



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits the Bangabandhu Complex at Bangladesh Air Force Academy in Jashore after inaugurating the complex yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Armed forces to be equipped to protect country's sovereignty

PM says while inaugurating new air force complex in Jashore

UNB, Jashore

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country's armed forces will be equipped with modern technologies to have all sorts of preparation to protect the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh in case of any attack.

"We don't want to engage in war with anyone... but if there's any attack, we'll have all sorts of preparation to keep Bangladesh free from enemies, protect our independence and sovereignty. Our goal is to equip our defence forces with modern technologies accordingly," she said.

The PM said this after inaugurating "Bangabandhu Complex" of

Bangladesh Air Force Academy in Jashore.

She also unveiled the plaque of foundation stone of Biman Sena (Air Force) Training Institute of the Air Base Zahurul Haque in Patenga, Chattogram and formally inaugurated activities of its 105 Advanced Jet Training Units through videoconferencing from Jashore.

Sheikh Hasina said the Father of the Nation adopted the foreign policy of 'friendship to all and malice to none'.

"We believe in this policy," she said.

She urged all members of the Bangladesh Air Force to work competently with confidence and self-esteem for building Bangladesh as a modern and prosperous country.

She said if her government returns to power through the next national election, it will implement a number of plans to further modernise the Bangladesh Air Force. "We have plans to build our air force properly, equipping it with modern technologies as well."

Hasina said the government adopted the Forces Goal-2030 in line with the Defence Policy formulated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1974.

As part of the Forces goal, the air force is being equipped with modern fighter aircraft and other instruments regularly, she said.

The Bangabandhu Complex was constructed with modern facilities,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Digital Security Act enacted to prevent yellow journalism: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday told parliament that the Digital Security Act-2018 has been enacted so that media runs news based on facts instead of indulging in yellow journalism.

"The Digital Security Act-2018 has been formulated revoking five sections, including section 57 of ICT Act, to make it mandatory for media to publish news based on facts instead of indulging in yellow journalism," he said in reply to a question of Mamunur Rashid Kiron, MP from Noakhali-3.

The minister also said the government is giving print, electronic and online media all-out support to run objective news.

"The National Broadcast Policy-2014 and the National Online Mass Media Policy 2017 were made with the aim to help media run objective news," he added.

In reply to another query, Inu said the government provided 1,396 journalists with financial assistance worth Tk 10.07 crore from the fund of Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust over the last eight years.

Replying to another question, the minister said a total of 489 national daily newspapers are now being published in the country.

He sacrificed himself to save wife, son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He braved an all-engulfing fire and managed to save his wife and son, but at the end it cost him his own life.

As a devastating blaze broke out due to a gas leak in the kitchen at a house in Dhaka's Uttarkhan area on October 13, Dablu Mondal quickly took his wife and son to the washroom, put them under the shower sprinkler, and turned it on.

Out of eight residents of the house, only Anjuara Begum, 30, and her six-year-old son Abdullah Sourav are alive because of her 33-year old husband, a rickshaw puller.

As the two crammed under the spraying water, there was no place left for Dablu to stand underneath. Without hesitation, he used himself as a shield to protect his loved ones,

Anjuara told The Daily Star recently at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), while undergoing treatment at the burn unit.

When they were rescued, Dablu had suffered 65 percent burns while Abdullah and Anjuara had 12 and six percent respectively.

Dablu died at the burn unit of DMCH on October 17, after fighting for his life for four days.

Anjuara and Abdullah were released from DMCH on Tuesday morning, and reached their village home in Pabna, still unaware of Dablu's fate. Only after reaching home, her relatives could summon the courage to inform her of the tragedy.

Since surviving the accident, Anjuara could only dream of starting life anew with her family in their village home, only to be knocked back by the hard truth that her husband will not be with them anymore.

The other five victims -- Azizul Haque, 27; Muslima Aktar, 20; Purnima, 35; Sagor, 12; and Sufia Begum, 60, were all related.



Anjuara and Abdullah undergoing treatment at DMCH recently.

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Police's behaviour has improved

Says DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia yesterday said allegations of police's misbehaviour with people has come down in recent times, as strict steps are being taken alongside providing them with training and motivation.

"In the past, we used to get complaints of misbehaviour daily. Now we get one complaint a month," he said at a press conference held at DMP media centre to announce "traffic discipline week" that started Wednesday.

Responding to a query on policemen harassing a girl at a Rampura checkpoint on Tuesday night, he said now they receive less than five percent of such complaints compared to previous records.

A video of the policemen's misconduct went viral on social media, sparking an outcry and forcing authorities to suspend an assistant sub-inspector and close four constables.

The DMP chief said a policeman uploaded the video to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DEATH OF DIA-RAJIB Homicide charges against six accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed homicide charges against two owners, two drivers and two helpers of the two buses of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan, in a case filed over a road accident that killed two college students in the capital on July 29.

On July 29, Abdul Karim Rajib, 18, and Dia Khanam Mim, 17, of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were run over and killed by a bus when the two buses were driving recklessly on Airport Road. The incident sparked outrage and unprecedented nationwide student demonstrations demanding safe roads.

Four of the accused pleaded not guilty and demanded justice, after judge KM Imrul Kayes of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court read out the charges to them.

Among the six accused, drivers Masum Billah and Zohair Hossain Sumon, helper Enayet Hossain and owner Shahadat Hossain are now behind the bars.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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