



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina gives away award to a winner of the photo competition on environmental themes at the concluding ceremony of the 2nd International Conference on Bangladesh Environment at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday. The Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon organised the conference.

## Banbat-10 leaves for Kuwait

A 155-member advance team of Bangladesh Battalion (Banbat-10) left Dhaka for Kuwait on Friday by a UN Chartered Aircraft to join United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), says an ISPR press release.

Other members of this 767-member Mechanised Infantry Battalion will join UNIKOM by the left-over four flights from January 8-24. Banbat-10 led by Col Mohammad Humayun Kabir will be staying in Kuwait for one year. Banbat-10 is replacing Banbat-9.

A 54-member of advance team of Banbat-9 led by Lieutenant Col Nurul Alam reached Dhaka on Friday night by a return flight. Remaining members of this team are expected to return home by January 24. Each member of Banbat-9 have been highly praised by the senior officials besides obtaining UN Medals for their high professional efficiency.

## 'Accountability key to good governance'

BSS, Dhaka

A senior judge of the Supreme Court yesterday said democratic institutions should be strengthened with people's participation for making good governance sustainable.

"Good governance requires the local authority to be responsive and to serve all within a reasonable timeframe and not to be ineffective by bureaucratic red-tape," said Justice K M Hasan, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

He was inaugurating a seminar on "Good governance and local government: Changes and challenges" at CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

The Odhakar, a local human rights organisation in association with the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNS), a French donor

agency, organised the seminar.

Odhakar President Dr Tasneen Siddiqui chaired the inaugural function. Additional Attorney General Abdur Razzak Khan and FNSI consultant Dr Najmul Hasan also spoke on the occasion.

Justice Hasan said accountability is the key to good governance. "At present, the process of governance at all level in our country lacks accountability," he observed.

He also said that accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and rule of law.

Justice Hasan pointed out that the objectives of good governance couldn't be achieved without promoting the spirit of tolerance, peace and reconciliation in a multi-party democracy and without encouraging our national identity through a cultural and historical awareness campaign.

## Strengthen scout movement to stop moral erosion

BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondker Mosharraf Hossain has underlined the need for strengthening the scout movement to stop moral erosion and build good citizens.

As the single biggest organisation in the country, Bangladesh Scouts has an important role to provide right direction to the development of youths, he told a function organised by Bangladesh Scout and Guide Fellowship (BSGF) on Friday to mark the unwrapping of a souvenir here.

Scores of elements available with the development of science could erode social values and moral degradation, he said.

But as responsible citizen, everyone should have adequate knowledge to identify these elements and decide which one could be accepted and which one needs to be discarded.

Secretary of internal resources division and Chairman of National Board of Revenue Dr Shoeb Ahmad presided over the function.

The newly elected 22-member executive committee of BSGF 2002-2004 with Dr Shoeb Ahmad as president and Mohammad Golam Rabbani as general secretary was introduced at the function.

## Provide better service to rural patients

### President tells surgeons

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has called upon the surgeons to innovate appropriate technology so that the downtrodden section of the community can get the maximum benefit of medical science.

"Society of the surgeons should have their own philosophy of development and set research objectives in order to meet the community needs," he said speaking as chief guest at the 8th International Surgical Congress at a local hotel yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondker Mosharraf Hossain also spoke on the occasion as special guest.

The President said majority of the people in Bangladesh live in the rural areas where infrastructural facilities are yet to be developed. "Rural community should be given priority in the surgical services in our country."

He said that the Society of the Surgeons should take initiatives to train the surgeons in the rural set-up for providing better services to

the rural patients.

Presently, Bangladesh has about 600 surgeons in all disciplines for the 130 million people, Iajuddin said and called for making continued efforts to develop specialists in various disciplines in surgical services.

The present government is aware of providing logistic support and necessary medical equipment for ensuring quality services to the people despite resource constraints, he added.

Bangladesh, being a developing country, needs active cooperation from SAARC and other developed countries of the world to adopt modern surgical technology for the benefit of the people, the President said.

He laid emphasis on a positive change towards the development of surgical knowledge, training, skills and total management of ailing patients.

"The surgical congress, I hope, will help the surgeons develop and disseminate their knowledge of modern medical technology through discussions and demonstration of scientific tools and apparatus."

The President noted that a need has arisen to customise the developmental tools to fit into the country's socio-economic and cultural capabilities.

"The surgical congress organised by the Society of the Surgeons of Bangladesh can rightly claim the role of being a very active catalyst in this regard, that is, a direction towards the wellbeing of our community."

The President hoped that the congress would also give the opportunity to the younger surgeons to discuss and exchange their views with the global and regional scientists which will definitely enrich their knowledge.

## Foy's Lake to be developed into a tourist spot

UNB, Chittagong

The government has decided to develop the Foy's Lake in the port city into a tourist spot of international standards.

Officials of the Communications Ministry and local administration yesterday briefed Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on the present state of the lake situated in Railway's 336 acres of hilly land in this city that stands on the Bay of Bengal.

"The government will soon invite an expert team from Thailand" to assess the tourist attractions of the resort surrounding the lake that was first established in 1925, said Communications Minister Nazmul Huda while talking to the press.

He said the experts would study the area that encompasses a water-body of 48.75 acres, and roads and hill terrain of 282.96 acres.

More than 7 lakh tourists visit the Foy's Lake every year.

President of Gulshan Club ABM Kamaluddin Khan (third from left) with other elected members of the club's executive committee at its annual general meeting held on December 20.

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