

Bangladesh Navy gets warships built in country for the first time

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three patrol crafts, warships built in Bangladesh for the first time, were handed over to Bangladesh Navy yesterday in a ceremony at Khulna Shipyard's Rupsha River Side Park.

The patrol crafts -- Aparajeya, Adammya, and Atondra -- were built by Khulna Shipyard with technical assistance from China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Company Ltd.

The warships will be used for coastal patrol duties, anti piracy, anti-smuggling, anti-drug trafficking, fishery protection and disaster relief operation.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Rear Admiral AMMM Aurangzeb Chowdhury and Managing Director of Khulna Shipyard Rear Admiral RU Ahmed, among others, addressed the ceremony.

BCL LEADER MURDER

CID presses charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has pressed charges against twelve people, including a former Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor, for murdering a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader in the capital's Shekhetek in April, 2010.

According to the charge sheet, Mohammad Ahiduzzaman, 25, general secretary of ward-43 unit of BCL, was killed over previous enmity on April 13 while he was having lunch with friends at a local restaurant.

Victim's elder sister Syeda Rubina Akhter Mira

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Transport owners and workers face an imminent threat of huge losses as hundreds of goods-laden trucks got stranded on the Khulna-Kushtia highway at Bhatoi Bazar under Shaikupa upazila of Jhenidah yesterday due to the countrywide hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami protesting the execution of its leader Quader Mollah, a war criminal who had earned the title "Butcher of Mirpur" for his brutality.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Policeman 'killed by wife' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policeman was allegedly killed by his wife in their Purba Monipur residence in the capital's Mirpur on Saturday.

Police recovered the body of Humayan Kabir, 34, assistant sub-inspector of Shah Ali police Station, from his room early yesterday.

Police also arrested Kabir's wife Rahima Sultana Rumi, 27, a nurse.

Kabir was injected with poison, suspect police as they found a syringe in the room.

Morgue sources said the body bore an injection mark in an arm while injury marks in the head.

Victim's brother filed a murder case against Rumi.

Their 11-year-old domestic help told The Daily Star that there were also a man and a woman, who came three days ago, in the house on the day.

Around 11:00am, Rumi sent the maid with Ishmam, two and a half year old son of the couple, to the roof.

The house help also said the visitors were not at

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War heroine Momtaj suffers from neglect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Unwilling to live off the mercy of others any more, war heroine sexagenarian Momtaj Begum is now seeking government recognition to live the rest of her life with dignity.

Near the end of the 1971 Liberation War, the Pakistani occupation army raped a 21-year-old Momtaj, then eight months into her pregnancy, after abducting her from her Latifpur village residence in Gazipur's Shreepur upazila.

The torture caused a miscarriage, obstetric fistula and hearing impairment. For the fistula, she had to undergo five operations and now has to pass faeces through a hole in her stomach.

Fazlur Rahman, one of the village residents who witnessed her ordeals through the years, said the stigma barred her family from revealing what had happened till her two remaining daughters were married off in the mid 80s.

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WAR CRIMES TRIALS

Mobarak claims innocence

ICT-1 denies Azhar indictment review, ICT-2 asks cops to produce Bagerhat lawyer in Yusuf case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Mobarak Hossain yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that the war crimes case against him is the result of a previous enmity and all the charges are totally false, baseless and fabricated.

Mobarak, a former local Awami League leader of Brahmanbaria, yesterday defended himself as the first witness in the case filed for his alleged involvement in the crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War.

He said he lived at his aunt's house in Kharkut village of Akhaura, near the border, from April to December in 1971.

According to the indictment order, Mobarak, as a commander of Razakar force,

"participated in," "contributed to" and "facilitated" the commission of crimes in different parts of Brahmanbaria in 1971.

Mobarak claimed he was born on July 1, 1956 and was a minor during the war.

The war crimes accused claimed he had a land dispute with one Abdul Hamid of Noyadil village of Brahmanbaria, who filed the case against him.

Mobarak said he is still the organising secretary of Mogra union unit of AL.

Prosecutor Sahidur Rahman then cross-examined him.

Sahidur asked Mobarak whether he acknowledges that in the voter list, his birth year is mentioned as 1950.

Mobarak in reply said he went abroad in the 80's and for work permit he had to

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DHAKA ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY Construction now to begin in February

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader says at revised concession agreement's signing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the long-delayed Dhaka Elevated Expressway, aimed at easing the perennial traffic congestion, will begin early February next year, said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday while witnessing the revised concession agreement's signing.

Ital-Thai Development Public Company Ltd, private investor of the Tk 8,940 crore public-private partnership scheme, will mobilise construction equipment and materials in January, he said.

Bridges Division Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, representing Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), the implementing agency, and the company President Premchai Karnasuta inked the agreement on behalf of their respective sides in the capital's BBA premises.

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PHOTO: STAR

Victory Day brings boon to national flag sellers too, as on this day citizens buy the flags in numbers to fly them on their houses, offices and vehicles with pride. This hawker was caught in the lens yesterday in the capital's Shahbagh.

WOUNDED SHANTO Medical board formed to look after him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-member medical board was formed yesterday to look after 11-year-old Shanto Islam who was severely wounded by rubber bullets on Friday.

Headed by Prof Zillur Rahman of neurosurgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the board will now take care of Shanto, said Dr Pijush Kanti Mitra, who has been examining the boy since he was admitted to DMCH.

Shanto was peppered with rubber bullets when police fired on a group demonstrating against the execution of war crimes convict Abdul Quader Mollah and carrying out violence in the capital's Fakirapool.

Quoting doctors, the

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India, Bangladesh to cooperate for dev

Says Pankaj Saran at publication ceremony of 'Bittersweet Victory: A Freedom Fighter's Tale' written by Qayyum Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran yesterday said India and Bangladesh would work together in development issues for the welfare of the two nations.

"We have to look for how can we move ahead and cooperate in social development-poverty alleviation and economic development," he told a publication ceremony of a book on Liberation War.

He stressed the need for a mutual understanding on the issues of social and intellectual sharing for the welfare of the two nations.

The book titled "Bittersweet Victory: A Freedom Fighter's Tale" written by freedom fighter, A Qayyum Khan, was unveiled in the capital's Abdul Karim Shahitya Bisharad Auditorium of Bangla Academy.

Referring to the liberation war of Bangladesh, Pankaj Saran said the two countries have to go ahead for justice of the sacrifices of the people, who died in the war.

Lt Col (ret'd) Mohammad Ziauddin, Bir Uttam, noted litterateurs Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof Kaiser Haq, former ambassador Mahboob Alam, among others, spoke

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Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Rani Dutta, mother of Shyamal Dutta, editor of the daily

Bhorer Kagoj, passed away due to old age complications at Sergiscope Hospital in Chittagong yesterday. She was 75.

She also left behind her daughter Nondita Dutta and a host of well-wishers to mourn her death.

She was cremated on the port city's Obhoymitro cremation ground in the evening.

Before the cremation, different political, cultural and social activists paid their respect to the departed soul.

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ওরা ছিল ৮ লক্ষ ৬৬ হাজারের সুপ্রশিক্ষিত বাহিনী। আমরা ছিলাম প্রায় বিরুদ্ধে ১ লক্ষ ৭৬ হাজার। তবু বিরাট আর দেশপ্রেমের অস্ত্রে জেদিত বিজয় ছিনিয়ে এনেছি আমরাই।

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