

PM pledges strong naval force

UNB, Patenga

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia pledged to build up a strong and modern naval force to safeguard the country's vast sea area and protect enormous sea resources.

"Naval force will have to remain ready to face any threat in Bangladesh maritime boundary to protect the national resources," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the President's Parade marking the commissioning of two batches of midshipmen of Bangladesh Navy at Bangladesh Naval Academy parade ground.

She urged the new naval officers to perform the responsibility of safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty as a successor to the dauntless freedom fighters of 1971 Liberation War.

"We have gained independent and sovereign Bangladesh at the cost of uncountable lives, heroic war of freedom fighters and supreme sacrifice of the countrymen," she told the young naval officers.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher received the Prime Minister at the Naval Academy as she flew in here by a helicopter.

The PM was given a guard of honour by a smart contingent of Bangladesh Navy at the parade

Over 5000 phone lines go out of order in N'ganj

BSS, N'ganj

Over 5000 telephone lines went out of order since 9pm on Wednesday night due to mechanical trouble in the town.

Rafiqul Islam, Divisional Engineer of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board, Narayanganj said the telephone lines became inoperative due to rectifier fault in the telephone exchange.

He, however, said, the repair work is going on.

ground. She took salute at the impressive march past.

A total of 55 midshipmen including 15 females got commissioned on completion of two-year training courses. This is for the first time that the armed forces have had female regular commissioned officers who completed long courses, officials said.

Midshipman M Rashed Hossain was adjudged the best all round midshipman and received the coveted Sword of Honour. He was also presented with the Gold Medal of Chief of the Naval Staff for his outstanding performance in professional subjects.

Midshipman Hasanujjaman was awarded the Osmani Gold Medal for his feat in academic subject.

The Prime Minister distributed the dignified trophies and medals to them.

Ministers, State Ministers, chiefs of the three services, local MPs, diplomats, civil and military officials, parents and guardians of midshipmen and local elite were present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said her government will take all steps toward effective application of modern technology to provide appropriate training to the members of naval force.

"We want to move in a planned way in procuring ship and equipment to build up an effective naval force within limited resources. Our resources were misused through various irregularities and corruption in the past," she said.

She said the naval force which had started its journey after independence from a very small space now set up a potential foundation that had been possible for hard work and sincere effort of each member of naval force.

"Our naval force has entered into latest missile and computer technology," she added.

"You are the future leader of this traditional naval force. You will have to remain above narrow individual interest in the interest of naval force as well as the country," she told the newly graduated naval officers.

Power shortage reduces industrial output by \$1b & GDP growth by .5pc a year

World Bank blames PDB, DESA and incomplete reforms

UNB, Dhaka

Power shortages reduce industrial output by an estimated 1 billion dollar and GDP growth by 0.5 per cent a year, World Bank says, blaming inefficiencies of power agencies and half-hearted and incomplete reforms.

Only 18 per cent of the people have access to electricity in Bangladesh and those who do, receive an unreliable supply of poor quality, largely because of inadequate maintenance of existing installations and lack of investment in new ones.

Only 13 per cent of rural people have access to electricity and if the current rate of rural electrification continues, 80 per cent of them would remain without electricity until 2010.

At present, 200,000 new connections are given in villages a year on an average and if the annual rate were doubled, half of the rural population could expect to have access to electricity in next 25 years.

World Bank made this observation in its 'policy brief' for power sector, presented to the government recently. It placed some 11 'policy briefs' to give a detailed scenario of various sectors and help the new government to act accordingly.

In its 'policy brief' for power sector, the World Bank depicted a grim picture of financial performances of two main power utilities, Power Development Board (PDB) and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA), the latter being a donor recipe.

Both the agencies lose altogether 150 million dollar annually and suffer from huge system losses and inadequate collection.

Moreover, the government has been subsidising the power sector to the tune of 350 million dollar a year, more than the health budget.

"These subsidies support the better-off (those already connected to the grid) at the expense of the poor, who are for the most part deprived of electricity," the Bank said.

