

Avoid turning truth into falsehood & vice versa

Police has to share both praise & blame: President

UNB, Dhaka
President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the role of police in the advancement of democracy in the country is both appreciated and criticised in many ways. "Just as correct measures are appreciated, likewise your wrong steps are also criticised. The appreciation or the criticism is for the entire police force," said the President when senior police officials went to meet him at Bangabhaban on the occasion of Police Week 2001. He asked the members of the police force not to feel embarrassed over baseless criticism. With the establishment of truth, he said the goodwill and prestige of police as well as dignity of the government and the country are established. "The so-called success of turning truth into falsehood and falsehood into truth is temporary and it creates disbelief and fear in public mind. None of this is desirable for the traditional police force," the President reminded. He also asked the senior police officials to ensure that

the helplessness of people, who come to police for protection, must not in any way escape the attention of the on-duty officers. He said: "You'll have to perform your duty with honesty, integrity and sincerity. You'll have to set examples to imbue these qualities into the field level officers." "You should remember that the common man take police as their friends. They come to you for help and security when they fall in serious trouble," President Shahabuddin said urging the members of the police force to dedicate themselves in the service of the people by earning their love. The President mentioned the steps taken to modernise and expand the police force and said perhaps, the infrastructural facilities are not enough. "But you will have to keep in mind the limitation of resources and will have to ensure security of life and property of the citizens by tackling the problems." "The prerequisite for economic development is the improvement of law and order. Failure in this sector

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Mahfuz Anam (L), Editor of The Daily Star, joins Nancy Wong Ali (C), wife of late SM Ali, the founder-editor of the daily; Azimur Rahman (3rd R), Chairman of Board of Directors, and Latifur Rahman (2nd L) and Shamsur Rahman (2nd R), directors, Mediaworld Limited; and Kuldip Nayar, reputed Indian columnist, to cut a cake at the paper's tenth anniversary celebrations at Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Syed Fahim Munaim, Managing Editor of the daily, is on the right.



Sit-in around Sectt Feb 18

Khaleda asks govt to hand over power to caretaker admn

UNB, Bandarban
The four-party opposition alliance yesterday announced sit-in demonstration around the Bangladesh Secretariat on February 18 to press the government to resign. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia announced it at a joint public meeting at Bandarban Stadium in the afternoon. She once again asked the government to hand over power to a caretaker administration for holding general elections. District BNP president Mamaching presided over the meeting also addressed by the chiefs of two other components Jamaat chief Matiur Rahman Nizami and IOJ

chairman Shaikhul Hadit Maulana Azizul Huq, Jatiya party's secretary general, Najjur Rahman Manjur, represented Rawshan Ershad as she has gone to the United States. Khaleda, also the former prime minister, castigated the ruling party for what she said destroying every institution and sector through naked politicising. "The President also could not escape politicisation," she said. Portraying a frustrating situation of the country on social, economic and political fronts during the four-and-a-half-year rule of Awami League, she assured the people that next government of the four-party alliance would salvage the country from prevailing "grave" situation.

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The Daily Star celebrates 10th year of publication

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
More than 1200 people including ministers, members of the parliament from ruling and opposition parties, economists, editors of leading national dailies, journalists, business personalities, executives of leading advertisement agencies, foreign diplomats, representatives of various foreign missions and eminent citizens joined The Daily Star in celebrations of its tenth birth anniversary yesterday. At a reception at Sheraton Hotel yesterday evening, Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, thanked readers, well-wishers and members of the board of directors for providing all-out support at every step for the daily's development and progress. Recalling the contribution of late SM Ali, founder-editor of The Daily Star, he said that journalists of the paper tried their best in the past to make it an independent voice. He

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Hartal scare grips Chittagong again

A day's shutdown causes Tk 288cr loss

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong
A hartal scare has gripped the port city and it is the talk of the town now. The city experienced over 1200 hours of shutdown enforced by political parties in the last two years, causing a loss of about Tk 288 crore a day, sources concerned said. Even the first month (January) of the current year saw 84 hours' shutdown. In the meantime, the 11-party alliance has called a day-long coun-

trywide hartal tomorrow (February 1). People are making frequent telephone calls to newspaper offices here, asking about hartal programmes so that they can schedule or reschedule their work. President of Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh (TTAB) Feroze Ahmed while talking to this correspondent said, "We are worried as frequent hartals create dislocation in shipment of tea against export orders. This has become a

major impediment to export business and is causing loss of market. Businessmen and the country incur huge loss." "Buying tea from weekly tea auction here for export has really become difficult for us due to hartal", Feroze said. Former vice-president of BGMEA Mahub Ali said, "Shipment of huge exportable readymade garments get stuck up due to hartal. Foreign buyers lose confidence as we can not ensure timely shipment.

"The hartal spree since the beginning of the year will force many foreign buyers to look for suppliers in other countries", Mahub said. Another prominent businessman, Nader Khan, said, "Hartals are causing disruption in our business activities. We are very much scared. Our politicians must be sensible if they want investments and a better future for the port city." Khan said, "Foreign investors will

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Paper book in Bangabandhu murder case distributed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
The paper book in Bangabandhu murder case has been completed and distributed, the investigation officer (IO) of the case informed the Chief Justice in a petition yesterday. In another petition to the Chief Justice, the IO prayed for an early date for hearing on the case. Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Special Prosecutor Serajul Huq's assistant Anisul Huq submitted the petitions on behalf of CID officer Abdul Kahhar Akhonda at the office of Chief Justice Latifur Rahman. The petitioners also sought formation of a single bench with Justice Fazlul Karim who was earlier

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Students from different schools chant slogans against authorities for delay in publication and distribution of textbooks in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday.

