

## PM briefed on 'Forces Goal-2030'

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday attended her office at the Armed Forces Division (AFD) in Dhaka Cantonment where she was briefed on the 'Forces Goal-2030' of Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force.

The premier was apprised that after the phase-wise implementation of the 'Forces Goal-2030', Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force are expected to develop into modern and viable forces, an ISPR press release said.

As a result, the release said, the overall security measures and defence system of the sea areas and national air space of the country would be further strengthened.

Besides, the navy and air force would also be capable of effectively contributing to the disaster management activities side by side with the national development of the country.

PM's Defence Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, chiefs of the three services, principal secretary to the prime minister, defence secretary and other senior military officials were present, the ISPR release said.

Earlier, on her arrival at the AFD, the prime minister was received by Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Lieutenant General Abdul Wadud.

## Huda urges journos to help resolve political crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former minister and BNP leader Nazmul Huda urged senior journalists to come forward to play role to protect the country's democracy by riding the country of "present political crisis created by the two major political alliances."

In a statement issued yesterday, he requested them to form a forum to push forward their programmes to establish rule of law by shunning politics of violence and destruction that have engulfed the entire nation.

"Time has come for eminent editors to play their constructive role to come forward not only raising their voice against partisan politics of confrontation and violence but also making a committed effort not to project such politics by giving encouragement through publishing these news," said Huda, also former member of BNP standing committee.



PHOTO: PMO

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the 500-bed Kurmitola General Hospital at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

## KURMITOLA GENERAL HOSPITAL INAUGURATED

# Serve properly to make hospitals effective, PM urges doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the masses will not benefit from hospitals if the attending doctors and staff fail to provide their respective services properly.

"Hospitals are just a physical infrastructure. It is the responsibility of the doctors and the healthcare service providers there to make hospitals effective," she said while inaugurating the 500-bed Kurmitola General Hospital at Dhaka Cantonment.

Hasina asked all concerned to perform their respective duties properly to ensure that the masses can avail the required services on time.

She said healthcare is a basic and constitutional right of the people and her government has been implementing various programmes to reach healthcare services to the doorsteps of the common people.

The prime minister announced that the number of physicians, nurses and other healthcare service providers will be increased, as required in the government hospitals

and health centres, to ensure better treatment.

She directed the health minister to take necessary steps to establish a "Nurses' Training Institute" on the campus of the Kurmitola General Hospital to impart appropriate training to nurses.

She said the Dhaka, Salimullah and Suhrawardy medical college hospitals cater for the needs of the residents of the middle and southern part of the capital.

With the inauguration of the Kurmitola General Hospital, opportunities of healthcare services for the huge number of people residing in the northern part of greater Dhaka has been created, she added.

"From now on they will no longer need to go to the southern part of the capital for treatment," she said.

Hasina said she laid the foundation stone of the Armed Forces Medical College in 1998 and a full-fledged hospital was needed for the students of this college.

Kurmitola General Hospital will play a vital role in building efficient,

modern, time-befitting and professional physicians for the country, she said.

A process is underway to upgrade the 31-bed upazila hospitals to 50 beds while 206 such hospitals have already undergone the transformation. New buildings were constructed in 42 healthcare institutions including medical college hospitals and district hospitals, she said.

Besides, she said, the district hospitals will be upgraded to 250-bed hospitals in phases while the government established four new public medical colleges across the country.

Earlier, the prime minister also inaugurated another 100-bed hospital named "Siraj-Khaleda Memorial Cantonment Board General Hospital", constructed by Siraj-Khaleda Trust, at the cantonment.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, the prime minister's Health Adviser Prof Sayed Modasser Ali, Chief of Army Staff General M Abdul Mubeen and Health Secretary Humayun Kabir also spoke on the occasion.

## City canals to be freed: Shahjahan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the 26 canals of Dhaka will be recovered from encroachers to save the capital from water logging, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan said yesterday.

Shahjahan, also chairman of the taskforce of the government formed to recover rivers and canals in the capital, made the remark during a visit to Duwaripara canal in Pallabi.

