

SOUTH SUDAN UN seeks 850 Bangladeshi troops for peacekeeping mission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has sought 850 troops from Bangladesh for a peace-keeping mission in South Sudan.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in a letter to the permanent mission of Bangladesh to the UN recently urged the government to contribute an infantry battalion comprised of 850 personnel to the mission, said a Bangladesh permanent mission press release.

The battalion needs to be deployed within the shortest possible time to meet the immediate requirements in Wau area of South Sudan, it added.

The government promptly accepted the offer, and necessary preparations are underway for a speedy deployment. Last month, the country received another offer of sending an engineering company of 260 personnel.

Nearly 15pc live with some form of disability

Says WHO; Int'l Day of Persons with Disabilities tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 15 percent of the world's population live with some form of disability and of them, two to four percent experience significant difficulties in functioning, says a World Health Organization (WHO) press release.

The press release was issued ahead of International Day of Persons with Disabilities to be marked tomorrow.

The disability prevalence rate in Southeast Asia is the second highest for moderate disability and third highest for severe disability. Population ageing and the rapid spread of chronic diseases are to blame for the rise in global disability, it said.

This year's theme -- Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want -- notes the recent adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of those goals in building a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities.

This year the observance of the day also coincides with the 10 years of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) -- one of the most widely ratified international treaties put forth by the United Nations to date.

On the occasion, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director, WHO South-East Asia, in a statement said the world disability day is an opportunity to advocate for all people with disabilities, including those whose disabilities may not be visible. "Observing this day also provides us the opportunity to review how far we have come in recognising persons with disabilities as another manifestation of diversity in our communities, and to stand in support of a society that embraces that diversity in all its forms," she noted.

Nizam Hazari's JS membership verdict Dec 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed December 6 for delivering verdict on a writ petition that challenged the legality of Jatiya Sangsad membership of Nizam Uddin Hazari, an Awami League leader in Feni.

The bench of Justice Md Emdadul Huq and Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan set the date after concluding

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NIKO GRAFT CASE HC stays trial proceedings against Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the trial proceedings against former BNP law minister Moudud Ahmed in Niko corruption case for eight weeks.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal and Justice Shahidul Karim passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Moudud seeking a stay on the proceedings against him in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2007.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the commission will move an appeal before the Supreme Court challenging the HC stay order.

The ACC filed the Niko corruption case in December 2007 over charges that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and several others had abused powers to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when she was the prime minister between 2001 and 2006.

Former law minister Moudud Ahmed was, among others, also accused in the case.

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2 Bangladeshis hurt in Malaysia bridge collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Vietnamese construction worker was killed and five others, including two Bangladeshis, were injured when a 70m nearly completed pedestrian bridge collapsed on them in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia on Wednesday, reports Malaysian daily The Star.

The five injured workers -- two Bangladeshis, two Vietnamese and an Indonesian -- were sent to the University Malaya Medical Centre.

However, the identities of the Bangladeshis could not be confirmed immediately, an official at Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur told The Daily Star last evening. Malaysian police told local reporters that they are investigating the incident. Md Kawsar, 30, a Bangladeshi worker, said he escaped unhurt.

BB HEIST Anisul hopeful of partial return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said he was hopeful of the return of some of the money cyber criminals stole from Bangladesh Bank in February as the Philippines government had indicated extending all necessary cooperation.

"They have told us that...they are taking legal steps," he said, adding that the credibility of the Philippines and their financial institutions was at stake.

He had led a delegation during a visit to the country on Saturday and met two cabinet members and the senate president, says a law ministry press release.

On Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), the four Manila branch accounts of which were used to transfer the stolen \$81 million and then laundered through casinos, must return the rest of the money, he told journalists at his secretariat office.

He said they placed their demand to the finance minister as the central bank of that country had fined the RCBC \$21 million.

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