NDI conducts polls observation workshop

By Staff Correspondent

The Washington-based organisation National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) conducted a workshop on poll watching and election observation Wednesday at Hotel Sonargaon.

The NDI team which has recently come to Bangladesh for primary assessment of the polls situation arranged the workshop for the poll watchers who are being organised under the leadership of Father Tim, the chief of a non-government organisation for enforcement of human rights in Bangladesh.

The NDI which came to Bangladesh in 1990 to observe the upazila elections, made a detail recommendation for holding free and fair elections. The organisation identified three potential obstacles to free and fair elections which are: security issues and threat of intimidation and violence, ballot irregularities, fraud and manipulation.

The NDI team also met with the political leaders to know about the programme of the respective parties to make the poll free and fair.

Earlier, a team from SAARC-NGO observer group sponsored by the International Society for Ethnic Studies, Colombo ,also visited Bangladesh for primary assesment of the situation.

According to Foreign Ministry source, these two organisations have confirmed that they would send their observers during the elections.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry has sent invitation to the United Nations organisations and Commowealth organisations requesting them to send observers during the elections.

Besides, the foreign missions in western countries are also instructed to know the desire of the respective countries whether they would send

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The Foreign Ministry source, however, said that no country had responded till date on the question of sending polls observers:

Dhaka -ME postal link suspended

The Postal communication between Bangladesh and several Middle -East and Arab countries has been suspended until further orders in view of the present crisis in the Middle-East, an official handout said in Dhaka on Thursday night, reports BSS.

The countries are : Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan, and the United Arab Republic.

People have been asked not to send anything by post to those countries.

Call to halt Gulf war

Bangladesh Legal Aid Society Wednesday held an emergency meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association Hall with Mr. H. Kl Abdul Hye, President of the society, in the chair.

The speakers in the meeting fervently appealed to the warring and belligerent parties involved in the Gulf war to halt the war immediately. They also urged the parties to sit in the negotiation table and find out a. solution to the dispute.

The lawyers appealed to the warring parties to save the world people from the catastrophe of the nuclear warfare.

22,015 books seized in Ctg

CHITAGONG, Jan 18: Chittagong metropolitan police setzed 22,015 books for class one to five from a house at Serajuddowla road here Wednesday night, a police press release said yesterday, reports

The seized books are meant for free distribution among Government Primary School students. No unauthorised per-

son can stock them. Police took into custody the owner of the house and a case has been started against him.

The arrested person admitted that he stocked the books for selling at higher prices.

Session on theatre begins

By Staff Correspondent

The first working session of a three-day seminar on Theatre Magazine in Asia: Cooperation through Communication,' organised by International Theatre Institute Bangladesh Centre started today (Friday) at a city hotel. 60 representatives including eight foreign delegates are participating in the seminar. 25 representatives took part in the morning session, which was presided over by Ramendu

The second session was presided over by Dr. Anisuzzaman and Professor Kabir Chowdhury presented the key- note paper.

Majumder, Editor, Theatre

Magazine. Ashok Mukherjee of

India presented the key-note

Speakers said theatre can play an important role in making the pepole conscious about social problems.

Nankar Pala by Aranayak Theatre group was staged at Mahila Samity auditorium organised in connection with the seminar.

Programme of tobacco-free poll campaign hailed

Sixty seven Advocates of Dhaka Judge Court have hailed Bangladesh Peace and Development Mission's programme of Tobacco-free election campaign and observance of no-tobacco day on February 27. re-

They appreciated the programme and invited government, all political parties, journalists and conscious people of the country to come forward to make the programme a success.

A.K.M. sohrab, Wahiduzzaman sikder, Dewan Md. Tofazzal Hossain, S.M.A. Kayum, and Md. Nazmul Ahsan are among the advocates who hailed the

Motor parts worth Tk 60,000 recovered

By Staff Correspondent Dhaka Metropolitan Police has arrested a member of a gang of thieves who used to steal motor parts.

Police on Wednesday ar rested Siddigur Rahman from Malibag and recovered stolen motor parts worth taka 60,000 from his possession.

Dateline Khulna

68 prisoners freed

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 18: Sixtyeight prisoners were released in two days from the Distrit Jail under government amnesty that followed a twoweek prison revolt.

Of them, 59 were released on Tuesday and the rest on Wednesday.

Chhatra oikyo samity

President and General Secretary of Khulna District Unit or Chhatra Othyo Samity in a

statement issued on Wednesday strongly condemned the police firing on the students of Dhaka City College causing death to Shamsuddin Mito. a student of the college. They urged the government to inquire into the matter and

Freshers' reception

A freshers' reception organised by Daulatpur College unit of Bangladesh Islam Chhatra

bring the culprits to book.

Shibir was held on Tuesday in the college premises. The president of the central committee of the organisation Mr Aminul Islam attended the function as the chief guest.

In his address, Mr Aminul Islam called upon the workers of his organisation to help holding a free and fair elections ceremony presided over by Mr Abul Khair the function was addressed, among others, by Hamid Hossain Azad, Belaluddin. Sk Quamrul Alam and Mustafa Kamal Jahangir.

Demonstration

All Party Oikyo Jote and the workers of Bangladesh Match Factory on Tuesday staged a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office demanding reopening of the match factory.



KHULNA - Police lobbing teargas shells to disperse unruly mob here early this week. -Star photo.

Reports to be placed before new parliament

29 Task Forces to review development issues

The Planning Commission has set up 29 task forces to review a variety of development issues which will need to be addressed by the coming elected Parliament and the government to be formed by the majority party, reports

Planning Commission sources said in "each of these areas action will be immediately required to improve the performance of the economy. identify development priorities and review various policy alternatives for the future development of the national economy on a sustained and self-reliant basis with a view to improving the conditions of deprived segments of the community."

