

Uphold image of army

PM urges young officers

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon young army officers to uphold the trust and affection of the people, admirable image of the force at home and abroad, and its glorious tradition through their best performance in military mission.

"Glowing patriotism, strong personality, brilliance and foresight, high professionalism and unflinching vigour are necessary to perform this onerous duty successfully," she said.

Khaleda was addressing the President's Parade marking the commissioning of the 51st BMA Long Course and 22nd BMA Special Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy in Bhatary yesterday morning.

Some 75 cadets, seven of them females, were yesterday commissioned from the two courses.

Khaleda also appreciated the role of the members of the Armed Forces in development and rehabilitation work inside the country as well as an enviable reputation earned by them in various UN peacekeeping missions around the world.

She reviewed a smartly turned-out parade on board an open jeep and took salute at the impressive march past of the gentleman and gentlewoman cadets.

Battalion Senior Under Officer Abu Mohammad Shahur Shaon was adjudged best all-round cadet and awarded the coveted 'Sword of Honour'. He also received the 'Chief of Army Staff Gold Medal' for his outstanding performance in military subjects.

Company Senior Under Officer



PHOTO: PFD

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gives away the 'Sword of Honour' to the best cadet at the President's Parade marking the commissioning of the 51st BMA Long Course and 22nd BMA Special Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy in Bhatary yesterday.

Mohammad Ziaur Rahman received the 'Osmani Gold Medal' for his feat in academic subjects.

The Prime Minister also gave away BMA Colour for the Winter Term to Jahangir Company achieved on the basis of inter-company competitions.

On her arrival at the parade ground, Khaleda was received by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Hasan

Mashhud Chowdhury, local Area Commander Maj General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan and BMA Commandant Brig General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Haq.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, Chief of the Naval Staff, Chief of the Air Staff, senior civil and military officials and guardians of the passing-out graduates witnessed the colourful parade.

Review '96 national policy document

on HIV/Aids

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for reviewing the '1996 national policy document' on HIV/Aids and other STD-related issues as well as the role of Narcotics Control Act and related legislation.

They urged the government to develop an effective national action plan to prevent HIV infection and form a coordination committee for better inter-ministerial coordination.

The workshop titled 'Key Stakeholders on HIV Risk Reduction' was organised by the South-South Centre in association with the Family Health International.

Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain spoke as the chief guest while Tara Nicole O'da, deputy director of Family Health International, gave the address of welcome.

Bangladesh is still considered a low prevalence country with the HIV infection rate of less than one percent among the adult population, but the HIV prevalence among the injecting drug users (IDUs) has gone up to four percent in 2004 from 1.8 percent in 2001, said the minister.

He called for taking preventive measures such as supply of sterile syringes and needles, compulsory screening of blood and raising awareness about the deadly disease.

The speakers suggested formation of a lead working group for coordination among the ministries of home,

health, law and information on the issues of IDUs and prevention of HIV transmission.

They also recommended that intensive sensitisation activities should be undertaken at the policy and senior programme managerial level.

Presenting the keynote paper, Jalaluddin Ahmed, director of South-South Centre, said the fifth round of surveillance report is quite alarming as it shows an increasing trend of HIV prevalence among the vulnerable groups, especially the IDUs.

Raising an alarm about the HIV risk threatening the population, Jalaluddin said the IDUs have special characteristics -- they are sexually very active and mobile without adequate knowledge on HIV transmission -- and most importantly, the existing healthcare services are neither user-friendly nor do they respond to their needs.

"In fact, all these indicate that we are waiting for a time bomb to explode."

"According to the WHO and UNAIDS, HIV infection among the IDUs in Bangladesh has already crossed the concentrated epidemic level, which clearly gives us a warning signal. It is time for us to act now," he added.

Kamaluddin Ahmed, director general of the Department of Narcotics Control, and Brig. Gen. (Retd) ASM Motiur Rahman, chairman of National Aids Technical Committee, also spoke.

Lack of political will obstacle to fighting corruption in S Asia

Five TI national chapters say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The absence of political will is a critical constraint that hinders the effective implementation of anti-corruption reform in South Asia.

Five national chapters of Transparency International (TI) said this in a statement yesterday.

The TI's national chapters in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka issued the statement after a three-day TI regional workshop on National Integrity Systems that ended in Karachi on December 20.

At the workshop, they identified reform of the judiciary, creation of permanent and independent anti-corruption institutions, clampdown on political corruption and trans-

parent rules on public procurement as priority areas to strengthen national integrity systems.

In the joint statement, the five TI chapters called for 'rational and transparent recruiting process' in the judiciary, country-specific strategies to address weakness in the judiciary, separation of the judiciary from the executive and special anti-corruption courts.

"Civil society should continue to exert pressure on the public and private sectors to ensure transparency in public procurement and be encouraged to play a monitoring role."

The workshop concluded that anti-corruption bodies should be permanent and independent "with a constitution mandate". It also

suggested participation of civil society groups in monitoring the work of these bodies.

