

# First Bangladesh made warship launched

A CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The first-ever warship built by Bangladesh was launched by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni through a ceremony at Khulna Shipyard yesterday.

The warship, categorised as a patrol boat, was built by Khulna Shipyard at a cost of Tk 58 crore and will be handed over to Bangladesh Navy in December.

With a cruising speed of 18 nautical miles and a maximum speed of 23 nautical miles, the 255 tonne patrol boat is equipped with two 37 mm and two 20 mm guns capable of taking down aircrafts and ships.

Moreover, the 50.4 by 7.5 metre patrol boat can be at sea with 31 crew members for one week at a stretch without docking.

The patrol boat is among five Khulna Shipyard is constructing for Bangladesh Navy at a cost of Tk 288 crore, scheduled to be handed over by mid 2013. China Shipbuilding Offshore Company is supervising the construction and providing the designs and materials.

Khulna Shipyard signed the construction contract with Bangladesh Navy on May 2, 2010 and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the construction on March 5, 2011.

Addressing the ceremony as chief guest, Dipu Moni said with increasing demand for ships in the global market, Khulna Shipyard will hopefully be able to construct and export more ships with Chinese assistance.

Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed, local lawmakers and high civil and military officials were present at the ceremony.



The first patrol boat-category warship built in Bangladesh by Khulna Shipyard is taken to the Rupsha river after a ceremony in the shipyard yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Folk singer Bidit Lal Das passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*



Bidit Lal Das, a veteran folk artiste and singer of now defunct

Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, passed away at a hospital in the capital yesterday. He was 74.

He had been suffering from liver related complexities and old age complications for long.

He left behind his wife, a son, a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

His body would be kept at Sylhet Betar and Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar for some time for paying tributes before his funeral today afternoon.

**Towhid Ullah Bir Bikram**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sergeant Towhid Ullah Bir Bikram (ret'd), a war wounded and gallantry award holder freedom fighter, passed away on Sunday at Ibne Sina Hospital in the capital due to cardiac arrest. He was 65.

He left behind his wife Farida Parveen, says an ISPR press release.

Towhid fought the Liberation War gallantly and had several bullet injuries while leading a fighting patrol of 10 E Bengal in the Battle of Belonia Bulge in Feni district on November 9, 1971.

**Death anniversary**

BSS, *Dhaka*

Today is the 27th death anniversary of Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, assistant editor of now defunct the Bangladesh Times and former Dhaka correspondent of Voice of America World Service.

A doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Ronokeli in Golapganj upazila of Sylhet while feeding of destitute will take place at his residence in Dhaka.

Amin, also former correspondent of The Guardian, died on October 9, 1985.

# AUG 21 ATTACK CASES Ex-magistrate faces court Oct 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned a former metropolitan magistrate to appear before it on October 14 to give his statement as the 64th witness in August 21 grenade attack cases.

AKM Emdadul Haque had recorded confessional and judicial statements of an accused and three prosecution witnesses during his service as the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The accused is Pakistan based Laker-e-Taiba leader Abdul Majid Butt alias Yusuf Butt while the witnesses are Nahid Laila Kakon, wife of Majid Butt, Lt Col (ret'd) Afzal Naser Bhuiyan, and Lt Col (ret'd) Mohammad Mizan.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 issued the order following the completion of cross-examination of the then acting Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner, SM Mizanur Rahman.

Of the 52 accused in the two August 21 grenade attack cases, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and 24 others, now in custody, were produced before the court yesterday.

BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and 18 other accused have been shown absconding in the cases.

# Ramu violence linked to Rakhine's: CPB, BSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ramu violence has a link to the sectarian clashes between Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state of Myanmar, leaders of two left-leaning parties said yesterday.

The Rohingya Muslims might have perpetrated the incident to build unity with Bangladeshi local Muslim community as their relationship is not good, they told a press conference at the capital's Mukti Bhaban.

The leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) recently visited the affected areas in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

BSD leader Bazlur Rashid Firoz said national and international conspiracies were behind the violence against Ramu's Buddhists. He also blamed a lack of responsibility of intelligence agencies and administration.

According to local people, the attackers were from ruling Awami League, BNP, and

Jamaat-e-Islami, who held a demonstration before the violence to protest the defamation of the holy Quran, he said.

A mob destroyed 12 pagodas and more than 50 houses in Ramu on the night of September 29, apparently angered by a Facebook photo derogatory to the holy Quran.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission formed a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, recommending formation of two separate committees to investigate the incidents in Ramu and Ukhia.

An international committee could be formed with interested representatives from different countries populated by Buddhists, while the government could form an all-party probe committee to prove its neutrality, said a press release.

Students, teachers and officials of Dhaka University at another human chain yesterday urged the government to ensure exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

# Undertake more projects for FFs

*Muktijoddha Sangsad urges govt*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad (BMS) yesterday expressed its gratitude to the incumbent government for taking 26 welfare projects to support freedom fighters financially and socially.

They also urged the government to approve more projects for freedom fighters, who fought in the liberation war of 1971.

Maj Gen (Rtd) Helal Morshed Khan, chairman of the command council, made the request at a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. BMS central command council organised the programme.

Addressing the programme, he said the incumbent government brought 1.5 lakh freedom fighters under monthly honorary allowance of Tk 2,000 to support their families.

