

# Call for reforms in public varsity acts

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday sought reforms in public university acts, appointment of teachers and student politics.

They also suggested formation of a powerful search committee to select vice-chancellors, pro-vice-chancellors and treasurers.

A panel of teachers should be made as per specific regulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for their appointment in the universities.

The roundtable titled 'Autonomy of Universities' was organised by the National Observers Council (NOC) at the National Press Club in the city.

Chairman of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Prof Muzaffar Ahmad chaired the roundtable where former education adviser to a caretaker government Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was the chief guest.

Prof Faruq-Uzzaman of the history department of Rajshahi University presented the keynote paper.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, former UGC Chairman Prof M Asaduzzaman, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof Mofakkar Islam of the history

department of Dhaka University, social worker Abdul Aziz Sarkar, journalist MA Aziz and Executive Director of NOC Rehana Salam took part in the discussion.

Prof Muzaffar said the universities should come forward with various reform proposals, he said, adding that if all stakeholders do not cooperate, only the UGC will not be able to bring any qualitative changes to public universities.

'Time has come to think whether a dean would be made through election or selection,' he said, adding, 'Teachers could also be appointed through experts' opinion.'

He suggested separation of the student dormitories from the administrations for creating a proper academic environment for the students.

Prof Zillur said in the Bangladesh perspective, the existing forms of the senates in the universities are neither required nor fruitful for the students and their education.

To make the academic activities transparent, he suggested not to appoint any student as a teacher in the same university.

Prof Nazrul said the UGC is now working for formulating a Public University Act to bring all the 29 public universities under the

umbrella of a single act.

'I hope we can complete the task within the term of the present caretaker government,' said the UGC chairman.

Teachers of the universities should come forward with various reform proposals, he said, adding that if all stakeholders do not cooperate, only the UGC will not be able to bring any qualitative changes to public universities.

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In his keynote paper, Prof Faruk-Uzzaman presented a set of recommendations that included cancellation of the '4b of Political Party Regulation 1976' to stop the turning of student organisations into front-line organisations of the political parties.

He said teachers could hold political belief individually, but they could not propagate their belief and involve themselves in any political entity.

Prof Faruk also suggested increasing the number of UGC members from five to eight to strengthen the commission.

## Twelve rocket launchers recovered in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Twelve rocket launchers were recovered from Shamsenagar under Kamalganj upazila of the district yesterday.

According to Kamalganj police, the labourers found the rocket launchers when they were digging earth to build a toilet behind an under-construction market of the Local Government Engineering Department.

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## Khatib's death condoled

BSS, Dhaka

Law and Information Adviser Barrister Mainul Hosein, leaders of different political parties and socio-cultural organisations, in separate messages yesterday condoled the death of Maulana Obaidul Haq, Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

In the messages of condolence, they prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul of Khatib Obaidul Haq and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Mainul Hosein expressed deep shock at the death of eminent Islamic thinker Maulana Obaidul Haq.

He conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Jatiya Party Chairman and former President H M Ershad said Maulana Obaidul Haq was not only the Khatib of the national mosque, but also an Islamic thinker, a scholar and a man devoted to the service of Islam.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said the nation has lost a devoted Islamic thinker at his death.

The Khatib was respected by all as a courageous Islamic scholar of firm conviction, Delwar said and added he had played a prominent role in favour of truth by giving authentic interpretations of Islamic laws.

Pro-reformist BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement condoled his death. He also prayed for peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Jamaat-e-Islami's Ameer Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid said Maulana Obaidul Haq was the teacher of the country's ulama. He was like the guardian of the nation.

Bangladesh Muslim League President Alhaj ANM Yusuf, Executive President Advocate Nurul Haq Majumder and Secretary General M Nuruzzaman Munna, Sylhet Division Development Action Council President Advocate Abed Reza and General Secretary Nazmul Islam, Bangladesh Progressive Party Secretary General M Noman, and Jatiya Neta Bhasha Sainik Shamsul Haq Smriti Sangsad President Advocate MA Latif Majumder also condoled the death.

