

# Safeguard country's interest, borders with firmness

## PM directs BDR

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to safeguard the country's interest, dignity, borders, resources and every inch of the sacred soil with resilience and firmness.

"The sacred duty of protecting the country's long border has been entrusted upon BDR," she said while addressing the members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on the occasion of "Rifles Week 2005" at Peelkhana yesterday.

The PM referred to the importance laid on strengthening BDR by her government and informed about the decision to raise four more new battalions of the force. She reminded that the government had founded two new battalions in 2002 and another two in 2004.

Khaleda lauded the role of the paramilitary force in various important activities like maintenance of internal peace and discipline, facing of disaster and carrying out of relief activities apart from discharging a great responsibility of curbing smuggling in the borders.

She mentioned the seizure of smuggled goods worth Tk 284 crore in 2004 by BDR and appreciated their contributions to curbing illegal entry of people through the borders, and women and child trafficking.

She also appreciated the pressure taken by the BDR men in curbing cross-border crimes, including robbery and looting, and checking illegal carrying of arms and explosives along the border routes.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inspects the parade of the members of BDR at the Bangladesh Rifles Headquarters at Peelkhana in the city yesterday.

Reminding all about the rich history of BDR, its glorious role in the War of Liberation, Khaleda said the BDR jawans have set up rare examples through their courage, patience and self-sacrifice.

Earlier on arrival at the parade ground, the Prime Minister was received by State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar and Director General of BDR Maj Gen Mohammad Jahangir Alam

Chowdhury. Aboard an open jeep, she reviewed a smartly turned out parade of 16 contingents of the BDR led by Colonel Ibrahim Jamal.

She also took salute of the colourful parade that included the evolutionary changes of the BDR since the force was formed in 1795 by the British rulers as Ramgarh Local Battalion and then transformed into Frontier Guards in 1861, Bengal

Military Police in 1891, Eastern Frontier Rifles in 1920, East Pakistan Rifles in 1947 and the present Bangladesh Rifles in 1972.

Khaleda honoured the recipients of Bangladesh Rifles Padak and President's Rifles Padak - Lt Col Hasinur Rahman BP, Habildar Abu Naser Mohammad Wahid Chowdhury and Sepoy Hajjaj Bin Yusuf.

## Obituary



Alhaj Md Matiur Rahman, owner of MR Company of Dhaka Stock Exchange, died on Tuesday at his residence at Dhanmondi in the city due to prolonged illness at the age of 57, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two sons to mourn his death. He was buried at the Azampur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Dhaka Stock Exchange and Kalabagan Masjid.

Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd President Md Shahik Khan expressed deep shock at his death.

## Jamal Uddin Ahmed



Jamal Uddin Ahmed, a freedom fighter and general secretary of Sonali Bank Employees Union-202, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday at the age of 57, says a press release.

He was also the publicity secretary of Jatiya Sramik League.

## Shama K Moinuddin



Begum Shama K Moinuddin wife of Late Khawja Moinuddin and daughter of Late Niropom Banerjee of Chonditola Zamindar family, West Bengal, passed away in the early hours of yesterday, says a press release.

She left behind her six sons and four daughters to mourn her death. Her Quikhwani will be held at House 27, Road 18, Block-B, Banani after Asr prayers tomorrow.

## Masrura Ahmad



Masrura Ahmad, wife of late Advocate A. M. Nooruddin Ahmad died at the Birdem Hospital on Sunday at the age of 69, says a press release.

She is survived by three sons and one daughter. She was buried at Banani graveyard.

## Md Shamsul Haque



Md Shamsul Haque, a freedom fighter and director of Ansar O Gram Proti-rokha Bahini, died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on March 1, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Ansar VDP Headquarters in the city the same day. State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar attended the janaza.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Debiddar in Comilla yesterday.

## Abdul Mannan Sarder



Alhajj Abdul Mannan Sarder, owner of Super Type Foundry, died on February 27 at his village home at Galachipa in Patuakhali at the age of 76, says a press release.

Mannan was buried at his family graveyard the next day. He left behind his one daughter.

## TENGRATILA BLOWOUT

# Body to determine compensation

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government has formed a four-member committee to determine the amount of compensation to be claimed from Niko, responsible for Tangratila gas field blowout.

Energy and Mineral Resources Division, after reviewing the report of the enquiry committee on Tengratila accident, recommended formation of the committee.

State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharrar Hossain said that the enquiry committee mentioned that the layer contained one BCF (billion cubic feet) gas, but did not elaborate how much gas was burnt.