Eight out of the 26 canals, many of which have already come under boundary walls and walkways, have been recovered from encroachers and dug up fully, he said.

He also said no advantage would be given to any building or multi-storied buildings if they fall inside the canal area.

"We have already partially demolished two five-storied buildings on Ramchandrapur Khal (canal)," he said, adding that structures that were illegally constructed on the canals would come under similar drives.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) Managing Director Taqsem A Khan and officials accompanied the minister during his visit.

The canals that have come under the digging are Begunbari Khal, Ibrahimpur Khal, Rupnagar Khal, Kalyanpur Kha Khal, Kalyanpur Gha Khal, Kalyanpur Cha Khal, Kalyanpur Uma Khal and Kalyanpur Proddhan Khal.

## FAMILY VISITORS' APPEALS

# UK changes rules

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign nationals, who have been refused a visa for a short visit to see family members in the UK, will need to re-apply for a visa rather than launch a lengthy and costly appeal.

In future, the vast majority of applicants would lose the full right to appeal to reconsider their family visitor visas, according to a new bill that was published on May 11.

Refused applicants will, however, still be able to appeal on limited grounds of human rights or race discrimination, said a press release of the British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

The UK's Immigration Minister Damien Green said: "We are not stopping anybody visiting family in the UK; if an applicant meets the rules they will be granted a visa."

The change is included in the Crime and Courts Bill, which was published on 11 May. Subject to Parliamentary approval and Royal Assent, it is expected to come into force by 2014.

Until this time, interim measures will ensure that the full right of appeal will be limited to those who apply for visas to visit a close family member. In addition, the person being visited in the UK will also have to have settled, refugee or humanitarian protection status.

These changes only affect applicants who have been refused a visa to visit family in the UK. No changes are being made to the rules governing who can qualify to enter the UK. Genuine visitors continue to be welcome.

## View exchange meet to make journos' May 15 sit-in a success

UNB, Dhaka

Editors and heads of print and electronic media and journalist leaders yesterday exchanged views on May 15 sit-in programme of the journalists in front of the home ministry.

The programme is aimed at pressing for the arrest of the killers of journalists, including Sagor-Runi, proper investigation into the killings and exemplary punishment to the killers, ensuring safety of journalists and freedom of mass media.

The meeting unanimously decided to write editorials demanding arrest of the killers of all slain journalists and punishment to the killers in newspapers on May 15 and broadcast special reports on the issue in electronic media tomorrow.

Held at the National Press Club, the meeting decided that the electronic media will run special scroll in support of May 15 programme.

Editors, chiefs of electronic media and senior journalists also agreed to attend the May 15 programme to make it successful.

They also called upon all the journalists to attend the programme.

The Independent Editor Mahbubul Alam, News Today Editor Reaz Uddin Ahmed, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir and chiefs of electronic media were present at the meeting, chaired by BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

## SELECTING VC PANEL

# HC refuses to hear prayer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday refused to hear a writ petition that sought an order for holding a senate session of Dhaka University immediately to select a panel for the post of its vice chancellor (VC).

Prof Wahiduzzaman Chan, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, yesterday filed the petition, saying that Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique was appointed DUVC on January 15, 2009 to temporarily conduct its academic and administrative tasks. Prof Arefin was given the charge, under Section 11 (2) of Dhaka University Ordinance 1973, until a VC is appointed from a panel of three selected by the university senate, he said. But the VC did not invite any session of DU senate till date to select the panel, he added.

Tenures of most DU senate members will expire in June this year, the senate will be ineffective and the present VC will be able to hold the office for a long time, he said.

After a brief hearing, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim returned the petition to the petitioner, saying that they will not accept it due to "one of their (judge's) personal difficulties".

The bench, however, told Manzill Murshid, the petitioner's counsel, that they can move the petition before another HC bench.

## Fire erupts as Jatrabari flyover drill hits gas pipe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A huge fire broke out after workers at the under-construction Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover hit a gas supply pipe while drilling into the ground in the capital early yesterday.

