

**PM leaves**

FROM PAGE 16  
bring together the leaders of 21 IORA member states and its seven dialogue partners.

During her three-day visit, she would hold bilateral meetings with Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said she would leave this morning and reach Jakarta in the afternoon.

Besides her official delegation that includes Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, a 60-member business delegation led by FBCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad would also accompany the premier. A "Business Summit" is going to be held today with the aim of strengthening business cooperation in the region.

She would join the opening ceremony at the Jakarta Convention Centre tomorrow and also attend the opening session of the summit on "Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work".

Hasina would also attend the general debate on "Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable, and Prosperous Indian Ocean Rim" and deliver her statement at the event.

She is expected in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Diplomatic sources said IORA member states would sign the final IORA Concord, which aims to strengthen economic and strategic cooperation among the 21 countries around the Indian Ocean.

The IORA Concord also aims at addressing non-traditional issues like illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, human trafficking, drug trafficking, illegal migration and piracy.

The IORA initiating states are Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, South Africa, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The seven dialogue partners are China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, the UK and the US.

**First round**

FROM PAGE 16  
Air India had pledged to boost recruitment of female staff with numbers at the airline rocketing to 20 percent this year from as little as five percent in the past.

But the numbers in India are well above the global average - with just one in 33 pilots around the world being a woman.

The Boeing 777-200LR plane covered a distance of about 9,500 miles in 15-and-a-half hours and was captained by Kshamata Bajpayee.

She said: "The flight is a symbol of women empowerment and it will encourage women to step out of their comfort zone and succeed in male-dominated arenas too."

"The entire message is actually to encourage young girls who have dreams of getting into the skies and they feel it's too technical or this is something only men do."

"This flight is a symbol that every single male-dominated function can be carried out by women safely and efficiently."

She continued: "Only when you wish can you be granted that wish. Only when you dream can that dream come true, it has come true for me."

It comes just days after two women made airline history for a different reason after becoming the first two black female pilots to fly together in a cockpit.

First Officer Dawn Cook contacted Stephanie Johnson after learning she would be flying out of Detroit on Sunday last week for Delta Airlines.

The two pilots then organised the historic flight and posed for beaming selfies.

Johnson is also the first black female captain for Delta and had previously been interviewed by the airline as part of their 'Very Own Heroes' series during Black History Month.

**Police quizzing**

FROM PAGE 2  
Police are now questioning him to find out who asked him to supply the arms, said Kamruzzaman, also the investigating officer of the case.

"We found some vital pieces of evidence and information. We will crosscheck those through interrogating Bhola," he added.

Mitu, 32, was stabbed and shot to death at OR Nizam Road in the port city on June 5 last year.

On June 27, suspects Md Wasim and Anwar in their confessional statements before a court said seven to eight people led by Kamrul Sikder Musa took part in the murder, while Bhola supplied firearms.

Bhola was arrested the same day at Bakalia.

Police later arrested his associate Monir.

Police also recovered a pistol and a revolver from them, police said, adding that those were used in the killing.



**Workers, allegedly being paid by the government's "Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest", building the Jubo League office on the bank of the Barnoi river.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Jubo League builds office on 'school land' on river bank**

BULBUL AHMED, *Natore*

Juba League men on Friday started constructing an office on a disputed piece of land on the bank of the Barnoi river.

During a visit to the area, labourers were seen filling up one bigha of land, ownership of which was claimed by a secondary school and a charity.

Besides, 45 women labourers working at the site were reportedly being paid by the government's "Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest".

The labourers at the site on the eastern side of Kaliganj High School near Kaliganj Bridge told this correspondent that each of them was getting Tk 200 a day and their supervisor Abdul Halim Tk 250 a day from the government programme.

Headteacher Md Enamul Haq said he had asked local leaders of the ruling Awami League to stop the construction but in vain. The school authorities were planning to file a formal complaint with the administration, he added.

Local charity Radha Gobinda Bigraha Mataji also claims ownership of the land and has been engaged in a legal battle with the school for seven years.

