

Bangladeshi peacekeepers playing important role for global peace

Foreign adviser tells memorial meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been playing an important role in establishing global peace and restoring stability in conflict-ridden regions, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury said yesterday.

He was speaking at a meeting commemorating the fourth death anniversary of 15 Bangladeshi peacekeepers who were killed in an air crash in Benin in 2003.

"Our peacekeepers have taken up the peacekeeping mission as a challenge. We have turned the sacrifice into strength," he said.

Family members of the 15 peacekeepers were present at the meeting.

The foreign adviser said Bangladesh's peacekeeping record

has made the country the UN's first choice with regard to deployment of peacekeepers.

He said Bangladeshi peacekeepers have risen to a 'position of prestige' in the international community by becoming the second largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping mission. Bangladesh currently has 9831 peacekeepers in 13 missions across the globe.

Seventy-nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers have died so far while serving in the UN mission. The country has provided more than 62,000 peacekeepers to UN missions.

Iftekhar said Bangladeshi peacekeepers from the army, navy, air force and the police have never retreated in the face of danger

when confronted with 'unknown enemies on foreign soil'.

"In recognition of our peacekeeping activities, Bangladesh has been made a member of the Organisational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission," he added.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain presided over the meeting organised by Rhythm Cultural Society. Dr Kamal said the human rights are one of Bangladesh's founding principles and that means the country's soldiers would always fight for human rights and justice elsewhere in the world. A World Peace Memorial is currently being built by the government, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

Underprivileged children should get all sorts of facilities

Says LGRD adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal yesterday said it is our moral responsibility to help children grow up as worthy citizens of the country.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the five-day 'Education and pleasure trip camp' of Galkhali Deaf and Dumb School in Khulna as the chief guest.

The adviser said that underprivileged children should be provided with all sorts of facilities so that they can be made aware of the country's history, culture and heritage.

He added that the caretaker government had taken different programmes for the welfare of women and children.

Organised by Khulna unit of Women and Children Development Committee, the inaugural function was presided over by its Chairman Sharif Ahmed.

Khulna City Corporation acting Mayor Moniruzzaman Moni, DIG of Khulna Range Asaduzzaman Mian, Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mainur Rahman Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Khulna SM Firoze Alam and Khulna Police Super YM Belalur Rahman also spoke.

BTV ENGLISH DEBATE Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College becomes champion

Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College team became champion while Scholastica runner-up in the 7th National Television English Parliamentary Debate Competition, says a press release.

The final debate was held at BTV auditorium at Rampura recently.

