

Work to free country from terrorism

PM tells new ASPs

UNB, Rajshahi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the police department to do their duty properly to build a militancy-and-terrorism-free peaceful society, as her government wants to see Bangladesh free from these acts of violence.

She also directed the authorities concerned to come up with new projects and plans for upgrading the police to a modern force equipped with the latest technology and infrastructural facilities.

The prime minister gave the directives while speaking on the occasion of the passing-out parade of the assistant police super of the 27th batch of BCS (police) cadre yesterday at Bangladesh Police Academy at Sardah, which is going to celebrate its centenary in 2012.

Hasina categorically said Bangladesh and its soil will not be allowed to be used for any type of terrorism and militancy.

She told the new police officers that her government wants to build up Bangladesh as a most peaceful nation in South Asia. "You with your hard work and integrity can help build such a peaceful Bangladesh."

AFM Nizamuddin was given the Best Man Cup of the 27th BCS (police) cadre for his all-round best performances in all sectors of their hard training in policing skills. Motiur Rahman Siddiqui was given Best Horse Ride award.

A total of 138 apprentice ASPs -- 135 from the 27th batch and three from another batch -- took part in the mind-blowing parade.

Earlier, on her arrival at Sardah Police Academy, Home Minister Sahara Khatun received her.

State Minister for Home Affairs Advocate Shamsul Haq Tuku, IGP Noor Mohammad and Police Academy Commandant Abdus Salam, PPM, were also present on the podium.



Hundreds of residents of Mirpur area stage a demonstration at Section-10 of Mirpur in the city yesterday demanding uninterrupted supply of gas in the area.

29th BCS exams from Jan 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The written test of the 29th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations will begin on January 31, 2010.

The examinations will be held simultaneously in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, and Sylhet divisions, an official handout said.

Detailed information about exam halls and timetable will be published through newspaper advertisements.

Tribute paid to journo Akhter Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday said late Akhter Ahmed Khan was great journalist with extraordinary human qualities.

He was always vocal on behalf of the journalist community to realise their demands, they said.

Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad organised the memorial meeting at the National Press Club in the city.

Akhter died of a cardiac arrest on November 30 in Washington DC at the age of 54. He was the press minister at the Bangladesh embassy in the USA.

He was also a former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ).

Speaking as the chief guest, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad said Akhter had some extraordinary qualities as a human being.

He said Akhter had always written for the people to minimise their sufferings.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Manjuri Afroja, wife of Akhter Ahmed Khan, and former secretary general of BFUJ Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan also spoke.

Uninterrupted gas supply demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of residents of Mirpur area formed a human chain at Section-10 in Mirpur in the city yesterday demanding uninterrupted supply of gas in the area.

They also brought a procession at 11:00am to press home their demand.

Residents of different areas in the city, including Mirpur, are not getting adequate supply of gas for the last two months.

Around 1600 million cubic feet of gas is consumed each day during the winter in Dhaka. Current daily shortfall of gas is 100 to 150 million cubic feet, said an official of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited.

TEESTA WATER SHARING JS body hopes high to sign agreement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday said it is quite optimistic about signing a deal with India on sharing water of the common river Teesta, a major concern for Bangladesh.

The parliamentary standing committee on water resources ministry at its meeting also came down heavily on British MP George Galloway for his recent comment on Tipaimukh dam in India, saying that his comment was "provocative."

Briefing reporters at Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre after the meeting, Chairman of the committee Abdur Razzaq reiterated that the proposed dam would not harm Bangladesh, rather it would benefit the country in terms of flood control and availability of water during lean period.

"We have discussed the Teesta water sharing issue at the meeting, though not in details. But we are hopeful that Bangladesh and India will be able to sign a deal on water sharing of the Teesta," said Razzaq, also a senior lawmaker of the ruling party.

CUTA POLLS BNP-backed panel bags 8 of 11 posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP-Jamaat-backed White Panel bagged eight posts while Awami League-backed Yellow Panel won three in the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta) election yesterday.

Prof Abul Kashem of White Panel was elected president by defeating Yellow Panel candidate Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury by 16 votes. Abul Kashem got 245 votes while Iftekhar Uddin bagged 229.

