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Army chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, General Moeen apprised the president of ongoing development activities of the army across the country.

President Zillur gave a patient hearing to the army chief and expressed his satisfaction over the activities of Bangladesh Army in different fields, especially during the natural calamities in the country and UN peacekeeping missions in different countries.

He thanked the army members for their activities along with other law enforcing agencies in maintaining law and order across the country during the ninth parliamentary elections held on December 29 last year.

The president also assured the army chief of his allout cooperation in performing the duties of the army.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Mohammad Ruhul Amin and the President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present at the meeting.

Project true history of language movement

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday underscored the need to project accurate history of the language movement to the young generation as the country's history and independence are going through a controversial stage.

They said this at the closing ceremony of the two-day 'Photographic exhibition on state language movement' jointly organised by Nympha Publication and Bhasa Adolon Museum at Battala, adjacent to Arts Building on the Dhaka University campus.

Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq of Bangla department said photography represents the true stories of times and such type of photography highlights the valiant struggle and movement of the Bangladeshis. The three photographers captured a number of historic moments from the movement.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "The supremacy of Bangla language should be valued in all spheres as we sacrificed our lives to establish it as our mother tongue."

Lauding the contribution of the photographers to language movement, he said, "Generation after generation will see our history through



Prof Rafiqul Islam receives citation from Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at a function at Battala on the campus yesterday while Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq, left, and Mahmud Bin Kashim, right, look on.

this kind of photograph which will let them know our history and love our language, culture and, therefore, our country."

"One picture can speak louder than one thousand words and these pictures are definitely speaking out the heroic tale of the state language movement," he added.

Vice President of Language Movement Museum Mahmud Bin Kashim said, "The photographs put on display are the living history of our state language movement which are able to portray the movement before our eyes spectacularly."

Prof Rafiqul Islam said, "Our fight is not over yet for the state

language as Bangladeshis have not gained access to each level of our lives."

He called on all to show due respect for the mother tongue and use it both officially and unofficially.

Three photographers -- Prof Rafiqul Islam, Md Takiullah and Amanul Haq -- were accorded reception at the programme.

PALLIATIVE CARE MoU with Indian instt signed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to extending cooperation between different medical institutions on palliative care services, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the 'Palliative Care Service' of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and the 'Institute of Palliative Medicine' (IPM) at Calicut in India recently.

The signing ceremony was held at 'All India Medical Institute', New Delhi during the 16th international conference on Palliative Care on February 13, said a BSMMU press release.

The MoU is aimed at developing the 'End of Life Care' of the patients suffering from incurable diseases and to those who are bedridden, said the BSMMU authorities.

Govt firm to achieve 100pc literacy by 2014

State minister tells workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md Motahar Hossain at a workshop yesterday said the government is determined to achieve 100 percent literacy in the country by 2014.

The minister emphasised the importance of a coordinated effort by the government and NGOs with a view to achieving the total literacy rate within the stipulated time frame.

Motahar said this at the inaugural function of a South Asian sub-regional workshop on 'Material development for literacy and non-formal education' organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with Unesco and Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco at its head office in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest,

the minister said education is one of the preconditions to eradicate poverty, adding that there is no alternative to education for survival as well as progress in the present competitive world.

Describing the status of literacy, he said, at present 40 percent of the country's total population have literacy, adding: "I believe other countries in the region also have the same scenario. So, regional cooperation is crucial to get rid of illiteracy."

Speaking as the special guest, Unesco academic expert Kiichi Oyasu prioritised simultaneously on material development and non-formal education for different age groups to eradicate illiteracy from the region.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam was in the chair at the inaugural session of the five-day workshop.



Former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal speaks at a press conference organised by the International CHT Commission at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her left are Lord Eric Avebury and Sara Hossain and on her right is Dr Shapan Adnan. (Story on Page 2)

Anti-Terrorism Ordinance to be made a law

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government will make Anti-Terrorism Ordinance and the Anti-Money Laundering Ordinance laws in order to curb militancy and terrorism and to bring back the moneysent abroad.

He also said if parliament do not have enough time to pass the ordinances which were selected for ratification in the current session, they will be accepted as bills for discussion in the next session.

The law minister said this while talking to reporters after holding a meeting with a four-member foreign delegation led by Canadian High Commissioner Robert McDugall

at his secretariat office yesterday. The minister also said the Bangladesh Judicial Service Association's (BJSJA) did not do the decent thing by giving an ultimatum to remove law secretary Kazi Habibur Awal from his office even after his (minister) request not to press such demand.

The BJSJA leaders at a meeting on February 20 gave a 10-day ultimatum to the government to remove Awal, as the High Court (HC) had earlier declared his appointment illegal.

"As the government has no control of the judiciary following the separation of the judiciary from the executive, it cannot take any action against the judicial officials. The Supreme Court can look into the matter, if necessary," he said.

At the meeting with the minister, the foreign delegation showed their keen interest to assist the government in strengthening the legal aid programme, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system and the National Human Rights Commission with a view to reducing the huge backlog of pending cases, ensuring people's access to justice and preventing the violations of human rights.

685 bullets seized, one arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcers seized 685 bullets and 500 grams of gunpowder and arrested a person in the city yesterday.

Of the bullets, 476 bullets were found in abandoned condition.

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive in the city's Kosaituli area seized 209 bullets and 500 grams of gunpowder and arrested a person.

The arrestee was identified as Mohammad Shaheed, 38. In the other incident, two street children found 476 bullets in a tube while picking over garbage in a drain adjacent to Dhaka Nursing College at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

The police said the two children picked up the tube from the drain only to find the bullets inside it at around 4:30pm.

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