

# Contribute to enhance dignity of army

## PM urges Army Engineering Corps

Bss, Nature

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the engineering corps members of Bangladesh Army to groom themselves as ideal soldiers and make meaningful contribution to enhance dignity and honour of the army.

"I firmly believe that all the members of this corps will enhance dignity of the army in national and international arenas by working hard with discipline, sincerity and devotion," she told a darbar at Engineer Centre and School of Military Engineering (ECSME) at Qadirabad Cantonment here.

The darbar was held on the occasion of the 4th engineer corps reunion and Annual Commanding Officers Conference 2006.

Khaleda Zia, who holds the portfolio of Defense Ministry, stressed the need for regular training, vigorous exercise and the highest degree of discipline to attain the goal.

She said the role of the corps of engineers is very important in the army. Members of this corps also extend significant assistance to the civil administration in time of need, she added.

She particularly mentioned the

role of the engineering corps during natural calamities and in the construction of roads in hilly areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts, building dams on various rivers and constructing Dhaka city protection embankment.

"You have made brilliant examples of your professional efficiency," she said and added the members of the corps of engineers have also earned appreciation through their rescue and salvation activities after different accidents.

Addressing the darbar, the Prime Minister referred to the contribution of sappers to maintain peace in international arena saying they earned honour and dignity for the country by discharging their duties side by side with modern armies from other countries during the Gulf War.

Noting the role of the sappers in the reconstruction of war-ravaged Kuwait, she said about 9,000 members of the corps successfully completed their duties in different peace missions.

"The foreign currency earned by you is not only useful for the welfare of your families, but also for the country," she said.

Terming the reunion a function of tradition, Khaleda Zia said it helps the retired and in-service members

of the corps to assemble together and strengthen the bond of brotherhood and enrich professional efficiency.

The Prime Minister recalled with respect all the freedom fighter soldiers, including the proclaimer of independence and architect of self-reliant Bangladesh Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

She particularly paid tributes to the members of the corps of engineers including Bishrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir, Lt. Col Qadir and Captain Shamsul Huda who sacrificed their lives in the War of Independence.

The Prime Minister planted a 'bakul' sapling beside the podium of the parade ground.

Ministers, MPs, Army Chief and senior civil and military officers were present at the function along with former and in-service members of the corps of engineers.

Earlier, the day's programme began with Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen. Moeen U Ahmed placing wreath at the memorial of the martyred soldiers of the corps of engineers.

She also reviewed the reunion parade of former and present soldiers and took salute.

## Contempt hearing against bureaucrats adjourned

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday once again adjourned the hearing of a revised petition for drawing contempt proceedings against ten top order secretaries for impeding the implementation of its judgment on separation of judiciary.

As the quorum crisis of the court of the Appellate Division continued owing to sickness of a judge, the five-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain expressed its unwillingness to hear the long-pending contempt petition when the court resumed.

After brief submission made by Barrister MAMir-Ul Islam, counsel for the contempt petitioner, and Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali, who stood for the government, the court adjourned the hearing until April 2.

Earlier on February 22, the hearing was deferred until March 1 due to illness of another judge of the full court.

When the court resumed at 9:33am, the attorney general submitted a copy of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill-2006 placed in the parliament, seeking separation of judiciary from the executive with a provision for introducing separate executive and judicial magistracies.

After receiving the copy of the bill, the court interrupted the attorney general and asked him to place the latest initiatives taken by the government with regard to framing of rules on separation of judiciary.

As the attorney general kept mum on the matter, the court asked Barrister Amir-Ul Islam to make his submission.

Barrister Amir submitted that the contempt petition against the top order secretaries might be taken up for hearing sans the full court, if it is considered as a partly heard case. But the court ruled out his submission and adjourned the hearing till April 2.

## Barisal BNP men sue Prothom Alo, Jugantor editors, publishers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Banaripara upazila BNP leaders have lodged two cases against the editors, publishers and reporters of the Prothom Alo and the Jugantor for publishing reports on Whip Shahidul Huq Jamal filling a pond for the construction of a house.

Banaripara BNP Secretary Mir Shahidul Islam and Vice-President Attaf Hossain Mofakkhan filed the cases on Tuesday night against Prothom Alo Editor Maitur Rahman, Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Barisal bureau chief Towfiq Maruf and Jugantor Editor Abed Khan, Publisher Salma Islam and Barisal bureau chief Akter Faruk Shahin.

In their complaints, the BNP leaders said the reports published in the two newspapers are false, fictitious and exaggerated. As the Whip had no property in his own name in Banaripara municipal area, he can never be accused of filling any pond, they said.

The cases were filed with Banaripara Police Station under Sections 182, 420, 501, 502 and 505 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

## PSC report submitted to president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed asked for making the competitive civil service more dynamic and public service-oriented so qualified people can be recruited for government jobs.

He said the PSC members will have to perform their duties "with sincerity and honesty to select qualified BCS cadre and non-cadre candidates".

"Responsibilities of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) have increased" in the changed context, he said when Public Service Commission chairman Prof Dr Zinnatun Nesa Tahmid Begum handed over PSC report-2005 to him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The PSC report revealed the statistics on direct appointments, conducted by the commission in last few years, showing steadily increased number of the applicants for different posts.