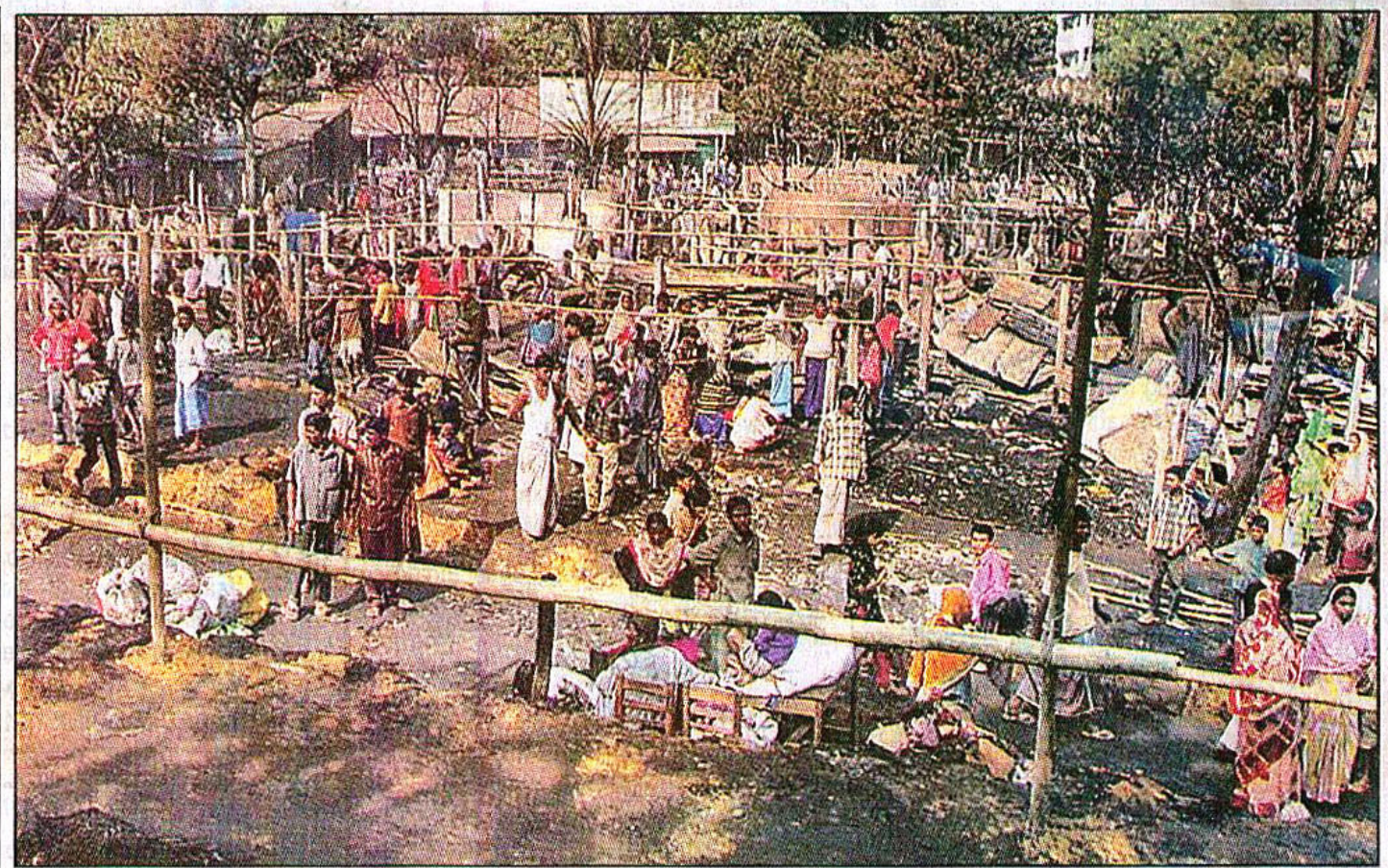
The topic was 'Only change of values can reduce violence against women'.

The members of the champion team were Cadet Tasmia, Cadet Sumaiya and Cadet Lubjana, while runner-up team included Wazid Al Rahman, Nedib Rahman and Samiul Karim.

A total of 26 best schools of the country including International School Dhaka (ISD), Green Herald International School, Manarat International School, Sun Beams School, Maple Leaf International School, Aga Khan School, Bangladesh International Tutorial and Sunshine Grammar School of Chittagong took part in this debate competition which was telecast on BTV fortnightly.

Speaker of the competition was Prof Dr Arifa Rahman and adjudicators were Zohurul Alam NDC, Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman, Shabnam Silvia Khan, Taranum Afrin and Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon.

Chairman of the Debate for Democracy Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron was in-charge of the planning and direction of the competition.



Residents of Amin Jute Mills colony in Chittagong are now staying under the open sky as their shanties were gutted in a fire in the early hours of yesterday.

Theft of two Vishnu statues protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Mukti Council has strongly criticised the government for taking the decision to send archaeological artefacts to France ignoring the people's opinion and their protest.

In a statement yesterday, Mukti Council President Badruddin Umar and Secretary Fayzul Hakim also protested the theft of two Vishnu statues.

They demanded immediate cancellation of the decision to send the artefacts and punishment to the persons involved.

Otherwise, the government must take the responsibility for all these incidents, they added.

FFs were not honoured properly in last 36 yrs

Says air chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters are the best sons of the nation, but they were not honoured properly in the last 36 years since independence, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman said.

