

'Safeguard our motherland'

PM to newly-commissioned naval officers, hopes navy will become commercial manufacturer of warships



Accompanied by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspects a parade at Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

UNB, Chattogram
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that Bangladesh Navy will be able to be a commercial manufacturer of warships and thus earn foreign currencies alongside creating jobs.

"This, in turn, will flourish home-grown technologies... and eventually establish Bangladesh as a self-reliant nation," she said.

The prime minister said this while addressing the President Parade-2019, marking the passing out of the "Midshipman-2017/A Batch" and the "Direct Entry Officers (DEOs) 2019/Bravo Batches" of Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) at the academy parade ground in Chattogram in the morning.

Hasina said with government support, Khulna Shipyard Limited has set a milestone in warship-building through manufacturing five patrol and two large patrol crafts under the management of Bangladesh Navy (BN). Work on five more patrol crafts is underway, she added.

The premier said decision has already been taken to build six more well-equipped large frigates at BN-administered Chattogram Dry Dock Limited. The navy is also making IFF (Identification of Friend and Foe) systems for the three forces, she said.

Regarding blue economy, she said, "We'll have to utilise our marine resources for economic development."

The prime minister urged the newly-commissioned officers of BN to discharge their responsibilities with honesty and sincerity as they are oath-bound to do so. "You'll be the future leaders of this navy... to safeguard our motherland," she added.

Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman developed BN soon after the country's independence. Its official journey started with two patrol crafts procured on Bangabandhu's initiative.

The Father of the Nation commissioned all the major bases of the navy in 1974.

Bangabandhu formulated the "Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974" to establish the country's sea rights, said Hasina.

She said her government, after assuming office in 2009, formulated "Forces Goal 2030" in line with Bangabandhu's "Defence Policy" and started its implementation accordingly as the government's goal is to develop the armed forces.

She said her government added 27 warships to BN, established the navy's special commando wing

"Special Warfare, Diving and Salvage Command" and the aviation wing "Naval Aviation".

Also, inclusion of two submarines in 2017 has truly transformed BN into a full-fledged three-dimensional force, she added.

To cope with the challenges of 21st century, she said the government is taking various measures to strengthen navy into a technology-based efficient force, considering the regional and geo-political realities.

She said a new base named "BNS Sheikh Mujib" has recently been commissioned at Khilkhet in Dhaka. Construction of two bases -- "BNS Sher-e-Bangla" and submarine base "BNS Sheikh Hasina" -- is progressing fast, the PM said.

With a view to develop training facilities and living standards, 22 multi-storey buildings in different naval areas and a navy township project in Savar have been inaugurated, she added.

Out of the military sphere, the navy is also working in a wide-range of sectors such as women's empowerment, construction of structures for accommodating forcibly-displaced Myanmar nationals and expansion of blue economy, she said.

Hasina extended her gratitude to

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Don't compromise on ideals: president to teachers

Convocation of Khulna University held

UNB, Khulna

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged teachers not to compromise with ideals, and devote themselves to acquiring knowledge and disseminating it among students.

"When teachers move away from their ideals, it creates a negative impact on students," he said.

The president said this while addressing the sixth convocation of Khulna University on its campus.

Hamid said teachers and researchers are valuable resources of the nation. Terming universities a centre of hope and aspiration, he stressed the need for conducting international standard research.

He urged researchers of Khulna University to conduct more studies on biodiversity and coastal resources as the region's coastline is rich with marine resources.

Before attending the convocation, the president inaugurated a mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- "Kaljoeje Mujib" -- near the university's main gate, marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

Throughout the day, the campus wore a festive look. Academic and administrative buildings, residential halls and the vice-chancellor's residence were illuminated on the occasion.

This year, some 4,478 students received their graduation certificates, alongside 2,530 postgraduates, five MPhil and eight doctors.

Seventeen students received their postgraduate diplomas in education. Besides, 23 students were awarded gold medals.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, and University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Dr Kazi Shahidullah were present, among others.