White Panel candidate Associate Professor SM Nasrul Kadir was elected general secretary defeating Prof Ahmed Salauddin of Yellow Panel by 57 votes. Nasrul bagged 266 votes while Salauddin got 209 votes.

Prof Al Amin, Prof Saleh Jahur and Assistant Professor Atiar Rahman were elected vice president, treasurer and joint secretary respectively.

The six members of the 11-strong Cuta executive committee are Prof Ali Ashraf, Prof Jinobodhi Bhikkhu and Assistant Professor Ali Asgar Chowdhury of Yellow Panel and Prof Kamal Hossain, Associate Professor Abu Taher Chowdhury and Prof Harunur Rashid of White Panel.

Prof Azizur Rahman of botany department was the chief election commissioner of the election held at the Commerce Faculty auditorium from 9:30am to 2:00pm.

Prof Kamrul Huda, the immediate past Cuta general secretary who was elected from Yellow Panel, said the BNP-Jamaat backed White Panel won eight posts in the election as a huge number of teachers were recruited under political consideration during the tenure of the last BNP-Jamaat backed government.

PURULIA ARMS DROP Shubid Ali refutes Indian media report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry, yesterday dismissed as false and fabricated a report published in the Indian media, which linked him to the arms drop over Purulia in West Bengal in 1995.

The Hindustan Times, an Indian newspaper, published the report on Wednesday.

The report read: "The arms dropped over Purulia in West Bengal in December 1995 were purchased on the orders of a member of the office of the then prime minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, show documents accessed by Hindustan Times."

"Two End User's Certificates -- mandatory for arms deals in the international market -- issued by Bangladesh to Bulgarian suppliers were signed by this official, Mohammed Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, the then principal staff officer to Zia," said the Hindustan Times.

"One of the certificates signed by Bhuiyan said the arms 'will be used by the Bangladesh Army and will not be exported to any other country'," the report said.

"But they landed up in Purulia," it added.

A report in this regard was also published in a Bangla daily yesterday.

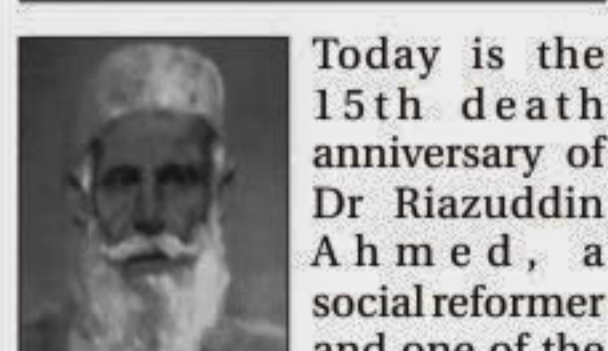
Shubid Ali dismissed the news as "totally false, fabricated and motivated."

Talking to reporters, Shubid Ali said, "It is an ill attempt to create mistrust, suspicion and a gap in relations between the two countries by publishing such reports prior to the prime minister's visit to India."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to start her visit to India on January 10.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 15th death anniversary of Dr Riazuddin Ahmed, a social reformer and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, says a press release.

He established many educational institutions.

He worked with Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy. He was also an activist of anti-British movement.



Participants observe one minute's silence at the memorial meeting marking the 2nd death anniversary of Justice KM Sobhan at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday.

Build secular society to fulfil dreams of Justice Sobhan

Speakers tell memorial meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday said the dreams of Justice KM Sobhan can be fulfilled by establishing a democratic and secular Bangladesh.

Justice Sobhan dedicated his life to establishing the rights of the oppressed and marginal people -- women, small loan borrowers and religious minorities, they said.

The speakers paid glowing tributes to Justice Sobhan at a memorial meeting marking his second death anniversary at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Legal and International Affairs (Bilia). The family members of Justice Sobhan organised the event.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser to the caretaker government, said, "His role in rehabilitating the oppressed women after the liberation war is highly commendable."

Other than that, he vigorously worked to frame laws both at home and abroad to establish equal rights of men and women, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said Justice Sobhan strongly believed in the spirit of the liberation war, non-communal politics and democracy.

An extraordinary scholarly person, Sobhan was jolly-minded, she said. "His sense of cour-

tesy could be a role model for all. He had an excellent combination of the best features of both the Bangalee and European culture."

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said Justice Sobhan never refrained from providing assistance to the women's rights groups in terms of legal advices.