The task forces, organised on non-partisan lines where the best available Bangladeshi professional talents drawn from within and outside the government, have been mobilised on a strictly voluntary. basis to contribute their services in order to facilitate the decision and policy making process of the new government and parliament, the sources said.

The task forces will complete their reports by mid-February so that the papers can be ready for presentation to the new parliament and the public by the beginning of March, 1991.

The works of these task forces will be presented to all the parties elected to the new Parliament and placed before the country to promote awar-

Matin elected Ophthalmologists Society chief

Dr. M. A. Matin was elected President of Bangladesh Ophthalmologists Society in an election held on Thursday at the auditorium of BCPS at Mohakhali in Dhaka, says a Press release. Professor Syed Moddasar Ali was elected Secretary General of the Society.

ness of the critical development issues facing the nation and to encourage public discussion on these issues.

More than 200 professionals drawn from the government, professionals, business and academic life representing a broad range of opinion onmost issues have been assembled in the various Task Forces to ensure that policy-makers are exposed to a variety of views and policy options.

Following is the list of the Task Forces and names of the Convener.

 Current state of economy and macro-economic policies (Convenor)-Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud. Dept of Economics DU. 2. Agricultural Production Strategy (Convener) - Abu Ahmed Abdullah, BIDS, 3 Flood Action Plan (Convener)-Prof M Aminul Islam, Dept of Geography, DU, 4. Land Policy (Convener)- Prof. Moazzem Hossain, Dept of Cooperative (BAU). 5. Poverty Alleviation (Convener) -Dr Mahbub Hossain.DG.(BIDS), 6. Industrial Policy (Convener) Dr. Mahbub Hossain, DG, (BIDS), 6. Industrial Policy (Convener) - S.M. Al-Hossainy, Chairman, PSC. 7. Role of Private Sector (Convener) - Dr Abdullah Farouk, Treasurer, DU, 8. Role

Iranian film festival opens

A five-day Iranian film festival has inaugurated by the Adviser for Culture and Food, Prof lajuddin Ahmed at the Institution of Engineers, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion Prof lajuddin said, the age-old cultural and traditional relations between Bangladesh and Iran an unique. This film festival would help exchange views and strengthen the existing relation between the two countries, he added.

Iranian Ambassador in Bangladesh Ganjidoost, Md of FDC Syed Yousuf Hossain, eminent film artists Bulbul Ahmed and H Ali Madani also spoke on the occation.

Dr Rafiquddin Ahmed, former Director, ICTVTR, 9. Strategies and Role of Small and Rural Industries (Convener) - Dr. Q.K Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, 10. Social Implications of Urbanization. (Convener) - Dr Nazrul Islam, Dept of Geography. DU. 11. Decentralization Convener) - Dr. A.M.M. Shawkat Ali, JT. Secretary. ERD, 12. Energy (Convener) Dr Nazrul Islam, former member. PC, 13. Transport (Convener) -Omar Hadi, Division Chief, PC, 14. Environment (Convener) - Dr Fashiuddin Mahtab, former Minister of Planning. 15. Self-reliance Convener) - Prof M Yunus, Managing Director, Grameen Bank, 16. NGOS (Convener) Salauddin Ahmed, Secretary General, Swanirvar, 17 Women (Convener) - Mrs Salma Khan, Joint Chief, PC. 18. Foreign Investment policy (Convener) - Prof S.A Latifur Reza, Dept of Economics. DU. 19. Development administration (Convener)- A Samad. former Secretary, GOB, 20. Food policy (Convener) - Mohammad Ali, former Secretary. food, 21. Jamuna Bridge (Convener) - Nurul Huq. former member, (PC), 22. Relation with development partners (Convener) - M Muniruzzaman, former Secretary, ERD, 23. Technology (Convener) - Prof Igbal Mahmud, BUET, 24. Population policy (Convener)-Prof Barkat-E-Khuda, Dept of Economics, DU, 25. Political parties in the development process (Convener) - Prof. Nama Chowdhury, Dept, of Political Science, DU, 26. Human resoruces development (Convener) - Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed, IBA, DU, 27. Government Malpractices (Convener) - Borhanuddin Ahmed, former Secretary, GOB, 28. Aid utilization (Convener)- Dr R H Khandaker, former adviser, UNDP and former member. PC. 29. Financial sector reform (Convener) - Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, ADDL. Secre-

tary. Ministry of Finance.

of Public Sectors, (Convener)-

Student attacked

Our Medical Correspondent Khandaker Shaffur Rahman Milon (20), a student of Dhaka Polytechnie College, was seriously injured when a group of youngmen attacked with hockey sticks and knives in Azimpur government colony on

They also snatched away gold chain and money from him. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital

Death anniversary

SAVAR, Jan 18: A milad mahfil will be held at the campus residence of late Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. F. M. Kamaluddin of Jahangirnagar University in observance of his third death anniversary after asor prayer.

Children's festival

held Adviser for Social Welfare. Mr Alamgir M A Kabir Friday urged the parents to rear up their children with proper care and guidance to build them as worthy citizens, re-

ports BSS. He called for availing of the facilities so far provided by the govenment to explore the latent talent of the children.

The Adviser was addressing as chief guest the winter childrens festival and certificate awarding ceremony organised by the Bangldesh Shishu Academy in Dhaka.

The function was presided over by Dr Abdullah-Al-Muti Sharfuddin.

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Supporters of Kader Siddiqui held a rally in front of National Press Club on Friday in -Star Photo demanding his immediate release.