Rasheda, also director of Campe, highlighted a set of demands to be placed to the government marking the day.

The demands include job security for the poor round the year, security for food, education, health

and shelter, fair wages for labourers, an end to discrimination against women and establish their rights, and protection of farmers and agricultures from the evil design of World Bank, IMF and WTO.

While elaborating the demands to global leaders on the day of poverty eradication, Irfan Mufty, GCAP campaign manager, said the

world leaders should adopt progressive policies for land reform, taxation, poverty reduction, conflict prevention and effective peace-building strategies.

Shirin Akhter, president of Karmajibi Nari, and Don Van Luij, Oxfam International campaign officer-South Asia Essential Services and GCAP also spoke on the occasion.

Manzur Elahi, former adviser to the caretaker government, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Farida Akhter, executive director of Ubung (Policy Research for Development Alternatives) will feature in the panel.

Eminent personalities in both the public and private sectors in the country will exchange their views in the forum to be held at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) in conjunction with the Institute of South Asian Studies at NUS will also take part in the discussion.

The aim of the forum is to exchange insights from the development experiences of Bangladesh and Singapore.

Nobel laureate Prof Mohammad Yunus will deliver the inaugural address while Prof Kishore Mahbubani, dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, will deliver the welcome address at the forum.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan and Syed

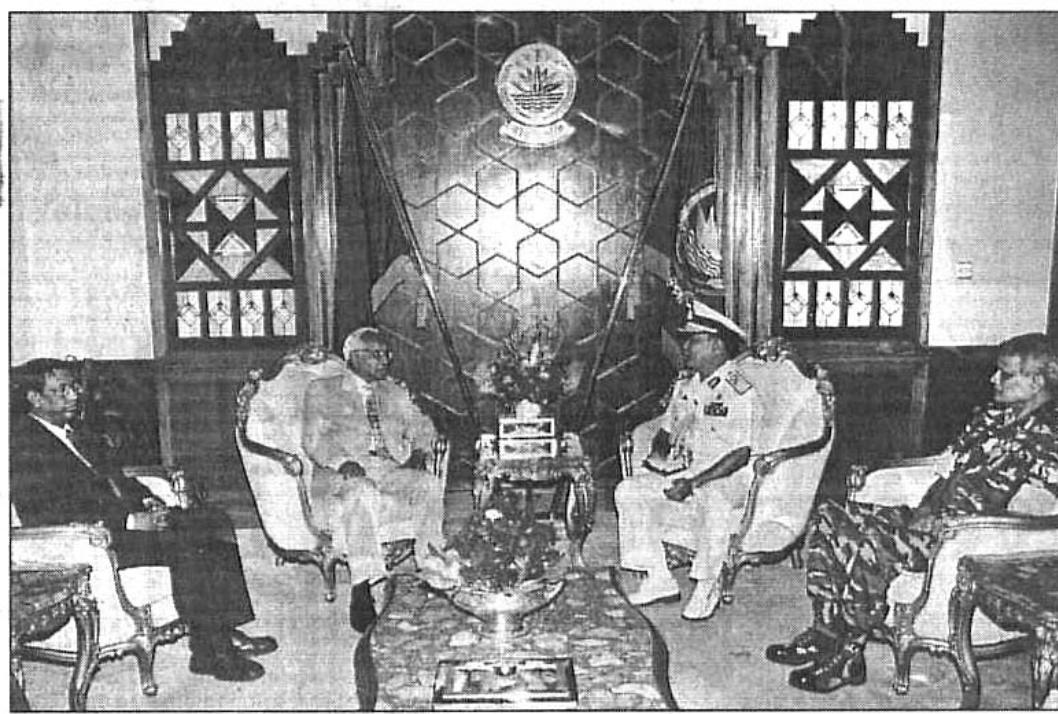


PHOTO: PID  
Naval Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam makes a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

## INT'L DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY Oct 17

# 'Political response needed to fight global poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world on October 17 with a call 'stand up and speak out against poverty.'

People's Forum on MDGs (PFM), an alliance of 200 private organisations and trade union centres, will hold simultaneous programmes on that day in 30 districts including Dhaka.

