



Prime minister Sheikh Hasina takes salute from a cub Scout at the Shapla Cub Award ceremony of Bangladesh Scouts at the International Conference Centre of Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday.

Help needy people, rebuild nation

PM asks scouts

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday stressed increasing the number of scouts to 15 lakh by 2013 from the existing 10 lakh.

She advised the scouts to help the needy people and take part in rebuilding the nation.

The prime minister was addressing the distribution ceremony of Shapla Cub Award of Bangladesh Scouts at the International Conference Centre of Prime Minister's Office.

Hasina said the role of scout movement is very much important for children and youths to build them as honest, self-confident and ideal good citizen with character and integrity alongside their academic pursuit.

She appreciated the role of scouts at times of natural calamities like Aila and Sidr and asked them to increase their scope of activities and spread their knowledge to common people.

She also lauded their role in building mass awareness on afforestation, sanitation, health and environment, and their cooperation with various government and non-government

organisations in maintaining peace and order in the society.

Hasina said her government has set up computer-based information centre at union level and suggested the scout to help in running these centres.

She said the education ministry and primary and mass education ministry are implementing a project, titled 'Human resources development through scouting'.

Directives have been given to form Cub-Scout and Scout Team at government and non-government primary, secondary and equivalent educational institutions, Hasina said.

She assured that the government would provide all out support to hold the 24th Asia-Pacific Scout Conference to be held in Bangladesh.

Earlier, she distributed Shapla Cub Award among 131 male and 68 female scouts.

Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts and Power Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad also spoke at the function chaired by President of Bangladesh Scouts Momtazul Islam.

Plan to run vessel service with Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to introduce water vessel between Bangladesh and Malaysia to ease communication between the two countries.

While speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a new water vessel at the Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said this.

A number of people of the two countries visit each other regularly. That is why, the government was planning to introduce water vessels on the

Chittagong- Penang route, he added.

The government is mulling over building of more shipyards in the southern region, he said.

Recently an Indian business delegation during a courtesy meeting with the minister proposed that a shipyard be established in Bangladesh in joint venture, he added.

The minister urged all the stakeholders to keep the riverine transport sector above politics for ensuring better service to the people.

He also blamed all previous

governments before 1996 for not purchasing any dredger.

"Shortage of high-powered dredger is the key reason for losing navigability of our rivers. We are trying our best to restore navigability. We are encouraging private sector to purchase more dredgers," he said.

Former energy minister and former army chief Lt Col (ret) Nuruddin Khan, former chairman of Privatisation Commission Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Highspeed Group of Companies chairman KM Mahmud-ur-Rahman, among others spoke there.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with party leaders offers prayers at mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman in the city on Tuesday night on the occasion of Shab-e-

Saarc Food Bank meet begins Oct 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saarc Food Bank's fourth meeting will be held on October 27-28 in Dhaka, which is likely to clear the way for making the bank operational to address any food crisis in South Asia.

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management at a meeting on Tuesday fixed the date for the meet to be attended by the high officials of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries, says a press release.

Saarc Food Bank was established in 2007 to meet emergency food crisis due to destruction of crops by natural calamities or any other reasons.

Any of the Saarc countries suffering food

crisis can demand food from other countries that earmark food for the cause.

However, it could not be made effective because certain issues like uniform standard of the food grain, mode of transport and price were not settled.

"These issues and others if any will be settled in the October meeting of the Saarc Food Bank," said Food Minister Abdur Razzaque who chaired the meeting at the food ministry.

Disaster Management Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman, Food Division Acting Secretary Barun Dev Mitra, Department of Food Director General Ahmad Hossain Khan, Food Division Joint Secretary Khandaker Atiar Rahman, Director General of Saarc at the Foreign Ministry Shafiur Rahman and other food ministry officials were present at the meeting.

Find out reasons behind child crimes: Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday stressed finding out and removing the causes behind the children's involvement in crimes.

While addressing as chief guest at the launching ceremony of a project on "Policy Advocacy and Legislative

Reform", which is related to implementation of the existing child act at the Cirdap auditorium in the city, he said the government will take steps to revise the existing acts on child affairs.

Placing stressing on authentic information and statistics on cases related to child offences the law minister observed that the children should not be confined with criminals to the same cell.

The aim of the project is to review the existing child acts in the light of High Court's verdicts and different international conventions.

Secretary of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Md Shahidul Haque presided over the programme while State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Qamrul Islam and Officer-in-Charge of Unicef Iyrolumun J Uhaa spoke.

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