Buy notebooks to get textbooks

Booksellers compel students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Most booksellers in the city have allegedly compelled students and guardians to buy notebooks along with textbooks. While guardians get doubly victimised, law-enforcing agencies are yet to take any action against illegal selling of notebooks despite frequent media reports on the issue. Sale of notebooks up to class VII is banned in the country. The gov-

ernment has imposed a ban on the printing and publishing of notebooks to uphold the standard of education. Pustaka, a concern of Beximco Group, last week started distributing an inadequate number of textbooks of the secondary level without paying royalty to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), the sources concerned said. Three concerns of Beximco

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More judges to be appointed, PM tells JS

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said more judges would be appointed in the High Court in phases to fill up the vacant posts as well as for new benches in the Supreme Court. Defending appointment of more judges, Hasina said as many as 120,280 cases were pending before the High Court Division and 5,160 cases before the Appellate Division till December last year. In reply to a question from Dr Rustam Ali Farazi of Jatiya Party, she said without active support of the people irrespective of political affiliation, it is difficult for the law enforcers to stamp out terrorism successfully. She, however, said despite limitation of money and manpower, the government is determined to take legal action against the terrorists. Hasina told the House that since police operation began in south-western districts in April 1999, some 1,010 terrorists have been arrested while 2,755 others had surrendered. Some 158 police camps were set up in the area with 1,650 police, 2,240 ansars and five battalions of BDR.

Help stop use of illegal arms

PM urges political parties

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Parliament yesterday sought help from political parties in halting the use of illegal firearms that poses threat to peace in social life. She attributed the "killing of Bangabandhu, protection to his killers and patronisation of terrorists by political parties, which do not believe in democracy," to the

escalation of the use of illegal arms in the country. "Basically, the politics of arms and its unauthorised use started with the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975," said the Prime Minister responding to a question of Dr Rustam Ali Farazi (Jatiya Party-Pirojpur). She said obstruction of trial of

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Listing PLCs with stock exchange not mandatory

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN
The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will withdraw the draft regulation that makes listing with stock exchanges compulsory for public limited companies (PLCs) with paid-up capital of Tk five crore and above. This was decided at a meeting of SEC officials with representatives of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at the MCCI office here yesterday. The MCCI at a recent meeting with the finance minister threatened to go to court if listing of such PLCs with stock exchanges is made

compulsory. "There will be no compulsion for the companies to get listed," the SEC Chairman assured MCCI at yesterday's meeting, according to a meeting source. The MCCI told the meeting that SEC was not well-advised on the issue. Compulsion mostly becomes counter-productive in a market economy, they said. "Instead, incentives prove to be the motivating force. Besides, as far as we are aware, Section 2A of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance prohibits any public offering without SEC's consent," MCCI President

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Home Ministry report on blast at CPB rally

No probe but 11-pt suggestions

STAR REPORT
The high-powered home ministry body formed earlier to probe the January 20 bomb explosions in the city submitted its report to the government yesterday with a 11-point recommendation to avert recurrence of such incidents. But it did not look into the motive behind the incidents and who were responsible for those because this might influence the CID investigation, a member of the committee said. Seven persons died in the bomb explosions, one at a rally of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the Paltan Maidan and the other at the Bangabandhu Avenue nearby. The report said both police and political parties should take "serious steps" to avert bomb attack or vio-

lence at public rallies. "There is already a tradition in the country to inform police. But from now on, this should be mandatory for political parties. Besides, political parties must tell police about the expected turnover at their rallies so that police can take necessary security measures," the committee recommended. The three-member Committee was headed by Additional Secretary Aftab Uddin. It said, there should be specific guidelines for police to follow while providing security in a political programme because explosion of bomb in such programme is a new

trend. Police personnel should also be briefed when assigned for such duties. They should submit report on their return, the report said. It also noted that due to ignorance and lack of proper training, the police personnel did not come forward to help CPB leaders after the explosion. "They do not even know that besides

maintaining law and order, they have other responsibilities," it said. Police also do not have any equipment to detect bombs. They should be properly equipped, the report said. In addition, there should be a system to identify participants in big

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'Maintain WHO air standard to save life & money'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Every year some 3,500 lives can be saved and economic benefits ranging between 60 and 70 million US dollars reaped, if the World Health Organisation (WHO) air standard is maintained in the country, observed speakers at the launching ceremony of 'Urban Transport and Environmental Improvement Study'. Communications Minister Anwar Hossain attended the function as chief guest. The Tk 3.75 crore study, jointly financed by the government and the Asian

Development Bank (ADB), comprise six components, which includes development of an action plan to introduce clean fuel based on natural gas. The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is conducting the study. Road and Highways Division Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, ADB Resident Representative Phiphit Suphaphiphat and BRTC Chairman Azmal Chawdhury addressed the inaugural session at the IDB Bhaban conference yesterday. Dr. Armando Ballofet, leader of the study

team, presented the background briefing on the project. The communications minister said city-dwellers are exposed to health hazards due to environment degradation through different types of pollution. Hossain expressed concern over unrestricted movement of vehicles with two-stroke engines that largely contribute to air pollution in the city. He called for political consensus coupled with effective intervention by the authorities concerned to keep the air-polluting vehicles off the road.