Educationist and social scientist Dr Anupam Sen delivered the convocation speech.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Dr Mohammad Fayek Uzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Secretaries concerned to the president were present at the event.

Man fined for cutting hills in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined a man for cutting hills illegally in Ghera Mara area under Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram.

Mirsarai Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ruhul Amin led the drive.

The mobile court also fined Abdur Rauf of Korer Hat area Tk 1 lakh for cutting hills defying environmental laws.

Korer Hat Check Station official of the Forest Department Noimul Islam and his team assisted the mobile court during the drive, said the UNO.

According to the Bangladesh Environment Preservation Act 1995, amended in 2000, cutting hills without the approval of concerned authorities is prohibited. But illegal hill cutting continues unabated.



Winter is the season of vegetables. Like elsewhere, varieties of green goodness have started appearing in markets in Sylhet. Locals say despite adequate supply, the price is too high. This photo of vendors arranging vegetables was taken at the city's Rikabibazar market yesterday, where a kg of cauliflower, cucumber, bitter gourd, okra and tomato was being sold between Tk 65 and Tk 80.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Teenager dies after crashing motorbike

STAR REPORT

A 14-year-old was killed in a motorcycle accident at Pirhati area of Dhunat upazila in Bogura on Saturday morning.

The deceased, Sobuj, was a ninth grader at Multani Parveen Talukder High School, reports BSS.

The accident occurred around 10am on Mothurapur-Dhangara road when Sobuj lost control of his motorcycle and crashed into a tree, said Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dhunat Police Station.

He died while being taken to a local hospital, Ismail added.

In another accident in Bogura, driver Adam Ali Sarkar (32) died from electrocution after his truck was pushed into a roadside electric pole by another truck on Dhaka-Bogura highway at Noymile of Shahjahanpur upazila early Saturday, reports UNB.

The accident occurred as Adam Ali was cleaning the windshield of his parked truck amid intense morning fog. At one point, another truck hit Adam's truck from behind and pushed them into a roadside electric pole.

The pole collapsed from the pressure and electrocuted Adam Ali, said Jahedul Islam, in-charge of Kundarhat Highway Police Outpost.

In Kishoreganj, one Morium Nessa (57) was killed in a road crash at Latifabad Charpara area on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Kishoreganj yesterday morning.

The deceased hailed from Adampur village in Katiadi upazila of the district, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

The accident occurred when Morium and Alauddin were on their way to the regional passport office in Kishoreganj town on Alauddin's motorcycle.

As they got to Latifabad Charpara area, Morium suddenly fell off the motorcycle.

Before she could get back up on her feet, an speeding incoming truck crushed her from behind, killing

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Rape accused arrested with knife

Firearm seized after interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) in a drive yesterday arrested a man, who is accused in a gang-rape case, in possession of a knife from Banskhali upazila of Chattogram.

The arrestee is Md Jasim Uddin (30) of the same upazila, said Rab.