It is stated in the report that the government has already approved examination reforms, proposed by the commission for updating the recruitment test to scientifically select "most qualified candidates" in Bangladesh Civil Service (Cadre-Non-cadre).

The new method was introduced from the 27th BCS examination, the report says.

M Mozammel Haque, Prof M Mahfuzur Rahman, Prof Abdur Rouf, Latif Rahman, Col (Honorary) Prof Mahmudur Rahman, Prof Dr M Ashraf Islam Chowdhury, Prof Dr M Nurul Islam, Mohammad Ashraf and Prof Dr KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondal, Secretary M Abdul Majid and Director AEM Nesaruddin were among the delegation members.



Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad (inset) waves at the supporters at a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday.

## Traffic jam worsens for JP rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the capital suffered from tremendous traffic jams from noon to late evening yesterday due to a Jatiya Party rally at Paltan Maidan.

A number of buses rented by the party to carry its rally participants from different parts of the city and elsewhere in the country were parked in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Secretariat, Bangabazar and Nayanpaltan causing difficulties for office workers returning home in the hot afternoon.

Traffic were congested for several hours at most parts of central Dhaka including Shahbagh, Press Club, Paltan, Motijheel, Kakrail and Nayanpaltan causing difficulties for office workers returning home in the hot afternoon.

The situation worsened when the rally participants marched towards Paltan from different parts of the city and the traffic police re-routed Motijheel, Sayedabad and Sadarghat-bound buses towards Kakrail from Matsya Bhawan and towards Gulistan from Paltan.

Many were seen walking on footpaths while many motorbike riders were also compelled to get on the footpaths to avoid delays on the streets.

"I got on a Syedabad-bound bus at Shahbagh at 4:00pm to go to Dainik Bangla, but the traffic police diverted the vehicle in front of the Directorate of Public Health and Engineering forcing it to go back towards Hotel Sheraton," said Suravi, a student.

She said she was compelled to get down near Minto Road and walked to Kakrail where she took a rickshaw to arrive at her destination. "A journey that usually takes no more than half an hour took about an hour and a half."

For Chaitanya Chandra, who is a lawyer at Metropolitan Magistrate Court, it was too long a journey to come to Farmgate from Gulistan. "It took more than an hour," he said.

## Barapukuria power plant halts trial production

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Barapukuria coal-fired power plant stopped operation on Tuesday night only 12 days after it went into trial production.

Sources at the plant however claimed its operation was suspended due to snapping of the national grid with it. One of the two units of plant was supplying 110-125 MW of power since February 16.

The 250 MW Chinese built plant's two units have equal production capacity. The fate of one unit is uncertain due to numerous technical faults.

Power Development Board officials yesterday said the plant would resume production 'tonight' (Wednesday night).

## Death anniversary



The first death anniversary of Begum Shama K Moinuddin will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the house of her daughter Farhana Ibrahim in Banani in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

## Qulkhwani of Prof Shamsul Huq tomorrow

Bss, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of eminent educationist and National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq

will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at his residence "Rima," 10, Eskaton Garden in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

## Jahanara Begum



Qulkhwani of Jahanara Begum, wife of Dr T Hossain, will be held at 6:00pm today at 56/C, Road-11, Banani in the city, says a press release.

She passed away due to old age ailments on February 27 at the age of 78.

She is survived by one son and four daughters.

## 4 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

A leader of Jubo Mahila League yesterday filed an attempted murder case against Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner, additional DMP commissioner, deputy commissioner, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Paltan Police Station and 22 others.

Advocate Fazilatunnesa alias Bappi, joint secretary of Bangladesh Jubo Mahila League, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

The accused are DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman, additional DMP Commissioner Faruque Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner Mazharul Islam, OC Abdur Razzak, Sub-Inspector (SI) Shahana and four unknown SI's, two unknown ASIs and 15 constables.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohammad Mujibul Haque recorded statement of the complainant and ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter.

In her complaint, Bappi mentioned that she along with 70 to 80 activists and supporters of Jubo Mahila League at a peaceful political programme called by the 14-party alliance at Purana Paltan at around 10:30am on February 15. But the accused SI Shahana along with her forces beat the complainant and other activists mercilessly without any provocation, the complainant said.

The OC ordered his forces to kill the complainant and others as there was an order from the high authorities.

"There will be no harm if you beat two or one of them to death," Bappi added.

The complainant then admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for treatment. After her recovery from illness, Bappi came to know that the DMP commissioner along with additional DMP commissioner, DC and other high police officials held a meeting and briefed them not to allow the leaders and activists of Jubo Mahila League to hold any political activity in the city street on February 15, Bappi said.

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He left behind three sons and a daughter.

His qulkhwani will be held tomorrow at his village home.



Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad holds rally in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding publication of gazette of 40 percent dearness allowance declared by the 6th Wage Board.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Blue for Peace

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: Street in front of Manchala, Dhamondi. Time: 4:00pm.

### Rotary meet

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar will be held. Venue: Aashiana Restaurant, Panthapath. Time: 6:00pm.

## Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, and Sylhet Divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said predicting dry day temperature.

Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majidee Court and lowest 17.5 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:19am 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	32.4	22.8	75	51
Chittagong	30.8	22.0	88	83
Rajshahi	32.0	18.8	44	40
Khulna	31.5	20.6	75	61
Barisal	32.3	22.0	95	80
Sylhet				