

Cooperation between Indo-Bangla Armed Forces to improve further

President tells Indian NDC delegation

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday hoped that the cooperation between the Armed Forces of Bangladesh and India would improve further in the days to come.

"It's a matter of great satisfaction that both the Army Chiefs of Bangladesh and India recently visited each other's country reflecting a positive image of the two

Armed Forces," he said when a team of National Defence College (NDC) of India met him at Bangabhaban. Senior Director Staff Ashok Kumar Gupta led the visiting 16-member Indian NDC delegation.

Iajuddin welcomed the team and expressed his satisfaction at the existing friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries. He said both the countries have been maintaining a

cordial and friendly relationship since the independence of Bangladesh. "Good cooperation and exchange of training exist between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

Quite a good number of officers are receiving training in the two countries every year," he added.

He said both the Armies could share their experiences and information about disaster management as both the forces are reason-

ably well experienced in this field.

The Indian team expressed their deep gratitude to the president for giving the opportunity to meet him and extended their gratitude to the government and the people of Bangladesh for providing warm hospitality during their stay here.

Indian Acting High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mukta D Tomar was present on the occasion.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Major General Mohammad Ruhul Amin and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howledar were also present.

Passes Busy Day
Another report adds: The Indian delegation passed a busy day in the city yesterday.

The delegation, led by Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, called on Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam at Naval headquarters in the morning and discussed matters of professional interest, said an ISPR press release.

Later, the delegation called on Air Chief Air Marshal S M Ziaur Rahman at Air Headquarters and Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Md Abdul Mubeen at AFD.

Besides, they called on Chief of General Staff of Bangladesh Army Major Gen Sina Ibn Jamali at Army Headquarters.

The Indian NDC team arrived here on Sunday on a five-day visit.



A delegation of National Defence College (NDC) of India poses for photograph with President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.



Participants observe one minute's silence at a condolence meeting in memory of Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Literary works of Moniruzzaman to inspire young generation

Speakers tell condolence meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a citizens' condolence meeting on Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman said his poems and writings will be an inspiration for the young generation to boost up their patriotism.

The meeting was organised by Citizens' Committee on the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday to recall the contribution of the noted lyricist.

Prof Moniruzzaman of Bangla department at Dhaka University passed away at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the city on September 3 at the age of 72.

"His writings were an inspiration for the countrymen as well as will be an inspiration for the coming generations in boosting their love for the country," said writer Syed Shamsul Haque.

The country's literature arena has lost a jewel at the death of Prof Moniruzzaman, he said, adding that the country has been losing its great academicians in the past few months and another star was fallen with the death of the noted lyricist. "He was a poet of high standard and a superb lyricist."

Chairman of Bangla department Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, Bangla Academy Director General Syed Muhammad Shaded, DU Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Bangla department Profs Rafikul Islam and Rafikul Khan also spoke.

Prof Moniruzzaman was honoured with a number of awards, including Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Padak and Alaol Padak, for his contribution to Bangla language and literature.

INT'L LITERACY DAY OBSERVED EFA by 2015 not possible

Say community pry teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 8 lakh students awaiting to be dropped out of 3778 community primary schools, commitment of Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed to ensure primary education for all by 2015 is a farce, says a press release.

Criticising the CA, president and secretary of Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association (BCPTA) said leaving the huge number of students out of schools in remote areas, the programme cannot be successful by the time frame.

The CA was speaking at a function at Osmani Smriti Auditorium in the city yesterday to mark the International Literacy Day.

A total of 9984 teachers at 3778 community primary schools across the country are attending classes only for two hours from 9:30am to 11:30am. They are

hardly imparting education to protest their poor payment, the release added.

President Habibul Ahsan Bablu and Secretary Hafizur Rahman Khan in a statement said community teachers are bound to work even as day labourers and do such odd jobs to support their families amid ongoing price hike of essentials.

They demanded nationalisation of the community primary schools in a bid to ensure primary education for all by 2015.

BCPTA submitted memorandums to the concerned authorities of the government several times and staged a series of protest programmes to realise their demands, but the government turned a deaf ear to their demands, they said, adding that they have turned down the government move to increase their salary to Tk 1440 from Tk 1200.

Limited trade unionism an irony: SKOP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Olkya Parishad (SKOP) at a meeting have termed the government move to relax ban on the activities of trade union in a limited form an irony, says a press release.

Limited trade unionism is a glaring example of the violation of the internationally recognised basic human rights of the labourers, they added.

They demanded withdrawal of all embargoes on the activities of trade union. The SKOP leaders said it is not acceptable to the workers across the world, because it will serve the interests of the multinational companies. This trend is not healthy for developing good relations between the owners and workers.

All kinds of unionism, including CBA election and general meeting are run by the constitution of the union and the existing rules of the labour law, they said, adding that the decision of meeting with 100 to 500 chosen people is completely undemocratic and anti-constitution.

