

Follow rules of seniority strictly in recruitment, promotion

PM asks army officials

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to strictly follow the rules of seniority, qualification, merit and efficiency during recruitment, posting, and promotion in the armed forces.

The prime minister said this while inaugurating the Army Headquarters Selection Board-2010 at Dhaka Cantonment.

"I think that faith in the spirit of Liberation War, professional efficiency, leadership, discipline, honesty, truthfulness, loyalty and effectiveness should be considered while giving promotion as the promoted officers will lead the armed forces in future," she said.

Sheikh Hasina, also the defence minister, said she had confidence in the wisdom, judgement and impartiality of the senior officers and hoped that they would select the appropriate persons for promotion rising above personal likes and dislikes.

She said the Armed Forces that started its journey with a limited number of officers and soldiers during the country's War of Liberation is now very experienced and well-organised.

Sheikh Hasina said Awami League government always believes in development, expansion and modernisation of Armed Forces and it implemented massive programmes for strengthening the Armed Forces during its previous tenure from 1996 to 2001.

Referring to her initiative to recruit female officers in the army, the first ever in the country's history, Sheikh Hasina said it is her government which improved the quality of food, including introduction of rice in two meals of the army.

After assuming office this time her government has undertaken a number of projects, including bringing uniformity in giving ration to Army, Navy and Air Force, increasing budgetary allocation for per capita protein intake, implementing new pay scales and constructing multistorey housing complex for members of the armed forces.

She said her government has adjusted the ranks of officials of Bangladesh Army to international standards in order to



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting of the Army Headquarters Selection Board-2010 at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

strengthen their participation in the UN peacekeeping missions abroad.

Besides, she said during her government's previous term she established Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training at Rajendrapur so the Bangladeshi troops can serve more smartly in peacekeeping missions.

She said Bangladesh is the first country to send Integrated Brigade to peacekeeping missions.

The prime minister said the people of the country always remember the role of armed forces during natural calamities

with gratitude.

The democracy-loving people would also remember the contribution of the armed forces on preparing a flawless voter list before the last national general elections in 2008, she added.

Defence Secretary, Chief of Army Staff and lieutenant generals and major generals of Bangladesh Army were present in the meeting.

Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Major General (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were also present.

Govt to buy additional 1 lakh tonnes of rice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to buy an additional one-lakh tonne of rice from the domestic market at Tk 28 a kg in this Boro season, officials at the food ministry said yesterday.

The decision comes after the rice millers retracted from their earlier stance and agreed with the government to its rice procurement drive.

Bangladesh Auto, Major and Husking Mill Owners' Association leaders yesterday held talks with Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque at the ministry and assured him of continuing rice supply to the public warehouses.

Earlier on July 1, the Food Policy Monitoring Unit (FPMU) decided to procure five lakh tonnes of rice from the domestic market, which was seven lakh tonnes less than the government's procurement target of 12 lakh tonnes during Boro season, due to price hike of rice.

At that meeting, the food minister decided to give Tk 3 incentive per kg over and above Tk 25 to buy 2.37 lakh tonnes of rice from the millers who had agreements and were demanding a price rise, saying the market price was more.

However, the association called strike on last Sunday demanding same incentives to the millers who had earlier supplied 2.63 lakh tonnes of rice this season.

The same day the minister warned the rice millers of taking legal actions against

them, including cancelling licences, if they do not comply with the agreements made with the government on rice supply.

Following that warning, the millers called off the strike. Sources said the prime minister's office also asked the millers to continue rice supply to the government without causing any trouble.

KM Layek Ali, convener of the association, said they would fully cooperate with the government in buying rice from the domestic market.

The millers have already agreed to supply 30,000 tonnes of rice in addition to the previously agreed 5 lakh tonnes, Layek said, adding that he has asked all the millers to continue supply as per the agreements.

He however said they again requested the food minister to consider providing Tk 3 incentives per kg of rice supplied by the millers earlier.

The minister said he would take the issue to the FPMU, Layek told The Daily Star after the meeting yesterday.

"However, supplying rice is not linked to the incentive," he said.

Razzaque thanked the millers for withdrawing the strike and said the millers' problems would be addressed, says a food ministry press release.

To the millers who said they couldn't mill rice because of electricity crisis, the minister said he would look into the issue.

HC asks police not to torture Jamaat trio

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed police not to torture Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Nayebe-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee in any manner after taking them on remand in a sedition case.

A division bench of Justice Syed Mohammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque ordered the police authorities to allow their counsels to meet them for legal consultations.

It asked the authorities to take steps for medical check-ups of the Jamaat top brass who spent most of the time on remand in different cases since their arrests on June 29.

The court also asked them to supply pillows to the remanded Jamaat leaders for sleeping.

It passed the order following a petition filed by the Jamaat leaders challenging the remand orders against them.

