

# Anti-liberation forces should be barred from polls

## Dr Farashuddin tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-liberation forces and war criminals should be barred from standing in the election in Bangladesh whose birth they still oppose, founder Vice-Chancellor of East West University Dr Mohammad Farashuddin said at a seminar yesterday.

He also suggested barring just-retired bureaucrats and party changers from contesting elections in order to check corruption.

Dr Farashuddin said this while presenting a keynote paper titled 'Impact of corruption on national security: How to overcome it?' at the seminar organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium in the city on the occasion of the Victory Day.

Maj Gen (retd) Azizur Rahman, Maj Gen (retd) Emamuzzaman, Brig Gen (retd) Shahedul Anam Khan, Brig (retd) Shafayat Ahmed, Brig (retd) Jahangir Kabir, Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Prof Ataur Rahman, Mohammad Hossain Ali and Sharif M Afzal Hossain took part in the discussion on the key-note paper.

Dr Farashuddin placed several recommendations to check corruption. The recommendations include sharing of power between the president and the prime minister, holding free and fair elections (both parliamentary and local government), and using transparent ballot boxes.

Effective corporate governance ensuring transparency, accountability and rewards/punishment would be a major step forward in

preventing as well as remedying corruption, he added.

Establishing the rule of law and ensuring punishment to the offender are the only beginning of a corruption-free society, Dr Farashuddin observed.

Speaking as the chief guest, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the political parties must undergo reforms to ensure good governance in order to curb corruption.

He observed that corruption cannot be checked only through punishment. Greed-based corruption could be prevented by giving punishment, but need-based corruption could not be prevented, he added.

He also suggested making the people aware and understand that

it is also their duty to resist corruption at all levels of society.

BISS Chairman Ambassador Mufleh R Osmany said they support the bold initiatives taken by the present government to curb corruption.

"We agree that more needs to be done to sustain and strengthen the process and we are very confident that the war on corruption will bring dividends for all of us in terms of better economic security, more equitable economic opportunities and better governance," he said.

Director of the Institute of Governance Studies of Brac University Manzoor Hasan also presented a paper titled 'Public Sector Corruption in Bangladesh: Political and Bureaucratic'.

## Imdad-Sitara Khan Kidney Centre, Bogra inaugurated

The inaugural ceremony of 3rd nonprofit kidney centre of Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation (ISKF) and a reception of its key donor Sitara Khan, co-founder and president of the Khan Family Foundation, USA was held at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The foundation is sponsoring Imdad-Sitara Khan Scholarship that supports 480 needy but meritorious students in the field of medicine, science and engineering to pursue higher education through a US-based nonprofit organisation Spandan.

It is also sponsoring Imdad-Sitara Khan Kidney Dialyses Centres in Bangladesh through Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation and Old Rajshahi Cadets Association.

The ISKF has already set up two centres, one in Dhaka and the other in Rajshahi.

After launching the new centre in Bogra, it will set up two more centres in Rangpur and Khulna.

The foundation has a target to set up such centre in 19 greater districts in Bangladesh by 2010.

It has also a plan to set up a 300-bed kidney hospital and a kidney research centre in collaboration with a US hospital and medical school.

Nearly two crore people suffer from kidney disease in Bangladesh, 95 percent of them cannot afford any treatment because of cost, and 40,000 patients die each year.

The foundation is working to improve this situation. The function was attended by Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Prof Shamim Ahmed, director of the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology, and Dr AHM Kamal, chairman of ISKF, Bangladesh.

## Bali conference to finalise adaptation fund

### Hopes adviser CS Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh hopes that the Bali conference on climate change would finalise today a fund to finance adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries to cope with adverse effects of climate change.

"Decisions to establish Adaptation Fund and set up a secretariat to operate it have already been finalised, and we're hopeful and looking forward to see that the fund is finalised today," said Environment and Forest Adviser CS Karim during a press briefing on Bangladesh's position at the Bali conference at his ministry in the city.

The 13th conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began on December 3 and ends in Bali, Indonesia today.