PFM in association with Campaign for Popular Education (Camp) and Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) will organise rally, concert for youth and children's assemblies at educational institutions to raise voice against anti-poor policies and actions of the government and international organisations.

Chhaka City Corporation will also hold a rally on the premises of Nagar Bhaban to be led by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

These efforts will be part of global mobilisation that aspires to achieve the biggest ever mobilisation against poverty in more than 100 countries showing courage and demand for more political response to the growing crisis of global poverty, said PFM Convener Rasheda K Chowdhury while addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday.

Rasheda, also director of Campe, highlighted a set of demands to be placed to the government marking the day.

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and shelter, fair wages for labourers, an end to discrimination against women and establish their rights, and protection of farmers and agricultures from the evil design of World Bank, IMF and WTO.

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Dr Akbar Ali Khan and Syed

## Discussion on 'Bangladesh and Singapore' on Nov 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A panel discussion on 'Bangladesh and Singapore: Developing a development mindset' will be held on November 2.

Eminent personalities in both the public and private sectors in the country will exchange their views in the forum to be held at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) in conjunction with the Institute of South Asian Studies at NUS will also take part in the discussion.

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Frozen account holders can draw money for Eid, Durga Puja

UNB, Dhaka

The government will consider giving permission to the holders of frozen bank accounts to draw money from their accounts to meet their expenses in the upcoming Eid and Durga Puja festivals.

"The holders of the frozen accounts will have to apply to us stating their needs. We will give permission after considering everything," National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Badur Rahman said yesterday.

The caretaker government has so far frozen more than one hundred bank accounts of political leaders and businessmen as part of the ongoing anti-corruption drive.

According to the NBR, the government is considering this step on humanitarian grounds ahead of the two big religious festivals.

**Suranjit likely to return home Oct 10**

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League presidium member Suranjit Sengupta is likely to return home on Wednesday from USA via London after three months' tour abroad, party sources said.

Known as reformist leader in Awami League, Suranjit left the country on July 5 to see his ailing son Soumen Sengupta who is studying in Canada.

**Comrade Farhad's death anniversary today**

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Comrade Muhammad Farhad, former General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), says a press release.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his wife's residence (94/F, Azimpur Colony) in the city.

His colleagues, political leaders, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil.

M Abu Bakar

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of M Abu Bakar, former managing director of Barisal Jute Products Ltd., says a press release.

Doa and milad mahfil will be held at his Uttara residence in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the doa and milad mahfil.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Majeda Hamid, wife of former deputy secretary late Abdul Hamid and mother of Brig Gen Imdul Kayes, passed away due to cancer on October 6 at the age of 69, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard after arrival of her young son from America.

Her quirkwani will be held on Wednesday after Asr prayers at her residence at Banani (Road-9, House-28/G/3C) in the city.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Discussion

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum organises a discussion on child rights. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

### Discussion

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will organise a discussion on the occasion of 20th death anniversary of Comrade Mohammad Farhad. Venue: CPB Head Office. Time: 3:00pm.

### Expert meeting

Ten non-governmental organisations will jointly organise a daylong meeting of experts and practitioners titled 'Review of the interrelationship between macro-plan and micro-realities'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 9:00am.

### Discussion

Sylhet Division Development Council will organise a discussion on role of Ramadan in building corruption-free society. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

## 'Social agreement' between parties, people needed: JP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party (Ershad) yesterday stressed the need for a 'social agreement' between the political parties and the people, which will help build a country free from corruption and poverty.

"In the last 36 years, the political parties who have run the country have failed to fulfil the dreams of the Liberation War martyrs and attain the people's economic emancipation. Now the changed scenario after 1/11 has brought an opportunity anew to fulfil those dreams, consolidate democracy and build a corruption-free country," JP Acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud said at an Iftar Party at the Trust Auditorium in the city.

Editors of different national dailies also attended the Iftar party.

## Mild tremor jolts city

UNB, Dhaka

together to resolve various national problems, as no single party can address all the problems.

Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed, Krishak S