

# Poll budgets exceed limit, says Liberty

The Liberty International (LI), a Bangladesh-based international Human Rights Organisation having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), has in its initial report, expressed the view that actual conduct of elections on February 27 was, with insignificant exception, generally free, orderly and fair, says a press release.

The President of Liberty International, Advocate MA Mutaleb said, "our observer groups dispersed across the districts of Tangail, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Sherpur, Kishoreganj and Jamalpur visiting polling sites in various urban and rural areas heard no significant complaint about casting or counting of ballots. Instead, the groups observed that the people displayed a remarkable and exemplary degree of patience, tenacity and integrity to make the

election a success."

Expressing satisfaction at the neutrality and independence shown by the officials and law enforcing agencies, the Liberty International noted "discharge of their duties without fear or favour as hopeful improvements in the election process."

Terming the establishment of an electoral process by the Government and the Election Commission which incorporated safeguards against corrupt practice, fraud and violence as very important, Mr Mutaleb stated "the process created a better environment for fair elections."

Election budgets of the candidates were not kept within the bounds of law, Liberty International commented.

According to Liberty International teams, voter

turnout in urban centres (District and Upazila headquarters) was in record numbers where lines of voters were seen but there was very low voter turnout in polling sites of rural areas where no lines of voters could be seen.

Names of large numbers of voters were not found in voters list in many centres and many voters were not allowed to cast their votes due to minor mistakes/spelling mistakes of their names/father's names or wrong recording of age, one such example was Jalasatra polling centre of Tangail district where many garo aboriginals could not cast their votes. Advocate Mutaleb added.

Liberty International, of course, had concluded that what minor irregularities were there, perhaps, had not affected the final outcome of the elections.



Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, Convener of the Joint Election Monitoring Cell of Liberty Forum and Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club on Monday.

## Call to refrain from issuing statement

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Citizens Election Commission on Monday urged the defeated candidates or political parties who could not achieve victory upto their expectations to refrain from issuing statements which may hinder transition to democracy, says a press release.

The Commission along with other observation groups regarded the election as free and fair, the press release added.

## Science Week begins in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: The fourteenth National Science and Technology Week '91 of Chittagong South Zone began at Government City College here today, reports BSS.

Prof M A Saleh, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Chittagong University, inaugurated it. A total of 16 organisations are participating in the Science Week.

The prize giving ceremony of the fair will be held on March 6.

## Plea to ensure peaceful repolling

Mr. Rashed Mosharraf, an Awami League candidate in the Jamalpur-2 Constituency, Sunday urged the Caretaker Government and Election Commission to provide adequate security measure to ensure peaceful re-polling in eight centres of his constituency on March 9, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, Mosharraf said the elections in these centres were postponed after his rival BNP candidate and his workers had tried to cast false votes and snatch away the ballot boxes.

He said the Presiding Officers had filed cases against the BNP candidate Sultan Mahmud Dabu with Islampur thana.

"I am afraid of further violence and ballot-box hijacking on March 9 unless there is required security measures to ensure a complete fair polling in the eight centres," Mosharraf, who is the General Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak League, told the press conference.

Besides the leaders of his party, the Krishak League President, Mr. Rahmat Ali, who won his parliamentary seat on Awami League ticket from Gazipur, was also present.

## Involvement of local experts stressed

# Scientific research still isolated from practical needs

**By Staff Correspondent**

Economists in Bangladesh have stressed the need for according topmost priority to development of science and technology in the country once a democratic government takes over following the February 27 parliamentary elections.

While talking to the Daily Star on Saturday, a number of economists working in the Planning Commission as well as in the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies pointed out that a phenomenal growth of the country's economy can be made possible by continuous technological research, innovations and their application.

Mentionably here, the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed recently regretted there is no provision for giving Ekushey Padaks for science.

The need for a faster technological development is being increasingly felt by a developing country like Bangladesh. The pressing need for a faster economic growth, increased factor productivity and above all, exploration of new production possibilities urge upon the necessity for technological development.

