

PM for locally building modern battleships

UNB, Khulna

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that Khulna Shipyard would be able to build and export more modern battleships in the future.

"Khulna Shipyard will be able to attain the capacity to build more developed and modern battleships one day, Insha Allah. I do believe it'll be able to export ships as well," she said.

The prime minister was addressing a function marking the keel-laying of two large patrol craft and inauguration of two container vessels for Nou Kalyan Foundation of Bangladesh Navy at Khulna Shipyard in the afternoon.

She suggested the shipyard to build dredgers and ferries considering their growing demand in the country. "We don't want to engage in any war. But, we've to remain ready so that we don't have to make any retreat if we're attacked."

Hasina said Khulna Shipyard is a strategic asset for Bangladesh and the government will ensure its further development.

The new modern container vessels built by Khulna Shipyard with technological support from Singapore for Navy's Nou Kalyan Foundation will enrich the growing technical and technological experiences of this yard alongside contributing to the national

economy.

She said the container vessels on the country's domestic river routes, especially from Chittagong, and Mongla ports, could transport goods at ease to neighbouring countries.

The PM said Khulna Shipyard has been playing a pioneering role in constructing state-of-the-art battleships alongside importing battleships from abroad as part of a process to turn Bangladesh Navy into a tri-dimensional force.

She said it is the demand of time for ensuring overall security to the vast maritime areas as well as protection of the areas, extracting wide open maritime resources and its management following the final settlement of maritime disputes with India and Myanmar.

To uninterruptedly carry out such activities, the Khulna Shipyard is constructing medium and large seagoing vessels as well as small and big quality battle ships for Navy.

Navy chief and Khulna Shipyard Board of Directors chairman Vice Admiral M Farid Habib also spoke on the occasion, while Khulna Shipyard Managing Director Commodore M Khurshid Malik delivered the welcome address.

Earlier on her arrival at Khulna Shipyard, the PM was received by Farid Habib and Khurshid Malik.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates two navy warships by releasing a dove at Khulna Shipyard yesterday.

Tiger skins, body parts seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Skins and body parts of Bengal tigers and other wildlife, along with luxurious products made of animals, were seized at Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Market in Gulshan-2 yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Criminal Investigation Department and Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the Forest Department seized the skulls of a tiger and a fishing cat, 15 pieces of animal bones and skins of tiger, deer and snake from Leather Boutique at the market.

The law enforcers also seized 20 bags and belts made of skins of tiger, snake, fishing cat and monitor lizard from the shop around noon, said Ashim Mollik, inspector of the Wildlife Control Unit.

They, however, could not arrest anyone as everyone in the shop escape.

To cheers, they arrive

FROM PAGE 1

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday spoke by phone with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who has called the refugee wave a "German problem" caused by Berlin's public statement saying it would welcome Syrians.

"Both sides agreed that both Hungary and Germany must meet their European obligations, including their obligations under the Dublin agreement," said Merkel's spokesman Georg Streiter.

Under the EU's so-called Dublin rules, asylum applications must be processed by the country where a person first arrives.

Orban and Merkel had agreed that the weekend influx was exceptional, due to the emergency situation in Budapest, Streiter said.

Merkel also faces political pressure at home, where her Bavarian sister party CSU criticised the eased travel rules as "a wrong decision", according to its party secretary Andreas Scheuer.

Members had warned that this had created "an additional pull-factor" - aside from push factors such as war, poverty and repression in their home countries.

Merkel was set to hold a crisis meeting on the refugee issue later yesterday with her coalition partners.

On Saturday, she said Germany can cope with a record influx of refugees this year without raising taxes and without jeopardizing its balanced budget.

With relatively liberal asylum laws and generous benefits, Germany is the European Union's biggest recipient of refugees fleeing war in the Middle East and economic migrants from south-eastern Europe.

"We cannot just say 'Because we have a difficult task now, the balanced budget or the issue of debt are no longer important,'" Merkel said in her weekly video podcast.

In an interview with local newspapers, Merkel promised that Berlin would not raise taxes because of the refugee crisis.

Berlin's comfortable budgetary position is making it easier to master such "unexpected tasks", Merkel said, adding the refugee crisis was the government's priority now.

Thanks to higher-than-expected tax revenues, Berlin could have leeway for extra public spending of up to 5 billion euros (\$5.6 billion) this year, officials have said.

On Saturday alone about 8,000 migrants crossed German borders, federal police told AFP.

In Munich, some 1,200 came in early yesterday, a day after trains brought 6,800 to the southern German city.

As refugees got off trains, police directed them to waiting buses bound for temporary shelters, which have been set up in public buildings, hotels and army barracks across the country.

"Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here," crowds chanted at the Frankfurt railway station overnight.

Yesterday, a convoy of around 140 cars and vans filled with food and water left Vienna to collect exhausted migrants, many from Syria, who had set out to walk the 170km stretch through the rain from Hungary's capital Budapest to the Austrian border, from where many would continue onto Germany.

One of the Austrian activists taking part, Angelika Neuwirth, told the BBC that their aim was to take them back to shelters in Austrian capital.

"I think this is my duty. I'm a mum, I'm a woman from Austria and I can't close my eyes anymore," she said. "We are all human. No-one is illegal."

A dozen or so well-wishers offering chocolate and bananas greeted between 600 and 700 people, mostly from Syria, arriving on two trains arriv-

ing in the southern German city of Munich, early in the morning with between 600 and 700 people. A third was expected with about 450 people, an regional administration spokeswoman said.

Most were bussed to reception centres after given medical checks, food and clean clothing. Many said they were from Syria, while others were from Afghanistan or Iraq.

Germany has said it expects 800,000 refugees and migrants this year and urged other EU members to open their doors. But others say the focus should be on tackling the violence in the Middle East that has caused them to flee their homes.

The numbers in Europe are small compared to several million refugees in Syria's neighbors Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan and Pope Francis called on yesterday for every European parish and religious community to take in one migrant family each.

But a poll in France's Aujourd'hui en France newspaper showed 55 percent of French people are opposed to softening rules for migrants to access refugee status.

While Germany has seen a spate of ugly xenophobic rallies and attacks against foreigners, it has also seen an outpouring of support, donations and volunteer efforts by people who believe the country, given its dark history and current wealth, has a special obligation to help refugees.

Politicians in Germany and elsewhere in Europe have voiced growing concern about the record numbers, and warned the influx would spell both logistical and political problems.

In Austria, Faymann said that Vienna's assistance was a temporary manifestation of Vienna's "goodwill" in the face of a humanitarian emergency.

"There is no alternative to a common European solution," said Faymann, calling for a summit of EU

leaders "immediately after" an interior ministers' meeting on September 14, the APA news agency reported.

Many other EU countries, particularly smaller and poorer ones and those without a strong tradition of receiving migrants, are facing a much greater challenge to cope with the influx of people.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble said on the sidelines of a meeting of the Group of 20 leading economies in Turkey that Berlin was still calculating how much money it would cost to shelter the increased number of refugees.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung said in a report to be published on Sunday that the costs for the government, federal states and municipalities would rise to roughly 10 billion euros this year from 2.4 billion euros in 2014.

(From AFP, Reuters and BBC) BANGLADESHIS AMONG REFUGEES

A good number of Bangladeshis are among the asylum seekers in Austria, sources here in Dhaka and Vienna told our diplomat correspondent.

They said they learnt from local interpreters working in refugee camps that a number of Bangladeshis were there.

The officials at the Bangladesh Embassy in Austria could not give any specific number of Bangladesh nationals seeking asylum in Austria.

Asked about migrants seeking asylum in Austria, a senior official at the foreign ministry said rules do not allow them to get involved when a Bangladeshi seeks asylum in another country.

"That's why we don't know the exact figure of Bangladesh nationals in refugee camps..." the official said.

A TV channel in Bangladesh quoting a Bangladeshi journalist in Vienna said there were at least 500 Bangladeshis there.

'MILITANT FUNDING' Businessman on 5-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A Chittagong court yesterday placed an apparel businessman on a five-day remand for his alleged involvement in financing militant outfit Shahid Hamza Brigade.

The court of Banskhalhi Senior Judicial Magistrate Sazzad Hossain passed the order after the Rapid Action Battalion produced Enamul Haque before the court with a seven-day remand plea.

The elite force arrested the 39-year-old in Turag area of the capital on Saturday in a case filed under the Anti Terrorism Act, 2009, on February 23. The lawsuit was lodged after a training centre of the outfit was unearthed in Banskhalhi upazila.

At a press conference in Chittagong yesterday, Rab-7 Commanding Officer Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmed said Enamul, of Shakarigati of Jessore, is a director at an apparel firm established in Dhaka in 2013.

According to the Rab, their primary investigation found that Tk 1.38 crore had been deposited in different bank accounts of Shahid Hamza Brigade and Enamul put Tk 16 lakh of the amount into one of the accounts.

On August 11 last year, the accused wired the money to an account of Sanjida Enterprise with a private bank in Chittagong from Uttara in the capital, said Miftah.

The Sanjida Enterprise account is actually owned by Maniruzzaman Don, a key person of the militant outfit.