General Secretary of Ward 8 unit Juba League Md Mosharraf, bragging to be the main initiator of the construction, said, "The local chairman

and residents of the area have agreed to give the land for the construction."

He showed a piece of paper with signatures of 36 people including the Union Parishad chairman and the words "Land for Kaliganj Club" written on top.

He also admitted that there was no approval from the administration. "But the activists and leaders of the party [Juba League] are willing to construct the office."

Asked if the office would encroach on the river, he said, "It is the bank of the river. There will be no trouble."

Mosharraf also tried to justify employing government paid labourers by saying, "We are the people running the government."

Organising Secretary of Ward 8 unit Awami League Shudhanya Sarker visited the spot when this correspondent was there.

"We are supporters of the ruling party. We need a place to sit. That is why we are constructing an office on the bank. Some markets will also be constructed around the office," he noted.

Contacted over phone, Union Parishad Chairman Kalim Uddin said he sent the workers for the job upon request from the Juba League leaders.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sharmin Akhter Jahan said she was not aware of

**Shahid's death**

FROM PAGE 16  
Chowdhury, AM Aminuddin, ASM Abdul Momin and Sarwar Ahmed stood for the plaintiff. Nikhil Kumar Saha along with Manoj Kumar Bhoumick appeared for the defence.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General Khandaker Diliruzzaman represented the government.

Shazneen was a class-nine student of Scholastica when killed. Her father Latifur Rahman is chairman of Transcom Group.

The trial of the case filed for rape and murder took place at the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression.

On September 2, 2003, the tribunal sentenced six accused to death for planning Shazneen's rape and murder. They are house help Shahid, contractor for renovation of Shazneen's house Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan and his assistant Badal, two housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin (who are sisters) and carpenter Shaniram Mandal.

The case then went to the High Court for death reference. The convicts also filed appeals against the trial court judgment.

On July 10, 2006, the HC acquitted Shaniram and confirmed the death sentence for the rest five.

Hasan, Badal, Minu and Parvin filed appeals against the judgment while Shahid filed a jail appeal.

On August 2 last year, the SC acquitted the four and upheld Shahid's death penalty.

Shahid appealed for a review after the SC released its full verdict. His appeal was dismissed yesterday.

**Govt bans**

FROM PAGE 1  
military commander.

Around 200 trained members are active in the country to execute the plans of Ziaul Haq, detectives say based on statements of some of its arrested members.

This group began gaining strength in 2013-14 -- especially in northern regions. It recruits members from the now banned Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Ahle Hadith, Hefazat-e Islam, different madrasas and financially vulnerable families.

Earlier, five militant outfits were also banned -- Hizb ut-Tahrir, JMB, Jagroto Muslim Janata Bangladesh, Shahadat-e Al Hikma and Harkatul Jihad al Islami.

**UK expects to see**

FROM PAGE 3  
Saturday night ending his three-day visit. He met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, leader of the opposition Raushan Ershad, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, business leaders, representatives from civil society groups, and minority and faith leaders.

Asked about the last general election, credibility of which was questioned by the Western countries, including the UK, he said, "Our message is entirely consistent which is that whether it is in Bangladesh and whether anywhere else we want democratic values to flourish. We think democratic values strengthen a nation. We believe it provides better support for investors."

"We want to see free and fair election that's a message that I would be giving to many of the countries that I visit which face elections."

Mentioning his meeting with the foreign minister, Sharma said both sides agreed to hold "strategic dialogue" at the end of this month and it would be held between the Bangladesh foreign secretary and his British counterpart.

"There will be detailed discussions in terms of relationship, cooperation in three key areas -- one is prosperity which includes economic exchanges, second is security issues where we can work more closely together, and third is shared values democratic values and respect of human rights."

So, he said, this was going to be a very comprehensive discussion and would take the detailed work forward in terms of enhanced relationship. "We of course have a multidimensional relationship with Bangladesh that reflects all the areas that will be discussed in the strategic dialogue."

In reply to another question about security cooperation with Bangladesh, the British minister said terrorism was a threat all faced whether in the UK and Europe and Bangladesh.

