

Govt determined to build up efficient armed forces

President tells certificate giving ceremony of graduating officers

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said the government, despite limited resources, is determined to modernise and build up efficient and strong armed forces through better training and regular field level education.

Addressing the certificate awarding ceremony of the graduating officers of Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur, he said obtaining a PSC degree from this renowned institution is a matter of pride for any member of armed forces.

The president termed the armed forces as the symbol of national independence and sovereignty.

He said alongside discharging the noble responsibility of protecting

Rajuk demolishes over dozen structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk bulldozers yesterday demolished different parts of many buildings at Gulshan area for not having spaces for car parking, not leaving enough space for footpath or encroaching government land.

The drive started from the eastern part of Gulshan Avenue (opposite to Gulshan Police Station) and continued up to Shoppers World (near Gulshan Circle) where they demolished more than a dozen of establishments partially.

The establishments that faced partial demolition are Shoppers World, Asparagus, Thai House, Delvista (rented to Grameen Phone), Standard Chartered Bank, South-East Bank, Prime Bank, Moli Capital Centre and Kumudini.

Rajuk authorities also gave ultimatum to owners of four buildings to remove the illegal warehouses and other establishments in parking area underground within 24 hours. The owner had to give undertaking to remove them by themselves. Rajuk authorities will take stern actions if they fail to do so after 24 hours.

No gas supply to Ctg Power Station for 48 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There will be no supply of gas to Chittagong Power Station for next 48 hours beginning from Thursday's midnight (February 23) as gas production will remain suspended temporarily at Sangu Gas Field for digging a new well, said a press release of Bangladesh Power Development Board.

As a result, power generation at Chittagong (Rauzan) Power Station and Sylhet and Shikhalba Power Station will remain stopped totally during the period.

The overall load shedding will increase across the country today and tomorrow due to less power generation owing to shortage of gas supply, the release added.

DHAKA TODAY

Book launch

Jatiya Sahitya Prakashani will launch 'Grameen Bank O Dr Yunus' by Sarwar Amin. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Bird festival

National Committee of Pakhi Baran Utsab organises a bird festival. Venue: Mirpur Zoo Lake. Time: 9:00am.

Art competition

Education Watch Bangladesh organises an art competition to mark the Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day. Venue: Public Library Seminar Room. Time: 10:00am.

Launching ceremony

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) launches 'Issues of contemporary politics' by Ambassador Kazi Anwarul Masud. Venue: BILIA auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion

Agamee Prakashani and Association of Law Watch will hold a discussion on the book titled 'Ekatorer 71' by Ajay Dasgupta. Venue: Room no. 129, Science Annex Building, Dhaka University. Time: 5:00pm.

Doa mahfil

BSS, Dhaka

A doa mahfil for Sirajul Hossain Khan, former cabinet minister and renowned journalist, will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Sirajul Hossain Khan breathed his last on February 17 and was laid to rest at his village home in Habiganj district.

sovereignty, the members of "our patriotic armed forces are also making significant contributions" in the fields of tackling natural disasters, construction of infrastructures, socio-economic development, maintaining law and order, providing healthcare services and spreading education.

Iajuddin hoped that their positive roles in these areas would be expanded in future for the welfare of the people.

Later, president distributed certificates among the graduating students and officers.

Commandant of the College Major General Mohammad Abdul Munib gave a welcome address on the occasion.

ACCEPTANCE OF 4 RULES

SC decision on Feb 26

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday could not deliver its decision on government prayer for acceptance of the four rules along with the amended CrPC ordinance for separation of the judiciary from the executive due to quorum crisis, as one of the judges was reportedly indisposed.

The court, however, fixed February 26 to give its decision on acceptance of the four rules.

The government issued four rules and promulgated an ordinance amending the CrPC—the long-awaited legal instruments required

Street hawker succumbs to injuries in city

A hawker of New Market succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday evening.

Mohammad Liton, 30, a hawker who used to sell cosmetics on the footpath of New Market was injured on Wednesday noon following a feud with the other hawkers regarding possession of footpath.

The rivals hit him indiscriminately by his head with sticks and left him critically injured. Locals rushed him to DMCH where he breathed his last yesterday.

The hour-long admission test will begin at 10:00am where a total of 236302 students will vie for 113240 seats of 173 honours colleges under National University. A total of 94 examination centres have been earmarked for the purpose.

Fake fan factory unearthed, 10 held

STAR REPORT

A mobile court yesterday unearthed a fake fan factory in the city which was marketing their fans under the name of a famous brand Tongi National Fans.

The court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Rokon-ud-Doula raided the factory at Mir Hajirbagh and arrested 10 employees.

The court also issued a warrant against the owner Amir Hossain and the manager of the factory.

Meanwhile, a mobile court in Chittagong yesterday fined the owners of a cement factory, an illegal polythene factory and 17 vehicles around Tk 1 lakh 25 thousand.

Our Faridpur correspondent adds: A trader at Boalmari upazila has dumped a huge amount of rotten wheat in the Barasila river being afraid of the ongoing drive by the joint forces against the adulterated food.

Locals said owner of Raj flourmills Shyamol Kumar Saha threw a huge amount of rotten wheat into the river a few days back.

