



# The Daily Star mission to uphold Ctg's cause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The Daily Star has vowed to uphold the importance of the port city of Chittagong for its pivotal role in boosting the national economy and growth.

The political leaders, diplomats, academicians, professionals, business elites, journalists and members of the civil society here had a pleasant time exchanging their views during the daily's eleventh anniversary function on Saturday.

They discussed expectation to the society, their losses and pains, gains and delights as well as those of the common people amid a very cordial and warm atmosphere.

The function was arranged at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong Centre auditorium.

The speakers at the function urged the media people to play a pivotal role in mobilising public opinion towards the cause of democracy with a view to spearheading the country towards progress and prosperity.

They stressed for developing understanding among the political leaders whether belonging to the ruling party or opposition for reaching a consensus on national issues to maintain stability in the country.

Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, former Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) Dr. Moinul Islam and principal of Sun Shine Grammar School and College, Safia Rahman addressed the function.

The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam conducted the function. The speakers said the political leaders should frequently exchange pleasantries to reduce the gap of understanding as well as to hold

interaction among them. The opposition's boycott of parliament had become a common trend in recent years, they added.

While addressing the function Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury lauded the role of The Daily Star for focusing and highlighting the importance and potentialities of this region. He said that the exploitation of the untapped resources of Chittagong could easily help to expedite the pace of development and growth of the country.

The city mayor regretted that despite declaration Chittagong was yet to be provided with full-fledged

facilities and status of a commercial capital in true sense.

He said that the capital based development was forcing the potential entrepreneurs to migrate to Dhaka.

He called for decentralisation of power for industrialisation and development of this region as well as the country.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Jamal Nazrul Islam said that despite having unique qualities many people could not play their due role in nation building activities due to lack of commitment to and love for the society as well as the country.

"We are lacking farsightedness and clear vision to build up the society," said Islam adding "it's a tragedy that our students, they are known as the future nation builders, are being killed frequently in the campuses of universities and colleges which could hardly move us."

Prof. Jamal Nazrul pointed out that the internal conflict among the teachers might be the reason behind the campus unrest which needs to

be detected and eradicated for the sake of the country and the nation.

"The parents who got their university or college going children killed can never sing Emon Deshti Kothao Khujay Pabe Nako Tumi (a famous song of Tagore meaning you can't find such a country elsewhere of the world) with us in the same tone, Prof Islam said.

He called upon the teacher community to build up real students and

absence of which the development and growth of all parts of the country are being hampered.

The Chamber president also put accent for decentralisation of power considering it as a crying need of the time for overall development of the country.

Prof Dr. Moinul Islam said, "Our democracy is not in a healthy state at present" due to "criminalisation of politics". He underscored the need

of proper media role to help establish a fair and true democracy in the country.

The principal of Sun Shine Grammar School and College Safia Rahman called upon the journalists to provide greater exposure of the education, culture and heritage of Chittagong to inspire the students who are the future nation builders.

"I take the opportunity to give special thanks to The Daily Star that brings out special pages titled as 'Rising Star' on every Thursday for the students," she said.

"I really appreciate the page (Rising Star) as it accommodates articles and invites write-ups from

worthy citizens.

Former Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University Dr. Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin regretted that though opposition are supposed to play an indispensable role to ensure the exercise of democracy, unfortunately they are frequently staying outside the parliament.

Chittagong Chamber president Farid Ahmed Chowdhury said, "though we are living in an independent and democratic country, we are yet to enjoy independence in true sense as far the business activities are concerned."

He stressed for harbouring progressive and impartial outlook in the

cal depravity."

To overcome the prevalent disappointing political and social situation of the country there was no alternative to the practice of fair democracy where the newspapers have a vital role to play, they added.

The speakers said, "People want to see the newspapers as their representatives reflecting thoughts and beliefs for the overall development of the country and the nation."

The newspapers through their writings can help both the political and economic development and thus help the democracy consolidate," they further said.

Master of Chittagong Port Authority Captain Quamrul Islam, Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Steamer Agents Association Tarek Anis, General Manager of James Finlay Aqi Chowdhury, BGMEA leader Mahabub Ali and senior vice-president of Chittagong Chamber SM Nurul Haq were present in the function.

The Daily Star brought out a supplement on Chittagong on the day and launched publication of a special weekly page on the port city and Chittagong division to be continued from now on.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, received the guests at the ceremony and welcomed them for making speech sharing thoughts and feelings.

The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam flanked by Managing editor Syed Fahim Monaim, introduced his team members of Dhaka who arrived here and staffs of Chittagong bureau. He also introduced Abul Momen, the resident editor of the Prothom Alo. He expressed gratitude to his team members for bringing The Daily Star to the present stage.