As far as the UK is concerned, the British government supports Hasina's stated objective of zero tolerance to terrorism, he said.

"Obviously we need to make sure we have done it in the right way. I think there is opportunity for us to cooperate on issues related to counter-terrorism. This is what I think will also form the basis of the discussion we have in the strategic dialogue."

Asked about lifting of a ban on direct cargo flights from Dhaka to London, he acknowledged that some

progress was made since Bangladesh hired a British company to improve the security mechanism.

"We have agreed in our discussions that we need to have a review process where UK and Bangladeshi sides would sit down together and look at what more needs to be done. I am hoping very much that that review process can take place in the near term," Sharma said.

Asked what could be the impact of the Brexit on Bangladesh-UK economic relations, he said as the UK began talks to leave the European Union, they would first negotiate their deal with the EU and then would start formal negotiation with other countries in terms of trade deals.

"I would say that leaving the EU of course gives us opportunities to do even more together with old established friends like Bangladesh. So I can see the opportunities for us of increasing trade and bilateral investment following our exit from the EU."

**Medicinal**

FROM PAGE 2  
children recover."

Japan-based organisation Hunger Free World together with the Bangladesh Forest Research Institute are encouraging adulsa cultivation in the area.

"People all across the country consume adulsa as an antidote to coughs and colds, not only in winter but year-round," advises an official of the research institute. "People can earn good money from growing it."

Once the quality of the locally produced adulsa is properly tested, plans are afoot to further increase public awareness of its medicinal quality. "We will arrange training for the farmers," says SM Shahin Hossain, a programme officer with Hunger Free World. "Pharmaceutical companies including Acme and Square buy adulsa. There is demand for the leaves."

"The nationwide demand is significant," agrees research institute divisional officer Md Rafikul Islam. "Currently only 10 percent of adulsa demand is met with domestically-grown leaves, with the remaining 90 percent imported from India."

"With greater awareness," he continues, "local farmers can benefit from adulsa cultivation as the soil and weather in Kaliganj upazila are suitable." Commercial crops are also being grown in parts of North Bengal.

**MPs slam Muhith**

FROM PAGE 16  
and Workers Party of Bangladesh MP Fazle Hossain Badsha while taking part on the thanks-giving motion on the president's speech said microcredit hardly had any positive impact on poverty alleviation.

Badsha also demanded that Muhith make a statement clarifying his position on Yunus.

Terming Yunus "usurer" who "hatched a conspiracy" to stop the Padma bridge project, Badsha said, "I cannot understand how someone can praise a man like Yunus."

"I am stunned ... what reason did the minister find to praise Yunus?" Badsha said.

The finance minister was present in parliament then. He made no comments.

Hasan Mahmud in his speech said he could not agree with Muhith.

Microcredit hardly has had any role in pulling people out of poverty, he said.

"Microcredit, spread in Bangladesh after 1975, as some foreign businessmen planned to do it [execute their plan] through some locals to keep the poor

people chained to poverty," he said.

Addressing a discussion on loan management system of Social Development Foundation in the capital, Muhith on March 2 lauded Yunus for his contribution to the reduction of poverty in the country by providing microcredit to the poor.

He also credited Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed for helping poverty alleviation. "They are honoured persons ... we should honour them," Muhith said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday censured Muhith for praising Yunus.

"I feel sad that the other day the finance minister extolled such a person who was behind the cancellation of the World Bank funding for my Padma bridge project. After that, I received threats from America several times," said the PM.

The finance minister made the statement more than a month after the prime minister alleged that Yunus used his connections with former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton to have World Bank block funding for the bridge.

**Polls to 14 UPs**

FROM PAGE 16  
that these initial polls would be a litmus test for the EC, which would like to win public confidence. It will be overseeing the 2019 national election.

Meanwhile, BNP alleged that "terrorists" of the ruling Awami League were issuing death threats against its candidates and supporters while cadres creating obstacles in campaigns.

"A dreadful environment is prevailing in the election areas," BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed told a briefing at the party's Naya Paltan central office in the capital. He cited some attacks saying some 50 BNP

men were injured.

