

Bangladesh's peacekeeping role lauded

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

United Nations Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, at a "Preparatory Conference on Peacekeeping" acknowledged and appreciated Bangladesh's role in peacekeeping operationists of the UN.

The two-day conference, that started on Monday, was hosted jointly by the Netherlands and Rwanda in The Hague.

Recalling his visit to Bangladesh, Lacroix praised Bangladesh's role in UN peacekeeping missions as a major contributor of troops and police personnel and recognised commendable quality of professional trainings being conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations and Training (BIPSOT).

The UN official also hoped that an added attention would be given on the safety of civilians in the host country.

Earlier in the day, the conference was jointly inaugurated by UN Under-Secretary General Jean Pierre Lacroix, Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok, Dutch Defence Minister Ank Bijleveld, Ambassador of Rwanda to the Netherlands Karabaranga and African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security Smail Cherugi.

As many as 70 countries joined this conference. The Bangladesh delegation, led by Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, included Brig Gen Md Nurul Anwar, director general of Operations and Plan Directorate of Armed Forces Division and KH Mahid Uddin, deputy inspector general of Bangladesh Police.

Ambassador Belal in his speech reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to peacekeeping missions by the UN and conveyed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's personal commitment on Bangladesh's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A man travels standing on a ledge on the back of a human haulier, while carrying a number of wicker baskets, on the Kazir Bazar Bridge in Sylhet city. Despite road accidents being a frequent occurrence, there seems to be no significant change in awareness, on the part of either transport services or passengers.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

2 Bangladeshi workers found dead in Malaysia

Confirms embassy official in KL

STAR REPORT

Local police recovered the bodies of two Bangladeshi workers in Kuala Lumpur city of Malaysia on Sunday, confirmed Hedayetul Islam Mandal, first secretary of Bangladesh High Commission in KL yesterday.

"We have no clue how the killing happened. We can know it only after probe. Police have already started probe into the matter," he told The Daily Star last evening.

Brahmanbaria District Association in Malaysia yesterday went to the high commission and demanded that the families of the deceased get justice, Hedayetul said. He, however, did not say anything about identities of the victims.

The victims are from Bancharampur upazila of the district and are related, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent. They are Md Shipon Mia of Moricha Khalpar village; and Md Nasir Uddin, from Kanainagar village.

The Daily Star talked to Abdur Rashid, an uncle of the victims.

Quoting another Bangladeshi worker in Malaysia, Abdur Rashid said Shipon and Nasir used to work in a residential hotel and lived in the same room.

Hands, legs and eyes of the deceased were tied when their bodies were recovered, he said, adding that the reason behind the deaths could not be known yet.

Hearing the news, family members of the victims communicated with officials of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment in Dhaka.

The officials informed the family members that Shipon's body is likely to be brought back to Dhaka today. But there is an uncertainty whether Nasir's body can be brought back or not, because his legal tenure to stay in Malaysia had already been expired, Abdur Rashid told The Daily Star.

Rashid could not tell the names of the ministry officials with whom the victim's family members spoke to.

5 members of CNG theft gang arrested in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Detectives of Chattogram Metropolitan Police arrested five members of CNG-run auto-rickshaw theft gang and recovered 12 stolen auto-rickshaws from different areas in the city yesterday during a day-long operation.

Jahangir Alam, assistant commissioner (North) of DB, said that the arrestees also had fake documents in their possession.

The arrestees were identified as Golam Akbar, 50, Md Anwar Hossain, 38, Sajib Shikdar, 48, Md Shihabur Rahman, 48, and Md Kamal Hossain, 43, said Detective Branch officials.

After primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted their involvement in vehicle theft, said Jahangir, adding that filing of a case was underway with Khulshi Police Station.

NAYAPALTAN CLASH

Police to interrogate Nipun, Arifa at jail gate

JNU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed police to interrogate BNP leader Nipun Roy Chowdhury and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Arifa Sultana Ruma at jail gate for two days.

The directive was issued in two cases filed over the Nayapaltan clash on November 14 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tofazzal Hossain passed the order after police produced the duo before the court with a 7-day remand prayer for both in two cases.

At least 20 BNP men and a number of police members were injured in the clash that broke out in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office.

Three cases were filed with Paltan Police Station, accusing 488 BNP activists and leaders including Mirza Abbas and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Meanwhile, during the hearing yesterday, the defence counsel submit-

ted two petitions, seeking bail for Nipun and Arifa. The petitions were rejected by the court.

Another Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP Joint Secretary General Habibun Nabi Khan Sohel on a day's remand in a case filed with Shahbagh Police Station in March last year under the Special Powers Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim passed the order after police produced Sohel before the court with a 10-day remand prayer. The bail petition filed by Sohel's lawyer was also rejected by the court.