He said the authorities did not take any safety measure during unloading of gypsum from its own jetty at Patenga for carrying the items to the factory through trucks

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

It said night temperature may rise slightly over the country. Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 11.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 6:25am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
	Max	Min		
Dhaka	28.5	15.6	60	43
Chittagong	29.9	15.9	61	59
Rajshahi	27.9	12.8	72	55
Khulna	27.6	14.0	78	66
Barisal	28.8	13.3	69	64
Sylhet	30.0	15.5	58	60
Cox's Bazar	29.1	15.5	62	54

310 firearms seized in one month

Says DemocracyWatch

Members of different law enforcement agencies recovered a total of 310 illegal firearms, 4030 rounds ammunition, 207 hand grenades, 32 cocktails, 130 cartridges, 34 locally-made arms and huge explosives from different parts of the country in last one month, said a press release of DemocracyWatch, a human rights organisation.

Of them, 27 firearms, 28 grenades, 22 cocktails and 1357 round bullets were recovered from Dhaka division, seven firearms, 25 hand grenades and nine round bullets from Rajshahi division, 17 firearms, 13 hand grenades and one round of bullet from Khulna division, two firearms, five hand grenades and three round bullets from Barisal division, 37 firearms, 11 hand grenades, 10 cocktails and 575 round bullets from Chittagong division and one firearms from Sylhet division.

The Election Observance Cell of DemocracyWatch has compiled the report on the basis of stories published in different national dailies from January 15 to February 15.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of marketing department of Dhaka University have appealed to all to make donations for the treatment of the father of a fellow student.

Nilip Kumar Biswas, father of Dipankar Kumar Biswas, has been suffering from liver cancer. He needs about Tk 15 lakh for his treatment but being an employee at the Judge's Court in Jhendia, he cannot afford such an expensive treatment.

The students of the 10th batch of DU marketing department have come forward to raise funds for his treatment. They appealed to all to extend a helping hand to save the life of the father of their fellow student.

Contributions can be sent to Dipankar Kumar Biswas, Savings Account No. 61395214, Sonali Bank, Dhaka University Campus Branch, or directly to the students.

Interested persons can also call at 01718225725, 01817110800 and 01914903095.

Obituary

Ohidul Haider Chowdhury, former chairman of Bangladesh Tanners' Association and eminent industrialist, passed away at his residence in the early hours of yesterday, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one daughter, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Hajirabagh Tannery Workers' Union President Abdul Kalam Azad and General Secretary Abdul Malek expressed deep shock at his death.

Jebunnesa Ahmed

Jebunnesa Ahmed, youngest daughter of poet Kakkabod, passed away at her R K Mission Road residence in the city on Wednesday at the age of 101, says a press release.

She left behind four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at Azimpur graveyard (new).

Her qulkhani will be held at her residence tomorrow.

Death anniversary

Today is the 30th death anniversary of former Naval Officer Lt. AM Ataul Haque, says a press release.

He was acting Chief of Bangladesh Navy until April, 1972.

Ataul Haque, also a freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on February 23 in 1977 at the Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Chehulum

Chehulum of late Lutunnahar Motijheel, lecturer of Department of Food and Nutrition of Dhaka University and wife of former secretary of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation Mia Mohammad Golam Kibria, will be held today.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her residence at Rangs Barnali, Apartment-C1, Road-140, house-1 at Gulshan-1 after Juma prayers.

Dilruba Chowdhury

Chehulum of Dilruba Chowdhury, wife of retired government official Golam Masmud Chowdhury, will be held at her

123 New Eskaton residence after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Dilruba passed away due to a cardiac arrest on January 16 at the age of 54.



PHOTO: AL
US Congressman Steve Chabot calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, left, at her Sudha Sadan residence and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, right, at her Banani office in the city yesterday. US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis was present at the meetings.

Yunus' letter

FROM PAGE 1

to keep up with the incessant flow of mails, emails, fax and sms that you have sent to me after reading my letter in the newspapers. Your letters are continuing to flood in. The replies ranged from the people in remote villages of Bangladesh to the enthusiastic expatriates.

I have received many valuable advices through your letters. I thank you from the depth of my heart. I express my gratitude to you. I also thank those who have asked me not to join politics out of their love for me.

To them, I only have to say that only Allah can give us respect.

If one wants respect, that person should earn it himself or herself. I want to go ahead with what I think is my duty. Overall, the message that you have clearly articulated to me, is that people from all walks of life want to go forward with me with a wish to bring widespread changes. I have no way to disappoint them.

I AM JOINING POLITICS WITH YOUR ADVICE

In light of your enthusiasm, I have decided to take part in your efforts for creating a new politics. I will join politics and establish a new party.

Please pray, so that I can fulfill your wishes and so that Allah's blessings are with me, as always.

The foundation of my new party will gradually build up through the same consultative process I have used to come to this decision.

I have received many proposals regarding the name of the party and have decided on proposing the name 'Nagorik Shakti' (Citizens' Power) to constantly remind the people of the creation of a new politics through unleashing the hidden power among all citizens.

In short, we can use 'Shakti' for promoting the party. We want to establish our beloved country among the frontier countries with the slogan 'March ahead, Bangladesh.'

We want the central motto to be the pledge being echoed inside each proud citizen today: 'We Can.'

I have expressed on several occasions my ideas and opinions on the objectives and programmes the party requires to build a new Bangladesh.</p