



PHOTO: PID  
Prime Minister Khaleida Zia presents the Sword of Honour to best Midshipman Akram Uddin Zahid at the Naval Academy Parade Ground in Chittagong yesterday.

# Sophisticated 3-dimensional Naval Force to be built: PM

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Khaleida Zia yesterday said new-tech warships, helicopters and maritime patrol-aircraft will join the naval fleet to build a sophisticated and balanced three-dimensional Bangladesh Naval Force.

"Though Bangladesh is not very big in dimension, our maritime boundary is large. Due to geographical location and strategic reason, it is important to ensure well-protection of this boundary and to have all time vigilance in the sea," she told the President's Parade of Bangladesh Naval Force.

The winter parade was organised to mark the successful commissioning of the Midshipmen of Naval Academy's 2004 Alfa Batch.

Khaleida, who is in charge of the Defence Ministry, said despite resource constraints, her government continued efforts to establish a strong Naval Force through its modernisation and enhancement of its capability. Within this short time, five offshore vessels, two Tugs and two-PPM Boats already joined the Bangladesh Navy, she added.

"Our avowed target is to build a modern, efficient and balanced three-dimensional Navy that is in the process," she told the function at the parade ground of Bangladesh

Naval Academy.

She said the immense responsibility and round-the-clock duty of the naval force "is not only necessary at wartime but also in the rough-wave-sea in normal time."

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, chiefs of three services of the armed forces and guardians of the newly commissioned naval officers attended the function.

The PM said a skilled and talented manpower was necessary to conduct the massive activities of the naval force to meet the demand of the country. The Bangladesh Naval Academy since its inception has been playing a laudable role to build competent, skilled and ideal naval officers. And for this reason the reputation of this academy has spread to outside world, she added.

Naval officers of various levels from Qatar, Palestine, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Turkey are receiving training from this academy, Khaleida said, expressing her happiness to know that four midshipmen of Palestine got also commissions through today's programme. Moreover, a cadet from Maldives is now receiving training from the academy, she said.

"The attainment of international standard by Bangladesh Naval Academy is undoubtedly a matter of

pride for us," Khaleida said, adding "Bangladesh Naval Academy earned the national standard in 2003 in recognition of its effective role in building an efficient naval force and successes in last three decades."

Some 29 Midshipmen, including 4 Palestinians and a Midshipwoman got commission to become Acting Sub Lieutenants.

Akram Uddin Zahid was adjudged the best all rounder Midshipman and was awarded the Sword of Honour. Zahid also got the Osmani Gold Medal and Gold Medal of the Chief of Naval Staff for his outstanding performance in academic and professional subjects. The PM distributed the awards.

Earlier, a smartly turned-out contingent of naval cadets gave a guard of honour to Khaleida. She also reviewed the parade boarding a decorated jeep and later took salute from an impressive march past by the new cadets.

As the PM reached the parade ground, Navy Chief Rear Admiral M Hassan Ali Khan,

Commodore Commanding Chittagong Commander Bazlur Rahman and Commanding Officer of Bangladesh Naval Academy Capt M Nasir received her in a ceremonial motorcade of Bangladesh Navy.

# 'Training a must to promote e-govt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government officials must be trained up in ICT to promote 'e-government' and ensure transparency and accountability in the administration, said Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, principal secretary to the prime minister, yesterday.

He said without proper training in information and communication technology (ICT), it is not possible to establish good governance in public sector.

Siddiqui was speaking at a certificate awarding ceremony for ICT training of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) officers at BCC Bhaban in the city.

A total of 70 officials took part in the training on e-government under a project titled 'Support to ICT' (SICT), a national task force programme. Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) conducted the training.

Siddiqui said training is a must for government officials to discharge their duties and responsibilities properly in a changed world of today.

He also stressed on post-training facilities so that the officials can utilise their knowledge obtained from the training.

Under the SICT project a total of 1250 government officials will be trained, said SASM Taifur, project director and division chief of Planning Division.

He said a total of 254 government officials have so far received training

under the project launched in August 2005.

Secretary to Planning Division Akhtar Husain Khan, BCC Executive Director AM Choudhury and BCC Deputy Director (Training) Kamal Uddin Ahmed were present.

# BCL calls strike at CU to protest Shibir attack

CU CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) attacked a mourning procession of the Bangladesh Chhatra League on the Chittagong University (CU) campus yesterday, leaving two BCL leaders injured.

To protest the attack and demand removal of CU proctorial body, the BCL called a student strike for tomorrow.

The injured leaders are BCL Vice-President Iqbal Mahmud Sohel and Assistant Sports Secretary Masum Mia Sohad.

Witnesses said the BCL took out a procession to mark the fourth death anniversary of its leader Ali Martuza Chowdhury who was shot dead allegedly by Shibir cadres near his village home at Fateyabad in 2001.

But the Shibir activists suddenly attacked the procession without any provocation, they added.

# Workshop on environment in WTO begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day regional training workshop on 'Environment in the WTO' began in the city yesterday with a view to create 'sensitivity about the contentious and important issues of the World Trade Organisation.'

Organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association, journalists, lawyers and NGO activists from Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are taking part in the workshop along with their local partners at its conference room.

According to the organisers the training workshop would create an opportunity to share views on the pertinent, emerging and contentious issues of the global trade regime and suggest ways to meet challenges of globalisation and undue corporate interests.

Each participant would be awarded a certificate at a function at the end of the workshop on December 31.



PHOTO: STAR  
Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak speaks at a discussion on the Victory Day at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad organised the discussion.