According to the case statement, in March last year, BNP activists took position in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital, demanding release of party chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail.

When police rushed to the spot, the BNP activists attacked police and obstructed them from discharging their duties. A number of police members were injured in the incident.

SC stays scrapping of toxic ship in Ctg

Sends petition to full bench for hearing on Feb 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order that asked the authorities to scrap a toxic ship near Parki Sea Beach, a tourist area, in Anwara of Chattogram.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Md Nuruzzaman passed the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

The chamber judge also sent the petition to a full bench of the apex court for its hearing on February 11.

Toxic ship "MV Cristal Gold" cannot be broken following the SC chamber judge's order, Sayeed Ahmed Kabir, a lawyer for Bela, told The Daily Star.

He said MV Cristal Gold got

stranded near Parki Sea Beach in a storm on May 30, 2017.

Four Star Enterprise, a ship breaking company, purchased the ship on auction and was allowed to beach the ship on condition by Chittagong Port Authority.

Following a petition filed by BASIC Bank from which Four Star Enterprise took a loan over the ship, the HC on October 25 last year directed the authorities concerned to scrap MV Cristal Gold, the lawyers said.

Later on, Bela filed the leave to appeal petition with the SC challenging the HC order, saying that the ship was being scrapped at a risky place, which is violation of the relevant ship breaking rules and the SC directives.

Lawyer AM Aminuddin appeared for Bela.

Gazette of 'Mother of humanity award' published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has published a gazette notification on "Mother of Humanity Social Welfare Award Policy-2018".

Deserving individuals or organisations will get the award on January 2 every year, marking National Social Welfare Day.

Earlier, the cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, approved the policy on November 19 last year.

Under the policy, the award will be given in five categories for welfare of people -- including the poor, marginalised, elderly persons, oppressed and divorced women, children and persons with disabilities, freed prisoners and homeless people.

Any person or organisation working for flourishing talents of people, developing living standards and environment, improving people's physical and mental health will also be eligible for the award.

Each recipient will get a gold medal, a replica of the actual award, a cheque for Tk 2 lakh and a certificate.

Two committees -- one from district level and the other from central level -- will select the awardees.



Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen places a wreath at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, on his first visit to the city since he became a member of the cabinet.

PHOTO: STAR



A scavenger collects scrap from the bank of river Kirtankhola in Barishal, at a place that appears to have essentially become a plastic garbage dumping spot. The photo was taken from the city's DC Ghat area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Mozammel appointed British Queen's Counsel

CITY DESK

Barrister Mozammel Hossain has been appointed Queen's Counsel. He will be sworn in at the Westminster Hall at the Houses of Parliament in the UK on March 11, says a press release.

He was the first overseas student to become the president of the Students' Union of the Inns of Court School of Law (ICSL). During 2000-2001, he was a governor of ICSL.

He passed HSC examination from Dhaka College. He obtained LLB degree from the University of Liverpool.

He was born in Mollar Howla village in Sadar upazila, Barishal.



Koica to help Bangladesh improve safety on highways

UNB, Dhaka

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) will help Bangladesh improve safety in its national highway corridors by introducing Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that will also reduce traffic congestion on the highway.

Koica will provide USD 8.93 million grant to develop the master plan for ITS and execute a pilot project.

The project would cover the incident management system, traffic information system, traffic enforcement system, speed enforcement system, traffic management centre, servers and communication equipment, and strengthening the capacity of Bangladeshi officers, Koica said yesterday.

In response to Bangladesh government's request, a Koica pre-survey mission from South Korea visited Bangladesh from January 6 to 15 for the project proposal.

The team had a series of discussions with all the relevant stakeholders including Bangladesh Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Roads and Highways Department (RHD), highway police, BRTC, city corporation and other development partners.

The team also visited the Dhaka-Chattogram highways (N1) by road to see the current highway road condition.

Koica Country Director in Bangladesh Joe Hyun-Gue and Secretary of RTHD Nazrul Islam signed a document yesterday on behalf of their organisations in the city.

Two killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and another injured in Chattogram and Thakurgaon over the last two days, according to our correspondents.

In Chattogram, an elderly man was killed as a vehicle ran him over at the city's Dewan Hat intersection.

The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately, said police.

In Thakurgaon, a motorcyclist was killed and his co-rider injured as a bus rammed the motorbike on Dhaka-Thakurgaon highway in Chhoto Khochabari village of Sadar upazila on Monday night.

Danesh Roy, 40, from Uttar Thakurgaon village, died on the spot, said police.

Fire fighters took Subal Roy, 42, of the same village, to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.