

Food autarky

FROM PAGE 16
protect our agriculture and farmers," the PM said.
On food security, Hasina said her government is strongly committed to ensuring food security for every citizen and that's why agriculture has been given the top priority.

The PM underscored the need for flourishing of agriculture industries and food processing industries in the country for resolving employment problems and increasing the income of the mass people.

Hasina said already the country's scientists in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institution (IRRI) have invented salinity-resistant rice.

"I think if we can apply this variety in the coastal areas, our food production will increase to a large extent," Hasina said.

Besides, the country's scientists have also invented BRRI-51 and BRRI-52 varieties of crops, which will not be harmed by rising water levels, she said.

The PM also urged the scientists and other technical people to take into account the current climate issues while researching and introducing any technology on agriculture.

She described the decoding of the jute genome sequence by Bangladeshi scientist Dr Maksudul Alam as an outstanding landmark in the history of Bangladesh and said research on jute will have to continue.

Hasina hoped that with the help of the decoded genome sequence of jute, the jute industry will get back its lost glory.

In this regard, the PM said salary, job tenure and allowances of researchers with specific research works should be different from others.

"Researchers should be given special facilities," she added.

The PM recalled that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had formed the Bangabandhu Krishi Fund and introduced the Bangabandhu Agriculture Award to expedite agricultural production.

Hasina said the last BNP-Jamaat government had stopped giving out the awards on political grounds.

Earlier, the PM distributed the Bangabandhu National Agriculture Awards among different personalities and institutions for their outstanding contributions and achievements in various fields of agriculture.

Three persons and two institutions received gold medals at the function at the city's Osmani Memorial auditorium. Besides, nine persons including one female received silver medals while one institution and 17 other persons received bronze medals.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas also spoke at the function while Secretary to the Agriculture Ministry CQK Mustaq Ahmed delivered the welcome address.

COLOMBIA CRISIS

Chavez threatens oil cut to the US

AFP, Caracas

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has threatened to cut off oil supplies to the United States if it were to back a Colombian military attack on Venezuela, warning Washington to stay out of the fray.

Chavez broke off diplomatic relations with Bogota Thursday in response to charges by President Alvaro Uribe that 1,500 Colombian guerrillas had set up camp inside Venezuela and were launching attacks from its territory.

The firebrand leftist president said on Sunday he had intelligence that "the possibility of an armed aggression against Venezuelan territory from Colombia" was higher than it has been "in 100 years."

If Colombia were to launch an attack "promoted by the Yankee empire, we would suspend oil deliveries to the United States, even if everybody over here has to eat stones," he warned.

"We wouldn't send even a single drop

of oil" to the United States, he said.

The United States is the number one consumer of oil from Venezuela, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and South America's largest oil producer and exporter.

Chavez, who has been highly critical of a US-Colombian military base deal struck last year, called the United States "the great instigator" behind Venezuela's current conflict with Colombia.

About 20,000 Venezuelan troops deployed along the 2,000-kilometer (1,250-mile) border with Colombia have been placed under "maximum alert," according to military officials.

The United States on Friday threw its support behind its key ally Colombia in its latest row with Venezuela, calling Chavez's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Colombia and put border troops on alert "a petulant response" to Bogota's accusations.

Chavez on Sunday hinted at a possi-

ble easing of tensions with Colombia when president-elect Juan Manuel Santos replaces Uribe on August 7.

But in an op-ed piece published in several newspapers, the Venezuelan leader warned that his country "must get clear and unambiguous signs that Colombia's new government has real political will to resume the path of dialogue."

Santos, who is on a tour of Latin America, has refused to comment on the crisis, referring the matter to the outgoing president.

Venezuela "will present a peace proposal to Colombia" at Thursday's meeting in Quito of the Union of South American Nations (Unasur), Venezuela's Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro said.

Chavez also announced Sunday he would cancel a planned trip to Cuba in light of the crisis.

He had been due to attend yesterday in Havana the 57th anniversary of Fidel Castro's rebel attack on the Moncada barracks that kicked off the revolution that brought him to power in 1959.

Pak suicide bomber targets mourners

Seven killed
BBC ONLINE

A suicide bomb near Peshawar has killed seven people near a gathering mourning a cabinet minister's son murdered in a suspected Taliban attack, police say.

About 20 people were also injured when the bomber struck on foot near the home of Provincial Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain in the town of Pabbi.

Three policemen and four civilians died. The minister was not among the mourners.

The Taliban told the BBC they killed his 28-year-old only son two days ago.

Yesterday's suicide bombing near a mosque where mourners had gathered damaged several shops and scattered human flesh in the town, 26km (16 miles) east of Peshawar.

Police said the attacker had been dropped off by a man on a motorcycle near the minister's home, and he blew himself up after an officer challenged him.

BDR carnage

FROM PAGE 16
personnel as they have been absconding since the incident took place on February 25-26, 2009. The court also passed an order to attach their properties.

The court further granted the appeal submitted by the investigation officer (IO) of the case for dropping the names of 1483 from the charge sheet as their involvement with the killings was not proved.

However, the persons who were dropped from the charge sheet would be tried under the mutiny act and they would not be released, said sources.

The court directed officers-in-charge (OC) of different police stations to submit by August 25 reports on execution of arrest warrants against the 21 BDR personnel.

The Criminal Investigation Department on July 12 indicted 824 BDR soldiers and civilians on 24 criminal charges in connection with the mutiny.