According to Enamul, three people had come to his firm some three to four days before the transaction and gave him Tk 16 lakh in cash for the delivery of different garment products, said the Rab official.

Enamul claimed that as he failed to make the delivery in time, he was asked to refund, and he deposited Tk 16 in the account accordingly.

The Rab CO claimed Enamul refunded the money using the name of a different organisation which was established in 2001 or 2003.

"Here we have noticed that Enamul tried to hide the name and address of his business firm while depositing the money. We have to investigate further to know why he gave a false address and whether other people were involved.

"He gave us the names of the people who reportedly gave him the money and now we are working to know their identities," he added.

On August 18, the Rab arrested three lawyers in the capital for allegedly financing the brigade and later the lawyers gave confessional statements before a court in Chittagong.

The lawyers allegedly had deposited Tk 1.08 crore in the bank account of Moniruzzaman Don, claimed the Rab.

The Rab-7 claimed to have arrested 29 alleged members of the militant outfit and recovered 25 arms and 150kg explosives and bomb-making materials from them.

Pabna 'pir'

FROM PAGE 1

"Salahuddin was shot dead when he was sleeping in the room early today [yesterday]," Sub-Inspector Alamgir Hossain of Atghoria Police Station said.

The nine aides police detained are: Hasem Ali Pramanik, 32, Md Mainul Islam, 35, Shafikul Islam, 32, Hashu Pramanik, 30, Md Ruhul Amin Firoz, 29, Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, 31, Md Masud Rana, 28, Aslam Ali, 47, and Md Nasir Uddin (age unknown).

Police recovered the revolver and two empty shells of bullets from their possession, said Officer-in-Charge SM Faruk Hossain of Atghoria Police Station.

"The aides were staying in the pir's house. None other went to the house so they are the prime suspects," the OC said.

"Salahuddin got the leadership of the group from his maternal grandfather Lutfar Rahman of Char Narina area in Shajadpur upazila in Sirajganj. He and his aunt Sathi both got the charge and they divided the properties of Lutfar. Salahuddin left Char Narina due to a dispute with his aunt and opened his own group in Atghoria upazila a couple of months ago," the OC said.

I want to go home

FROM PAGE 1

lights on, because otherwise the military planes and helicopters above would bomb us. Then one day the rockets hit the house where we lived. As we escaped, my father was shot in the road.

We left Syria and travelled to Turkey, where we stayed for a month and 10 days. Then we took an overcrowded boat from Bodrum, on the Turkish coast, to Kos.

There were about 60 people on this boat, which was meant to hold a maximum of 10 to 15 people. There were eight children and babies on board, all gathered in the middle of the boat, with the adults all around the sides. It was so overcrowded that at one point my baby daughter couldn't breathe.

The crossing took 40 minutes - it was 40 minutes of nightmare. I was so

scared, it was as if I saw death. I had to keep my eyes closed. The water was entering the boat and everyone got wet, the children too.

When we arrived on Kos, all our clothes were wet, but we had nothing else to wear, because we had thrown our entire luggage into the sea to make more room on the boat.

I wouldn't make that journey again. Impossible. We took this horrific, dangerous journey because we wanted to make our children's lives easier, safer and better. There is no future in Syria for our children.

We still have family in Syria: my mother, brother and sister are there. They couldn't escape because they don't have the money. It costs a lot of money to get here illegally. We paid the "facilitators" €3,000 (£2,200) for the four of us to make this journey. We

hope my mother, brother and sister can escape to be with us.

We were able to contact our family in Syria via [the messaging service] WhatsApp. But it is very dangerous for my family in Syria to access the internet, because Daesh [Islamic State] has stopped all internet access. But there are some secret places where it can be accessed, and my brother managed to go there to learn that we had arrived safely.

Daesh have total control of the city. They take our houses, they take farmers' land, and they say they are now the state. My brother told me that five days ago that Daesh commanded that all women must stay inside their houses and not go out.

As we arrived in Kos with nothing, we have had to buy everything here for ourselves - the tent, which cost €50,

clothes for the children, nappies - everything we need. We hope to travel to Germany. [The family will first need to make their way to Athens.] We hope there we will be able to find work and a safe home. Everything we have done has been for our children.

But when the war is over, I want to go back to Damascus - it is beautiful there. We have seen Turkey, we have seen Greece, we are heading to Germany, but I don't want to stay there for ever. I want to return to my Syria. In my mind I have all my memories of life in Syria - it was the best life ever."

Yana spoke to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) who are working on the island to providing mobile medical consultations and distributing non-food items (like tents) to refugees staying out in the parks and public places.

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- ফ্রিজে ৬ বছর পর্যন্ত ওয়ারেন্টি
- ১২ মাসের সহজ কিস্তি

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