

Western Marine

FROM PAGE 16
Bank Asia Ltd is the financial partner of Western Marine for construction of the first two ships.

Speaking at the press conference, Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu said the government was always eager to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries. The ship-building project between Western Marine and Jindal had highly contributed to this.

Sandeep Chakravorty, India's deputy high commissioner to Bangladesh, said his government had high hopes for Bangladesh-India friendship, and this new project gave a new dimension to it.

Saiful Islam, chairman of Western Marine, said it was a matter of great pride for Bangladesh shipbuilding industry to get associated with a renowned organisation like Jindal, which has huge contribution to India's power and steel sectors.

"This way the two countries will strengthen ties, and we hope to have more shipbuilding orders from India," he said.

Sakhawat Hossain, managing director of Western Marine, said the country's shipbuilding industry is gradually recovering after a fall in order from overseas buyers in recent years, and the order from the Indian company is a sign of that.

He said the local shipbuilders in the past focused only on the European market, but now the market in Asia and Asia Pacific was growing. This is the first time Bangladesh will build ships for Indian company.

At present, Western Marine is engaged in ship construction for New Zealand, Kenya, Uganda and India as well as local buyers, said the press release.

A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia, was also present at the press conference.

Honouring

FROM PAGE 16
campaign against the Ottoman Empire in which an estimated 11,400 troops were killed.

Anzac Day marks the landing of the troops and the beginning of a bloody nine month campaign which Australians say mark their country's emergence as a modern nation.

At a pre-dawn service in Gallipoli, now in modern day Turkey, Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott described the soldiers who fought as the "founding heroes" of their country.

He said: "Beginning here, on this spot and at this hour, 100 years ago, they fought and all-too-often they died: for their mates, for our country, for their King and -- ultimately -- for the ideal that people and nations should be free."

The service was also attended by Prince Charles who paid tribute to the "ordinary people called upon to do extraordinary tasks".

He read an extract from the 1916 book, Gallipoli by John Masefield, a writer who served in British run military hospitals during the war, which described the departure of the boats filled with men going off to fight.

New Zealand Prime Minister, John Key, also commemorated the contribution of Anzac soldiers saying they were "were as good as they could be in their time - now let us be as good as we can be in our time".

He said Gallipoli had become the byword for the best traits of New Zealanders and Australians "especially when they work side by side in the face of adversity".

The conflict also saw the deaths of around 25,000 British, 10,000 French and 86,000 Ottoman soldiers.

Later this afternoon in London, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, who is patron of the Gallipoli Association, and Prince William will join senior government and military figures at a memorial service in Whitehall.

In Scotland, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will be joined by Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael, veterans and members of the public, in a ceremony at Edinburgh Castle.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16
"Besides, some people are instigating untoward incidents in your motorcade."

After scrutinising reports published in different print and electronic media in the last couple of days, it appears that Khaleda's campaigning and speeches violate different sections of the electoral code of conduct, the letter claimed.

According to the electoral law, procession, showdown, motorcade procession, public rally, delivering provocative speeches are completely prohibited during campaign.

Also, no candidate can conduct campaigns in such a way that causes hindrances to peoples' movement, the letter said.

"With making you [Khaleda] aware about these rules of the electoral code of conduct, I request you to refrain from such activities," Mihir said in the letter.

Shah Alam, returning officer of Dhaka North City Corporation, sent another letter to Khaleda making a similar request to her.



At least 28 buffalos have been killed in lightning strikes on the Agunmukha in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali early yesterday. Locals said some farmers were bringing the buffalos to Charkarfarma from Panpatte for grazing but the animals got struck by lightning as they were crossing the river.

PHOTO: STAR

BSF kills Bangladeshi cattle trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Ghagra border of Panchagarh Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Samiul Haque, 35, was the son of Somiz Uddin of Shyampara village of Panchagarh Sadar upazila.

