

Gen Mubeen takes over as army chief

UNB, Dhaka

General M Abdul Mubeen took over as the chief of Army Staff yesterday, replacing General Moeen U Ahmed who went into retirement on completion of his tenure.

A handing and taking over ceremony was held at the Army Headquarters on the occasion, said an ISPR announcement.

The new army chief, General Mubeen, formally took over the command of Bangladesh Army from his predecessor, General Moeen, by signing the handover-takeover book.

Principal Staff Officers of the Army Headquarters and senior military officers were present on the occasion.

Later, General Mubeen called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the defence minister, at the PM's office.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral ZU Ahmed and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman ceremonially adorned the new Chief of Army Staff with badges of rank of General in the presence of the Prime Minister.

Earlier in the morning, the outgoing Army Chief, General Moeen, placed wreaths at the Shikha Anirban and signed a visitor's book.

A smartly turned-out army contingent presented guard of honour to the outgoing army chief at Senakunja.

Later, General Moeen U Ahmed was ceremonially seen off by street lining according to army tradition.

The new army chief, General Abdul Mubeen, was commissioned in the Regiment of Infantry of Bangladesh Army on November 30, 1976.

Besides serving in various capacities at the battalion level, General Mubeen commanded two infantry battalions and an infantry brigade.

He was the Commandant of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) and National Defence College (NDC) at Mirpur. He has commanded two infantry divisions as General Officer Commanding.

On the international platform, General Mubeen rendered his invaluable service as a peacekeeper in the capacity of Chief of Staff (northern region) in the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMUZ).

Prior to be appointed Chief of Army Staff, General Mubeen was Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division.



Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral ZU Ahmed and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman adorn new Chief of Army Staff General M Abdul Mubeen with badges of rank of General in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

Enact law banning fatwa

Women's rights activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday urged the home ministry to issue a gazette notification immediately to stop whipping of women in the name of arbitration.

At a press conference at its central office in the city, BMP leaders also called on the government to enact a law banning fatwa (religious edict).

They also urged the office of the attorney general to take immediate steps for cancella-

tion of the stay order against the High Court's verdict declaring fatwa illegal in 2001.

Expressing grave concern over the incidents of whipping women following fatwa, BMP President Ayesha Khanam said issuance of fatwa must be declared a punishable offence.

She also called for bringing to justice those people who are involved in giving fatwa.

"When the government proposes more budgetary allocation for the welfare of women the incident of whip-

ping them in the name of arbitration is a total contradiction of its move," she added.

Praising Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for issuing directives to provide services to the victims of fatwa, she also urged her to take stern action against those involved in issuing fatwa.

BMP leaders also called for training of parliament members, union parishad chairmen, vice-chairmen, members and councilors about human rights of women.

Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, assistant general secretary of the BMP, in a keynote paper disclosed that around 21 incidents of fatwa took place in the country from January to mid June this year.

BMP General Secretary Maleka Banu and other members of the organisation were present at the press conference.



FORETELLING THE RAIN: A peacock sports its long-eyed tail feathers at Chittagong Zoo on the first day of Ashar, the first month of the rainy season, yesterday. A peacock is said to be able to foretell rain and it dances when it rains.

Ismat Jahan new envoy to Belgium

UNB, Dhaka

Ismat Jahan, ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, has been appointed ambassador to Belgium.

A career diplomat, Ismat Jahan joined the BCS (Foreign Affairs) cadre in 1983.

During her distinguished diplomatic career, Ismat Jahan served in Bangladesh Permanent Mission in New York as second secretary/first secretary, Bangladesh Permanent Mission in Geneva as Counsellor, and in Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi as minister, said a press release.

She also served in the Bangladeshi Embassy in the Hague as an ambassador.

7th anniversary of bomb attack in N'ganj today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Today is the 7th anniversary of bomb attack in Narayanganj.

On this day in 2001 a bomb attack on Awami League (AL) office at Chashara killed 20 people and injured 100 others.

To mark the occasion, special prayers will be held at local mosques, temples and churches.