With the advent of the large independent power producers (IPPs), a serious financial crisis could develop, encompassing private generators as well as international oil companies producing natural gas, the Bank forecast.

"This could damage Bangladesh's reputation in international capital markets," World Bank warned, hinting at the government's handicaps in paying power and gas companies.

Not having any significant financial participation in Bangladesh power sector since long, World Bank in its policy brief prescribed action plans and pushed for reforms.

It noted that there is no consensus on the precise scope of reforms although all agree on the need for reforms. The half-hearted and incomplete reforms carried out so far have led to no visible benefits, it said.

It prescribed six actions: preparing financial action plans for PDB and DESA, rapid plans to reduce arrears, redesigning tariff policies, passing an electricity act providing for an autonomous regulatory body, consulting stakeholders to define an acceptable reform programme and abandoning Barapukuria project.

Injured prisoners out of danger

BSS, Dhaka

All the prisoners of Dhaka Central Jail who were injured in the stampede during Wednesday's earthquake are out of danger now, prison authorities said last night.

A senior prison official said 28 prisoners, out of 30 who were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), returned to their respective cells yesterday. Two others, Mir Chan and Lutfar Rahman, are now undergoing treatment at DMCH, he added.

Hospital sources said four injured prisoners were brought to DMCH from Dhaka Central Jail Hospital at about 1.45 pm yesterday but they were taken back to the jail as the doctors declared them to be out of danger.

Mohammad Abdul Jahir, Acting Inspector General of Prisons, told BSS that they have started repairing the railings of the staircase and it would be completed soon.



Relatives of inmates of the Dhaka Central Jail wait outside the prison to know their condition yesterday a day after a tremor jolted the country, injuring at least 100 of them.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

National Head Quarters
684-686, Bara Magh Bazar, Dhaka-1217

Appointment of Auditors

Applications are hereby invited from reputed firms of Chartered Accountants, preferably having affiliation with International Companies, for audit of the accounts of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, its 68 districts/City units and the different projects for the year ending 31 December, 2001.

The applications indicating the expected professional fees and including Company Profiles, should reach the undersigned by 1:00 PM on 23 December, 2001.

D-880 Secretary General

AL protests govt move to distort history

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday strongly condemned and protested what he called the government's deliberate attempt to distort the country's history.

In a statement, the AL general secretary said the history of the Liberation War and the great achievement of the Bengali nation, were intentionally distorted in the supplement published by the government in different newspapers on the occasion of the Victory Day.

In the supplement, he said, there was no mention of the name or contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The history of the democratic struggle of Awami League that led the War of Liberation were also not mentioned, he added.

He further resented recasting a drama on the Victory Day on the BTW where the history of the Liberation War was not only distorted rather it was projected with blatant lies. Moreover, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was projected in a crooked way, he said.

Zillur urged the people to raise their voice against this attempt of the coalition government.

\$65m ADB loan for adult literacy

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive US dollar 65 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide literacy to more than a million illiterate adults of the country.

The Manila-based bank on Tuesday approved the loan for Post-Literacy and Continuing Education Project (PLCEP) to facilitate better reading and writing by the illiterate adults, mostly women, to improve their vocational and life skills, an ADB press release said in the city.

The PLCEP will establish courses for market opportunities in 29 rural districts and develop a policy framework and high quality curricula and materials, as well as upgrade teachers skill.

More than a third of the country's adult population can not read, severely limiting their quality of life and employment potential. The government has been funding basic literacy programmes for 17 million people since 1991, and the

AL programmes on Victory Day

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations have taken a 9-day programme to celebrate the victory day.

AL Publicity Secretary Abdul Mannan said the programmes will be inaugurated through a cultural function at Paltan Maidan at 7 pm on December 23.

According to the programmes, a grand victory procession will be brought out from historic Paltan Maidan at 2-30 pm on December 24.