A Dhaka court on June 30 placed the Jamaat trio on remand for interrogation in the sedition case filed with Uttara Police Station in March this year.

Abdur Razzaq appeared for the petitioners while Additional Attorney General Moutazzuddin Fakir represented the government.

President greets PM for taking initiatives to build hospital

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman in a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated her for taking initiatives to build an international standard hospital and nursing institute on 20 bighas of land of Awami Foundation at Nabinagar in Savar.

Termining the decision a humane initiative, he said the prime minister has set an example of great sacrifice by taking the steps.

"Your continuous efforts to contribute to human welfare made me emotional about the goal and work of great architect of the independence Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he said, adding, "You are the able successor of Bangabandhu."

Hasina yesterday announced that a 250-bed non-profit hospital and nursing institute with the initiative of Awami Foundation will be set up at Savar to provide healthcare facilities for the common people at nominal cost.

Help maintain law and order

New CMP boss urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Newly appointed Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Md Abul Kashem sought cooperation from all to maintain law and order in the port city.

While exchanging views with journalists at CMP conference room yesterday the commissioner put special emphasis on addressing the problems of mugging and traffic congestion. He assured of remedial measures including increased patrol to address the mugging problem as it has seen a serious rise in Chittagong in the recent months.

The commissioner said absence of bus and truck terminals and parking lots was mainly responsible for creating gridlocks on the city streets. On-going construction of several important city streets aggravates the situation, especially in the rainy season, he observed.

The CMP commissioner felt the necessity of increasing number of public transports and improved signalling system for smooth movement of vehicular traffic.

The commissioner added that introduction of school buses and development of parking lots in schools could ease traffic congestion remarkably and urged schools authorities to come forward in this regard.

The CMP commissioner urged the city dwellers, particularly media people, to help them with information to nab criminals and check criminal activities.

Emphasising on coordi-

nated efforts to streamline traffic movement the CMP boss urged Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), Chittagong Development Authority, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and other related organisations to cooperate.

Among others, CMP Additional Commissioner Abdul Jalil Mandal, Deputy Commissioner (DC - Headquarters) Md Moyeenul Islam, DC (Traffic) Faruq Ahmed and DC (port) Kusum Dewan addressed and replied to queries of journalists at the press conference.

US embassy official concerned

Claims Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A political officer of the US embassy in Dhaka yesterday expressed concern over the recent arrest of top ranking leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, claimed a Jamaat press release.

The officer, Partha Majumdar, met Jamaat's acting secretary general ATM Azaharul Islam at the party's central office in Moghbazar at around 10:00am yesterday.

During the meeting, the political officer and Jamaat leaders discussed the present situation of the country, the press release added.

Party central leader Dr Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher was also present at the meeting.

Call to expedite functioning of war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders yesterday urged the government to expedite the functioning of war crimes tribunal without any hesitation and not to politicise the issue.

They made the call at a seminar on a study on "War Criminal Delwar Hossain Sayedee's Waz Mehfil and Women's Empowerment," organised by Karmajibi Nari at the Jatiya Press Club.

The leaders said the war crimes trial cannot be an issue to gain political bargaining chips. Since a planned genocide was carried out in 1971 against a nation, its perpetrators must be tried in accordance with the stature and

'Stop use of tannery waste in poultry feed'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday urged the government to take necessary measures to stop the use of tannery waste in poultry feed to avoid health hazards.

They made the call while addressing a roundtable on 'Preparing poultry feeds by poisonous tannery waste: Impact on public health' organised by the Poribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA) at its office, said a press release.

They said over 250 chemicals like zinc, cadmium, chromium and arsenic are used for leather processing and are in turn being used to prepare poultry feed. Those chemicals are

passed into the chicken body and eggs. People consuming those chicken and eggs are suffering from different complex diseases like cancer while children suffer from mental disabilities, they added.

As a result, immediate measures should be taken to stop preparing poultry feed using poisonous tannery waste, said the speakers.

POBA Chairman Abu Naser Khan presided over the roundtable, while Sirak-Bangladesh Executive Director SM Saikat presented the keynote paper. Professor of Dhaka University Chemistry Department Abu Zafar Mahmud, BCSI former director Dr. Formuzul Haque, and Nirapod Development Foundation Chairman Ibnul Syed Rana spoke at the function.

President of Jatiya

Samajtantrik Dal Hasanul Haque Inu MP said empowerment of women is a precondition for democracy. He pointed out fundamentalism as the main obstacle towards women's empowerment.

Uprooting fundamentalism and bringing the war criminals to justice are necessary to free the nation of its shame of not being able to try the war criminals before, he added.

Manjurul Ahsan Khan, chairman of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Ajay Roy, coordinator of Platform Against Fundamentalism-Militancy, Shirin Akter, president of Karmajibi Nari, also addressed the seminar.

