

Peacekeepers not equipped properly

Army tells JS body about equipment dearth in UN missions; seeks urgent initiative

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Bangladeshi troops engaged in the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions face a dearth of equipment, though their work abroad earns the country around Tk 1,200 crore a year.

The crisis is acute in 19 contingents across Liberia, Sudan, Ivory Coast and Congo. At present, Bangladesh has 8,083 soldiers stationed in 11 missions in 10 countries, says a report of the army.

Titled 'Problems confronting the army',

the report submitted to the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry last month calls for immediate steps to solve the problems.

It says the peacekeepers from Bangladesh do not have enough armoured personnel carriers (APC), water treatment plants, bulldozers, generators, rollers and freezers—all necessary to carry out their duties properly.

For instance, it adds, the troops need at least four water treatment plants for the UN mission in Liberia, but all four plants

there remain out of use.

The field regiment artillery deployed in Sudan needs 17 APCs, but they have to make do with 12, as five APCs are out of order.

The report says arms, heavy vehicles and other military gears should be purchased so the troops in the UN missions are considered well-equipped and dynamic.

According to it, around six percent of the funds allocated for the army in fiscal years 2004-08 was spent on defence purchase. During the period, the purchase

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

No new cases of children falling sick
WHO, Unicef insist Vitamin A capsule safe

STAR REPORT

No fresh cases of children becoming sick were reported yesterday and all sick children who had vitamin A capsules and deworming tablets and were being treated for diarrhoea, stomachache and nausea at hospitals were sent home.

However, Zannat, 3, died Monday in Baufal of Patuakhali allegedly of diarrhoea. She too was given vitamin A capsule and deworming tablet.

Reassuring the people, Health Minister AFM Ruhal Haque in parliament

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BUDGET 2009-10

Safety net, pay hike to cost over Tk 20,000cr

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Social safety net, subsidy, salary hike under the new pay scale and public-private partnership (PPP) initiative would require more than Tk 30,000 crore in the national budget for the next fiscal year (FY).

Of the amount, Tk 17,300 crore has been kept for social safety net programme in the next budget, compared to Tk 13,800 crore in the revised budget for the current FY, sources said.

Besides, Tk 3,500 crore is being set aside for pay hike of the government employees, Tk 2,500 crore for the PPP initiative and Tk 20 crore for national service pilot project.

In the social safety net programme, allocation would be increased substantially for all categories.

The size of the next budget may be Tk 11,13,815 crore while that of the revised budget

for this FY is Tk 94,140 crore.

The amount of farm subsidy in the next FY is likely to be Tk 3,800 crore to Tk 4,000 crore compared to Tk 4,285 crore in the current budget. Subsidy for power and food may be Tk 2,400 crore.

Export subsidy would be Tk 1,800 crore in the next budget, which is Tk 1,050 crore in the current budget. In the revised budget for this FY, the amount may be Tk 1,500 crore, it is gathered.

In the next budget, Tk 2,100 crore of the allocation for PPP initiative, would be for loan and equity participation in PPP project.

A Tk 300 crore fund would be kept for subsidy to any project which is risky but essential. Another Tk 100 crore would be kept for study of PPP project.

When the finance minister places the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

No hilsa fishing for 2 months

20km stretch in Padma to be declared sanctuary

HELEMUL ALAM

A 20km stretch of the Padma is to be made sanctuary for hilsa as the government has decided not to allow catching of the kingfish in March-April every year.

The decision came at a meeting held at the fisheries and livestock ministry yesterday chaired by its Secretary Mohammad Shah Alam.

This will be the fifth hilsa sanctuary. The area has been selected on the basis of research, said an official of the ministry.

The areas of the fifth sanctuary include Bhomkara, Kachhikata, Tarabuniya and Beparipara of Shariyatpur.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Budget banks on better export

KAWSAR KHAN

The export sector may remain unstable in the first few months of the next fiscal year because of a fall in demands in the wake of global financial meltdown.