The present government has taken various steps to honour the freedom fighters properly, he said, adding that bodies of Birshreshtha Matir Rahman and Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman were brought back to home as part of those steps.

Besides, the government is considering to rebury all the seven Birshreshthas in a single compound, he added.

The air chief was speaking at a reunion of freedom fighters at Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology in the city on Monday.

Shaheed Muktiyoddha Smriti Foundation and Shanto-Mariam Foundation jointly organised the programme to mark the Victory Day and Eid-ul-Azha.

Founder-Chairman of both the foundation Md Enamul Kabir Shanto chaired the programme followed by a cultural function.

Freedom fighters and family members of martyred freedom fighters and vice chancellor and teachers of the university joined the reunion.

Bangladesh to return to democracy soon

Hopes Indian High Commissioner

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

India hopes that Bangladesh would return to democracy soon to reach the heights of success with correct leadership, said Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty yesterday.

"India is an example of how a country can reach the highest peak of success with correct guidance and leadership," he said, alluding that Bangladesh can follow the same route.

Pinak was speaking at a prize giving ceremony at Louhajang College in Munshiganj, the ancestral home of the envoy.

The high commissioner said India has always been by the side of Bangladesh, and this has been again demonstrated by its assistance for Sadr-victims.

He said no country has been or will be able to develop without the goal or target.

Indians believe that their country would become a world superpower soon by setting the right goals, he added.

Jugantor Editor Golam Sarwar and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed were present at the prize giving ceremony.

Shishu Kishore Ananda Mela

Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela will organise a drawing, reciting and science writing competition for the children, aged under 15, on January 2-4 in 2008 on the occasion of Shishu Kishore Ananda Mela, says a press release.

Applicant's name, father/mother's name, age, name of the institution, class and phone number have to be mentioned in the application form. Interested people are requested to dial 01712-628508 for more details.



Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a meeting commemorating the fourth death anniversary of 15 Bangladeshi peacekeepers who were killed in an air crash in Benin in 2003. Sitting from left are former secretary Syed Marghub Mushed and Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury. Rhythm Cultural Society organised the meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Road crashes kill 5, injure 26

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 26 injured in separate road accidents in Netrakona, Sirajganj and Chuadanga yesterday and on Monday.

Our Correspondent from Netrakona reports: Two people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents at Durgapur and Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

Police said a passer-by was killed when a Netrakona-bound truck from Mohanganj knocked down him at Rajur Bazar.

He was identified as Ijjat Ali, 65, of village Bahirchapra under Netrakona Sadar upazila.

The accident occurred when he was crossing the road at about 12:30 pm. He died on the spot.

A case was filed with Netrakona Police Station in this connection. Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee.

Another person was killed and 25 others were injured in a road accident on Durgapur-Netrakona Road at Shuknakori at about 10:00 am.

The dead was identified as Sujat Mia, 35, of village Gaokandia under Durgapur upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when the driver of a Netrakona-bound passenger bus lost his control over the steering and fell into a roadside ditch at Shuknakori.

The severely injured Ahmed Ali, Nitish Hajong, Maleka Akter, Shafik Mia, Khalek Mia and Anita Rani were sent to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital in critical condition.

Others were admitted to Durgapur Upazila Health Complex. Police seized the bus, but the driver fled away.

A case was filed with Durgapur Police Station in this connection.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: A woman was killed and her husband was injured seriously in a road accident on Dhaka-Natore highway at Soyadabad yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mahima Khatun, 32, wife of Sanowar Hossain of Rajapur village under Belkuchi upazila of the district.

The injured was admitted to Sirajganj sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred as the woman along with her husband was crossing the road at around 1:00 pm when a Natore-bound bus from Dhaka hit them.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station in this connection. BSS from Chuadanga reports: Two people were killed in separate road accidents in the district on

Monday, police said.

One of the dead was identified as Hatem Ali of Jibannagar upazila. Identity of other victim could not be known.

The accident occurred when a truck hit a motorcycle on Jibannagar-Jinnahnagar road near Teulia-Bardanga, leaving Hatem Ali dead on the spot.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to escape.