And for a country like Bangladesh where the public sector plays a dominant role in economic development and where the private investment is low, the technology development has suffered from several limitations such as scarcity of resources, lack of skill and capability. The S & T research is mainly carried out in universities and by institutions financed under the public sector, often in quite isolation from the practical needs of the country.

Development plans of Bangladesh have emphasised S & T research to develop technologies through adaptation of imported technology and as well as development of indigenous technologies. As the country is heavily dependent upon imported technologies, proper planning perse is required for its effective transfer through acquisition, assimilation and adaptation of such technologies. The technology transfer is thus a process involving man, machine and organisation. Transfers of imported technology require that local experts should not learn to operate machines, but they should also be involved in drawing, designing, fabrication, installation, operation and maintenance of such machineries. Unless this occurs the technology transfer would not complete in its cycle. The development of indigenous technologies, on the other, has to be planned and directed strictly to need of different sectors and entail the process from the laboratory experimentation to commercialisation.

**Organisational weaknesses**

Earlier plans have laid down policies and strategies for technological development in different sectors. The problems and weaknesses in technology development have mostly been identified as organisational

weaknesses, unplanned and uncoordinated R & D work, absence of R & D in private enterprise, lack of comprehensiveness in S & T policies and other policy support (such as fiscal, monetary, commercial, etc). The SFYP and more specifically, the Third Five-Year Plan visualised to develop S & T integrated with the development process.

The TFYP recommended formulation of national S & T policies with goals and priorities of S & T development. It viewed S & T development to be relatively a long run process, within which the short-term strategies were to be directed towards meeting immediate need of the economy such as production and employment. The plan, therefore, emphasised S & T research strictly on assessment of needs in different sectors and prioritisation of the same in terms of resource and institutional constraints. The plan also recommends necessary infrastructural and institutional development, for S & T along with necessary policy supports for human resource development, import substitution and protection of local products and innovations, standardization of imports, price supports, etc. The entire S & T organisational structure was recommended to be reviewed and rationalised to develop an effective institutional mechanism for coordinated R & D planning and dissemination.

**Technology policy**

Towards such development, a National Science and Technology Policy (NSTP) has been formulated and adopted in February, 1986. The NSTP laid down the directions towards S & T activities and research, institution and manpower development, dissemination of documentation facilities. The NCST, reconstituted in January, 1987, determines S & T policies, reviews the activities of different institutions, provides directions towards S & T research and activities. The Executive Committee of NCST reviews the progress of S & T work and implementation of decisions of NCST and

also provides direction to S & T activities and research.

A Consultative Committee on the Transfer of Technology headed by the Minister for Education and S & T, has been created to formulate a work plan for assessment of technological needs (both indigenous and imported), preparation of mid-term technology plans and schedules, and adoption of legal and financial measures for technological development. The assessment of technological needs and capabilities are to be carried out by instituting technical committee in Ministries.

**Laboratory research**

The most important weakness in technology planning is that it mainly emphasises laboratory research and virtually ends with it as a result of which neither imported technologies could be adapted nor indigenous technologies be commercialised. The other two impediments are i) financial and ii) institutional. Most of the resources of R & D organisations are spent on salaries and administration. However, in order to protect R & D, steps are now being taken to allocate resources separately under two heads one for R & D and the other for salaries and other overheads. Further, in order to work out the need for increased R & D allocations overtime, an interministerial committee under the S & T Division has been constituted.

**Third Plan programmes**

A survey of existing R & D organisations and their manpower conducted in 1987 shows somewhat widely dispersed R & D activities under different Ministries with 43 organisations under 16 ministries. In addition, there are academic R & D institutions like Universities. The required institutional reorganisation or restructuring as was suggested in TFYP has not been carried out. The R & D planning and coordination itself has remained weak and that of adaptation and dissemination have continued to be two major problematic areas.

The S & T research and de-

## DU directives for registered graduates

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Dhaka University authorities have urged the registered graduates who have not yet submitted their attested photo for the ensuing election of registered graduates in the Senate to contact the registrar immediately with two copies of photo.

A press release of DU, it said those who sent photos earlier and have not yet received identity card should also contact the registrar of the university.