BSF troops of Singimari camp opened fire on some four to five Bangladeshi cattle traders. They were returning home through the border along with the cattle around 4:00am, said Lt Col Ariful Haque, commanding officer of 18 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Samiul was hit by bullets and critically injured. He was taken to his village home by the other traders, the BGB official told The Daily Star correspondent over the telephone.

Samiul died on his way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, which is over 100km away.

Later, the BGB sent a protest note to its Indian counterpart, condemning the killing.

Victims' struggle

FROM PAGE 16
Halima's life is full of struggle and pain.

The 50-year-old woman got separated from her husband when her son was only five. She worked in different places to bring up her son Rafiqul Islam. Her husband died around 13 years ago.

Halima said she used to earn Tk 9,500 and her 20-year-old son Tk 7,000, with which they ran the four-member family quite well. But after the incident, everything has changed.

Halima had undergone surgeries four times on her leg but still has pain and cannot even stand without a crutch. Neither can she stretch her hand completely or lift heavy things.

"But I could not afford to continue my treatment because of money," Halima told The Daily Star on Friday, the second anniversary of Rana Plaza collapse, when she, like dozen such survivors and victims' families, thronged the disaster site.

She had to spend Tk 45,000 for her treatment before the government came forward. She had her leg operated for the fourth time in July last year with the government's help.

But after the operation, she could only bear the post-operative treatment costing Tk 1,400 a week for three months, and that too with the help of the government and foreign donors.

Halima got Tk 79,000 from foreign donors and Tk 28,442 from the government.

But things soon turned for the worse one year later when her son Rafiqul lost his job, as he was busy with her mother, and now he has no permanent job. With a few jobs, he now has to feed four people and pay Tk 3,500 as rent.

"Rafiqul has been trying to get a permanent job [in garment factory] for the last one year. But no one gives him a job. Now he has to depend on temporary job," Halima said.

Halima said they could not make rent for the last three months and the owner asked them to leave.

While talking to The Daily Star, she showed her swollen leg and scars in her hand. "I don't know how we will live and pay rent, let alone continue my treatment," Halima wondered.

"We have heard that a lot of money comes from abroad. But where does it go?" she asked.

The condition of Nilufa Yasmin is no better. She used to work as a helper.

Nilufa was stuck under the rubble of Rana Plaza for two days. She sustained injuries in her legs and spine.

"Now I can't do anything. Actually I dare not. I even face prob-

lem doing household chores," she said.

She took the charge of her family after her husband met an accident while driving his pick-up truck several years ago. He now seldom drives.

Mother of three children, Nilufa got Tk 95,000 from the government, foreign donors and NGOs. But soon it turned out that the money was inadequate to bear the expenses of her family and children's education. Her elder son studies in class-IX while the youngest one in nursery.

"Finding no way, I sent my daughter to an orphanage where she could study for free," she said with tears rolling down her cheeks.

She said, "We heard huge money poured in for the victims and survivors. But I don't know whether all the victims got the money."

Nasrin Khatun, another survivor, worked as an operator on the sixth floor, and was rescued two days after the collapse.

"The money I got had already been spent for my treatment," said Nasrin who got Tk 65,000 so far.

She said she had to move to her village home in Faridpur as she could not get any job later on.

"If I stay here [Savar], how will I manage the rent and other expenses," she said.

Birth rate static

FROM PAGE 16
Population Research and Training (NIPORT) conducted the seventh BDHS between June and November last year with support from the USAID Bangladesh.

The survey was based on data collected from about 17,000 married women aged between 15 and 49 from across the country.

"The birth rate remains static simply because contraceptive use has not really increased much," said Peter Kim Streatfield, scientist at the ICDDR, B.

Of all forms of contraceptive methods, the use of pills stands highest at 27 percent, while long-term and permanent birth control method is only 8 percent.

"Pills are not a very effective method in the families where husbands work in the cities or abroad and wives stay at villages," said Streatfield, explaining that a wife may forget to take pills when her husband comes home, leading to unexpected pregnancy.

