



PHOTO: STAR

Workers spruce up a footpath near the Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday ahead of the Saarc summit.

Politicians, traders, bureaucrats blamed for corruption

Citizens' Forum Against Corruption launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders, bureaucrats and businessmen are responsible for corruption in the country, said some former top bureaucrats at the launching ceremony of 'Citizens' Forum Against Corruption (CFAC)' in the city yesterday.

They said corruption has grabbed all sectors of government, semi-government and private bodies through these groups making the country a most corrupt nation in the world.

The CFAC has been formed by civil society members including some senior bureaucrats to combat corruption.

Speaking at the launching ceremony at the National Press Club, the speakers urged people from all walks of life to join the CFAC for creating social awareness against corruption.

"CFAC will form a Watch Committee to investigate different government departments, semi-government bodies including banks and private organisations to find out the causes of corruption, persons involved in corruption and how to eradicate corruption," said CFAC Chairman Muslehuddin Ahmad, also former secretary and ambassador.

Muslehuddin, also founder vice-chancellor of North South University, said CFAC would consult and cooperate with Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and other concerned bodies and lend its support to those organisations.

"CFAC will hold seminars, rallies and conference on corruption and other related issues including terrorism," said NH Khan, vice-chairman of CFAC and former secretary and chairman of NBR.

Corruption cannot be eradicated from the country without the help of political parties especially two major political parties as a large number of corrupt people are involved with politics, he added.

"CFAC will establish specialised organs to collect information, conduct investigation, and monitor all types of corruption including their sources and causes," said Syed Yusuf Hossain,

secretary general of CFAC and former comptroller & auditor general and secretary.

He also urged the government to make a list of black money holders in the country.

"Our future generation will not forgive us if we fail to restore the prestige and dignity of the nation, and now it is the high time to take effective steps against corruption," he added.

CFAC Vice-chairman Mohammad Mohsin, former secretary and ambassador, and Treasurer Dr Rafiul Islam Molla, professor of North South University, also addressed the function.

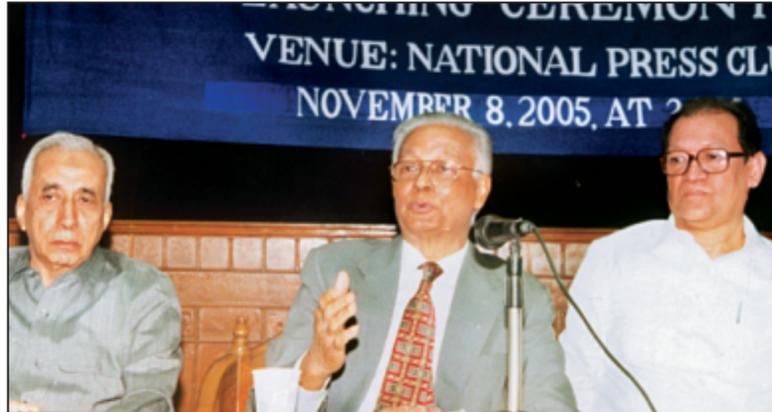


PHOTO: STAR

CFAC Chairman Muslehuddin Ahmad speaks at the launching ceremony of Citizens' Forum Against Corruption at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

LDF to stage demonstration on Nov 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Front (LDF) will observe November 28 as the day for realisation for its eleven-point demand.

The day will be observed by organising rallies and staging demonstrations across the country.

Announcing the programme at a meeting at the central office of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday the front leaders criticised the government for its failure to control price hike of essentials and Monga (a famine-like situation) in the north-western region of the country.

They said the government has also failed to provide security to the countrymen.

The front leaders called for building up a left-oriented progressive force as an alternative to present politics of imperialism and plundering the country's wealth and resources.

Presided over by CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, the meeting was also addressed by Morshed Ali and Ruhin Hossain Prince of CPB, Nurul Hasan of Workers' Party, Zakir Hossain of Gonotantrik Mojdur Party and Hossain Shaheed Majnu of Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal.

CPB concerned at abnormal price hike of fertiliser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday expressed concern at the abnormal price increase of fertiliser.

In a joint statement, CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the crisis of fertiliser has made the farmers frustrated when they were trying to grow winter vegetables.

They said the dealers also often supply fertilisers to dishonest traders and not to the farmers.

The CPB leaders urged the government to take necessary steps to protect the farmers from the exploitation of the brokers.

The statement also called for setting up of cold storage at different areas of the country to ensure fair price of their products.