The Adaptation Fund, which was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol, is to be financed with a share of proceeds from clean development mechanism (CDM) project activities and receive funds from other sources.

Bangladesh has proposed for greater funds for adaptation, easier transfer of clean technologies, training, compensatory financing mechanism and increasing adaptation levy from CDM projects, said the adviser.

He said being worried by the adverse effects of climate change, Bangladesh, which is leading the least developed countries at the conference, also proposed setting up of an international centre for adaptation with climate change here for research and capacity building to adapt with changes.



Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain inaugurates Imdad-Sitara Khan Kidney Centre, Bogra at a city hotel yesterday.

## Call for nat'l unity to tackle climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders at a national dialogue yesterday called for political and national unity to tackle the global climate change.

They also vowed to promote positive politics and politics of understanding instead of confrontational politics.

The People's Empowerment Trust (PET) organised the national dialogue titled 'Bali conference of parties on climate change in Bangladesh' at the National Press Club in the city.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta, BNP leader Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Worker's Party President Rashed Khan Menon, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, former chief whip of parliament Abdus Shahid, former lawmaker Col (retd) Shawkat Ali and Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan took part in the dialogue moderated by senior journalist Syed Abul Maksud.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmed said political parties are not conscious of environmental issues.

He also stressed the need to protect water bodies and rivers

from encroachers. Dr Kamal Hossain said, "We need to forge national and political unity and strengthen coordination to deal with global climate change."

He also stressed the need for regional cooperation to offset the adverse impacts of the climate change.

## Customs duty on clothes for Sidr-hit people exempted

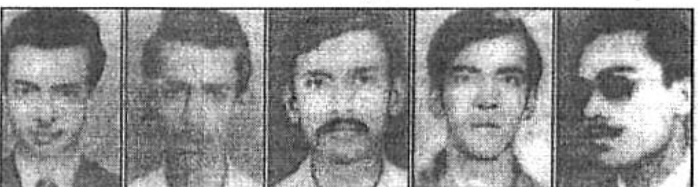
UNB, Dhaka

The government has exempted customs duty on clothes that will be imported for the Sidr-affected people.

The factory owners of the EPZ will also enjoy the exemption in case they donate clothes to the cyclone-affected people.

Foods, food grains, medicines, tube-wells and seeds are exempted from customs duty.

## Death anniversary of five martyrs



Today is the 36th death anniversary of four brothers - Bakhtiar Hasan Makhan, Kamrul Hasan Ratan, Rakibul Hasan Lucky, Iqbal Hasan Shahar - and one of their relatives Ataur Rahman Nehal who were martyred during the Liberation War, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at West Tejurti Bazar Jame Mosque at Farmgate.



## No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 29.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.5 degrees Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:33am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.9	14.6	70	47
Chittagong	27.6	15.9	75	54
Rajshahi	26.5	12.0	93	76
Khulna	27.0	14.5	68	67
Baryal	28.0	13.5	82	80
Sylhet	27.1	15.0	74	72
Cox's Bazar	29.4	17.0	71	73

## Martyred intellectuals best sons of soil Says CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed has called upon all to work together to make Bangladesh a happy, prosperous and progressive country materialising the dreams of the freedom fighters.

In a message on the eve of the Martyred Intellectuals Day, the CA termed the martyred intellectuals as the best sons of the soil saying that they had shown the nation the path from the self-rule movement to independence war.

He said the nation with deep respect would recall the invaluable contributions of the martyred intellectuals and the example of sacrifice they set.

Fakhruddin hoped that all would make further efforts to follow the path shown by the martyred intellectuals.

The chief adviser paid homage to the martyred intellectuals and conveyed his sympathy to their bereaved family members.

## Wage board award review body under consideration

UNB, Dhaka

The government will actively consider forming a review committee for reappraisal of the just-declared Sixth Wage Board Award for the newspaper industry, if there be an application on behalf of journalists, press workers or employees.