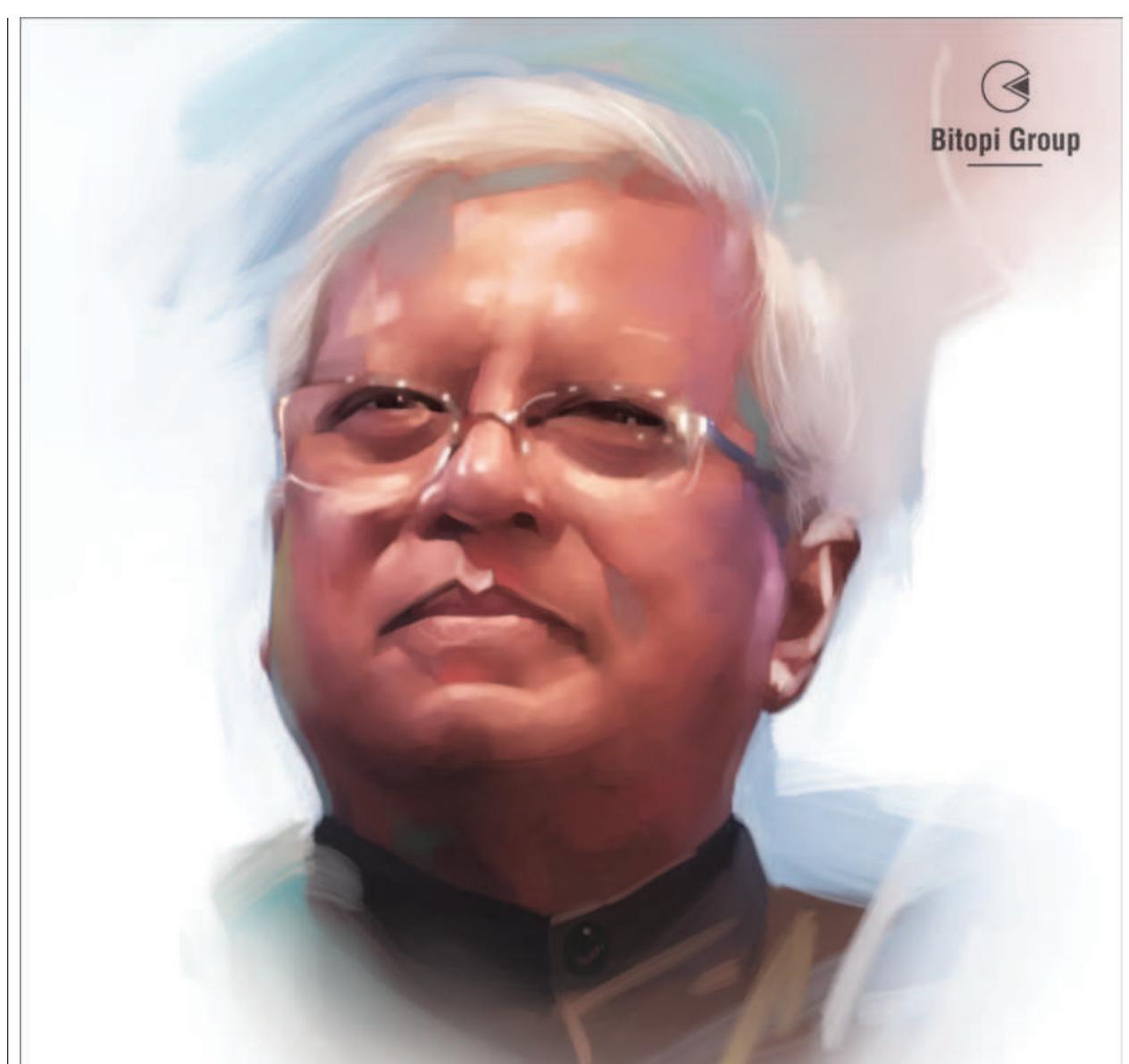
Assistant Director (AD) Mahmudul Hasan Mamun of Rab-7 Media Wing said officers had set up a makeshift check-post in Chanua Bazar area and intercepted a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying Jasim.

Noticing his suspicious behaviour, law enforcers frisked Jasim and recovered a knife from his pocket, said the AD.

They then detained him and during interrogation the arrested disclosed information about a firearm which was hidden near his house, he said.

Later, Rab searched a bamboo garden in the area and seized a gun, he added.

Jasim stands accused in three ongoing cases, including a gang-rape case, filed with Banskhali Police Station.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

Your legacy, timeless. Your efforts, borderless.

Words will never be enough to express all you have done for us. Your love for us, and determination to help the people has changed the lives of everyone, not just in Bangladesh, but all over the world. You have shown how one man can make such a huge difference. The world may never see your like again, but your legacy will surely live on; and we promise to be worthy of it.

Thank you for inspiring us to be better.

