



PHOTO: ISPR  
Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman awarding 'Mofiz Trophy' to Squadron Leader Ashfaqur Rahman Khan for his best performance in No. 38 FICourse in Bogra yesterday.

## Flying instructors should always be alert

Air chief tells student-officers

The Certificate Award Ceremony of No 38 Flying Instructors' Course of Bangladesh Air Force was held at BAF Flying Instructors' School in Bogra yesterday, says an ISPR release.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman attended the ceremony as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the student-officers.

Squadron Leader Ashfaqur Rahman Khan was adjudged the best all-round student-officer and was awarded with the 'Mofiz Trophy'.

Five officers from Bangladesh Air Force attended the course.

Speaking to the student-officers on the occasion, Chief of Air Staff

said that flying instructors should always be alert to set the correct examples before their students through their conduct, behaviour and personal examples. Dedicated flying instructors should be capable of imparting instruction and guidance with patience and proficiency, he said. Quality training is an important step in attaining credible operational capability, he added.

Principal Staff Officers of Air Headquarters, General Officer Commanding of 11 Infantry Division Major General Mohammad Shamim Chowdhury and senior BAF officers were present on the occasion.

## Japan's pullout of Afghan mission 'unthinkable': PM

AFP, Tokyo

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda pleaded yesterday with parliament to extend Japan's support for the US-led "war on terror" but a fresh defence scandal provided new ammunition for the opposition.

Fukuda has made renewing the Indian Ocean naval mission, which offers fuel to US-led forces in Afghanistan, his top priority.

The hugely controversial operation partly led his predecessor to quit office because of his failure to extend its deadline, which expires November 1.

"Is it plausible for Japan to drop out of the refuelling mission when other countries are cooperating patiently in Afghanistan and even sacrificing lives?" Fukuda asked a parliamentary committee as it started debating a bill to extend the deployment.

## Japan tells Russia no threat from missile shield

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's foreign minister told Russia yesterday that Tokyo would not back down on a missile shield it is building with the United States and assured him that Moscow was not the target.

"Japan's missile defences are aimed only at protecting the country with a shield. It's not a means to attack other countries," Masahiko Komura told a joint news confer-

ence with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

"This is a policy suited to Japan, whose priority is self-defence," he said. "Japan will continue this policy in cooperation with the United States."

"And I would like to add that this policy is not in the least assuming a possible future attack from Russia." Lavrov, speaking ahead of his one-day visit, had accused

Washington and Tokyo of seeking "military superiority" through missile defences in Japan.

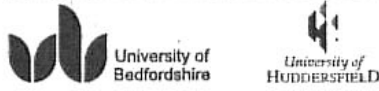
Washington and Tokyo started building the missile shield in 1998 after North Korea fired a missile over Japan's main island into the Pacific Ocean.

Japan, which has been officially pacifist since World War II, is protected by the United States under a security treaty.

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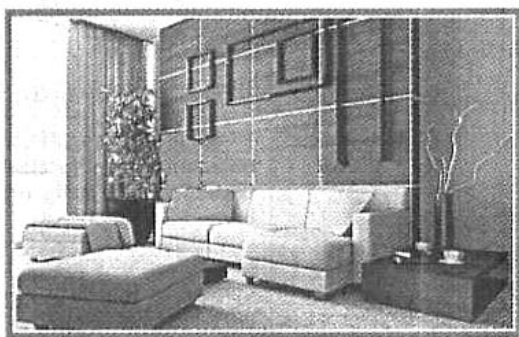
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