"The review committee will be formed comprising newspaper owners, journalists, press workers and other staff members," said an official handout yesterday, in the wake of protests against some provisions for the pay package.

The government announced the Sixth Wage Board Award on December 6, fixing salaries, allowances and other benefits for the journalists, press workers and employees.

But Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) has already rejected the Wage Board Award and observed a four-hour work abstention on Wednesday, demanding its immediate revision.

## WB to help reconstruct cyclone-hit areas: Patel

UNB, Patuakhali

World Bank Vice-President for South Asia region Pratul C Patel said the multilateral funding agency would provide assistance for rebuilding the cyclone-hit areas.

The bank would provide aid for reconstruction of flood-control dam, cyclone shelter centre and infrastructure, he said while visiting cyclone-affected areas at Anipara in Kalapara upazila yesterday.

He also distributed relief goods among the victims.

The visiting WB top executive stressed the need for construction of more cyclone shelter centres, as he noted: "More lives were lost in the storm for a lack of adequate cyclone shelter centres."

Food, medicine and long-term rehabilitation are needed for victims at this hour, said Patel.

Earlier, a helicopter carrying the World Bank vice-president landed at Kalapara.

He was taken to the rest house of Water Development Board where commander of local army camp Lt Colonel Shahadat Hossain and Executive Engineer of Water Development Board Mohammad Jahir Uddin briefed him about the losses caused by the storm.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed gives away 'Sword of Honour' to the best all round cadet Battalion Senior Under Officer Md Touhidur Rahman of 57th BMA Long Course at the President Parade at BMA, Chittagong yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## RETURNEES FROM MALAYSIA Govt asks Golden Arrow to refund Tk 1.75 lakh to each worker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Each of the 80 workers who returned home recently from Malaysia due to unemployment and abuse would have to be refunded a maximum of Tk 1.75 lakh by their recruiting agency Golden Arrow.

Expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry in a letter yesterday conveyed the government decision to Golden Arrow.

The workers returned home in September and October with the assurance from Abdul Matin Chowdhury, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment secretary, that upon their arrival in Bangladesh, each would receive Tk 2.3 lakh, the amount each had paid to Golden Arrow for a job in Malaysia.

"Golden Arrow has to refund Tk 1.75 lakh to each worker by December 17. Otherwise, the government will cancel Golden Arrow's licence and initiate for forfeiting its security deposit," said Abdul Malek, director general of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

Earlier, BMET quizzed the returned workers, manpower middlemen and Golden Arrow officials during its investigation into the matter.

Joyal Abedin, one of the workers, said the workers had earlier demanded a refund of Tk

2.3 lakh for each because that was the amount each had paid to Golden Arrow and the middlemen. But "since the government finally decided to arrange Tk 1.75 lakh for each, we are accepting it. We will, however, try to realise the rest of the money from the middlemen."

Golden Arrow has so far refunded Tk 84,000 to each of them and it paid additional amounts to 22 of them in compensation, he added.

Prior to the government decision, the workers submitted an application to the Anti-Corruption Commission demanding punishment of government officials and recruiting agents involved in cheating and exploiting workers abroad.

From September 10 through September 15, the 80 deceived workers during their ordeal in Malaysia staged hunger strike on the premises of Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, demanding six months' salary as their recruiter, Malaysian outsourcing company PTC Asia, did not provide them jobs.

The workers said a number of hired goons of Golden Arrow had beaten them during their hunger strike programme at the Bangladesh mission. Moreover, the recruiters kept them in confinement under inhumane conditions without adequate food supplies in the foreign land, they alleged.

## Charges pressed against Ershad

FROM PAGE 20

Commission (ACC) pressed charges against former Awami League (AL) lawmaker SM Mostafa Rashidi Suja and his wife Khodeza Rashidi in a case filed for amassing wealth through illegal means.

ERSHAD CASE

Sub-Inspector (SI) Lutfor Rahman Sharif, investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Ershad and others to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka showing 27 people as prosecution witnesses.

Earlier on January 8, Ershad, Rowshan and Babla obtained bail from the Court.