It called for reforms in political culture, including the depoliticisation of the civil service and mandatory asset declarations by public representatives and officials, and strengthening parliamentary committees.

The workshop noted that Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the signatories to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and Sri Lanka has ratified the convention.

It urged Nepal and Pakistan to ratify the convention and Bangladesh and India to sign and ratify soon.



PHOTO: STAR

Different women's and human rights organisations and trade unions stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the rapist policemen of Chudanga police camp.

'Involve local people in flood control plans'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flood experts at a seminar yesterday urged the government to involve local people as well as experts while making plans for sustainable protection from river erosion.

The seminar on 'Flood 2004 and Water Logging in Dhaka City' was organised by Water Development Board (WDB) at its office in the city.

Participants observed that flood will be our blessing if we can control it properly. They also emphasised on the need to provide the flood victims with sufficient training to face the flood situation.

We would be beneficial from the flood if we control it and diversify its energy for mankind, said Inamul Haque, additional chief engineer of WDB.

WDB Engineer Kazi Tofail Hossain said at least 14 canals of the city should be recovered in order to reduce water congestion.

SSKOP meet Dec 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The extended meeting of Sangbadik Samik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) will be held at 11:00am on December 25 at the National Press Club.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers and Bangladesh Sangbadipatra Karmachari Federation yesterday in an extended meeting at Ittefaq Bhaban yesterday expressed commitment to making the December 26 strike a success.

The strike has been called to press for their seven-point demand, including formation of the sixth wage board and 60 percent dearness allowance.

BFUNPW President Fazle Imam presided.

AAA donation to SWID-Bangladesh

The American Alumni Association (AAA) donated Tk 10,000 to SWID-Bangladesh, a school for mentally challenged children, recently, says a press release.

This fund was raised from the sale of tickets of the AAA Iftar get-together held in November.

AAA President Syed Almas Kabir and Secretary Ayesha Dastgir handed over the cheque at a ceremony on the premises of SWID-Bangladesh in Lalmatia.

Duta election today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The election to the executive committee of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) will be held today.

The teachers' politics heated up ahead of the election. Most candidates were going door-to-door yesterday to woo the voters.

The polling will be held at the Duta Club from 10:00am to 2:00pm without any break, with Prof Ahmed Kabir of Bangla department as election commissioner.

The 'White Panel' backed by the ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami and the 'Blue Panel' backed by Awami League are contesting the election. The candidates of left-leaning 'Pink Panel' are also taking part in the polls under the 'Blue Panel'.

Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Prof Mohammad Aktheruzzaman of the 'Blue Panel' and Prof Sirajul Islam Khan and GM Chowdhury of the 'White Panel' are running for the posts of president and general secretary.

Prof ABM Farook, Dr Abu Torab and Prof Shaque Ue Jaman of 'Blue panel' and Prof Tazmery SA Islam, Dr ABM Obaidul Islam, Prof Sirajul Islam of 'White Panel' are vying for the posts of vice-president, joint secretary and treasurer.

The 'Blue Panel' candidates for the

posts of member are RIM Aminur Rashid, Sharifullah Bhuiyan, Mezba Uddin Ahmed, AZM Nowsher Ali Khan, Mohammad Hossain Mansur, Tofail Ahmed Chowdhury, Shaheed Akther Hossain, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Nazma Shahin and Sadeka Halim.

And the 'White Panel' candidates for the same posts are Abu Ahmed, Sadrul Amin, Habiba Khatun, Amanullah Ferdous, Noorjahan Sharker, AA Shaftul Alam, Abu Hossain Siddique, Saiyad Shalehin Qadri, Mozammel Haque and Nevin Farida.

Obituary

Monowara Begum, mother of Mahfuzur Rahman, former president of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), died of old-age complications on December 21 at her residence at Dumuria in Ramganj upazila of Lakshipur district at the age of 70, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, two sons and four daughters.

DRU President M Shafiqul Karim and General Secretary Shakhawat Hossain in a message condoled the death and expressed sympathy to the family members.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog over the country during late night till morning is expected having chances of light rain or drizzle at places over Sylhet division, said Met Office.

Highest temperature 29.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 14.0 degree Celsius at Sandwip and Mongla.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:17pm today and rises at 6:38am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.8	18.9	88	76
Chittagong	28.5	16.8	70	74
Rajshahi	19.8	17.0	100	92
Khulna	29.0	17.9	98	76
Barisal	28.0	16.8	96	92
Sylhet	24.0	17.0	95	86
Cox's Bazar	29.0	17.8	74	74

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

BRAC in collaboration with National TB Control Programme is implementing TB Control activities in different parts of Bangladesh. BRAC invites applications from suitable candidates for the following senior positions for its Health Programme.

Coordinator, Fund Management Unit (One) :

Qualification and experience: MBBS/MPH/MBA/Masters in Social Science with at least five years experience in any recognised organisation/institution. Experience in grant management will be an added advantage.