The charges include murder, arson, looting, hiding of bodies, and sedition.

CID's Special Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akand, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, former leader of a Dhaka city ward unit of Awami League Torab Ali, and BNP backed former city ward commissioner Suraiya Begum.

The much talked about BDR deputy assistant director (DAD) Mohammad Towhidul Islam was made the prime indictee.

The indicted are six DADs, 44 subedars, 80 havildars, 60 nayaks, 68 lance nayaks, 504 sepoyes, 14 cooks, two peons, two cow herders, 18 sweepers, one ward boy, two carpenters, and 23 civilians.

The charge sheet also showed 21 BDR personnel as absconding since the mutiny. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against them, and an order for confiscating their properties.

The IO also said the mutiny was staged based on some pent-up resentment among BDR soldiers regarding some demands.

He said the indicted BDR members and civilians held several meetings inside and outside the BDR Headquarters prior to the mutiny.

The inditees looted arms breaking armouries, raided Darbar Hall of the BDR Headquarters, sprayed bullets there and at different other places in Pikhana killing 74 people including 57 army officers, he said.

A total of 2,307 were arrested so far in connection with the mutiny, 2,282 of them were taken on remand, and 543 gave confessional statements.

Boat of plastic bottles ends Pacific voyage

BBC ONLINE

A boat made from thousands of plastic bottles has sailed into Sydney Harbour, completing a four-month voyage that began in San Francisco.


The boat, called the Plastiki, was built using 12,500 plastic bottles.

Its 9,000 mile (15,000 km) voyage aimed to raise awareness of the dangers posed to the environment by plastic waste.



A protester holds a banner with words reading "What's New" as he listens to the first State of the Nation address of Philippine President Benigno Aquino at the House of Representatives in Manila yesterday. Thousand of protesters marched to demand the new government headed by President Benigno Aquino to prosecute former Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and to act to stop extra judicial killings.

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Operations Manager, Cards

Prime Responsibilities:

- Manage the activities of the EBL Card Operation Team
- Manage, monitor and approve card production, maintenance, delivery and transaction related tasks
- Maintain internal controls including management of compliance and business operations audit program
- Update internal policies related to card transactions and participate in site and segment of credit/ debit card related projects

Qualifications & Competencies:

- Post Graduation in any discipline (preferably in Commerce)/ MBA from a recognized University
- Minimum 6 years of experience in relevant field
- Accustomed in an environment with an emphasis on internal control and security
- Strong leadership skills to manage team members; including coaching and feedback skills

Finance Manager, Cards

Prime Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the entire financial wing of EBL Cards
- Manage, monitor, and get necessary approvals on card settlement issues, merchant payments, GL reconciliation and Card disputes
- Responsible for proper budgeting and forecasting of the financial parameters
- Advise the business and support wings of EBL Cards on the periodic status of respective units' revenue, cost and profit positions

Qualifications & Competencies:

- Post Graduation in any discipline (preferably in Commerce)/ MBA from a recognized University
- Minimum 6 years of experience in Cards Operations/ Finance
- Accustomed in an environment with an emphasis on internal controls and security

Associate Manager, Cards Systems

Prime Responsibilities:

- Responsible for follow-up and resolve all card management software related issues
- Monitor software behavior on a regular basis and report to the appropriate authority for any unusual event
- Participate in Cards Division's project on various development issues

Qualifications & Competencies:

- Graduation in any discipline (preferably in Commerce)/ BBA from a recognized University
- Minimum 4 years of experience in Cards Operations/ IT
- Accustomed in an environment with an emphasis on internal control and security

Associate Manager, Cards Compliance

Prime Responsibilities:

- Assist the line Manager on maintaining the compliance and regulatory requirements for Cards Division
- Run periodical audits within the division, liaise with banks Internal Control and Compliance division, prepare related reports and follow up on the audit findings for proper implementation
- Assist the line manager in organizing periodical training and briefing sessions for the bank staffs on various cards and cards regulatory issues

Qualifications & Competencies:

- Graduation in any discipline (preferably in Commerce)/ BBA from a recognized University
- Minimum 2 years of experience in compliance/ training
- Accustomed in an environment with an emphasis on internal controls and security

Officer, Cards Customer Service

Prime Responsibility:

Assist the Cards Customer Service Manager on various related issues

Qualifications & Competencies:

- Graduation in any discipline (preferably in Commerce)/ BBA from a recognized University
- Minimum 1 year of experience in Customer Service
- The role demands presence of mind and strong interpersonal skill set
- Smart, energetic and ready to go extra mile for solving the issue within the organization framework

Officer, Cards

Prime Responsibility:

Work in the production, delivery, data entry and maintenance units of EBL Cards

Qualifications & Competencies:

- Graduation in any discipline (preferably in Commerce)/ BBA from a recognized University
- Minimum 1 year of service experience
- Team player and respect to others
- Smart, energetic and ready to go extra mile to maintain timeline

Officer, MIS

Responsibilities

- Assist the line Manager in preparing all periodical regulatory reports for the Cards Division
- Prepare all business and strategic reports as and when required with the help of relevant departments

Qualifications & Competencies:

- Graduation in any discipline (preferably in Commerce)/ BBA from a recognized University
- 1 year of experience, freshers may also apply
- Smart, energetic and ready to go extra mile to maintain timeline

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- Excellent interpersonal skills to develop positive, effective relationships with business partners
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