

Army chief seeks president's support in discharging duties

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and discussed various matters of the force, including the ongoing relief activities for the cyclone-stricken people.

A release from the president house said the army chief apprised the president, also the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces, of the ongoing relief operations and rehabilitation activities in the cyclone-hit areas by the Bangladesh Army.

General Moeen also informed the president about various issues relating to the army.

"He sought continuous support and cooperation from the president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces in discharging his duties," said the release.

Iajuddin gave General Moeen assured him of all cooperation.

The president thanked army for their wholehearted and sincere cooperation and active participation in helping and rescuing the cyclone-affected people.

He also thanked the Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force, civil administration and all concerned who are engaged in rehabilitation and relief activities in the cyclone-affected areas.

Military Secretary to the President Major General M Aminul Karim and Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present on the occasion.

St Gregory's High School to celebrate 125th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

St. Gregory's High School, one of the oldest and renowned schools in the country, will celebrate its 125th founding anniversary with a two-day programme beginning December 13.

The new building of the school will also be inaugurated on the occasion, the organisers said at a press conference at the National Press Club.

The school authorities will also take out a colourful procession at 8:00am tomorrow from the school premises at Luxmibazar in the city to mark the founding anniversary. The procession will end at the National Press Club.

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, an alumnus of the institution, will inaugurate the two-day celebrations on the school premises in the city on December 13.

Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, former president A Q M Badrul doza a Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Brac University Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir -- all former students of the school -- are expected to attend the anniversary programmes.

Sports and games, cultural functions and a fair will also be held on the first day.

AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will inaugurate the new building of the school at 5:30pm on the day.

Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury will address the closing session on December 14 as the chief guest.

The Daily Star, Channel i and Radio Today are the media partners of the event.

Brother Robi Purification, headmaster of St. Gregory's High School, is present at the press conference at the National Press Club.

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Brother Robi Purification, headmaster of the school, and AKM Shamsul Azam, co-chairman of the anniversary organising committee, were present at the press briefing.

Sherpur health complex doctor held in rape case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Sherpur police arrested a medical officer of Sherpur Upazila Health Complex on Tuesday evening for his alleged involvement in a rape case.

Police said Dr Shahadat Hossain Arun, 28, son of Ebarat Ali, raped a nine-year-old girl who used to work as a domestic help at his residence on November 28.

When the girl fell sick following the incident, Arun sent the girl back to her residence after providing some treatment at the hospital.

But when the condition of the girl deteriorated on Tuesday afternoon, she told her parents about the incident. Her parents rushed her to Dhunat Upazila Health Complex.

On information, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of Dhunat Police Station (PS) informed the matter to Sherpur PS.

Arun was arrested that evening and was sent to jail yesterday morning.

However, Arun denied the allegation and said that the case is ill-motivated.

Meanwhile, there is a rumour that the case could be settled down in exchange for money.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam addresses a workshop at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right is Justice KM Sobhan and her left is Bela Nabi.

CNG AUTORICKSHAW 10-day CMP ultimatum to owners, drivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday issued a ten-day ultimatum for installation and repair of meters in every CNG-run autorickshaw plying the streets in the port city.

Deputy Commissioner (traffic) Mohammad Ali in a meeting said no CNG-run autorickshaws would be allowed to ply the city streets without meters from December 16. Law enforcers would take stern action against the drivers and owners who will fail to comply with the rules.

The announcement came from a meeting of the CMP Traffic department with deputy commissioner (traffic) in the chair.

Representatives from CNG autorickshaw drivers, owners, commuters, journalists and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) attended the meeting.

The meeting also decided to provide a price-chart, as per the adjusted price structure made by the government earlier in a gazette published on May 27, for the drivers who could not change the software in their existing meters.

Leaders of the owners' association urged the BRTA authorities to take steps to ensure the availability of meters and required parts in the market.

BRTA allowed only ten companies to sell and install meters in Chittagong but most of them are not running their business now, they alleged.

General secretary of Chittagong Autorickshaw Drivers' Association Md Nazrul Islam Sarker alleged that most of the owners compel the drivers to pay Tk 500 to Tk 800 violating the rule.

Due to such exorbitant daily payments realised by the owners, the drivers have no other way but to force the passengers pay extra fare without using the meters, Nazrul added.

DC (traffic) Mohammad Ali at the meeting urged the owners to take Tk 450 as daily payments from the drivers according to the government guideline in this regard.

BRTA Assistant Director Sheikh Attaullah Chowdhury, Chittagong Press Club General Secretary Ejaz Eusoufi, Dr Moinul Islam Mahmud, Engineer Subhas Barua, Assistant Commissioner (AC) (traffic) Tofayel Ahmed Miah and leaders of the owners' association Delwar Hossain and Abul Bashar Mia were present at the meeting.

The tariff offers made by Green Power and Energy Prima range between \$15.9 per kilowatt a month and \$19.75 while the offers of Alstom and Aggreko range between \$21.7 and \$27. "The wide difference is too suspicious to ignore," a source said.

Energy Prima appears to be the lowest bidder in Shajibazar 50MW, Kumargaon 50MW, Bogra 20MW and Fenchuganj 50MW tenders.

Aggreko International Projects Ltd, Singapore appears to be the lowest bidder in Khulna 40MW and Alstom Power Rental, USA in Bheramara 20MW.

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Energy Prima's notarised consortium agreement for the bid states, "The consortium of the parties shall be named as Energy Prima which will be duly incorporated under the Companies Act of Bangladesh upon its being selected as the successful bidders by the Power Cell."

Neither Energy Prima, nor Green Power possessed any rental plants with three years' experience. Therefore, they used the "other arrangement" part of the criterion. This "other arrangement" came in the form of letters from a number of foreign companies.

Energy Prima produced a letter from one Cemar of Thailand stating that it has booked 50MW

Proshika distributes relief

GROSSANOMALIES

The Power Cell's bid qualification criterion specifically stated that the bidder shall have experience of rental plants of 20MW or higher capacity during the last three years.

The bidder will state the plant's location, capacity, owner, power purchaser and commissioning date.

The criterion further dictates that the bidder must have barge-

Each family receives six kgs of rice, one kg of lentil and one kg of salt. Besides, Tk 500 was distributed to each of the 44 Proshikha-affected group members.

Qazi Khaze Alam and Mahbub Alam, directors of Proshika, jointly inaugurated the distribution programme. Rayer Bazar High School managing committee member Nurul Hoque Nuru and other Proshikha officials were also present on the occasion.

Mentioning the huge gap between demand and supply in power generation in Bangladesh, Masayuki Inoue underscored the need for addressing both policy side and technical side in order to solve the critical power demand-supply gap.

Speaking at the programme, Dr Faizul Kabir Khan appreciated Japanese assistance in different sectors and stressed faster implementation of foreign development projects in Bangladesh.

Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima urged the authorities of the power sector to take prompt initiatives to enjoy the fruit of good and efficient management for a long time.

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Secretary for Power Dr Faizul Kabir Khan, Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue and Resident Representative of JICA Bangladesh Office Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima were present.

Japan International Cooperation Agency have been

implementing Total Quality Management (TQM) project since 2006, the organisers said.

It also aims at decreasing unscheduled shutdowns, sufficient utilisation of installed capacity, reduction of system loss and increase in sales/revenue, they added.

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