

## CU teachers on polls duty demand security

CHITTAGONG Feb 2 : Teachers on election duty roll here today placed a four-point demand to the government with a view to ensuring free, fair and impartial elections on February 27, reports BSS.

The President of Chittagong Unit of Bangladesh College-University Teachers Association, Mr. Shafail Alam, announcing this at a press conference here, pointed out that the teachers on election duties would not be able to discharge their responsibilities properly unless adequate security measures were provided at the polling booths.

He listed the four-point demand as arrangements to save the teachers from assault and harassment and compensation for death and injury, if any, punishment to the offenders, constitution of observation teams with representatives from teachers and other officials at upazila levels under the supervision of the Election Commission, signing of a code of conduct by candidates or their representatives, and inclusion of university teachers in the election duties.

Mr. Shafail Alam also called upon the teachers entrusted with election duties to be neutral in conducting elections.

## NAP (Bhashani) to solve water sharing issues if elected

National Awami Party (Bhashani) Chairman Prof. Noor Mohammad Kazi said in Dhaka yesterday the fate of the country's people could not be changed unless the problems of floods and the water-sharing problems of the common rivers including the Padma could be solved, reports BSS.

He regretted that no political party nor any individual had mentioned these problems during their election campaigns.

Presiding over an electioneering meeting in front of Mohammadpur Town Hall Mr. Noor Mohammad committed that his party, if elected to power, would raise the problems of flood and water sharing of common rivers at the international levels for their solutions.

The meeting was addressed among others by NAP candidate from Dhaka-9 constituency Mohammadpur-Dhanmondi Mujibur Rahman Advocate and party General Secretary Sekandar Ali.

## Rich tributes paid to Qamrul

Adviser for Culture and Food Prof. Iqbal Ahmed paid rich tributes to eminent artist Qamrul Hassan recalling his invaluable contribution to the democratic movement in the country, reports UNB.

He was speaking at the inaugural function of an exhibition of children paintings organised here on Saturday in observance of anniversary of death of the late artist.

Organised by "Qamrul Hassan Oitija Parishad" the function was presided over by Poet Sufia Kamal and addressed among others by Aminul Islam, Qayum Chowdhury, Rokunuzzaman Khan, Ralfunnabi, Sumana Hasan and Mizanur Rahman.

Prof. Iqbal Ahmed said, the spirit of historic language movement and the war of liberation found true reflections in the art work of Qamrul Hassan for which he will always remain alive in our memory.

About 454 pieces of art work done by members of the Kendriya Kanchi Kancher Mela were put on display in the exhibition held at the gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts.

## Rafsanjani's peace proposal to Saddam

TEHRAN, Feb 2 : Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has sent a message to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein on possible solutions to the Persian Gulf war, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported here today.

But IRNA provided no details of the message, which was handed over to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi.

Mr. Hammadi left here for Baghdad earlier in the day.

## Focus on election- '91

## Largest number of candidates in race since independence

By Nazmul Ashraf

The number of political parties and candidates contesting this year's parliamentary elections is the largest since independence.

Ninety political parties have fielded 2782 candidates to contest the polls this time.

Besides, 427 independent candidates are also in the race.

The victory in the mass upsurge of 1990 has created a democratic atmosphere where the people's enthusiasm for election is growing steadily.

This is for the first time since independence the elections will be held under a non-partisan neutral government.

The Election Commission has been reorganised to work independently.

The parliamentary elections were held in Bangladesh first in 1973. All political parties took part in that elections. In 1979 too all the political parties took part in election.

Ousted President H.M. Ershad seized power from the President Justice Sattar, a BNP man, in March 1982 and the parliamentary election were held under him in 1986.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and Five-Party Alliance BANSAL and some other small parties boycotted that election.

The most controversial election was held in 1988 in the backdrop of an abortive mass movement which too was boycotted by mainstream opposition political parties.

The mainstream opposition alliances and parties spearheaded the movement against Ershad in October and the movement turned into mass upsurge in the last week of November. The victory has paved the way for establishing a democratic government through free and fair election. With this objective the political parties have fielded largest number of candidates this year.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has fielded the highest number of candidates (299) followed by Jatiya Party (270) and Awami League (263).

AL earlier nominated 299 candidates which came down to 263 as it gave 36 seats to the components of the 8-party

### Poets' row

The Jatiya Kabit Parishad Saturday failed to elect its new Executive Committee for the next term for bitter disputes among member poets on the last day of the two-day 5th National Poetry Festival in Dhaka, reports UNB.

Incumbent President of the Parishad poet Shamsur Rahman and General Secretary Nirmalendu Guha left the Council session at about 9 pm amid a furor created by rival lobbyists.

The meeting in TSC seminar room lasted more than seven hours since 2:30 pm, but even after prolonged debate, the councillors failed to agree on formation of a new committee.

Before leaving, Shamsur Rahman apologised that he was "unable to run the office of Parishad President due to ill health".

The Kabit Parishad leaders were tight-lipped after the final meeting and refused to talk to reporters.

Some councillors opined for granting another term for the incumbent committee, while others demanded a new committee, charging the present committee with inefficiency.

Another proposal for forming an adhoc committee also failed to gain support.

Meanwhile, the regular programmes of the second day of the festival continued at the intersection in front of TSC.

### AL worker stabbed to death in Barisal

By Staff Correspondent

An Awami League worker was stabbed to death in Barisal Thursday night while returning home after campaigning for his party candidate.

According to information received in Dhaka, the victim Harun and his brother were attacked by some miscreants at Shastababu under Sadar upazila. The miscreants demanded money from them and at one stage stabbed both the brothers and fled away. Harun succumbed to his injuries at the Barisal Hospital while his brother is under treatment there.

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