

Security an essential part of statecraft

PM tells SSF function

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said that with the change of society and state management, security has emerged as an important and unavoidable element of statecraft.

"Security has now become an institution," she said addressing the 17th Founding Anniversary of the Special Security Force (SSF) -- an elite force responsible for the protection of the president, prime minister and visiting dignitaries.

Set up in 1986 as the Presidential Security Force (PSF), the name and responsibilities of the force were changed with the transformation into parliamentary form of government after BNP came to power in 1991.

"It has not only expanded the responsibilities but also added new dimensions to the force," the prime

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SQ Chy's suit against Daily Star, Prothom Alo editors slated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties, socio-cultural organisations and professional bodies yesterday continued their protests at a defamation suit, filed by the prime minister's parliamentary affairs adviser, against two newspaper editors.

The protesters at rallies or in statements demanded withdrawal of the case against The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman, filed by Salauddin Qauder Chowdhury on June 11. Chowdhury charged them with publishing reports based on a 'defamatory' letter by the Awami League general secretary, which urged the prime minister to drop the adviser from the run for secretary

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 16		6-48 pm
June 17	5-11 am	

Prayer Timings		
June 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-53	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

UNSPOILED CAVE COMES TO LIGHT



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 30 kilometres off Teknaf in a remote hilly forest sanctuary lies a cave that was almost unknown to civilisation.

The cave, discovered by renowned zoologist Dr. Mohammad Ali Reza Khan last Friday with the help of the local people there, is one of the few caves Bangladesh has.

Dr. Khan was accompanied by Staff Photographer of The Daily Star Syed Zakir Hossain.

A stream that runs through the 127-foot by 12-foot rocky cave is home to fishes, crabs, spiders, turtles and other aquatic animals. The cave that has a maximum height of 30 feet also houses many birds and hoards of bats.

"This cave is a national asset and should be preserved by the state," Dr. Khan observed.

Because of the remote location and the wild forest around there, the cave was known only to the locals. One has to reach the Harikhola village under post office Howaikong, Teknaf thana of Cox's Bazar district to get to the cave.

The Kudumchhara forest, as it is known there, is a refuge of birds, elephants, deer and other mammals including various species of monkeys.

The forest is also beyond the reach of common poachers as it shelters different types of leeches, snakes and other poisonous insects.

Dr. Khan believes the forest should be protected

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DCC plans one-stop service for city road diggers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will soon open a one-stop service cell to deal with road digging applications, sources in the Nagar Bhaban said.

Lack of coordination among different sections of the DCC prompted the authorities to take the decision.

Under the new arrangement, permission for digging city roads will be given to different utility service providers from one single section of

the corporation.

Previously different sections of the DCC gave the permission with no coordination among them.

It has recently given permission to different organisations to dig 290 kilometres of road network during monsoon.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka on May 29.

Representatives of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (DESA), Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority, police, Titas gas, Telephone and

Telegraph Board and other service providers, that require road digging frequently, attended it.

According to decisions taken at the meeting, applicants seeking permission to dig a road must pay the DCC the entire amount for repair in advance. Earlier, applicants got off with an advance of 25 per cent of the costs.

City roads have also been categorised in two divisions. For digging any part of the 200 kilometres of the city's main road network, the per

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Circular on flag vessel ordn stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court division bench yesterday stayed the execution of the circular issued by the Ministry of Shipping on June 3 regarding the decision to amend the Bangladesh Flag Vessel (Protection) Ordinance, 1982.

The bench comprising justices M Hamidul Haque and Zinat Ara also issued a rule nisi on the joint secretary of the shipping ministry, asking him to explain why the circular

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Shahjibazar power plant case

BAC presses graft charges against 10

STAR REPORT

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) yesterday pressed charges against former state minister for energy Prof Rafiqul Islam and 10 others for misappropriation of Tk 35 crore in the 60 MW Shahjibazar power plant corruption case.

The charge sheet was filed by Khan Mohammad Mizanul Islam,

the investigating officer of the case, with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

Former Power Development Board (PDB) chairman Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal has also been accused in the case.

Chronologically, the BAC accused the following officials of the PDB: former chief engineer Golam

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IMF board to decide \$590m loans June 20

Executive director in city for final review

STAR REPORT

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will discuss anti-poverty loans for Bangladesh at its board meeting on June 20.

IMF Executive Director Dr Yaga V Reddy met Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday to get to know the final shape of the Interim

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP).

Bangladesh may get \$590 million if the IMF board approves the proposal. This would be the third loan from the Bretton Woods Institution in the last 13 years.

After his meeting with Saifur, Reddy told journalists that the loan

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ETV graft case

Sayeed gets bail, proceedings against Nasim stayed

UNB, Dhaka

Former state minister for information Abu Sayeed was yesterday granted anticipatory bail for six months in connection with Ekushey TV corruption case.

He appeared in the court and secured bail from the High Court to avert arrest.

A division bench comprising Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice MA Hafiz also issued rule upon the government to show cause why the petitioner should not be granted regular bail.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption on June 8 filed two corruption cases

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Fingerprint expert gives deposition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Finger print expert Mohammad Faridul Islam, the 17th prosecution witness in the Shazneen case, gave his deposition before the court yesterday.

In his deposition, Faridul Islam, an inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department, told the court that he visited the place of occurrence (Shazneen's Gulshan residence) on April 24, 1998 and recovered some evidences (alamats) from the house. Shazneen was raped and murdered on April 23, 1998.

"I collected thumb impression

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