Central leader of SKOP Shah Mohammed Abu Zafar, Abdul Kader Hawlader, Roy Ramesh, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Dr Wazedul Islam, Choudhury Ashikul Alam, Shahidullah Choudhury, Rashiduzzaman Ratan and Habbibullah took part in the meeting with Abdul Masin Masin in the chair.

Release Teknaf mayor

Demand family members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of the detained Teknaf municipal mayor have demanded his release upholding a High Court (HC) verdict.

At a press conference at Reporters Unity in the city yesterday, Shaheen Akhter Chowdhury along with her four-year-old son Arman and six-year-old daughter Sumi said Teknaf municipal election was held on April 2, 2002 but her husband Abdur Rahman Bodi took oath as mayor after one year and three months on July 23 in 2003 when the Supreme Court passed an order in this regard.

She said during the immediate-past four-party alliance government her husband could not discharge his duty properly as former BNP lawmaker Shajahan Chowdhury with the help of his cadres used to collect tolls from the hats, bazaars and other establishments under the municipality.

Besides, Shajahan had harassed her husband by implicating him in false cases, she added.

Shaheen said her husband was granted an interim bail for three months by the HC on August 20 but on the following day another extortion case was filed against him by Teknaf police at the instigation of Shajahan and showed him arrested in the jail gate.

She said 11 cases had been filed against her husband on different charges by the cadres of Shajahan since the present government took over the charge.

Shajahan, his younger brother and Secretary of District Jamaat Shajalal Chowdhury, and another younger brother and Chairman of Okhia sadar union parnasad Shah Kamal Chowdhury, are involved in grabbing several shrimp enclosures, salt fields and became owners of over 12 flats and plots in Dhaka and Chittagong during the last four-party alliance government, but they remained untouched by the ongoing anti-corruption drive, she added.

Shaheen said when the 14-party grand alliance declared her husband as its candidate from Okhia-Teknaf constituency in the stalled parliamentary election scheduled on November 22, 2007, Shajahan being relative of a high-ranking army official set his people to destroy his rival politically by implicating him in false cases.

She said the present military-backed government took over charges on January 11, 2007 and Teknaf police being influenced by Shajahan arrested her husband four days after on January 15.

Cox's Bazar District AL Secretary Salaudin and President of Teknaf Upazila AL Alam Chowdhury were present at the press conference.

4 of a car-lifting ring held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested four members of a car-lifting ring and recovered a NOAH microbus, which was lifted on September 3 in the city, from their possession in Natore.

The arrestees were identified as HM Kabir, Rashidul Islam, Anisur Rahman and Mohammad Dauder.

DB personnel conducted a drive and recovered the theft microbus five days after the vehicle was lifted from Tejgaon in the city.

Wholesale bail to corrupt suspects frustrating

Gono Forum leaders say at meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum leaders yesterday said the nation is getting frustrated due to the "dubious" role of the government and the wholesale bail to the corrupt suspects granted by the High Court.

The central standing committee of the party said this after holding a meeting with its presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya at the party's central office at Motijheel in the city.

Criticising the government stance, the leaders said the anti-corruption drive launched after the 1/11 changeover is about to have proved a stark failure.

Though the prices of essentials in the international market have dropped significantly, no change in the local market is in sight. The government seems indifferent in this regard, they added.

The party demanded holding of the upazila and national elections according to the Election Commission roadmap and called on the people to boycott the war criminals in any political and social functions.

Gono Forum leaders Commander Abdur Rauf, Alraf Hossain, Abdur Rauf, Mohammad

Jamaluddin, Subrata Chowdhury, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, took part in the meeting.

BDR man commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Lance Nayek of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) committed suicide by hanging himself from a bathroom pipe at Pilkhana BRD Hospital in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shafiqul Alam, 35, son of Abdur Razzak of Bhoradoba village under Bhaluka upazila in Mymensingh.

Shafiqul was admitted to Pilkhana BRD Hospital on August 5. His present workstation is 30 Battalion at Panchari in Khagrachhari.

A police inquest report said Shafiqul hanged himself from the bathroom pipe of the hospital at around 8:00am yesterday.

His body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

HSC exam results tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations 2008 under seven education boards and Alim, Fazil, Kamil under Madrasa Education Board, and business management under Technical Education Board to be published tomorrow.

Examinees have to collect results from their respective educational institutions. No results will be made available at the education boards, education ministry or newspaper offices, sources at education board said.

Besides, examinees having Grameenphone, Banglalink, Aktel, Citycell and Teletalk connections may get the results through sending short message service (SMS).

To get the results, one has to type the first three letters of respective board (like Dhaka=DHA), give a space, type roll number and then send to 4636 or 2323.

Orientation on Japanese Dev Scholarship held

METRO DESK

An orientation session on Japanese Development Scholarship (JDS) for young government officials was held at PID conference room in the city yesterday, says a PID handout.