48 Korean volunteers in Dhaka

METRO DESK

A group of 48 Korea Internet Volunteers (KIV) from National Information Society Agency (NISA) of the Government of Republic of Korea have arrived in Dhaka to provide one month of voluntary service in different government and private organisations here, says a press release.

They will mainly provide computer IT training on MS Office, Photoshop, web designing, programming and knowledge on Korean culture.

The volunteers will work with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), Bangladesh Police, Directorate General of Food, Dhaka and so on.

These volunteers will provide their services until August 19, 2010 by dividing into 12 teams.

All of these volunteers are IT graduates while some of them are also IT professionals.

Another group of volunteers will also arrive in Dhaka during August to September 2010.

DHAKA TODAY

Quiz Draw

The bumper draw of the world cup quiz by The Daily Star and Rang-Toshiba will be held. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Cultural event

Hello's Association of Neophytes-students (Hans) in collaboration with Surf Excel will organise a cultural event titled "Share with innocence V" participated by special children. Venue: LGED auditorium, Time: 3:30pm.

Cultural evening

The High Commission of India will organise "Lalon Fakir Gan" by Mrs Farida Parveen. Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Time: 7:00pm.

Human Chain

The Dhakabashi will organise a human chain demanding playground in each ward of Dhaka city. Venue: Hazaribagh park, Time: 11:30am.

Roundtable

Shamprodaikota, Jongibad Birodhi Mancha (SJB) will hold a roundtable meeting. Venue: Muktiuddha Jadugarh, Time: 10:00am.

Meeting

Gano Forum will hold its presidium meeting. Venue: Gano Forum Central Office, Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Jhankar Shilpi Ghoshi will hold a discussion on "Folk-King Abbasuddin's contribution to folk culture". Venue: Maitri auditorium, Mukti Haban, Time: 5:30pm.

Theatre

Abayob Theatre Troupe will stage the drama "Bhumadhyasagar". Venue: Shilpakala Academy Experimental Hall, Time: 7:00pm.

Rally

Bangbandhu Sangskritik Jot will take out a rally demanding a ban on Jamat-Shibir politics. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting

Green Voice, Jubo Nagorik Adhikar Jot and Sheba will hold a meeting demanding steps to stop propaganda against Detailed Area Plan (Dap). Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Exhibition

Monica Jahan Bose will hold an art exhibition. Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Time: 6:00pm.

BBC Radio to air Fauji Banijjya today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first episode of the nine-part BBC Bangla documentary titled Fauji Banijjya (Military in business) will be aired on BBC radio service today.

The weekly radio series will explore the extent of the business owned by the military in Bangladesh and its impact on the armed forces and on Bangladesh society, said a BBC press release.

The BBC radio evening programme Probaho will broadcast the documentary at 7:30pm and repeat it on the late-night programme Parikrama at 10:30pm.

The army has become a major player in Bangladesh's business arena and its business interest is present across key sectors of the economy from manufacturing to services, said a BBC press release.

In manufacturing there are cement, textile, food processing, electrical and electronics industries while the services sector includes banking, luxury hotels, fast food, retail, filling stations and training centres.

The army has been involved in business activities before the independence, aimed at generating income to maintain the welfare of veterans and the families of servicemen.

However, the welfare-oriented business model has led to the creation of many more entities, which can exploit the army's advantage in gaining commercial success, the press release added.

Producer of the documentary series Kamal Ahmed said, "There is a great unease within the force and among civil society about the army's growing business interests."

BBC Bangla radio is available in Bangladesh on BBC 100 FM in Dhaka, 101.2 FM in Comilla, 102 FM in Khulna, 105.4 FM in Chittagong, 105 FM in Rajshahi, 105.4 FM in Rangpur and 105 FM in Sylhet.

Bangla-speaking online audience can get BBC news on demand and on the go via the wide-format, multimedia website www.BBCBangla.com.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



AK Luthful Karim, former deputy secretary of the Ministry of Finance, passed away on Sunday, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad Mahfil will be held after Asar prayers at 53/6 Baddanagar Lane, Hazaribagh in the city.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the mahfil and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 40th death anniversary of Sultan Ahmed, secretary of the then East Pakistan Government and East Pakistan Red Cross Society, said a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 32 Purana Palatan in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

Friends and well-wishers are requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

ATM Riazul Islam

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of ATM Riazul Islam, a freedom fighter and veterinary doctor, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Teroania in Dinajpur and at Koronjai Road in Rangpur after Arojan prayers.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Monwar Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 19th death anniversary of Monwar Hossain, a sports organiser and poet, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute at the Anjuman Mafidul Islam orphanage in the city and prayers will be held at his grave in his village home at Srinagar in Munshiganj.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the functions.

WEATHER section with sun and cloud icons.

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:21am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Ishwardi and lowest 25.4 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.