"That is why the new committee has been formed to determine the quantum of gas burnt," he said.

Kazi Shahidur Rahman, a senior general manager of Environment and Safety Division of Petrobangla, has been made chief of the four-member committee.

Other members are Sylhet gas field managing director Rahman Morshed, Petrobangla's DGM Akkas Ali and a representative of Niko.

## TIB JOURNALISM AWARD

# Time extended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has extended the deadline for submitting reports for the Investigative Journalism Award 2005.

The journalists working with the electronic and print media can now submit their entries by March 15.

The TIB invited the reports published in the print media or broadcast on television during the period between January 1 and December 31, 2004 for the award.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 5th death anniversary of MA Baqui, a former deputy magistrate, says a press release. He was also a member of Chittagong University Implementation Citizens' Committee.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his home.

# DHAKA TODAY

## Music festival

Bangladeshi and Indian singers will perform on the second day of the First International Music Festival-2005, organised by the Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts. Venue: National Museum. Time: 6.00pm.

## Drama

The Goethe-Institut in cooperation with the Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) presents an adaptation of the play 'Metamorphosis' by German writer Franz Kafka. Venue: Goethe-Institut auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

## World Book Day

The British Council organises various events such as art display, book display, reading competition, fun & games competitions, and story telling session to mark the World Book Day. Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road. Time: 9.00am.

## Conference

The two-day 10th general conference of Bangladesh Philosophical Association will be held, with Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.

## Memorial meeting

Barisal Bibhag Samity will hold a meeting in memory of music legend and language movement veteran Abdul Latif. Venue: Naiori Restaurant & Party Palace. Time: 4.30pm.

## Int'l conference

The First International Conference of the Paediatric Nephrology Society will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30am.

## Youth conference

The Youth Against Hunger will hold a day-long National Youth Conference. Venue: Novera Hall, National Museum. Time: 11.00am.

## Daffodil University

A prize distribution ceremony of the Daffodil International University and reception to the freshers will be held. Venue: Engineers' Institute auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

## Certificate giving ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony of the Institute of Scientific Instrumentation will be held. Venue: National Institute of Local Government auditorium, Argagon. Time: 10.00am.

## Rotary Greater Dhaka

Regular weekly meeting and centenary cultural evening of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Venue: Residence of Rtn. PP Faruquul Islam, D/13, Road # 17, Banani. Time: 6.00pm.

# Two outlaws arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two outlaws were arrested in Mirpur and Bheramara upazilas of the district on Tuesday night.

A team of Mirpur police raided Kursha village and arrested Azizul Gain, 43, a regional commander of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho).

Police said Azizul was an accused in several cases, including four for murders.

In Bheramara, Rab-6 arrested

outlawed party cadre Mukul from a house of municipality area on the same night.

Mukul was a former commissioner of Bheramara Municipality and accused with several cases, including murder, sources said.

Police said Mukul was a leader of Puro unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Azizul and Mukul were being interrogated by police when this report was filed.

# BCS exam process to be changed

BSS, Dhaka

Minister in charge of Public Service Commission secretariat in the Jatiya Sangsad Barrister Aminul Haque yesterday said the government has a plan to bring changes in the existing process of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations.

"The matters relating to bringing changes in the selection process through BCS examinations is now under consideration of the government and appropriate steps would be taken in this regard in time," he said while replying to a question from Mohammad Ali Sarkar (Rangpur-2). The minister said in the changed

process, examinations would be held only on compulsory subjects.

He said according to the "Bangladesh Civil Service Rule-1982" there is a provision to take examinations on five compulsory and three optional subjects. For general cadre, he said, 100 marks were fixed for each subject.

Apart from this, he said, those who are interested to go to technical cadre, have to sit for examinations on five compulsory subjects while rest 300 marks would be counted from their academic attainment.

Barrister Aminul Haque said in the existing system there is a provision to hold examinations on 200 marks for general, technical and professional cadres.



Participants at the inaugural session of the 32nd annual National Conference of Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh that began on the BCPS premises in the city yesterday.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6.00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers are expected at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Tangail and Comilla during the period, Met Office said forecasting nearly unchanged day temperature.

Highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 16.3 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:18am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.1	21.6	70	40
Chittagong	31.0	21.6	74	81
Rajshahi	33.7	6.5	47	46
Khulna	35.0	21.5	91	61
Barisal	35.0	20.8	89	63
Sylhet	32.5	18.5	74	58
Cox's Bazar	33.0	19.5	88	77