

## US Senator Clarke

FROM PAGE 16  
foreign countries," said the 50-year-old democrat senator from district 1 of Michigan.

"Once the investors can feel comfortable that there is no corruption and that their money will really go to investment, they'll come forward to invest their money."

He was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1990, 1998 and in 2000, and to the Michigan State Senate in 2002 and 2006, he is also members of Cornell University Council and Michigan Law Revision Commission, and was the treasurer of Michigan Legislative Black Caucus.

Clarke will meet local entrepreneurs and talk to the US embassy staff to find where there are opportunities and where there are needs, "I will try to put them together," he said.

Asked, entrepreneurs of which sector of Michigan are interested to invest in Bangladesh, he said they will decide on the matter after Clarke returns with his findings.

Terminating the current situation of Bangladesh as 'promising', he said, "The Anti-corruption Commission has been set up, the fact that the interim caretaker government is going to adhere to the roadmap for democracy and hold those national elections by the end of the year is very important."

Electing a democratic government and handing over power to them by the caretaker government as promised is very crucial, he added.

"That's important not only for the people's will to be expressed in Bangladesh but also to attract foreign investment, especially from Michigan."

His father Mozaffar Ali Hashmi migrated to the US in the late 1930s and died when Clarke was only eight years old in Detroit.

## 71 organisations ask

FROM PAGE 1  
setting up of tribunals as per the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 through a gazette notification pledging trial of all crimes that took place during the Liberation War in 1971.

As the war criminals have not been tried, they have become daring enough to make statements against the state and its sovereignty, they observed.

"We think Jamaat should be tried not only on charges of war crimes but also sedition," the joint declaration said. "We hope that the present government will prepare a list of the war criminals and initiate the process for their trial before holding the next election."

The declaration said the post-independence government led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did never forgive the war criminals and rather enacted several laws and amended the constitution to try them.

A total of 11,000 war criminals were detained at that time and their trial process was also initiated. But, after assuming power in 1975 Gen Ziaur Rahman cancelled the Collaborators Act and stopped the trial of the war criminals, the declaration added.

It said although there is no Collaborators Act now, the trial of the war criminals including collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces - Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams - is possible under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act.

Terming the lack of initiatives to try the war criminals after the assassination of Bangabandhu a bad luck for the nation, it said, "But that does not mean that there are no war criminals in the country or their trial has been completed."

It said top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami could not be arrested or brought to justice after the Liberation War since they were absconding in Pakistan. But Jamaat leaders are again conspiring against the country and delivering anti-state statements, so it has become more important than any time in the past to try them now.

It said since the state was victimised rather than any individual, it is the duty of the state to file cases against the war criminals and bring them to book.

The declaration observed that the trial of the war criminals is associated with the political reforms initiated by the caretaker government.

"The war criminals must be tried and we think trying them is a must in the interest of holding an acceptable election in the country," AK Khandakar, deputy commander of the liberation forces in 1971, told the audience at the press conference.

He said they will continue their movement until the demand for trying the war criminals is met. He added that the Sector Commanders Forum will hold a grand rally in the capital before March 26 next year to press home their demand.

Replying to a query, he said 14 political parties have pledged to include the demand for trying the war criminals in their electoral manifesto.

Dr Gen (retd) Harun-Ar-Rashid said they will hold discussion in all

## Charge sheet

FROM PAGE 1  
charge sheet will be submitted against them," said an official preferring anonymity.

The four detained Dhaka University teachers, however, will not be charged with the offences because two students, who confessed to their guilt in the incident, did not mention the academics' involvement.

The teachers are Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof Sadruddin Amin, General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Harun-Ar-Rashid, dean of social science faculty, and Prof Neem Chandra Bhownik, chairman of applied physics department.

The detained students are Dr Islam alias Angel and Rafiqul Islam Sujan.

Angel, a student of journalism, said in his statement that Jahidul Islam Biplob, Rafiqul Islam Sujan and Babu were involved in the incident while Sujan, a student of Islamic history, named Siraj, Mizan, Noor, and Shahid.

The sources said the charge sheets would mention about 35 people as prosecution witnesses, including driver of the torched car, its passenger Rifat Chowdhury - son of Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury - his co-passenger, a number of photo journalists, cameramen from electronic media and police personnel who were on duty at the spot.

Administrative Corporal Kamruzzaman at Army headquarters filed the two cases.

Police, quoting case papers, said a group of marauding youths swooped on the army vehicle and set fire to it as it got stuck in a traffic jam in front of Aziz Supermarket on August 21.

They also assaulted the driver and obstructed police in the transaction of duty, police said.

### Fog disrupts

FROM PAGE 1  
steamer was scheduled to arrive at 1:30am.

About 20 Dhaka bound launches from Barisal, Barguna, Amtai and Hularhat remained stranded on the way because of poor visibility.

A report from Barisal said thousands of passengers of launches plying the river routes in southwest region suffered from hunger and cold wave as the vessels remained stranded on the way because of thick fog.

Justice KM Sobhan, president of South Asian People's Union Against Fundamentalism and Communism, urged people not to file any case with the criminal court against any war criminals. "Their trial is only possible under special tribunals," he said.

Shahriar Kabir, Nasir Uddin Yusuf, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Hena Das, barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Shabir Reza Noor, Prof Ajay Roy, Kamal Lohani, Abad Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the press conference.