The Dhaka team comprised the heads of all departments including News editor Azizur Rashid Babu, Shift Incharge Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, Chief Photographer AKM Mohsin, Sports editor Syed Ashfaqul Haque, Senior Staff Reporter Zayadul Ahsan, Business page In-charge M Shamsur Rahman, Finance Manager Gopesh Saha, Advertisement Manager Sher Ali and Circulation Manager Abu Masud Bulbul.

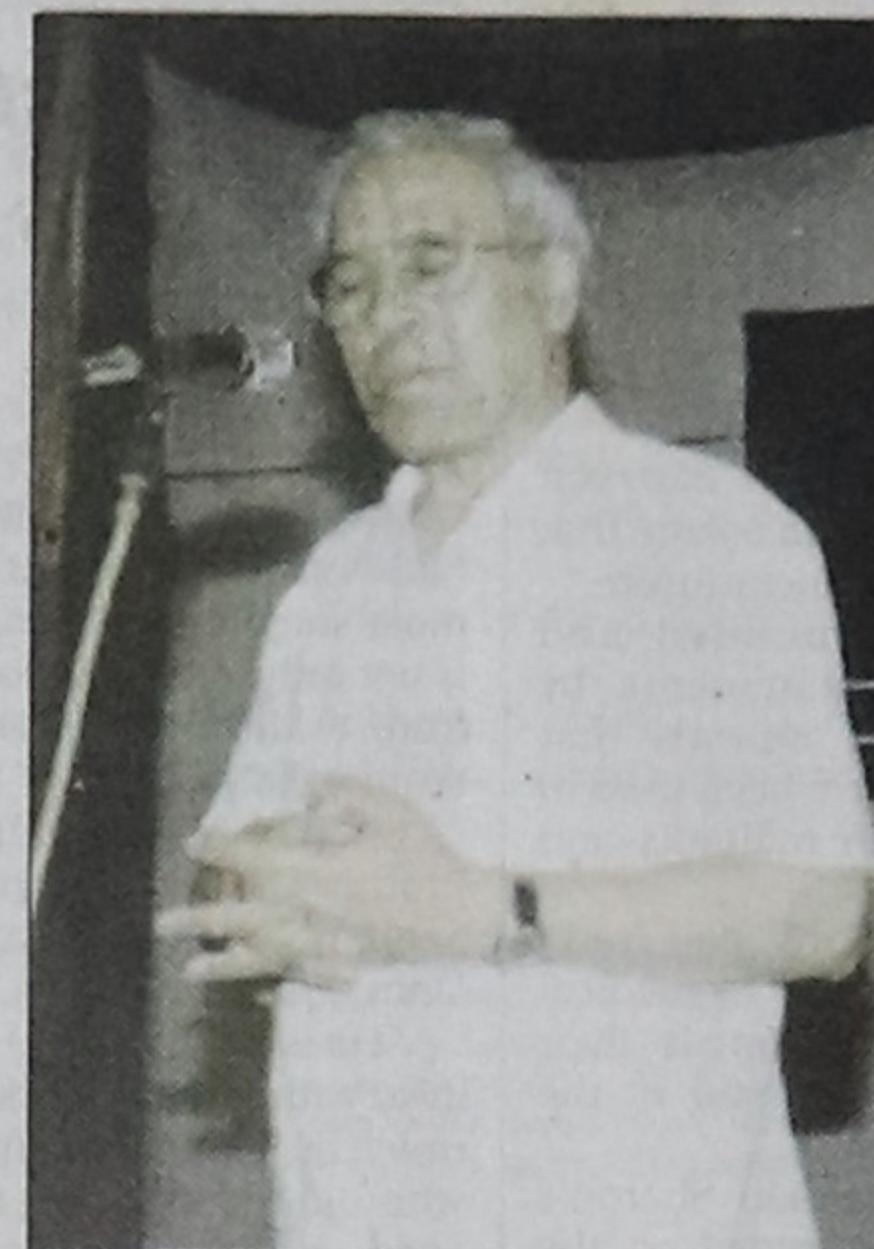
The Chittagong Bureau team included the Bureau Chief Md. Nurul Alam, Staff Correspondents Shahidul Islam and Abdullah Al Mahmud, Chittagong University correspondent Ataul Gani Sumon, and Business Executive Md. Yusuf.



ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury



Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam



Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin



Farid Ahmed Chowdhury



Safia Rahman



Photos show elites of Chittagong at the 11th anniversary function of The Daily Star at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong Centre Auditorium.

PHOTOS: STAR