A public meeting will be held at DIT area at 3:00pm, while

candles will be lighted at the explosion site from 8:15pm to 8:35pm.

Bappi Smirti Sangsad will organise a voluntary blood donation programme and destitute feeding on the occasion.

Families of those killed in the incident will also organise separate programmes.

After the bomb attack AL leader Khokan Saha filed a murder case against 27 people. He also filed another case under explosives act.

Most of the accused in two cases were leaders and workers of BNP.

In his final report on March 17, 2003 CID ASP Aminur Rahman said if any clue including information regarding the case is found in future the case will have to be revived.

After getting some new clues to the case the affected people last year demanded revival of the case.

Chief Judicial Magistrate's court on June 2 ordered the revival of the case for fresh investigation.

CID Officer Yusuf Ali Mollah is re-investigating the case.

Evicted indigenous people living under open sky

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous people, who were evicted from their residences at Khatirpur at Porsha in Naogaon, are living under the open sky without any food, shelter and security as the government has not taken any step yet to stand beside the affected community, revealed a field visit report yesterday.

Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolon (BAAA) made the field inspection following the June 12 attacks on the indigenous community, evicting at least 74 families, including 56 indigenous ones, from their lands.

"I hope the government will take an initiative to resolve the crisis so that none should feel the necessity to wage a second war for independence," said Justice Gholam Rabbani at a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city after disclosing the findings of the visit.

"The people will definitely look out the necessary ways for a second war of independence if the government fails to solve the problem," he added.

Demanding immediate trial and punishment to the persons involved, lawmaker Fazle Hasan Badsha said, "Nur Hossain master committed two

crimes -- one by making fake documents of the lands owned by indigenous people and then making the attacks and repression on the community people."

BAAA also came up with a five-point demand following the visit, including immediate relief supply to the evictees, compensation to the affected in 72 hours, and punishment to persons, including Nur Hossain and Manjurul, involved in the attacks and arson in 24 hours.

The field visit also revealed that though the incident took place only 14 kilometres away from the local police station, police did not rush to the spot with any help, rather they assisted the attackers in looting valuables.

The field visit also claimed that Nur Hossain did not get any approval from the deputy commissioner in purchasing the land as required when a non-indigenous person wants to buy a piece of land owned by an indigenous person.

Other demands include withdrawal of the officer-in-charge of the local police station for negligence in carrying out his duty and formulation of a land commission to resolve land problems of the Adivasi community.



An indigenous woman, who was evicted from her home at Khatirpur at Porsha in Naogaon, speaks at a press briefing in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Prof Mesbah Kamal, Justice Gholam Rabbani, Prof HKS Arefin and Mazharul Islam.

Statue of Buddha recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members recovered a touch-stone statue of Gautam Buddha from a residential hotel in Green Road area in the city yesterday and arrested a man in this connection.

The arrestee was identified as Shawkat Osman, 40, of Bhaluka in Mymensingh.

Rab sources said Assistant Police Super (ASP) Abul Hossain and Lt Tauhid of Rab-1 reached the suite No 307 of Mughal residential hotel in guise of buyers and seized an 18-kg statue and arrested the man.

The ASP said, "We made a

contact with Osman through one of our informers and the price of the statue was settled at Tk 17 crore."

Osman came to the hotel to show the statue to them and receive Tk three crore in advance, he added.

During the primary grilling, Osman said they have a network to collect and sell such statues, adding that he had collected the statue from Kushtia.

The ASP further said that they extracted some information and a few names of smugglers, would not disclose the names for the sake of investigation.

আনন্দময় মুহূর্তগুলো
জীবনের সবচেয়ে বড় সঞ্চয়

গত বছরের মত এই বিবাহ বার্ষিকীতেও তাকে পছন্দের উপহারটি দিয়ে অস্বাভাবিক করে দিলাম। সেই সাথে ভেবে গেছিলাম আগামী বছরের উপহারটিও। আর এ সবই সম্ভব হয়েছে IDLC ডিপোজিট স্কিম এর জন্য।

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