Besides, Jatiya Samrak League will hold a function on December 25, Bangabandhu Parishad on December 26, Bangladesh Chhatra League on December 27, Bangladesh Awami Jubo League on December 28, Bangladesh Mohila Awami League on December 29, Bangladesh Krishak League on December 30 and Bangladesh Awami Shechhashevk League on December 31 on the occasion.

ADB project aims to reach 1.6 million people in rural areas, who did not get to primary school.

"Reading will help women better understand health and education matters and benefit will go to the families directly," ADB education adviser Peter Fedon said.

A broad range stakeholders, including community groups, helped to design the project, which includes capacity building for local NGOs to implement the courses as well as for government agencies for supervisory and regulatory functions.

The government of the United Kingdom, through its department for International Development, is co-financing the project with a grant of US dollar 12 million.

The ADB loan will come from its concessional Asian Development Fund to repayable over 32 years, including a grace period of eight years with interest rate at one per cent during the grace period and 1.5 per cent thereafter.

The Directorate of Non-Formal Education will be the executing agency for the project, to be completed in 2008.

Workshop on neurosurgery from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Japanese experts will impart micro-neurosurgical training to Bangladeshi doctors at a three-day workshop beginning in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

The 'Neurosurgical Cadaveric Workshop' will be held at Dhaka Medical College under the auspices of the Society of Neurosurgeons of Bangladesh, Neurosurgery Department of DMC and Fujita Health University, Japan.

Head of the Neurosurgery Department of DMC Prof Shafique Uddin Ahmed said that a Japanese neurosurgical team would conduct the workshop.

Art, recitation competitions

BSS, Dhaka

Art and recitation competition will be held to mark the birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Joykul Abedinn, Pallikobi Jasimuddin and Science Writer Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin.

Kendriya Kochi Kanchar Mela has organised the competition and science fair for the children beginning December 28 to 30.

Intending children aged under 15 have been asked to participate in the programmes in three categories - art competition, recitation and science fair.

For details interested persons may contact Kochi Kanchar Bhaban at 37/A, Segunbagicha.

Two female constables mugged in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Muggers snatched a gold chain and money from two plainclothes female constables of district police from near Panchlaish thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police said, the incident occurred at around 11.30 am yesterday in front of Makki Mosque, near Panchlaish thana.

The muggers numbering two intercepted the rickshaw carrying two constables, Mukta Rani and Iva Saha, and snatched the chain of Mukta and fled in a taxi.

Organon
NEW PABX NUMBERS
We regret the inconvenience caused by the disruption in our telephone lines in the course of relocating to our new office. Our new telephone numbers will be advertised when installed. Until then the following are our PABX numbers:
881 3534
988 2046
Organon (Bangladesh) Limited
Pacific Centre
14, Mohakhali Commercial Area
Dhaka

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
National Head Quarters
684-686, Bara Magh Bazar, Dhaka-1217
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Zillur urged the people to raise their voice against this attempt of the coalition government.

BASHUNDHARA GROUP
CAREER OPPORTUNITY
Bashundhara Group, a rapidly expanding Industrial and Business organisation, invites applications for the following positions for its "Cement Mills" located at Mongla Port Industrial area, Mongla, Bagerahat.
Chief Engineer (Mechanical):
Qualifications: B.Sc. in Engineering (Mechanical) from any recognised University/Institute or any equivalent degree.
Experiences: 15-20 years of field experiences in Mechanical Engineering.
Age Limit: 50 Years.
Addl Chief Engineer (Mechanical):
Qualifications: B.Sc. in Engineering (Mechanical) from any recognised University/Institute or any equivalent degree.
Experiences: 12-15 years of field experiences in Mechanical Engineering.
Age Limit: 45 Years.
Sr Engineer (Mechanical):
Qualifications: B.Sc. in Engineering (Mechanical) from any recognised University/Institute or any equivalent degree.
Experiences: Minimum 05 years of field experiences in Mechanical Engineering.
Age Limit: 40 Years.
Dy Chief Engineer (Electrical):
Qualifications: B.Sc. in Engineering (Electrical) from any recognised University/Institute or any equivalent degree.
Experiences: 7-10 years of field experiences in Electrical Engineering.
Age Limit: 45 Years.
Sr Engineer (Electrical):
Qualifications: B.Sc. in Engineering (Electrical) from any recognised University/Institute or any equivalent degree.
Experiences: Minimum 05 years of field experiences in Electrical Engineering.
Age Limit: 40 Years.
Please note: For all the above positions preference will be given to the candidates having experiences working in any Cement/Process industry.
Attractive Salary Package will be offered to really deserving candidates. Applicants should send applications along with detail resume and recent passport size photograph to:
SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-ADMIN & PUBLIC RELATIONS
BASHUNDHARA GROUP
Sena Kalyan Bhaban (14th floor)
195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Last date for submission of application is 31st December 2001

