

# 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.

## 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 Spaandan.

It is also sponsoring Imdad-Sitara Khan Kidney Dialysis 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 Hosein, 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 development 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.

Maj Gen (retd) Azizur Rahman, Maj Gen (retd) Emanuzzaman, 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 in the discussion on the keynote 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 Muzaffar 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 Mufieh 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'.



Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosein 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 forum yesterday called for political unity and strengthen coordination to deal with 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 Muzaffar Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Awami League leader Surjani Sehgal, BNP leader Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Worker's Party President Rashed Khan Menon, ISD President Hasanul Haq Inu, former chief whip of parliament Abdus Shahid, former lawmaker Col (retd) Shakhat Ali and Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan took part in the dialogue moderated by senior journalist Syed Abdul Maksud.

Prof Muzaffar 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 Tejturi Bazar Jame Mosque at Farmgate.

## WEATHER TODAY

### 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	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
Barisal	28.0	13.5	82	80
Sylhet	27.1	15.0	74	72
Cox's Bazar	29.4	17.0	71	73



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)



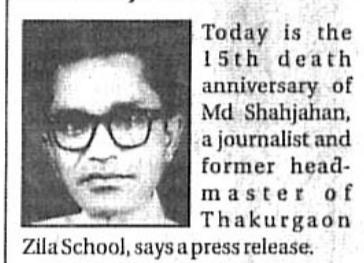
Death anniversary of Birshrestha Jahangir today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chawabganj

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

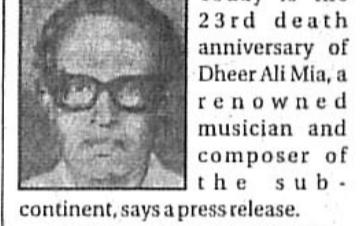


Today is the 15th death anniversary of Md Shahjahan, a journalist and former headmaster of Thakurgaon Zila School, says a press release.

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 Qurankhana, milad mahfil and distribution of food among the destitute and orphans.

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

Mahbub Anwar

Today is the first death anniversary of eminent business executive and social worker Mahbub 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 Natmura Pukuria High School.

On this occasion, a milad mahfil has been arranged at his village home at Natmura in Banshkhali, Chittagong.

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

Chehulum

Chehulum 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 prayer, says a press release.

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

## Charges pressed against Ershad

FROM PAGE 20

Commission (ACC) pressed charges against former Awami League (AL) lawmaker SM Mostafa Rashid Suja and his wife Khodeza Rashid in a case filed for 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 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.

Earlier, BMET quizzed the 'Golden Arrow' workers during their strike programme at the Bangladeshi mission. Moreover, the recruiters kept them in confinement under inhumane conditions without adequate food supplies in the foreign land, they alleged.

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

In the case, the JP activists started to hurl chairs and sticks at the CPB activists with sticks that left several CPB central committee members, including CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan, injured.

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, Public Secretary Ruhil Prince, Mazedul Haque Rubel, Dilip Barua, Asaduzzaman, Jolly Talukder, Sheikh Rafiq, Hayat Ali, Mosleuddin, Masud Anwar, Mosarrat Hossain and Selina Parvin.

In the case, it was alleged that a JP procession celebrating the party's 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 sticks at 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