

Conspirators trying to destabilise Bangladesh still active: Faruk

Joint Stock Companies and Firms automated

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday said the conspirators who cannot bear the sight of a Bangladesh on development track and even want to destabilise the country are still active in the domestic arena to hinder the nation's progress.

"We're all directed to stay alert as so many unwanted incidents are taking place after the BDR mutiny in the country," said Col (ret) Khan, the coordinator for the investigations into the Peelkhana carnage in which many army officers were slain.

His observations echoed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's call for the law-enforcing agencies as well as the countrymen to be on the alert about any subversive acts under the names of militant outfits.

The Commerce Minister rang the alarm-bell while talking to reporters after the inauguration of the automated system at the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSCF) at its office.

He said vigilance has been intensified to prevent any untoward incident. He, however, said the alarm is given to any specific person but will be applicable for all.

Earlier inaugurating the computerized registration and documentation system of the Joint Stock Companies and Firms, he said it added another feather in the government's cap on its mission to transform the country into 'Digital Bangladesh'.

Appreciating the initiative he said, "I feel happy that any business firm will be able to register his company after necessary formalities within only seven working days although earlier at least 70 days were required to do the same job."

He thanked the authorities to keep a provision for foreign companies and joint venture to get their firms registered within a day.

"This is a satisfactory initiative and all will have to work to make it sustainable," the Commerce Minister said, urging the authorities to bring all old records under computerised documentation system

within a year.

Feeling the accommodation crisis and shortage of workforce, he pledged to shift the office to a new place soon with modern facilities.

Pinpointing the delay in implementing the automation project he noted it is a failure of the government as it required nearly eight years to implement the project.

He hoped that registration process of any company would be simplified, hassle-free and quicker through the introduction of computerised system.

Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed, Janata Bank Chairman Sohel Ahmed, IFC and BICF representative Mohammad Aminur Rahman and First Vice-President of FBCCI Abul Kashem Ahmed, among others, addressed the function with Registrar of the Joint Stock Companies and Firms Ahmedur Rahman in the chair.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund (BICF) in collaboration with the government implemented the project.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors admire a scroll painting of Moni Mala, an artist from West Bengal, at an exhibition at the Indian Assistant High Commission gallery in Chittagong yesterday.

GRENADE ATTACK CASE

Hasina was the target of attackers

Say 2 prosecution witnesses

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two prosecution witnesses yesterday told a Dhaka court that they came to know from several people that grenades were hurled at an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004 only to kill AL President Sheikh Hasina.

Golap Kazi, a guard, and Abdur Rahim Howlader, a sweeper of Railway Super Market, said this as Judge Masdar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 Dhaka was recording their statements.

The court also fixed March 18 for next hearing of the case and summoned five others to appear before the court.

In his deposition, Golap told the court that he was on duty at the market on August 21, 2004. But he heard sounds of grenade explosions at Bangabandhu Avenue at about 4:30pm. He then closed all collapsible gates of the market. After a while, he found a grenade inside the market and soon informed the law enforcement agencies of it.

On hearing the news, police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and army came there and exploded it at the Osmany Uddyan the same day. The following day, another grenade was found at a bathroom of the market and the police seized it and made a seizure list where he signed.

Later, he came to know from several people

that a large number of people were killed and several others injured in the grenade attacks. Moreover, grenades were exploded only to kill Hasina, Golap said.

Rahim, another witness, told the court that he was also on duty at the Railway Market on August 21, 2004 and found a grenade at a bathroom of the market. Police seized it and made a seizure list of the grenade where he signed.

Later, he came to know from several people that grenades were exploded only to kill Hasina, he said.

Former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu told the court that no key witnesses were produced before the court although several dates have expired. He was implicated in the case, as he was in-charge minister of Gopalganj district. Moreover, he was implicated in the case as per direction of a foreign mission, Pintu said.

The 22 people accused of launching the grenade attacks on the rally include Pintu, Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, Huji members Abu Sayeed, Shahdatullah Jewel, Rafiqul Islam alias Rafiq, Abu Taher and Maulana Tajuddin.

Fourteen of the accused, including Pintu and Hannan, who are now in jail, were produced before the court during yesterday's hearing.

Eight others, including Pintu's younger brother Maulana Tajuddin, have been absconding since the cases were filed.

Scientific confce on food security begins today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The 7th Annual Scientific Conference-2009 of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University begins in Chittagong today.

The university and 'One World, One Health-Bangladesh Initiative' are jointly organising the three-day conference at Hotel Agrabad with the motto 'Food Security and Food Safety: Towards A One World, One Health Approach'.

Food Minister Dr Abdur Razzak will inaugurate the conference as the chief guest while Bangladesh Agriculture University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr MA Sattar Mandal and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Bangladesh Representative Ad Spijkers will be present as special guests.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote hold a candlelight vigil at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday to mark the 89th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

ICE TODAY AQUA PAINTS

Interior Design Awards 2009
in association with IAB

ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards was first introduced in 2007. The award is given in a 2 year cycle for innovation, creativity and outstanding achievements in Interior Design in Bangladesh. The premier English monthly ICE Today and leading paint company Aqua Paints in association with Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) are proud to announce the ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2009. The award has been set up to reward merits and encourage public interest in quality Interior Design.

AWARD CATEGORY

There will be a total six awards in the following categories and sub-categories in the ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2009:

A

Category: Residential

Sub-category a-1: Single Family House
Sub-category a-2: Apartment

B

Category: Non-Residential

Sub-category b-1: Office/Bank
Sub-category b-2: Restaurant/Hotel/Resort
Sub-category b-3: Shop/Show room
Sub-category b-4: Other

ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2009 introduces a new award as "Grand Award" which may only be given to one outstanding project from among the best selected entries of all the sub-categories.

ELIGIBILITY

The award is open to any interior design project located within the geographic territory of Bangladesh and designed by any person having a bachelor degree in architecture or interior design or design firms having at least one member in the design team with the above mentioned qualification for the submitted project.

Projects submitted in the earlier ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2007, but not selected, may also be resubmitted as long as they meet all other requirements of this cycle of the Awards. A person may submit projects in all categories (maximum 3 projects in each sub-category).

Employees of ICE Today, Aqua Paints or the members of the firms of the Jurors or their families are not eligible to compete for the awards.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Detail terms and conditions, the Declaration Form etc. are available at the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) office until 24 March, 2009.

These documents may also be downloaded from the websites www.aquapaints.com or www.ice-today.com.

Any updates or corrigenda related to ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2009 shall be posted on these websites.

THE JURY

The followings eminent persons have kindly consented to be members of the jury for the Awards:

1. Ar. Mustafa Ameen, Chairman
2. Ar. Nela de Zoysa, Member (International Jury from Sri Lanka)
3. Ar. Kazi Golam Nasir, Member
4. Ar. Marina Tabassum, Member
5. Nasreen Zamir, Member

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD

The name(s) of the winner(s) of ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2009 will be formally announced only at the Award giving ceremony. The authors of the short listed entries will be invited at the Award giving ceremony to be held at Hotel Westin and the date of the ceremony will be announced later. All short listed entries will be displayed through multimedia at the Award presentation ceremony.

DEADLINE AND PLACE OF SUBMISSION

The entries must reach at the address below before 6:00 pm Wednesday, 25 March 2009:

Ar. Jalal Ahmed, Award Coordinator, Cell : 01713018116

Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), House-11, Road 4, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209

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