Japan International Cooperation Centre (JICE) Project Coordinator Rikako Suzuki and Senior Assistant Project Coordinator Shamim Faisal briefed about JDS programme in Bangladesh and the procedure for applying.

Presided over by Principal Information Officer (PIO) Iftekhar Husain, the session was attended by Senior Deputy Principal Information Officer (press) MA Halim.

Iftekhar said JICE-initiated briefing session will help the young government officials for undertaking studies in Japan.

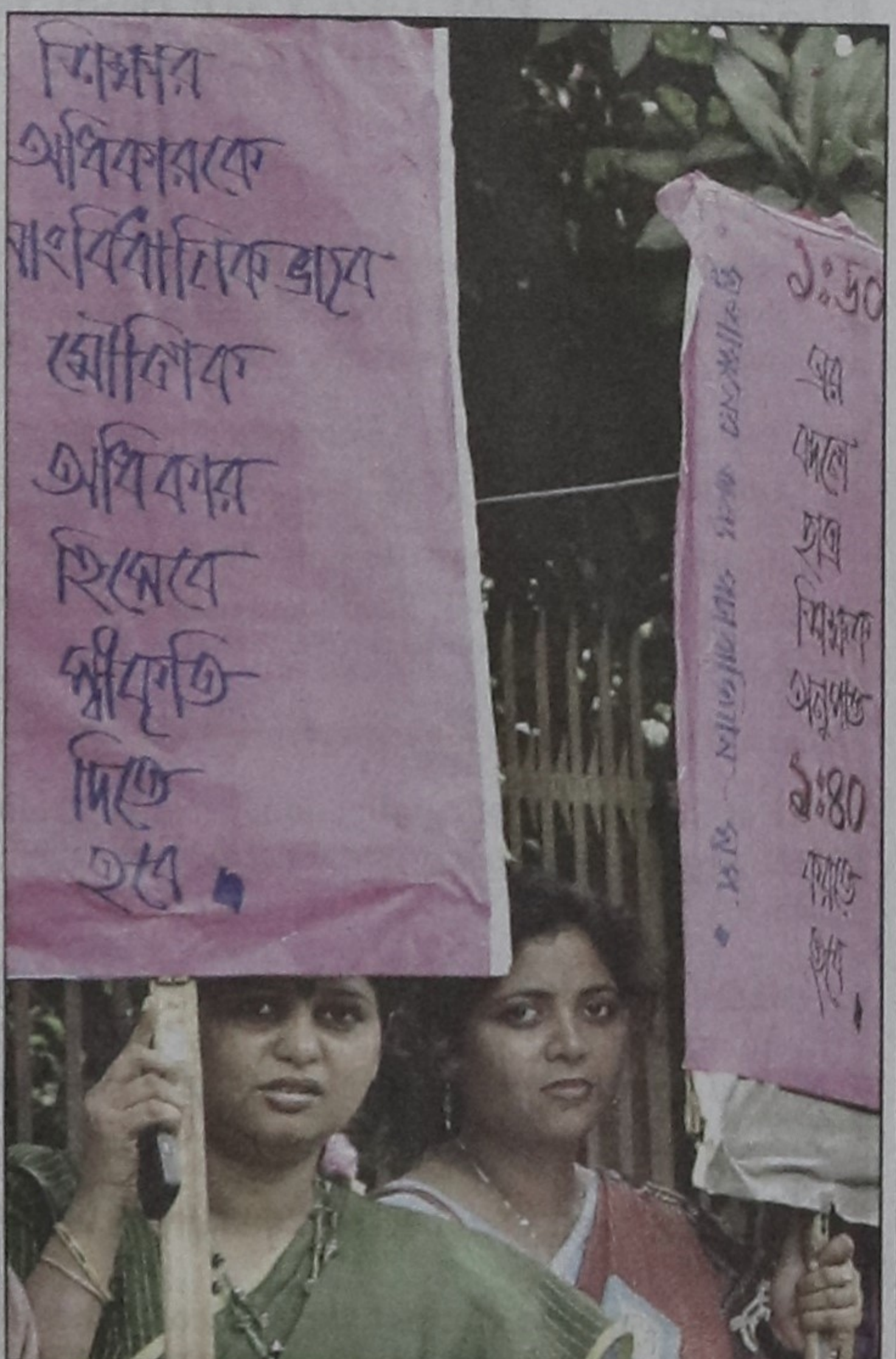
JDS provides master's course in Japan to support national efforts in achieving socio-economic development of Bangladesh. The governments of both the countries jointly introduced the scholarship in 2001. This is the 8th year of the project.

JDS aims at developing human resources targeting young potential leaders for social and economic development of the country and to expand and enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

This year 20 JDS fellows will be selected from young government officials of BCS cadre and Bangladesh Bank in four fields -- public administration, economics, international relations and environmental policy.

The last date for application is October 8.

Around 20 officials from information and other cadres attended the session.



Sushasaner Jonno Procharabijan (Supra) forms a human chain at Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday demanding education for all by 2015.

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