Long-term and permanent methods, which are not very available, need to be promoted, he suggests.

Chittagong, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions need to be given special emphasis in terms of making contraceptives and other health services available, the population expert observed.

The BDHS said underweight (weight for age) came down to 33 percent from 36 in 2011 and infant mortality dropped to 38 from 43.

At least 37 percent of the babies were delivered at health facilities in 2014, which was only 17 percent in 2007 and 29 percent in 2011.

However, 22 percent of the deliveries were made at private facilities and 13 percent at public facilities, said researcher Kanta Jamil, presenting a part of the survey.

"In 2014, 23 percent of the babies were delivered by C-section. Urban women are twice more likely than rural women to have C-sections," she added.

However, vitamin-A supplementation last year was only 62 percent, witnessing a 2 percent rise from 2011, whereas the target is 90 percent by 2016.

Measles vaccine for children under 12 months stands at 80 percent, witnessing a 4 percent decline from 2011. Besides, acute respiratory infection treatment during this time

BANGLADESH DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH STATUS 2014

INDEX	2011	2014	2016 TARGET
FERTILITY RATE (births per woman)	2.3	2.3	2.0
CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE RATE (married women aged 15-49 years)	61%	62%	72%
UNDER-5 CHILD MORTALITY (deaths per 1,000 live births)	53	46	48
STUNTING OF CHILDREN (height for age)	41%	36%	38%
EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING (children under 6 months)	64%	55%	50%
VITAMIN-A SUPPLEMENTATION (children aged 6-59 months)	60%	62%	90%
C-SECTION DELIVERY	17%	23%	15% [expected]

SOURCE: BDHS 2014

declined from 71 percent to 34 percent in 2014, according to the survey.

Moreover, exclusive breastfeeding for six months, which is termed crucial for child nutrition, has declined from 64 percent in 2011 to 55 percent last year.

Ishiaq Mannan, chief of a section of Mamoni Health Systems Strengthening Project, said many of the health indicators in the low quintile of the population and Sylhet and Chittagong regions were not really good.

He suggested that the health facilities for the grassroots be strengthened.

Health Minister Mohammed Nasim said while Bangladesh progressed in many aspects of health, there were a number of shortcomings as well. He called upon all medical personnel to work sincerely to improve the situation.

State Minister for Health Zahid Maleque, US Ambassador Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, USAID Bangladesh Mission Director Janina Jaruzelski and NIPORT Director General Wahid Hossain also spoke at the programme chaired by Health

Dhaka south area more risk-prone

FROM PAGE 16
There would be tighter security arrangements for the "important" centres than that for the "general" ones, he said.

Giving details of the security plan for the polling day, he said there would be 24 law enforcers at every "important" centre and 22 at a "general" one to ensure that voters can cast their ballots freely.

Two mobile teams would be patrolling all centres in each ward, and a team of the strike force would be there for every three centres, he said.

"We have taken security measures for the pre-election period, during the polls and also for the post-election period. We hope this will be a trouble-free election," said the DMP commissioner.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion and Border Guard Bangladesh would patrol all areas of the two city corporations, he said.

The DMP commissioner said there would be a restriction on travel by

motorbikes in the city from 12:01am today to 6:00am on Wednesday.

Vehicular movement would be restricted in the capital for 24 hours from 12:01am on Tuesday. However, ambulances and vehicles of polling agents, journalists, local and foreign observers, law enforcers and fire service would be allowed to move with the permission of the returning officer.

The DMP also put a ban on carrying of licensed firearms from yesterday to Friday.

Rallies, processions and outdoor programmes will remain banned from today till Thursday. And no candidate will be allowed to set up a camp within 400 yards of a polling centre.

In line with the Election Commission's directives, the DMP boss asked "all outsiders" in the two city corporations to start leaving the areas from last night.

Asked, an election commissioner said the directive was issued for those influential people, who are not voters

in the two city corporations and might try to influence the voters.