Resource Integration Centre (RIC)
Employment Opportunity
Resource Integration Centre (RIC), a national level organization invites application from energetic, enthusiastic and committed Bangladeshi Nationals for immediate recruitment in the following positions for elimination of Worst Form of Child Labour (WFCL) under a project of ILO-IPEC. The positions are Dhaka based and requires extensive travel in the project sites of all 24 Thanas of Dhaka district.
Project Coordinator (Number of post: 1)
Qualification: Masters in Social Science with at least 5 (five) years experience in community mobilization, micro-credit operation and working with urban poor people under any reputed development organization.
Remuneration: Taka 10,000 (ten thousand, consolidated) per month with two festival bonus per year, each equivalent to half of monthly gross salary.
Assistant Project Coordinator (Number of post: 1)
Qualification: Masters in Social Science with at least 3 (three) years experience of community mobilization, micro-credit operation and working with women, children and urban poor people in any reputed development organization.
Remuneration: Taka 9,000 (nine thousand, consolidated) per month with two festival bonus per year, each equivalent to half of monthly gross salary.
Project Accountant (Number of post: 1)
Qualification: Masters in Commerce or B.com with CA course completed. At least 3 (three) years experience of working as accountant in any reputed development organization.
Remuneration: Taka 7,000 (seven thousand consolidated) per month with two festival bonus per year, each equivalent to half of monthly gross salary.
Training Assistant (Number of post: 4)
Qualification: Bachelor degree with at least 3 (three) years experience of conducting training sessions for urban poor people under any reputed development organization.
Remuneration: Taka 4,500 (four thousand five hundred consolidated) per month with two festival bonus per year, each equivalent to half of monthly gross salary.
Supervisor (Number of post: 4)
Qualification: Bachelor degree with at least 3 (three) years experience in community mobilization, and Micro-credit operation with urban poor people in any reputed development organization.
Remuneration: Taka 4,500 (four thousand five hundred consolidated) per month with two festival bonus per year, each equivalent to half of monthly gross salary.
Field Organizer (Number of post: 5)
Qualification: Bachelor degree with at least 2 (two) years experience in community mobilization and micro-credit operation with urban poor people under any reputed development organization.
Remuneration: Taka 3,500 (three thousand five hundred consolidated) per month with two festival bonus per year, each equivalent to half of monthly gross salary.
Interested candidates are encouraged to apply with details CV (including contact telephone number), along with copy of last academic and experience certificates and a recent passport size photograph. All application should reach at the following address on or before 27th December, 2001. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for written test and interview.
Address: Director, Resource Integration Centre (RIC), GPO Box No. 2789, Dhaka-1000 or by hand - 8/14, Block-C, Lalimata, Dhaka-1207 (1st floor)
Women are encouraged to apply

*"And soonest our best men do go
... One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die."*
Syed Mutahir Uddin (1921-2001)
You will always be living in us.
We thank all those who were in our midst in thoughts and presence during the difficult times and always.
Syeda Khaleda Khanam
Rehana Mahmud Zarina Bilquis Sajjad Shameem
Mahmud Murad Nawsher Simeen Safwan
Tahiyya Ridaa Nabila Safwat Sabeth
Nafisa Mahreen Safir Sahhir Samiha Saiid

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