

Free FFs' trust from corruption : PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked all concerned to make all establishments under the Mukti Joddha Kalyan Trust free from corruption and irregularities and turn them into more profit-making organisations.

One jailed for 17 years in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The First Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, on Tuesday awarded 17 years rigorous imprisonment to one Towhidur Rahman alias Mamun in an arms case.

Judge Abu Syed Diljar Hossain found Mamun of Kashimpur village under Rajori upazila of Madaripur district guilty and pronounced the verdict.

In the case, filed with Demra thana, it has been alleged that Mamun was arrested along with a gun and four bullets from a residence in the city's Jurain area on May 14, 1996.

Later, Sub-Inspector Saidur Rahman filed an arms case with Demra thana accusing Mamun.

After cross-examination of six prosecution witnesses, the court delivered the judgement.

Assistant public prosecutor Mohammad Emdadul Haq Lal appeared for the state.

If these could be run properly, more welfare programmes would be taken for the freedom fighters. The Prime Minister also recalled the sacrifices and contributions of the freedom fighters in the War of Liberation.

She said this at the 62nd meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Kalyan Trust (BMKT) at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Redwan Ahmed, Prime Minister's political secretaries Haris Chowdhury and Mosaddeq Ali, and members of parliament Abdul Hye, Mozahar Hossain and Mohammad Shahjahan, attended the meeting with Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The meeting decided that the monthly honorarium for 96 freedom fighters would be raised to Tk 2,676 from Tk 2,000.

The Tk 2,000 monthly honorarium for the families of seven Bir Shreshthas, being paid since January last according to the PM's announcement, was also approved at the meeting.

The Prime Minister asked for intensifying the activities of the establishments under the Trust.

The meeting observed that restructuring of the management and reallocation of responsibilities were necessary to bring dynamism in the establishments under the BMKT. The Ministry for Liberation War Affairs was asked to prepare a proposal in this regard.

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Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf speaking at a breakfast meeting with the editors of national dailies and senior journalists at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

MBA admission test postponed

UNB, Dhaka

The admission test for the evening MBA programme under the Business Studies Faculty of Dhaka University which was scheduled for August 2 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

Fresh date of the examination will be announced through newspapers later, said a press release.

5 criminals held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested five criminals in separate raids in the city on Monday night.

Police said, a gang of miscreants led by one Mamun, 26, demanded Tk 25,000 in toll from a tea-shop owner at Monsoor Colony under Halishahar thana at around 7:00 pm.

Being refused, the gang looted Tk 2400 from the cash box and shot Didar, brother of the shop owner.

Following the incident, police raided Baparipara area under Double Mooring thana and

nabbed Mamun, leader of the gang.

A case was filed under Speedy Trial Act with Halishahar thana in this connection.

Khulshi thana police arrested a notorious criminal, Bashar Ullah alias Bashar, an accused in three criminal cases, from in front of New Zaman hotel under Kotwali thana the same night.

The police team in another raid arrested three criminals with an LG from a house at Tigerpass Railway Colony. The arrested are Nurul Islam, 22, Bachchu Mia, 28, and Mohiuddin alias Manik, 23.

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Half Yearly Report - 2002

Based on the SEC directives, this is notified for general information that the statement of unaudited half yearly results of the Company as on 30th June 2002, has duly been despatched to all our shareholders and also the SEC, DSE and CSE within the stipulated time limit.

Dhaka
August 01, 2002

A. K. A. Muqtadir FICS
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Bangladesh vulnerable to massive earthquake

US disaster management expert says

BSS, Dhaka

Disaster management expert of US Civil Affairs (CA) Battalion yesterday said Bangladesh should take all precautionary measures to face natural calamities like earthquake to minimise damage to the life and property.

Bangladesh is vulnerable to massive earthquake due to its geographical location. Simply, there will be devastation if an earthquake with a medium intensity hits the country, said Clemente, a civil affairs officer of US Army and disaster management expert.

Talking to BSS at the Officer's Mess of Bangladesh Air Force, he identified lack of coordination among concerned departments

and agencies in Bangladesh to conduct pre and post-disaster management operations successfully.

"At least 90 per cent high-rise buildings in the city will collapse and hundreds of people die if an earthquake measuring 8 on Richter scale hits the country," he said.

Earlier, three US disaster management experts held a post-earthquake disaster exercise at the "Falcon Hall" of Bangladesh Air Force. The exercise was held as part of the ongoing Bangladesh-US "Balance Buffalo" exercise, the Humanitarian and Disaster Assistance Response Training (HDART).

Master Sergeant of US Army Swindler, Captain Skinner and

Captain Clemente conducted the exercise, participated by 27 mid-ranking officials of Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Force, BDR, Police, Coast Guard, Fire Service and Civil Defence and Disaster Management Bureau.

The two weeklong training programme, which began on July 20, is aimed at bolstering rescue operation proficiency in calamity-hit areas.

The training programme is also designed to equip Bangladesh and US personnel with the knowledge skills and concepts required to function "more safely and effectively" in the first 72 hours after a disaster hits any area.

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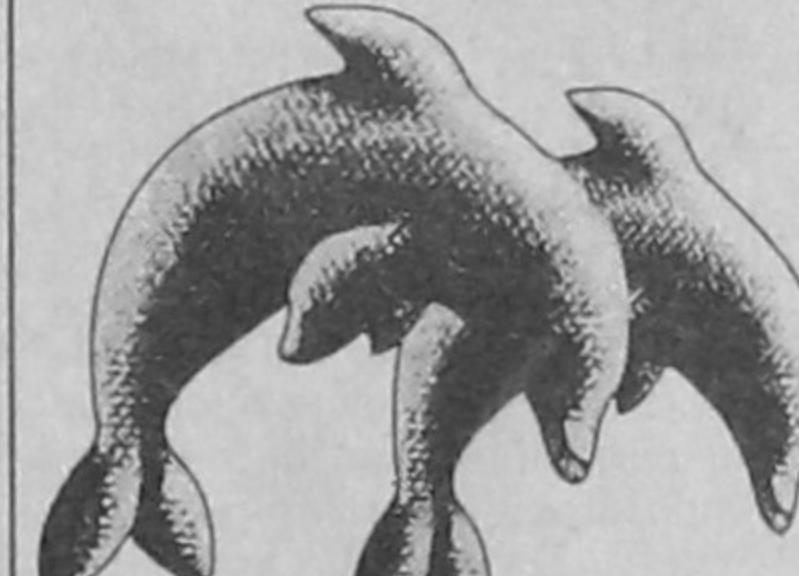
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