Dhaka city unit CPB General Secretary Ahsan Habib Lablu filed the case with Paltan Police Station against the three and a large number of unknown JP activists on January 1.

In the case it was alleged that a JP procession celebrating the 20th anniversary led by Ershad and Rowshan tried to march towards the Baitul

Mukarram Mosque and came face-to-face with a CPB rally in front of its office.

The CPB leaders and on-duty policemen asked the JP leaders to change their route but they did not pay heed to it.

At one stage, the JP activists started to hurl chairs and strike the CPB activists with sticks that left several CPB central committee members, including CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan, injured.

CASE AGAINST CPB Investigation officer SI Sardar Hayat Ali submitted the charge sheet against Manzurul Ahsan and 15 others to the same court, showing 28 people as prosecution witnesses.

The other charge-sheeted accused are Shah Alam, city unit President and General Secretary Mahbub Alam and Ahsan Habib Lablu, Publicity Secretary Ruhil Prince, Mazedul Haque Rubel, Dilip Barua, Asaduzzaman, Jolly Talukder, Sheikh Rafique, Hayat Ali, Mostauddin, Masud Anwar, Mosarraf Hossain and

## 2 minutes' silence at Martyred Intellectuals Monument today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum will observe two minutes' silence from 4:30pm today at Rayer Bazar Martyred Intellectuals Monument to pay tribute to the martyred intellectuals of Liberation War.

The Sector Commanders' Forum, a platform of sector commanders of the Liberation War, also urged all to observe similar programmes across the country to commemorate the intellectuals brutally killed on the very day in 1971, two days before the victory.

Meanwhile, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee and South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism expressed solidarity with the programme of the Sector Commanders' Forum.



## Roundtable

Centre for Democracy and Peace Studies organises a roundtable titled 'The Bangladesh we dreamt of or the 36 years of victory'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

## Victory Day festival

Liberation War Museum organises a three-day Victory Day festival beginning from today. Venue: Butcher's Den. Time: 4:00pm.

## Mock debate

Bangladesh Debate Foundation organises a mock debate to raise funds for the Sidr victims. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Time: 3:00pm.



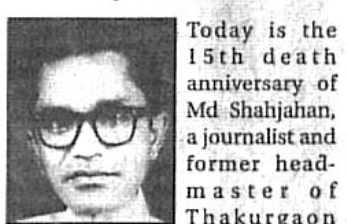
## Death anniversary of Birshrestha Jahangir today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chnawabganj

Today is the 36th death anniversary of Birshrestha Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir.

On this day in 1971, just two days before the victory, he embraced martyrdom in a battle with the Pakistani occupation forces near the river Mahananda in Chapainawabganj.

Md Shahjahan



Today is the 15th death anniversary of Md Shahjahan, a journalist and former headmaster of Thakurgaon Zila School, says a press release.

In his career, he worked for the Sangbad, the Azad and the Morning News as a sub-editor.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Mirpur residence in the city today to pray for the salvation of his soul.

Dheer Ali Mia



Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Dheer Ali Mia, a renowned musician and composer of the sub-continent, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered at his graveyard at Mohammadpur at 10:00am. Other programmes include Quankhwani, milad mahfil and distribution of food among the destitute and orphans.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Mahbub A Anwar

Today is the first death anniversary of eminent business executive and social worker Mahbub A Anwar, son of late Anwar Ali Chowdhury, says a press release.

Mahbub was the chairman & managing director of Reckitt & Colman BD Ltd., president of Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for five terms, and president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce. He was also the founder of Natnura Pukuria High School.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil has been arranged at his village home at Natnura in Banskhali, Chittagong.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Chehlum

Chehlum of Prof Dr Zohra Begum Kazi, the first Muslim female doctor of the subcontinent, will be held at House No 6, Road No 104, Gulshan-2 in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Dr Zohra, recipient of the British Viceroy's medal and Rokeya Padak, passed away on November 7 at the age of 95.