"Justice Sobhan was always vocal for the trial of war criminals and the killers of Bangabandhu," she added.

Human rights activist advocate Sultana Kamal said Justice Sobhan laid a strong foundation for human rights activism in the country.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam demanded that steps be taken to compile all his write-ups and publish a memorial book to promote his ideas.

Journalist Shahrir Kabir said that as a token of recognition to Justice Sobhan's works, the government should name an important road after him.

Former CJ Kamaluddin Hossain chaired the discussion. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, ex-foreign secretary Wali-ur Rahman, Presidium Member of Hindu-Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad Kagal Debnath, human rights activist Rosaline Costa and Justice Sobhan's sons Kazi Rehan Sobhan and Kazi Adnan Sobhan also spoke.

Kazi Imtiaz made envoy to Thailand

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, director general of the foreign ministry, as the ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand.

A career diplomat, Kazi Imtiaz belongs to 1986 BCS (foreign affairs) Cadre and joined the Service in 1989, said a press release.

During his diplomatic career, Kazi Imtiaz Hossain has served in Bangladesh missions in New York, Kolkata, Geneva and Beijing.



Channel i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar speaks at a press conference at the TV channel's office in the city yesterday. On his right is Director and Head of News Shykh Seraj.

Special sticker for vehicles entering secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government introduces special stickers for vehicles entering the secretariat, the hub of the country's administration, from today.

"The vehicles entering the secretariat from January 1 will have to have a sticker," said a press release of the home ministry.

It said the security section of the home ministry has been issuing the stickers.

Special agri news on Channel i from today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Private satellite television station Channel i will start broadcasting specialised news on agriculture today in a bid to facilitate development of the country's agriculture sector.

The 10 to 15-minute news will be aired at 5:20pm daily, which would carry stories on different sectors of agriculture, said Shykh Seraj, director and head of news of the channel.

Speaking at a press conference at the channel's office in the city yesterday, Seraj said he has taken an initiative of telecasting the specialised news on other TV channels.

The title of the news is 'Channel i Krishi Sangbad (Channel i agriculture news)'. "Agri sector will fall in trouble in future, especially because of the impacts of global climate change," Seraj said.

Under the circumstances, it is necessary to pay attention to agriculture and rural lifestyle by the government, policy makers and people of all sectors, he said.

Managing Director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagar and Executive Director of ACI Agribusiness Dr FH Ansary also spoke.



Australian Government
AusAID

Vacancy for Program Manager/Senior Program Manager, Bangladesh

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), is seeking to fill the position of Program Manager/Senior Program Manager, based in the Australian High Commission, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Program Manager/Senior Program Manager's duties will support the development and management of Australian aid program activities in the following fields: Australian Scholarships, Volunteers Program, Climate Change and other sectors as required.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA

- A minimum of five years of professional experience in managing development projects and programs, including financial management;
- Postgraduate qualifications in development studies;
- Excellent English communication skills and ability to work both independently as well as part of a multisectoral team;
- Demonstrated knowledge of Bangladesh's development, economic, political, social and environmental situation;
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to the strategic direction of an organization;
- Demonstrated ability to analyze, interpret and provide input to policy development.

DESIRED SELECTION CRITERIA

- Experience in managing large scholarships, volunteers or other personnel intensive programs;
- Experience and knowledge of climate change related activities in both Bangladesh and international context;
- Knowledge of the Australian Government's aid policy and programs.

APPLICATIONS

- Interested applicants should submit their CV and a statement, outlining their suitability for the position, by 4:00 pm on Saturday, 16 January 2010. Statements should not exceed two pages AND MUST DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE 'ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA' ABOVE. Statements not addressing the selection criteria will not be considered.
- Please address applications to hr.ausaid@dfat.gov.au and clearly mention 'Program Manager/Senior Program Manager' in the subject line.
- All applications will be treated on merit and in strict confidence.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF)

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

SEDF invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing their services by submitting a Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for the project: "Framework Agreement: Implementation of Agribusiness Interventions with Clients in SEDF 2"

Qualified firms are requested to visit the Bidding Opportunities section of <http://www.worldbank.org/corporateprocurement> for detailed REOI.

The deadline for submission of REOI is "January 14, 2010".