Quality Assurance Specialist (one) :

Qualification and experience: MBBS with at least five years experience in Health Care in any recognised organisation/institution. Experience in quality assurance and post-graduation in Public Health will be given preference.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (one) :

Qualification and experience: MBBS / Masters in any discipline with at least five years experience in Health Care in any recognised organisation/institution. Experience in Monitoring & Evaluation activities using spreadsheets, data analysis and interpretation is required.

Requirements:

- Experience in working with government, development partners, NGOs and donors.
- Ability to work independently.
- Comprehensive knowledge in Health and Social structures of Bangladesh.
- Strong administrative and organisational skills.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills.
- Good oral and written communication in both English and Bangla.
- Basic computer skills.

Salary : Negotiable.

These positions are based in Dhaka, but will require intensive field visits. Application should mention why the candidate feels that s/he should be considered for the position mentioned.

Those who have applied earlier need not to apply again.

Please apply with Curriculum Vitae, two recent passport size photographs and with a contact phone number to BRAC-HRD, BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, before 2 January, 2005. Please mention the position on the top of the envelope. Confidentiality of the CV will be maintained.

BRAC is an equal opportunity employer.

DHAKA TODAY

Classical music conference

Sudha Sangeet Prasar Goshthi organises a four-day classical music conference. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 6.00pm.

Musical evening

Ankur Sangskritik Academy organises a musical evening. Zakir Hossain Fakir and Md Fazlul Haque will perform at the programme. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm.

MIDAS Fair

A three-day MIDAS Fair organised by MIDAS Financing Limited for women entrepreneurs will begin. Venue: MIDAS premises, House # 5, Road # 16 (new), Dhanmondi. Time: 2.00pm.

Roundtable

Campaign for Good Governance will hold a roundtable on 'Citizen's society: Sovereignty, friendship and poverty alleviation in South Asia' to mark the upcoming Saarc summit. Venue: VIP lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 9.00am.

Conference

Buet organises a conference on the launching of action plan on 'Overcoming barriers in employment of women technical professionals of Bangladesh' with Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Haque as chief guest. Venue: Buet Council Bhaban. Time: 10.00am.

Advocacy workshop

Odihak and Bangladesh Coalition for International Criminal Court will hold an advocacy workshop on 'The Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court', with Minister for Science and ICT

Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Brac Centre Inn auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Seminar

EU/JUNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIIYA) organises a dissemination seminar on the RHIIYA Base Line Survey. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9.00am.

Discussion

Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan, a front organisation of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, will hold a discussion to mark the Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day. Venue: Az Super Market, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Cancer Society AGM

The annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Cancer Society will be held, with LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: 120/3-C Darussalam Road, Mirpur. Time: 3.00pm.

Lekhak Shibir

The 11th National Conference of Bangladesh Lekhak Shibir will be held. Venue: Shaheed Tajul Auditorium, 21/2 Purana Paltan. Time: 10.00am.

Rally

Jubo Kamasangsthan Society will hold a rally to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Engineers' Institute auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Blood donation camp

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Dhaka New Super Market. Time: From 11.00am to 6.00pm.

NGO Foundation formed

The government has formed Bangladesh NGO Foundation for providing grants to NGOs in Bangladesh, says a press release.

The foundation was formed according to a resolution of the finance division of the finance ministry through a gazette notification on December 11.

The resolution also provides for special funds for making grants to small NGOs whose total budget does not exceed Tk 5 crore and area of operation does not extend beyond 10 upazilas.

The finance ministry has made a provision for a grant of Tk 50 crore for the foundation in this year's budget and announced a total grant of Tk 100 crore for it.

The initiative will go long way in promoting the activities of the NGOs in social development and support small NGOs who have been facing fund constraints.

Youth missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 23-year-old youth has been missing since December 16 after he went out of his home at West Rampura in the city.

Arifur Rahman Johny, son of Fazlur Rahman, left his home for Kamalapur Railway Station at around 4:00pm to go to Jamalpur but he did not return home, nor did he reach Jamalpur until yesterday, said his uncle Abdul Jalal.

His family members searched for him at all known addresses but in vain. Jalal filed a general diary with Khilgaon Police Station in this connection.

BIAM Laboratory School (English Medium)

63, New Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.

Wanted

Applications are invited from competent candidates for the following positions of BIAM Laboratory School

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Name of the Subject & Number of Post	Educational Qualification and Experience
01.	Senior Teacher	Biology 01 Physics 01 Maths 01	Should be M. Sc with Honours from renowned university having teaching experiences of at least 5 year's and service records as Senior Teacher of School/College for at least 2 year's. Should be fluent in English.
02.	Asst. Teacher	Dance 01 Physical Instructor 01	Masters Degree having second class/division in all public examinations. At least 2 year's teaching experience. Should be fluent in English.
03.	Computer Instructor	- 01	Diploma in computer science. At least 2 year's teaching experience. Should be fluent in English.

- Salary: As per negotiation.
- Preference will be given to experienced female candidates. Applicants should submit full C.V and documents relating to their experience along with two passport size photographs and Postal Order of Taka 100/- only.
- Last date of application: 06 January, 2005.

Chairman

BIAM Laboratory School Project Committee