## Martyred Intellectuals Day today

FROM PAGE 1

army and their local collaborators Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams (mostly comprised of leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front) sensed the imminent defeat.

The martyred intellectuals include Prof Muneir Chowdhury, Dr Alim Chowdhury, Prof Muniruzzaman, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Sirajuddin Hossain, Shahidullah Kaiser, Prof GC Dev, JC Guha Thakurta, Prof Santosh Bhattacharya, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, journalists Khandaker Alam Taleb, Nizamuddin Ahmed, SA Mannan (Ladu Bhai), ANM Golam Mustafa, Syed Nazmul Haq and Selina Parvin.

Demanding trial of the war criminals, Sector Commanders' Forum, a platform for the sector commanders of the Liberation War, and different political parties and social organisations will observe two-minute silence at the Intellectuals Memorial at Rayerbazar and Mirpur in the capital at 4:30pm.

The forum had urged all pro-liberation forces to observe two-minute silence simultaneously at all memorials and graveyards of martyred intellectuals or their respective areas forming human chains and wearing black badges on left arm.

Besides, the Bikkhubdha Deshbashi (Aggrieved Countrymen) will form a human

chain for an hour starting at 10:30am today at Rayerbazar Intellectuals Memorial demanding trial of the war criminals.

Expatriate Bangladeshis in New York, Boston, Washington DC, Atlanta, Florida, Toronto, London, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, France, Sweden, Italy and Belgium will form human chains demanding trial of 1971 war criminals, who had opposed the Liberation War.

Thirty-six years have passed with the families of the martyred intellectuals still waiting to see the killers and perpetrators being brought to justice.

Till March 1973, a total of 42 cases were filed against the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams but over the years the files of the cases gathered dust only.

Demands for trial of war criminals were raised with renewed force recently when Jamaat leaders claimed that there is no war criminal in the country and the Liberation War in 1971 was nothing but a civil war. Different pro-liberation political parties, socio-cultural organisations and the freedom fighters raised voice against the war criminals and asked the government to begin trial of the war criminals.

## NATION REMEMBERS MARTYRED INTELLECTUALS

To commemorate the tragedy that took place only two days before the victory in the Liberation War, dif-

ferent socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes, including seminars, discussions and wreath-laying at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals graveyard and Intellectuals Memorial at Rayerbazar.

National flags will be hoisted at half-mast along with black flags. The president, the chief adviser and leaders of different political parties will place floral wreaths at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals graveyard in the morning.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday delivered separate messages on the eve of the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

The University of Dhaka has arranged elaborate programmes to pay respect to the martyred intellectuals, many of whom were teachers of the university.

Black flags will be hoisted at vice chancellor's residence and all residential halls and buildings of the university at 6:30am. Teachers, students and officials of the university will gather at the Aparajito Bangla at 7:00am and place floral wreaths at the graveyards of the martyred intellectuals at university central mosque premises and Jagannath Hall. They will also pay tribute at the Mirpur Intellectuals Memorial.

A discussion will be held at the TSC auditorium at 10:30am with Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in

chair. Awami League leaders will place floral wreaths at Mirpur and Rayerbazar memorials and hold a discussion at party central office in the afternoon.

Both factions of BNP also have taken separate programmes to observe the day.

Shaheed Dr Fazle Rabbi Foundation will hold a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club at 3:30pm marking the death anniversary of the martyred intellectual.

Bangla Academy will hold a Martyred Intellectuals memorial lecture today at 3:30pm at the academy premises where Prof Sarajul Islam Chowdhury will deliver the lecture with Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid in the chair.

Sammilita Sangskritik Fote will hold a discussion at Intellectuals Memorial at Rayerbazar today at 4:00pm.

Projonmo 71 will hold a daylong event at the Intellectuals Memorial at Rayerbazar.

Communist Party of Bangladesh, Gono Forum, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Democratic Left Front, Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Solidarity Movement, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Nazrul Institute, National Awami Party (NAP), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Dhaka Reporters' Unity will also observe the day with different programmes.