Those who have no identity cards shall not be allowed to vote in the election, the release added.

## 50 women collect forms from BNP

More than 50 women procured prescribed forms till 8 pm Monday to seek BNP nomination for the 30 seats reserved for female in the just-elected fifth Jatiya Sangsad, reports UNB.

Among them, party sources said, prominent are former members of parliament Raushan Elahi from Pabna, Hosneara Khan and Ashika Akbar from Mymensingh, chairperson of BNP women wing Begum Ahshan Ullah and Secretary Sorwari Rahman.

Forms are being distributed from BNP office at Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Gulshan, against Tk 500 each.

The last date for submitting the nominations is March 10. The electoral college consisting of all directly elected members of parliament will elect 30 female members in secret balloting. The polling will be completed by April 4, one day before the opening session of the 330-seat parliament.

## Uplift efforts of donor states discussed

M. H. Gajentaan, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Bangladesh had a meeting here Monday morning with Dr. A. Moyeen Khan, member of the parliament-elect from Narsingdi -2, (Palash) and Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Dr Saleemul Haq, Executive Director, Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Director of BCAS and Dr M Youssouf Ali, former Fisheries Secretary were present during meeting, a press release said, reports BSS.

Various aspects of sustainable development in the perspective of Bangladesh environment were discussed. Dr Khan raised with the Ambassador the issue of development efforts of the donor countries through government as well as non-government channels, the press release added.

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**THE DAILY STAR**

## Khaleda felicitated

The Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) Sunday congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia on the victory of BNP in the Jatiya Sangsad election, reports UNB.

In a statement, chief patron of the committee M Nasim Khan wished that under the dynamic leadership of Begum Zia, the country would prosper.

He sincerely hoped the "lingering question of repatriation will be taken up on priority basis."

## Bangladeshi goods in great demand

Bangladesh Embassy participated in the 4th International Bazar on February 16 in Kathmandu with a stall of handicrafts and Bangladeshi food. The bazar was held under the auspices of Nepal's Women's Skill Development Organization. Besides Bangladesh, Soviet Union, Pakistan and UK also participated in the Bazar. Bangladesh Stall with a wide range of products and crafts supplied by Export Promotion Bureau, attracted a very large number of visitors, according to an official handout.

Supreme leader of the ruling Nepal Congress Mr Ganesh Man Singh and President of Nepal's Women's Association Mrs Mangala Devi Singh (wife of Mr Singh) who were the chief guests at the inauguration ceremony, visited Bangladesh's colourful and tastefully decorated stall. They expressed their thanks for the valuable Bangladesh support to the Women's Development Organisation's efforts in Nepal. Both Mr and Mrs Singh were presented with Bangladesh handicrafts by Ambassador of Bangladesh Syed Muhammad Hussain.

Nepal TV showed Bangladesh's stall for quite sometime in its main news in the same evening. Radio and press also covered the news of Bangladesh's participation in the International Bazar.

## Arms recovered

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Sabujbag Police recovered one revolver from Shaiful Islam Bachchu (25) and a country-made gun from Nazmul Alam (20).

Both the persons were arrested from east Rampura.

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## Dateline Chittagong

# Repolling in 16 centres demanded

Al-Haj Captain (Retd) Dr. M.N. Shafa, BNP nominee from Chittagong-4 Fatikchhari Constituency today urged the Election Commission to arrange repolling in 16 centres of his constituency, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club here, Dr. Shafa alleged that the Awami League candidate had intimidated the voters and officials engaged in holding of the parliamentary polls.

He also urged the Election Commission to withhold the official results till enquiry was completed.

Dr. Shafa has formally lodged a complain with the Election Commission.

**AL candidate thanks people**

Mr. S.M. Yusuf, a defeated Awami League candidate for Chittagong-11 Constituency Sunday congratulated people for exercising their voting right in the parliamentary election on February 27.

Mr S.M. Yusuf in a statement said, verdict of the people were the precondition for establishing democracy.

He, however, observed that deep study of the election would reveal that an invisible unholy power influenced voters through various means. He

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