BGB Public Relations Officer Mohsin Reza told this correspondent that BGB personnel were deployed in Dhaka and Chittagong cities at 10:00pm yesterday.

Talking to reporters at his office, EC Secretary Sirajul Islam said around 80,000 members of police, Rab, BGB, coast guard and ansar would be deployed in Dhaka and Chittagong cities on the election day.

The army would be ready from today. If returning officers think law and order has gone beyond control and army deployment is necessary, the troops would immediately move to the polling centres, he said.

In response to a query, he said candidates were abiding by the electoral code of conduct since the election schedule was announced on March 18.

Sirajul, however, said some untoward incidents took place, and law enforcers were directed to ward off recurrence of such incidents.

'Criminal' killed

FROM PAGE 16
upazila yesterday.

The dead is Soheli Rana, 25, son of Abdul Wahab Fakir of Abhaynagar upazila in Jessore. The injured is Shahjahan Ali Sarder, 40, son of Gahor Sarder of Satkhira's Tala upazila.

Till yesterday, at least 51 people, including Soheli, were killed in so-called gunfights with law enforcement agencies this year, according to The Daily Star reports.

KHULNA
Rana stood accused in seven criminal cases, including murder and robbery, said TM Rokanuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Khulna Detective Branch (DB) of police.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team arrested Rana from Paigram Kosba in Phultala upazila around 9:00pm on Friday, the DB official said,

reports our Khulna correspondent.

After interrogation, police along with Rana raided Jugnipasha Telipukur for recovering firearms around 2:30am yesterday.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, Rana's aides sprayed bullets on them, prompting police to fire back, triggering the "gunfight".

At one stage, Rana was caught in the line of fire and hurt badly. The others fled. Rana was taken to Phultala Upazila Health Complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead, said Rokanuzzaman.

Police recovered five crude bombs, one shutter gun and 14 bullets from the spot, he claimed.

SATKHIRA
An alleged robber, Shahjahan Ali, suffered bullet injuries in a "gunfight" with police in Tala upazila early yesterday, our Satkhira corre-

spondent adds.

Acting on information, a patrol team of police conducted a drive in Kumira area where around 12 to 14 criminals were preparing to commit a robbery by placing logs on Satkhira-Khulna highway around 1:30am, said Tarikul Islam, officer-in-charge of Patkelghata Police Station.

Sensing police presence, the "robbers" hurled brick chips at them first and then opened fire. The law enforcers also returned fire, triggering the "gunfight".

They later found Shahjahan bullet-hit on the spot. The rest fled the scene. Shahjahan is being treated at Khulna Medical College Hospital. Police claimed that two sharp weapons and two bullets were recovered from the spot.

Shajahan slams Manjur

FROM PAGE 5
ruling party-backed candidate, which, by a minister, is a violation of election rules.

According to Article 14 (A) of the code of conduct for city corporation elections, "... ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers or anybody of their status cannot participate in election campaigns or electoral activities..."

It is clear that by asking to strengthen the ruling party president's "hands", the minister had sought votes to elect the candidate the party backed, Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik Secretary Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar told The Daily Star.

Shajahan was addressing as chief guest a reception for the Chittagong port's employees, along with families of the deceased, who were freedom fighters at Chittagong Port Training Centre, organised by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) marking the port's

128th anniversary.

He said the PM, citing the need for the city's development, had asked him at an Ecnc meeting to pay CCC Tk 112 crore CPA owed in a bill.

"I handed over the money in a single cheque to the then city mayor Manjur. I requested him to set up a truck terminal...but he did not do it so far," he said, adding that it was later constructed with CPA funds.

He said though mitigating waterlogging was not CPA's duty, they had bought a multipurpose dredger following the PM's directive. "We have plans to build sluice gates on Mohes Khal (canal)," he said.

"To get Sabri banana, you have to plant the same tree. You can not get it by planting another tree. By bringing the criminals and terrorists to power, you can not get Sabri banana.

"We need to keep Sheikh Hasina in power to lead the country towards development," he added.