

CA ask SSF to carry out duties efficiently

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday asked the members of the Special Security Force (SSF) to carry out their duties with utmost efficiency maintaining professionalism to face the challenges in the coming days.

The chief adviser made the call at a Darbar of the SSF at the International Conference Centre (ICC) marking the 21st founding anniversary of the organisation that provides security to the VVIPs.

Formed in June 1986 as Presidential Security Force (PSF), it was turned into Special Security Force (SSF) in 1991 to provide security to the head of the state and head of the government as well as the visiting heads of state or government.

"In national, regional and international perspective, presently the responsibility of the security forces is gradually becoming more challenging. Officials of SSF are facing

this challenge by their professional knowledge, working skill, experience, and overall imbued with patriotism," the chief adviser told the Darbar attended by the members of all tiers of SSF.

Farsightedness, labour, merit and sincerity of their predecessors remain behind the success of the SSF, he said, adding that as competent successors, the members of the SSF are now discharging their responsibilities with sincerity.

Fakhruddin said ensuring security to the VVIPs is a very sensitive and complex responsibility. Total loyalty, firmness of character, sense of discipline, intelligence and tolerance are necessary to carry out this duty properly.

"Besides ensuring foolproof security, you'll have to remain alert and be prepared to face any unexpected situation," he told the SSF members, wishing further success of the security force.

He also urged them to be careful

so that people are not subjected to any unnecessary harassment while providing security and also ensure that public inconveniences are minimal.

The chief adviser appreciated the performance of the force in providing security to the VVIPs since 1986, saying that they have already set an example of skill and specialisation in this field.

He said he was happy to learn that operational activities, administrative and organisational structure and training programmes of the SSF are well-planned and realistic, and the training they provide to members of other forces on security is also praiseworthy.

The CA said timely application of technology and using modern security device and equipment have brought modernisation in the activities of SSF.

Director General of SSF Major General Sheikh Monirul Islam also spoke on the occasion.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at a function at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday marking the 21st founding anniversary of the Special Security Force (SSF).

Sheikh Helal's son-in-law refutes report

Former Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Helaluddin's son-in-law Andalieve Rahman in a statement yesterday said he had never collected any rent from the two flats that businessman Noor Ali claimed to have given to Helal.

Andalieve issued the statement as several newspapers, including The Daily Star, quoting Aminul Islam, manager of the apartment building housing the two flats at Baridhara, reported that Helal's son-in-law used to collect rents from the tenants.

Andalieve also said that he is in no way connected with any financial dealings of his father-in-law Sheikh Helaluddin.

Abducted six-yr-old girl found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-year-old girl who was abducted from her house at Shyampur in the city on June 11 was found dead on Friday night.

On receiving information, the police recovered the decomposed body of Arifa Akter from a water body in the area at around 9:00pm.

Arifa, daughter of Alamgir Hossain and Jasmine Begum, had been missing since June 11. Her mother was not at home when the abductors picked her up from her house at Commissioner Road.

On June 12, Jasmine Begum filed an abduction case against four people, including her second husband Russell, a scrap metal trader, who has been at large since the

abduction.

Police arrested two accused -- Mustafa and Sajib -- but the other accused, Uzzal, went into hiding.

Jasmine said Russell married her after she got divorced from her first husband Alamgir two and a half years ago and that she had two children from her first husband.

But her relationship with Russell turned sour soon after their marriage as he started to force Jasmine to abandon her children, she said.

In the face of continuous pressure, Jasmine had to send her son to his uncle's house one and a half years ago but kept the girl with her.

She said Russell had been threatening to kill her daughter for the last one month.

Lawyers concerned over ban on Hasina's US visit

Sixty-one lawyers of Supreme Court have expressed their grave concern over putting restriction on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's going to the United States to see her expectant daughter.

In a joint statement yesterday, they demanded immediate withdrawal of the restriction by letting her go to the USA.

Terming the government stance 'totally inhuman', the statement said this is tantamount to snatching away a citizen's right.

The last moment decision of the government has created confusion and disappointment among people, said the lawyers.

They said the cases have been filed 'just to harass and undermine' Sheikh Hasina before people.

The signatories to the statement include Shafique Ahmed, KS Nabi, Mahbubey Alam, Khandkar Mahbub Hossain, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Abdul Hamid, M Rahmat Ali, Shahara Khatun, Abdul Matin Khasru, AFM Mesbahuddin, Montazuddin Ahmed, Shamsul Huda, AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, Abdul Mannan Khan and Subrata Chowdhury.

Meanwhile, a total of 100 mothers have urged the authorities concerned to permit Hasina to see her pregnant daughter.

In a statement, they said the government decision of not letting her to go abroad is inhuman and unconstitutional.

Rajshahi trader stabbed to death

RU CORRESPONDENT

A vegetable trader was stabbed to death at Godagari of Rajshahi on Friday evening.

The dead was identified as Nazmul Haque Nazu, 25, son of Asad Ali, of Matherpur village under Godagari municipal.

Sources said Matherpur villagers found a body in front of a filling station two kilometres from Nazu's house and informed Godagari police.

Police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

They sent the body to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Nazu might have been killed due to business dispute, police sources said.