A total of 7,838 families of martyred and injured freedom fighters were given special honorary allowance and rationing, citing this, Helal Morshed said the government has tried to repay the debt owed to the freedom fighters through these projects.

He also thanked the government for providing the freedom fighters with quality medical facilities and ensuring jobs for their children.

# Left parties want security during Puja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some left-leaning parties of Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps to ensure security at the upcoming Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community.

They also said the government should provide its utmost support to the Buddhist and Hindu communities at Ramu, Ukhia, Teknaf and Patia in Cox's Bazar as their homes and temples were vandalised and torched about a week ago.

They were addressing a meeting held at the Workers Party Office in the capital yesterday.

They also asked the government to remain alert so that such incidents are not repeated.



President of India Pranab Mukherjee with the Bangladesh Youth Delegation, invited by India on an eight-day visit to strengthen people-to-people contact and exchange between the two countries, at a function in Rastrapati Bhavan yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# ASK concerned over border killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a rights body, yesterday expressed concern over the recurrence of the killing of Bangladeshis on the border despite repeated assurances from Border Security Force's (BSF) chief to halt such incidents.

From January to September, 19 people were killed and 56 others injured by BSF, says an ASK press release.

BSF killed a Bangladeshi in Chapainawabganj on September 30. However, just a day before, BSF chief UK Bansal, at a director general-level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh and BSF in the capital, repeatedly assured to bring down the number of killings on the border to zero.

On October 2, BSF killed another Bangladeshi on Masudpur border. Meanwhile, a BSF team picked up one Jewel Hossain, 30, from Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat on September 24. His trace is yet to be found. Moreover, on July 30, 2011, Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram, during his visit to Dhaka, had provided the same assurance but to no avail.

# Microbus hijacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An armed gang hijacked a newly purchased microbus at the capital's Kafrul on Saturday night.

Delwar Hossain Majumder, the microbus owner, said he bought the microbus on August 27 for Tk 19.8 lakh.

On Saturday night, a Pajero jeep hit the microbus near the prime minister's office, he said. When the driver stopped the microbus, some 6-7 armed carjackers from the Pajero rushed into the microbus, pushed off its driver at Demra, and sped away, he added.

# Ctg hawkers' poll held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The triennial election of Chattagram Bahumukhi Hawkers Samity (CBHS), an association of the newspaper hawkers of Chittagong, was held in the port city on Sunday.

Md Obaidul Haq Majumder and Abul Bashar were elected the president and vice-president of CSBH respectively while Md Delwar Hossain was made its secretary.

Nearly 303 hawkers, who are members of the association, voted in the election supervised by Md Shamsuddin Bhuiyan, inspector of District Cooperative Office of Chittagong.

# Korean language contest held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Korean Language Speech Contest and Festival, 2012 was held at National Museum in the capital on Sunday.

The Embassy of Korea and Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica), Bangladesh co-hosted the programme to promote friendship and cultural exchange between the two countries, said a press release.

A total of 24 participants showed their proficiency in Korean language in the competition.

Koica Resident Representative Kim Bok-Hee, Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Nasreen Ahmad, and Director of Institute of Modern Language of DU Sultan Ahmed among others attended the programme.

# Minor girl raped, two arrested in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two teenage boys were detained yesterday for allegedly raping a nine-year-old girl at South Badda in the capital.

The detained were Ruhul Amin, a class VII student of a school in Badda, and Bashir Uddin, an employee of a shop at Gulshan.

AK Azad, sub-inspector of Badda Police Station, said when the girl came out of her house around 8:00pm on Sunday, the two boys took her to a nearby bush and raped her.

When the girl returned home, she informed her family members about the incident who informed the matter to police.

Police admitted the victim to One Stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The victim's father filed a case with Badda Police Station against the two teenagers in this regard. Police detained the two boys.

Police said the boys, however, denied their involvement in the incident.

# 7 BANGLADESHIS KIDNAPPED BY SOMALI PIRATES Families seek govt steps for release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Families of seven Bangladeshi sailors held hostage for nearly two years by Somali pirates formed a human chain before Chittagong Press Club yesterday demanding immediate government measures for their release.

Somali pirates seized the Malaysian flag carrier MV AL-VADO from the Indian Ocean on November 26, 2010 and held hostage its crew, including the seven Bangladeshis, seven Pakistanis, six Sri Lankans and two Indians.

The family members said the pirates had let the crew call the families to convey their demand of US \$7 lakh as ransom, stating that otherwise they would be killed.

The crew had informed that they were tied up most of the time, inhumanly tortured both physically and mentally and served inadequate amounts of substandard food and water. The family members added that there was

no response from the Bangladesh government although the Pakistan government secured the release of their nationals on August 1 this year.

They stressed that the government must act fast as the pirates had recently killed one of the Indian nationals, as stated by one captive, Md Aminul Islam, of Comilla.

Aminul's father Nurul Islam said he, on behalf of the others affected, sent letters seeking help from the Prime Minister's Office, foreign and shipping ministry and the office of the shipping department director general in September last year.

"We asked the government to pay the ransom from the prime minister's relief fund and the sailor's welfare fund but no step was taken," he said.

The remaining Bangladeshi captives are Golam Mostafa, Habibur Rahman, Nural Haq and Abul Kashem of Stakhira and Limon Sarker and Jakir Hossain of Chandpur.

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