



Left, President Abdul Hamid with participants of National Defence Course -2016 and Armed Forces War Course-2016 at a photo op in the capital's Bangabhaban yesterday while they were paying a courtesy call. Right, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at BAF Base Bangabandhu in Dhaka Cantonment where she addressed the National Standard Award Ceremony.



PHOTOS: NDC, BSS

Handle tech with care

PM asks BAF members

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the air force personnel to be more careful while using and maintaining aircraft, radars and war equipment as those have been procured with people's hard-earned money. "You'll have to develop yourselves as skilled and ideal air force soldiers and need to be more careful in using war equipment," she told the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) personnel. The premier was addressing the National Standard Award Ceremony of the BAF Base Bangabandhu on its parade ground at Dhaka Cantonment. Hasina also instructed them to perform their responsibilities with utmost sincerity.

She awarded the National Standard to BAF Base Bangabandhu. On her arrival, she was received by Air Chief Air Marshal Abu Esrar and air officer commanding of BAF Base Bangabandhu Air Commodore M Mafidur Rahman. According to an ISPR release, BAF Base Bangabandhu is the main base of Bangladesh Air Force, known as "Home of Fighters".

CHT peace accord opened door to dev

Gowher Rizvi tells int'l seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord, which was signed under the bold leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, brought peace to the CHT region and opened the door to prosperity and development, said Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister.

He said this when inaugurating an international seminar held at a hotel in the capital yesterday. The CHT affairs ministry and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Organisation Development (ICIMOD) organised the seminar "Sustainable Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts: Inclusive Growth and Prosperous Society".

Rizvi also said the present government was very keen to fully implement the peace accord and that it already amended the CHT Land Disputes Resolution Commission Act-2001.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, ICIMOD Executive Director Dr David Molden and its Vice Chairman Dr Margaret Ketley Carlson also addressed the session chaired by Nab Bikram Kishore Tripura, secretary to the ministry and chairman of ICIMOD.

COUNCILLOR ASPIRANTS IN NCC POLLS

Two-thirds did not pass school

PANKAG KARMAKAR and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The educational qualification of most of the councillor candidates in the upcoming Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) polls is poor.

Two-thirds of the councillor aspirants did not complete their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

The gloomy picture of the candidates was found analysing their affidavits they submitted to the returning officer of the election along with nomination papers.

A total of 156 aspirants are vying for 27 general councillor posts. The Daily Star has analysed all of their affidavits.

Of the candidates, 65 claimed either self-educated or literate, 37 studied up to tenth grade, 16 completed SSC education, 19 passed Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), while the rest are graduates and above.

For example, the voters of the five wards have no choice except electing their councillors who could not complete their school education. In the wards 1, 6, 20, 25, and 26, there are no SSC passed candidates.

Many candidates are also facing criminal charges including murder cases, while many had past criminal records.

At least 37 aspirants are accused in criminal cases and 41 had previous

criminal records, said the affidavits.

Maksudul Alam Khandaker Khorshed, a councillor candidate of ward-13, is currently an accused in 24 cases. In past, he was accused in three other cases.

The number of contesting candidates also varied from ward to ward. In ward-9, highest 12 candidates are contesting while only two in ward-26.

Qualified and educated people are reluctant to contest in councillor posts because a city corporation is mostly controlled by the mayor, and councillors can exercise very limited power, said local government and election expert Dr Tofail Ahmed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

'Human factor' behind emergency landing of PM's flight: Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon yesterday informed the House that "human factor" was behind a technical fault for which a flight of Biman carrying Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Budapest, was forced to make an emergency land.

"In a preliminary investigation..., it was found that the emergency landing was due to human factor error. However, intelligence agency members are working on the matter to ascertain whether it was any negligence or sabotage," Menon said in a statement.

Six Biman officials were suspended for "their negligence" in duty in this connection, he added.

On November 27, the VVIP flight heading for Hungary landed at Ashgabat of Turkmenistan due to the technical glitch, which was later resolved by on-duty engineers.

Kidnapped Bangladeshi worker rescued in Malaysia

3 accused held in Malaysia, three others in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian police rescued a kidnapped Bangladeshi migrant worker and arrested three other Bangladeshis for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping on Thursday, said the Bangladesh high commission in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

MSK Shaheen, first secretary at the high commission's consular wing, told The Daily Star that after receiving allegations, they talked to the Malaysian police and rescued the victim from the kidnappers' den.

Mahbub Alam, 36, son of late Abul Kashem of Bhola, was rescued five days after

he had allegedly been kidnapped by the gang for ransom from the country's Pahang district on November 26.

The official, however, did not disclose the arrestees' identities.

Meanwhile, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-3 arrested three alleged Bangladeshi agents of the kidnappers in Malibagh of Dhaka between November 28 and December 3.

The team yesterday produced them along with the rescued worker, who was brought back home on Saturday night, before the press at its Kawran Bazar Briefing Centre.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

HABIGANJ, BRAHMANBARIA WAR CRIMES 2 linked to attacks

Report against Netrakona 4 sought Feb 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first prosecution witness in the case against two men in Habiganj and Kishoreganj yesterday linked them with a synchronised attack on four Hindu-dominated villages in Habiganj and Brahmanbaria that left more than 100 people dead during the 1971 Liberation War.

Haridas Roy, 66, also a victim of the attack from Krishnapur village under Lakhai upazila of Habiganj, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he had seen over 120 bodies among around 130 dead after the attack on September 18, 1971.

The accused -- Liakat Ali, 61, former president of Lakhai upazila unit AL, and Aminul Islam alias Rajab Ali, 62, of Astogram upazila in Kishoreganj, who are on the run -- are facing seven charges.

Haridas said some 50 to 60 Razakars and Al-Badr along with 20 to 25 Pakistani army men attacked their village in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



BRAC UNIVERSITY

Inspiring Excellence

Congratulations Graduates



11th Convocation

5 December 2016

Chancellor's Gold Medal

Undergraduate



Zainab Syed Ahmed

CGPA- 3.98

Graduate



Rafiath Rashid

CGPA- 4.00



Convocation Speaker

Ms. Shabana Azmi

Actor & Social Activist
Padma Bhushan
United Nations Goodwill Ambassador
Visiting Scholar - Harvard, Columbia, UC Berkeley, MIT

Live streaming from 2:30 pm

bracu.ac.bd

facebook.com/BRACUniversity

YouTube.com/bracuniversity