Take steps to ease session jam

Akij Institute students urge edn adviser

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Akij Institute of Technology, Rajshahi, yesterday urged the education adviser and the National University authorities to take steps to ease session jam at their institute.

They said they are worried as their scheduled six-month semester takes 11 months.

They made the appeal at a press conference at the office of their institute.

They said they enrolled in computer science department of Akij Institute of Technology under National University (NU) and completed two semesters that took 22 months.

They said the course duration is four years and is divided into eight semesters, expressing anxiety and doubt that their courses will take eight years to finish if things go this way.

They urged the education adviser and NU vice chancellor to take pragmatic steps to reduce the huge session jam.

Mehedi Hasan, Abdur Rakib Khan, Smriti Sultana, Zannatul Ferdous, Abdur Rashid Khan and Moyjul Leon, all students of the institute, were present at the press conference.

The institute's Principal Shamsuddin Ahmed and course-in-charge Abul Eshan were also present in the press conference and expressed empathy with the students saying 'We have nothing to do to improve the situation if the National University does not take steps to expedite the publication of results and take other measures'.

Raise awareness to prevent TB

Speakers tell media at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the mass media to step up efforts to raise awareness among people about tuberculosis (TB).

They also called for coordinated efforts between the government and non-government organisations to reduce the prevalence of the disease.

The Shaptahik 2000 and Brac jointly organised the roundtable titled 'The present context of the fight against TB: The role of mass media' at the National Press Club.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dr Mahfuza Rifat, programme specialist of Brac Health Programme, said around 50 percent of adult population are infected with TB and over three lakh people fall victim to the disease every year.

Bangladesh ranks sixth on the list of 22 high burden countries in the world, she added.

Reducing the prevalence of TB and the number of deaths from the disease by 2015 is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which can be achieved by reinforcing the awareness campaign through the media, she said.

Dr Mahfuza also called on the print media to do detailed follow-up reporting on TB with emphasis on its treatment.

Brig Gen (retd) Dr MA Malik, former adviser to the caretaker

government, said poor people are more vulnerable to TB and it infects not only lungs but also other parts of human body.

He urged the mass media to report on the importance of taking medicine regularly up to six months to prevent Multi-Drug Resistance (MDR) TB.

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, project coordinator of Gonoshasthya Nagar Hospital, pointed out that the preva-

lence of TB is severe among the poor because they migrate frequently from one place to another, thereby failing to continue their treatment.

Terming TB a 'social disease', Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique laid emphasis on the dissemination of information in proper way in order to prevent the disease.

Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association, GM Kader, former

lawmaker of Jatiya Party, Dr Robaet Ferdous, assistant professor of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka, Afsan Chowdhury, director of Brac Advocacy and Human Rights Unit, also spoke at the roundtable moderated by Golam Mortuza, acting editor of the Shaptahik 2000.



Brig Gen (retd) Dr MA Malik, former adviser to the caretaker government, speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Afsan Chowdhury and Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury and on his left is GM Kader.

Ensure enrolment of slum dwellers in voter list

EC urged at a discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) to ensure that the slum dwellers are enlisted in the voter list and they can exercise their franchise without any intimidation during the general election.

They said leaders and activists of different political parties try to influence the process of preparing voter list, while the women are prevented from being included in the voter list due to religious superstitions.

The discussion on 'Ensuring the voting rights of slum dwellers' was organised by Dhaka Development Forum (DDF) in association with Steps Towards Development at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

"All impediments should be removed to ensure democratic

rights of slum dwellers," said M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to caretaker government.

He said slum dwellers should be enlisted in the voter roll although many of them do not have holding numbers.

To overcome the problem, Hafizuddin suggested that arrangements could be made in such a way that they will vote at the centres which were used as the centre of preparing voter list.

He said voter ID card is a time-consuming and complicated process, which is why the EC should prepare only voter list with photographs. The slum dwellers and the NGOs working with them could approach the EC with such recommendations, he added.

In his keynote presentation Prothom Alo Special Correspondent

Arun Karmakar said enlistment of women members of the slums is hampered due to superstitions and religious beliefs, but they were abused in casting fake votes in the elections.

"This damages public confidence in total voting process," he said, adding that awareness campaign in slum areas therefore should be strengthened.

The NGOs working on slums can also play role in this regard, he noted.

There might be an understanding between the EC and the NGOs on the matter, Arun said, suggesting that the authorities should be careful so that nobody could influence the slum women.

The slum owners or male members of the slums could also play important role in this regard, he

added.

Step Towards Development Executive Director Ranjan Karmakar said the voting rights of slum dwellers should be ensured effectively because this right is linked to their human rights as well.

"The political parties always abused these people, but never thought to ensure their fundamental rights," he added.

Fatema Yusuf of Centre for Policy Dialogue said introduction of ID cards for the voters will solve many problems.

DCC official Khandker Millatul Islam, Ward Commissioner Nasima Mannan, and Abdur Rashid of Slum Rights Protection Committee also spoke at the discussion moderated by DDF Chairman Dr Mahmudur Rahman.



M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to caretaker government, addresses a discussion at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Fatema Yusuf and on his right are Khandker Millatul Islam and Nasima Mannan.