However, no casualty was reported.

The raging flames from the damaged high pressure main of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited reached a height of over 100 feet and spread over an area of around 30 square feet.

The heat from the fire, erupting at around 1:40am, soon damaged nearby electric poles, causing panic among the workers and local residents.

Five fire fighting units from the Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters and Postogola tried in vain for over four hours to bring the fire under control.

The fire went out only when Titas turned off the gas supply at around 6:00am, said Fire

Service and Civil Defence Duty Officer Nazma Akhtar.

Officials of the flyover's constructing company, Belhasa Accom and Associates Ltd, said they were working as per a map on the area's gas transmission pipe network provided by Titas.

Titas suggested for manual checking to up to two metres below ground before starting drilling operations, they said.

"We dug up more than two metres and found no gas pipes. Our drill hit the gas pipe four metres below ground," said Belhasa Accom and Associates Ltd Managing Director Salman Karim.

Titas officials said gas supply to the northern and southern portions of Jatrabari, Bibirbazar, Gopibagh, Swamibagh, Wari, Sayedabad, Tikatoli, Ramkrishna Mission and Avaydas Lane of the capital would remain suspended till the crack was repaired.

They expressed hope to fix the crack within midnight last night.

## 18-party's mass procession today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance will hold a mass procession in the capital today to press home its demands including return of its missing leader M. Ilias Ali.

Other demands include withdrawal of "false cases" filed against top guns of the alliance, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, unconditional release of its arrested leaders like Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and Kamruzzaman Ratan and public security through an end to "abduction, killing and torture".

The party in a statement issued yesterday urged people including its leaders and workers to make the programme a success by compelling the government to realise the demands.

The procession will begin from the BNP central office at Naya Paltan at 3:00pm and continue through Shantinagar and Malibagh to end at Moghbazar.

Senior leaders like Mirza Alamgir will lead the procession. Earlier on April 17, BNP Organising Secretary M. Ilias Ali and his car driver Ansar Ali went missing from the capital. His party termed the incident as "forced disappearance" and blamed the government.

Against this backdrop, the opposition is holding a mass procession programme where fresh agitation programmes might be announced.

## €52m EU support for children

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) has launched a €52 million programme for the children living in the most remote parts of the country.

The EU said it had also taken an initiative for the children of char, haor and Chittagong Hill Tracts region. The children with disabilities, from ethnic minorities and living in extreme poverty would also be under the initiative.

The EU's €52 million programme is for supporting the "hardest-to-reach" children through basic education to 6.5 lakh children in Bangladesh.

This was a major contribution to government's aim of achieving 100 percent literacy by 2015, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals, said a press release of the EU.

It was learnt at an event yesterday as a part of the celebration of the 40th year of Partnership with Bangladesh.

## ENERGY-EFFICIENT BRICK KILNS

# ADB to give \$50m loan

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$50 million in loan to help improve the environment by financing more energy-efficient brick kilns in Bangladesh.

ADB's Board of Directors approved the "Financing Brick Kiln Efficiency Improvement Project" on May 10. Under the project, the ADB will provide \$50 million in local currency to the Bangladesh Bank which will re-lend the funds to participating financial institutions, said a press release.

These financial institutions will then provide loans to brick makers seeking to upgrade their existing kilns to cleaner kinds of kilns or to those looking to build the cleaner kilns for the first time.

SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG

grameenphone

Get smart and experience the bigness with Grameenphone and Samsung

NEW

Samsung GALAXY Pocket brings smart life for everyone @ Tk.12,990/-

832 MHz processor

3 GB internal memory

450,000+ Apps

Android (Gingerbread)

Internet 300MB FREE

Just dial 4724 from your Grameenphone connection to get 300MB data | Missed Call Alert Service | Call Block Service | 300 MMS absolutely free every month for the next 3-months!

BUY ORIGINAL

0% InstaBuys Partner

Standard Chartered

Buyers of only Samsung warranty handsets will get this offer. For detailed terms & conditions, please check the inner page.