Rizvi questioned how the CEC would ensure polls in the country failing to prevent violence in Patakhali's Rangabali, some 25 kilometres away from the CEC's village home.

He accused local administrations and law enforcement agencies of not taking up preventive measures following lodging of complaints.

Replying to a query, Rizvi said BNP was taking part in the election to expand multi-party democracy as it was an election-oriented party and was not against democracy.

**US-led strikes claim another 21 civilian lives**

AFP, *Washington*


Twenty-one civilians were killed in US-led coalition air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria in recent months, officials acknowledged Saturday.

The deaths bring to at least 220 the number of civilians unintentionally killed since operations to defeat IS began in late summer 2014, though critics say the real number is a lot higher. A statement from the coalition said

investigators had probed a series of reports alleging civilian deaths from air strikes.

In a January 13 strike on IS fighters in a house, investigators determined that eight civilians were unintentionally killed.

"During post-strike video analysis, civilians were identified near the house who were not evident prior to the strike," the coalition said in a statement.



**ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**  
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Memo No: 87.404.401.01.01.001.2017.1814 Date: 05.03.2017

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd. (DPDC) is entrusted with the responsibility of operation, maintenance and development of the power system network within the geographical area of DPDC (major half of Dhaka & Narayanganj City), invites applications from the energetic and competent citizen of Bangladesh for immediate appointment to the following post on contractual basis for initially a period of three (03) years.

**Name of the Post: Managing Director (01):**

Managing Director is the Chief Executive of the Company responsible to the Board of Directors. He is the leader of the Management Team of the Company, responsible for overall management, e.g., administration, corporate planning, business development and ensuring the compliances of laws, rules and regulations and for ensuring Good Governance of the organization. He is also responsible for supervision of all technical, financial, welfare aspects, negotiating project financing issues with donors/development partners and listing the company in the stock exchange(s) etc.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Candidate must be Graduate Engineer or Post Graduate in Management / Social Science / Physical Science / Applied Science/MBA/Finance/Accounting or FCA/FCMA.
- Candidate shall have at least twenty five (25) years of experience in large Public Utility Organization, Large Private Sector Company working in a multidisciplinary environment, including experience of working in the senior management position of the organization.
- Candidate should be efficient, dynamic and energetic.
- Candidate should have initiative with participatory leadership ability that will ensure the vision and execute the mission for incremental growth of the Company.
- Candidate should have excellent communication skills in Bangla and English and shall be capable of working under and managing the challenging situations.
- Candidate with Post Graduate Qualifications in Engineering and experience of working in large public electric utility will get preference.
- Candidate preferably be conversant in company law, labour law, RBM (Result Based Management), public procurement, Corporate Governance etc.

**Age Limit:**  
Age should preferably be between fifty (50) and fifty nine (59) years as on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Age may be relaxed in case of exceptionally qualified deserving candidates.

**Remuneration/ Compensation Package:**  
Basic salary per month Taka 1,75,000.00 (One Lac Seventy Five Thousand) only plus accommodation, if not, 50 % of basic pay per month will be given, two festival bonuses in a year, contributory provident fund, group insurance, encashment of leave, fringe benefits, gratuity as per applicable rules of the company. Expenses at actual medical services of self and family members as mentioned in the company Service Rules will be reimbursed up to a maximum limit of 03 (Three) months basic salary per annum, and full time vehicles will be provided as per applicable rules of the company. Income tax shall have to be paid by the employee. This remuneration/ compensation package will be subjected to adjustment in the pay structure of the company.

Interested Candidate may apply to the Chairman of the Board of Directors DPDC along with complete CV, three (03) passport size recent photographs, attested photocopies of all educational and experience certificates, attested copy of National Identity Card and the first two (02) pages of the passport that should reach at the above address on or before 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017 within the office hour.

In service candidates should submit their applications through proper channel within the stipulated date & time. Only the short listed candidates will be called for interview.

**Company Secretary, DPDC**  
E-mail-cs@dpdc.org.bd  
Form no.: HR/ROA/03/427