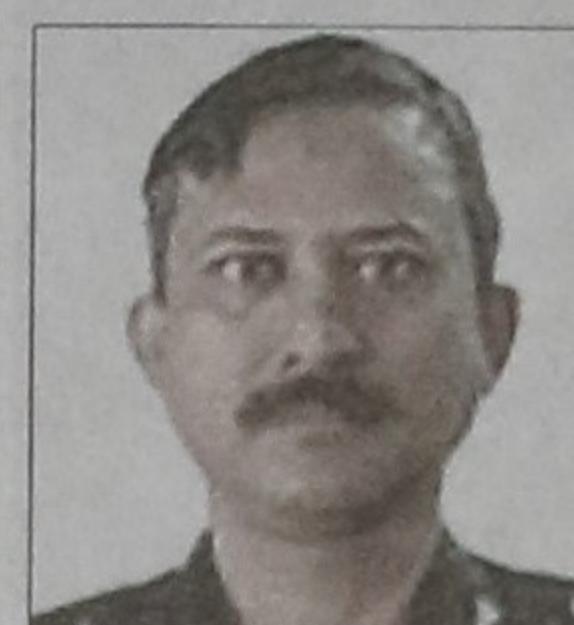
Although official data for the last two months (May-June) of the current fiscal year is not yet available, exporters anticipate poor export earnings during the period because of a fall in order placement both in terms of price and volume.

They are expecting budgetary support to help factories save from being shut down.

The financial crisis, which has slowed down the order placement, has caused negative export growth at 2,000 RMG factories of the country. People in the sector said if not provided with support, a good number of these factories may crumble within three-four months.

RMG factories that generally receive sub-contract orders are more vulnerable as they are not getting adequate orders from big

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



Brig Gen Bari 'absconding' in army record

He tells Star he's not returning soon

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Brig Gen Chowdhury Fazlul Bari, who was posted to the Bangladesh mission in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

UP chairman fires on crowd

1 killed; mob attacks his house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A union parishad (UP) chairman yesterday sprayed bullets on a crowd at Ashrafabad in Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the capital, leaving one youth dead on the spot and another bullet-injured.

In reprisal, agitated people attacked the residence of Haji Monir Hossain, chairman of Sultanganj Union Parishad, and set fire to his car.

The demonstrators also torched an umbrella factory owned by a brother of the UP chairman at Nurbag. Monir is also the president of Kamrangirchar Thana BNP and a sidekick of detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Hasan, 18, son of Siddique of Nesarabad in Pirojpur and an employee of Talukdar timber shop at Lohar Bridge in the area.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

BNP's grassroots reform done

A number of corrupt, convicted, controversial leaders stay put

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Keeping a number of corrupt, convicted and controversial leaders, BNP yesterday announced the much-expected convening committees for its organisational district units to reorganise the party from grassroots level.

Most of the top leaders of the now defunct reformist faction have been dropped from the new committees but a number of mid and junior level reformist leaders got berth in some district committees.

Leaders, known as close to party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, got priority in new committees, said the party leaders.

A good numbers of conveners of the new committees served as presidents or general secretaries in the previous district committees and all these new committees will have to complete their unit councils in their respective districts within five months.

A few numbers of new faces were picked up as conveners of the district units while some controversial leaders (both corrupt and reformists) could not manage to secure their places in the convening committees.

The convening committees will have to complete district and city unit councils by November 15 and after that the party will hold the central council. The election commission's decision, however, asked all political parties to hold council by July 25.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

GlaxoSmithKline SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH DUTCH-BANGLA BANK

DBBL is honored that GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh has chosen Dutch-Bangla Bank for its employee banking needs. This will allow GSK to effortlessly streamline all these tasks. DBBL is the BIGGEST investor in Electronic-Banking providing both companies and individuals the most ADVANCED, SECURE and AFFORDABLE service.

DBBL strives for societal change. It's the reason why you can sleep safely with your door open. The reason why you can walk on the street with all the world's money but not get noticed. The reason why you do banking the way the rest of the world does. And like most of DBBL's services, these benefits are free.



GlaxoSmithKline



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER



Mr. Sarwar A Khan, Finance Director & Company Secretary of GlaxoSmithKline and Mr. Mir Monimul Huq, Head of Retail & SME Division of DBBL signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations on June 09, 2009. Mr. M Azizul Huq, Managing Director of GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Limited and Mr. Md. Yesin Ali, Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited were also present at the signing ceremony.

www.iidfc.com

Brokerage Services Division

Opens Today

10 June 2009

@ eunoos trade centre

52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

Industrial
and Infrastructure
Development Finance
Company Limited



IIDFC
enters
into
new
horizon

Head Office: Chamber Building(6th & 7th Floor), 122-124 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, Tel: 9559311, Fax: 9568987, E-mail: mail@iidfc.com
Brokerage Division: Eunoos Trade Centre (Level-7), 52-53 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Tel: 9560526, Fax: 9570756, E-mail: brokerage@iidfc.com