Meanwhile, an unidentified 60-year-old man died on the spot when a bus hit his bicycle from behind near Joyrampur Battala.

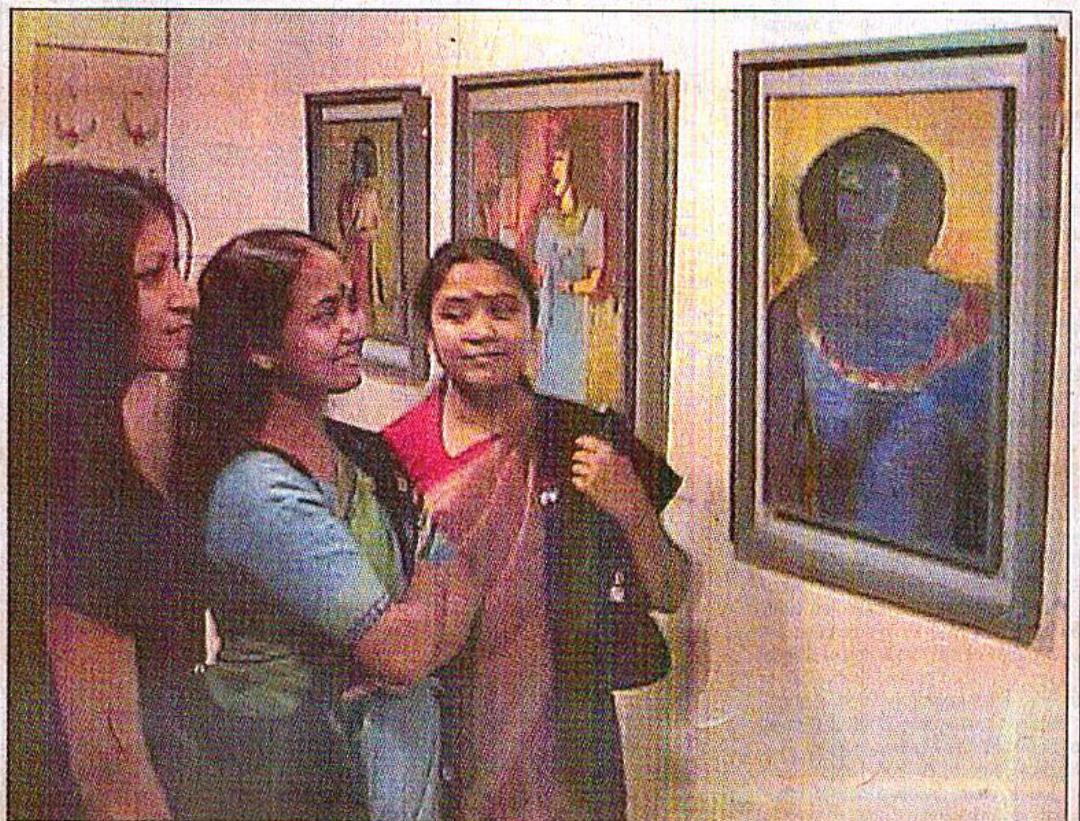
The driver managed to escape.

Ispahani Golden Ticket Offer

Sakander of Muradpur, Chittagong has won Tk 1 lakh in the Golden Ticket Offer, a promotional programme of Ispahani Tea, says a press release.

Wadud Ullah, director, MM Ispahani Ltd, handed over the prize to the winner at a ceremony recently. Golam Mostafa, GM, Tea State, MA Khan, senior manager, Sales and Marketing, and other officials of the company were present on the occasion.

Rafiqul Islam Biswash of Alukdia, Chuadanga has also won Tk 1 lakh in the programme while Hasan Al Maruf of Bahaddar Hat Bus Stand, Chittagong won gold coin.



A seven-day exhibition of artworks by Shaoli Hoque and Aadil Hoque began at Shilpangan Gallery in the city yesterday. The exhibition will remain open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm daily up to December 31.

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