

PLAN TO RAISE THREE NEW RIFLE BATTALIONS

Be more active to face challenges of new trend of crime

Khaleda urges BDR

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged rank and file of paramilitary BDR to be more active in applying modern technique and strategy with enhanced vigilance to face the challenge of new trend of crime.

"In the perspective of the changed situation, I will ask you to give attention to the new dimension in the field of law and order. Infiltration of illegal arms and explosives and bomb blasts have become a threat to the country's law

and order and social stability," she told a function of BDR.

The Prime Minister was addressing the function at the Parade Ground of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at its Peelkhana HQs to mark the Rifles Week 2006 and Parade.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats and senior civil and military officials were present at the function.

Referring to the smuggling of narcotics, including phensidyl, and women and children across the border that put adverse impact on the family

and the society, Khaleda said the BDR are playing a laudable role in curbing such crimes.

She urged the BDR personnel to be more dynamic in ensuring foolproof security at the border and at the same time be more devoted in performing their duties with courage, sincerity and skill imbued with the spirit of patriotism.

"You'll have to show utmost responsibility, dutifulness and courage to protect territorial integrity of the beloved motherland and safeguard border as well as to ensure

security to public life and property," she told the BDR officers and jawans.

She said the government has a plan to gradually raise three more Rifle Battalions, including one new battalion this year.

Already 10 armoured personnel carrier platoons in 10 sectors have been created, she added.

Referring to her assurance last year to send BDR members in UN Peacekeeping Missions, she said already 30 members of BDR are working in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Ivory Coast. She said she would urge the authorities concerned to consider whether it can be upgraded to a company.

A smartly turned out contingent drawn from different battalions of BDR took part in the Parade and gave a guard of honour to the Prime Minister at the Parade Ground.

Khaleda reviewed the parade from on board an open jeep and later took salute from the impressive march past.

She distributed Bangladesh Rifles Medal-2006 among five recipients, including one posthumously, and President's Rifles Medal to one posthumously for their heroic and courageous role in combating crime and terrorism.

On her arrival at the Parade Ground, the Prime Minister was received by State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar and Director General of BDR Major General M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

Later, she had a meeting with high officials at the BDR headquarters.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia distributes Bangladesh Rifles Medal-2006 and President's Rifles Medal at Peelkhana on the occasion of the Rifles Week 2006.

One gets 30 years' RI for keeping heroin

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to 30 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing 400 grams of heroin in May 2004.

Judge Mohammad Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in presence of the convict Abul Hossain.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and recorded statements of eight prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, a team of Kotwali police led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Majibur Rahman arrested Abul Hossain from in front of a hotel at Siddique Bazar at about 7:10pm on May 6, 2004. Police also recovered 400 grams of heroin from his possession.

Later, police filed a case against Abul with Kotwali Police Station under the Narcotics Control Act the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against him on June 14 the same year.

'DINOSAURER DIMTA' Publication ceremony Feb 19

The publication ceremony of the book titled 'Dinosaurer Dimta' by Nazia Jabeen will be held at the TSC cafeteria in the city at 4:00pm on February 19, says a press release.

Prof Syed Maqsud Ali, Begum Momtaj Hossain and Rabiul Husain will jointly unveil the cover of the book.

All have been requested to attend the ceremony.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad stages a demonstration at Bhasantek in the city yesterday demanding proper investigation into the mysterious death of domestic help Rehana and trial of the culprits. Nurjahan, mother of Rehana, bursts into tears seeking justice during the protest.

'Formulate consumers' rights act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers' Trust (TCT) formed a human chain on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yesterday demanding formulation of consumers' rights protection act and measures to stop production and marketing of adulterated and sub-standard products and protesting price hike

of essentials, says a press release.

People of different classes and professions took part in the human chain.

TCT chairperson Barrister Monjur Hasan at the programme said no effective steps were taken to protect the rights of the consumers so far although several drives conducted against adulterated foods on different occasions

Listed criminal held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested listed criminal Badsha Shaikh alias Ranga Badsha early yesterday morning from Rupsha Stand Road.

Ranga Badsha is wanted in several criminal cases.

Police said he was involved in toll collection at arms point from fish traders of Natun Bazar after he had gone into hiding following combing operations by joint forces in 2003.