

'Civil-military relations amicable'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil-military relations are becoming amicable with a change in the mindset of the armed forces and constant civilian-military interactions on various occasions and issues over the past decade, said general-turned author Muhammad Ibrahim at a lecture yesterday.

Although former president HM Ershad gave all facilities to the military and handicapped all three chiefs of staff, the armed forces did not support him in his semi-disclosed desire to use force to quell political opposition between October and December in 1990, he said.

The decision of the armed forces not to promulgate military rule in 1990 was appreciated by people and dramatically improved mutual relations, he said.

He said governments sought armed forces assistance at least 52 times in the past 32 years.

Responding to a question, Ibrahim said all officers and soldiers of the Rakhi Bahini, raised by the Bangabandhu government after independence, were entirely Bangladeshi.

The force that committed some excesses might have some foreign instructors, he said.

Rahman, former president Ziaur Rahman and for coups and counter-coups, has also enhanced over the years.

Intervention of the armed forces in disaster management, peacekeeping missions abroad and development programmes paved the path for civil-military relations and improved their image, he said at the event organised by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh at its office.

He observed that the armed forces could never run a civilian government.

General Ibrahim said governments and people enjoyed the benefits of military assistance in improving law and order and such interactions helped establish people-military amity.

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Bridge technology divide between West and OIC states: Moyeen

UNB, Dhaka

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has stressed the need for bridging the 'science and technology divide' between the Western and OIC countries through increased emphasis on biotechnology and information and communication technology.

He was addressing the 11th General Assembly of OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation that began in

Islamabad on Thursday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The minister also said science and technology is the most important tool to change the lifestyle of the impoverished and underprivileged in the OIC countries.

He identified the lack of comprehension of importance of science and technology in the OIC and developing countries as the major underlying reason that has created the difference between the developed and the underdeveloped countries.

Despite being a resource-starved country, Bangladesh is trying its best to compensate the shortcomings by knowledge-based resources, Moyeen Khan said.

He highlighted the commitment of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to scientific and technological advancement with emphasis on ICT and biotechnology.

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An electric pole on the road divider fell to the ground after being hit by a bus whose driver lost control of the steering at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

Better coordination needed for effective agri development plan

BSS, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister M K Anwar yesterday called for better coordination among statisticians and agricultural officials to get more reliable statistics in the agriculture sector.

"Reliable statistics are a must for formulating effective development plans in the agriculture sector, which contributes the highest to the GDP," he told a seminar in the city.

Bangladesh Statistical Association (BSA) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) jointly organised the seminar titled "Role of statisticians in achieving Millennium Development Goals at IDB Bhaban."

M K Anwar said there should have a clear data about all agricultural products including onion, spices, pulses and vegetables alongside the statistics of major agricultural items like rice and wheat to get a total overview of the output.

The United Nations has devised the Millennium Development Goals in 1990 as a strategy to alleviate poverty by 2015.

The eight major objectives of

Maulana Awal passes away

UNB, Dhaka

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