

Lt Gen Mahfuzur Rahman
new principal staff officer of Armed Forces Division

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lt Gen Md Mahfuzur Rahman took over the Armed Forces Division as the new principal staff officer on Monday.

He replaces Lt Gen Md Mainul Islam who went on retirement on January 31, said an ISPR press release yesterday.

In the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the newly appointed principal staff officer was adorned with the rank badge of lieutenant general by Security Adviser to the Prime Minister Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Mohammed Nizamuddin Ahmed. The new principal staff officer later called on the president at Bangabhaban.

Lt Gen Mahfuz served as the adjutant general at Army Headquarters before the appointment. He was born in Jhenidah in 1961.



Newly appointed Principal Staff Officer Lt Gen Mahfuzur Rahman of the Armed Forces Division pays a courtesy call on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

NEWS IN *brief*

HC rejects Tarique's mother-in-law's plea in case filed by ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition filed by BNP leader Tarique Rahman's mother-in-law Syeda Iqbalmand Banu seeking a stay on the trial proceeding of a case against her filed by the Anti Corruption Commission on January 30, 2014 for not submitting her wealth statements to it.

The HC also made some observations which will be known when it will release its written order, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The ACC on January 19 this year submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka. On January 26, Banu filed the petition with the HC.

6kg gold found under plane seat at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials yesterday found 60 small gold bars, worth Tk 3 crore and weighing 6kg, from underneath the seat of a plane of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The gold bars were found inside six iron pipes that were installed underneath the seat of the plane that came from Doha and landed at the airport around 1:15pm, said customs officials.

The officials were suspecting the involvement of four Biman staffs with the smuggling, they added.

Holy Family hospital opens Nestlé Nutrition Instt Knowledge Home

CITY DESK

Nestlé Nutrition Institute (NNI) and Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital (HFRCMCH) inaugurated Nestlé Nutrition Institute Knowledge Home at HFRCMCH yesterday.

Habibe Millat, MP and vice-chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society; Maniruzzaman Bhuiyan, principal of HFRCMCH; Stéphane Nordé, Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd MD; Luke John Gomes, director of Nutrition; and Naquib Khan, director of Corporate Affairs of Nestlé Bangladesh, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

NNI is a non-profitable web based institute based in Vevey, Switzerland.

MIU journalism and media studies dept celebrates third anniversary

CITY DESK

A seminar titled "Bangla Language in Mass Media: A Review" was held at Manarat International University (MIU) marking the third anniversary of its journalism and media studies department.

Prof Dr Choudhury Mahmood Hasan, vice-chancellor of MIU, among others, spoke at the event with Prof Dr M Zahangir Kabir, head of the department, in the chair.

DEATH PENALTY FOR WAR CRIMES

Mir Quasem's appeal hearing deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday deferred for a week the hearing on the appeal filed by war criminal Mir Quasem Ali challenging his death penalty.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha fixed February 9 for the hearing, as Quasem's lawyer Khandker Mahub Hossain prayed for time for taking preparation.

The apex court was set to start hearing on the appeal yesterday, said the lawyer.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 on November 2, 2014 sentenced Quasem to death after it found him guilty of 10 charges of murdering, abducting, confining and torturing people during the 1971 Liberation War.

Around four weeks later, he filed the appeal with the SC challenging the tribunal's verdict.

Quasem, a member of Jamaat-e-Islami central executive council, in his appeal cited 181 reasons for his acquittal on all the charges.

WAR CRIMES IN 1971

Social organisation demands trial of Pak army officers

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan reveals 200 names

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A social organisation led by a minister yesterday revealed a list of 200 former officers of Pakistan's armed forces and demanded their trial for committing crimes during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

The list will be given to the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), said the leaders of Antorjatik Juddhaporadh Gonobichar Andolon.

The Andolon convener, Shajahan Khan, also the shipping minister, revealed the names at a press conference at Swadhinata Hall on the capital's Topkhana Road.

The list came at a time when calls for

trying Pakistani prisoners of war (POWs), who allegedly committed war crimes during the nine-month war, are getting louder.

Although the POWs were repatriated following a tripartite agreement in 1974, experts now find no legal bar to bringing them to book.

Saying that trial of the POWs is now a "national demand", the ICT investigation agency on January 18 formed a special committee to gather information about the suspects.

At the press conference, Shajahan said 132 officers were involved in crimes like genocide, rape, looting and arson, while the remaining 68 masterminded the crimes. The organisation prepared

the list using information and documents from different sources, he said.

"The trial of 195 officers has been discussed in the last few years. Our research has found involvement of five more officers in the war crimes.... If we find more Pakistani officers complicit, we will reveal their names later," the minister said.

"Even we demand posthumous trial of those who died."

Responding to another question on whether revealing of this list would affect diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh, Shajahan Khan said, "We don't want to sever ties with Pakistan. Rather Pakistan is acting against diplomatic norms."



A Daimler Brand

Enjoy exciting early bird offer!

The new E-Class. Masterpiece of intelligence.

Introducing the all-new 2017 E-Class saloon. Pre-order now.

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.



RANCON
MOTORS

General Distributor of Daimler AG in Bangladesh.
215 Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Sharak, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka 1208. Hotline: +88 01755 665566, www.mercedes-benz.com.bd, f/mercedes.benz.bd