good words said about him and his achievements at a book presentation ceremony in the city yesterday.

The South Asian edition of Yunus' autobiography titled "Banker To The Poor" was introduced at a capacity crowd at Jatiya Press Club auditorium amidst applause and enthusiasm about a man who brought proud for Bangladesh through his unique micro-credit venture.

"In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials to flourish", said Yunus. He answered to critics of Grameen Bank's high rate of interest saying that "Poor have to flourish competitiveness. In the name of offering low-interest loan, conventional banking system had just provided assistance to a handful of their selected poor while vast majority remained left out."

The University Press Limited (UPL), a prestigious house of quality book publication,

"Poverty should be seen as an alien artifact in the museum," said Prof Rehman, also

presented the 230-page book in English, a French edition of which first came to world market in 1997. The French edition when put on display at Frankfurt Book Fair the same year succeeded to draw attention of world intelligentsia and so far the book has been published in about a dozen languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish, Greek, and Italian.

These remarks were made by Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world's biggest micro-credit institution, Grameen Bank. Yunus was reciprocating all the good words said about him and his achievements at a book presentation ceremony in the city yesterday.

The South Asian edition of Yunus' autobiography titled "Banker To The Poor" was introduced at a capacity crowd at Jatiya Press Club auditorium amidst applause and enthusiasm about a man who brought proud for Bangladesh through his unique micro-credit venture.

"In the name of creating opportunities, we have created enough barriers. Giving alms to poor is also a barrier that pose a threat to the poor's potentials