Organisations that signed the joint declaration include Sector Commanders Forum, Ekatorro Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Peshmiji Samannay Parishad, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Bangladesh Gonoatrik, Ajibji Samity, Sammilito Ajibji Samannay Parishad, Sammilito Andolon, Projanmo Ekatorro, Bangladesh Udrich Shilpi Gosthi, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Sammilito Samajik Andolon, War Crimes Facts Finding Committee, Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsads, Mukti Joddha Oikya Parishad, Mukti Joddha Sanghati Parishad, Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association, Bangladesh Economic Association, Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Front, and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

### Motive unknown

FROM PAGE 1  
personnel gathered around 200 pieces of the two statuettes. Later, two National Museum officials identified 27 pieces as parts of the stolen Gupta era "Vishnu" and "Bust of Vishnu" idols.

According to a National Museum official, of the fragments salvaged, 20 make up about 25 percent of the black terracotta statuette of Vishnu where the Hindu god stands with goddesses Saraswati and Laxmi. The other pieces make up a little over 10 percent of the bust.

Police said 80 percent of the goddesses portion of the statuette was retrieved and only a fraction of a hand (one hand was already missing) and legs of Vishnu was recovered.

Asked whether teachers would resume the postponed demonstration, he said the meeting would decide everything.

### DUTA MEETING

Meanwhile, the Duta election will not be held within the constitutional timeframe by December 31, for the first time since its inception.

According to its constitution, the executive committee is to be elected within December 31 every year.

Dr President Prof Dr Sadruddin Amin and General Secretary Prof Dr Anwar Hossain are now behind bars in connection with the August 20-22 violence on the campus.

Some teachers alleged many pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers want postponement of the elections as the acting president and general secretary, who are to play a vital role in efforts to release the detainees, belong to their White Panel.

Teachers of pro-Awami League Blue Panel and left-leaning Pink Panel play a strong role to get their colleagues and students released, while the White Panel is comparatively less vocal, they alleged.

Acting president Prof Tazmier denied the allegations.

## NRBs for transfer

FROM PAGE 16

Thanks to their skills in English, other nations like India, China and Japan are reaping the benefits in the global market, he said.

He urged the NRBs to come forward to help the nation to develop English education in the country. "If the NRBs enjoy the fruits of knowing good English, why should we deprive our natives of the same privilege?"

In his presentation titled "Education System in Bangladesh",

Jamal Uddin, head of community and primary languages, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, said there is no national standards or target to justify the quality of education.

He suggested that school management and leadership be developed to ensure quality education.

Zeenat Nabi of Society to Help Education in Bangladesh (Shebi), New Jersey, US, presented two case studies on how NRBs can help develop Bangladesh's education.

She said Shebi, a New Jersey-based non-profit organisation of NRBs, is working to reduce the gap between the poor and the rich in terms of getting the opportunity of education.

The organisation has already donated \$250,000 to Bangladesh to set up school-cum-cyclone shelters in the coastal belt.

Another New Jersey-based organisation named Computer Literacy Program (CLP), is also playing a significant role in providing computer education to the rural people, she said.

In collaboration with local non-government organisation D.Net, CLP has established 59 computer learning centres in 29 districts.

Nabi said as many as 8,000 students have already taken computer literacy training from the CLP-D.Net project.

Though NRBs' efforts are still limited, significant success can be achieved in collaboration with the government and NGOs, she noted.

She said such activities could be widened by establishing a coordination centre so that NRBs could link up with their country and

contribute to educational development.

Speaking on Promoting Biotechnology, Dr Subarna Khan, development scientist in ImClone Systems, Inc, said the government should come forward to provide support to the NRBs so that they can transfer their skills.

In such a case 'Virtual Education' could be a way to transfer educational skill to Bangladesh.

Virtual education refers to instruction in a learning environment where teacher and students are separated by time or space, or both, and the teacher provides course content through course management applications, multimedia resources, Internet, and videoconferencing.

Dhaka University Microbiology Alumni Association of Maryland, US is raising a fund to donate educational equipment to the Alma Mater.

"This is very little what we are doing. But if every department like us comes forward to do something that could be significant for the country," she said.

There is no alternative to training of the teachers, said the education secretary. "If we introduce demand-based vocational school programme, the amount of remittances would be doubled," he pointed out.

He said like all other sectors corruption is one of the major barriers to educational development of the country.

The primary and mass education secretary admitted that there is lack of quality teachers for public educational institutions.

Citing an example, he said the government has recently announced to recruit 13,000 primary teachers. But after holding an examination it got only 61 percent quality teachers against the requirement.

As for training he said 71 percent primary teachers have been trained.

He however said anyone can question the quality of training, adding that a mechanism is needed to justify the teaching standard before and after the training.

## CA seeks long term

FROM PAGE 1

The concluding ceremony of the three-day conference also saw acting Army Chief Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury proposing to change the constitution for granting equal rights to the NRBs and setting up a development bank run with remittances received from expatriates.

"I encourage NRBs to continue and expand these efforts to ensure that the skills developed abroad by our citizens can be used to the fullest advantage of our nation," said Fakhruddin to the audience comprising over 1,000 expatriates who attended the NRB conference organised by Scholars Bangladesh.

The country's goal is to become a middle-income country by 2021 to coincide with 50 years of independence and the goal can only be achieved with the support from citizens at home and abroad, the chief adviser said.

Sources said although the high-profile militants can be identified easily, the jail authorities might face difficulty in monitoring the activities of other militants as no separate register for them is maintained. A jailer wishing anonymity said they would try to identify them by studying the cases.

Meanwhile, 26 militants were moved to separate cells in the Chittagong Central Jail yesterday. Previously, some of them were kept in the same cell.

Expressing gratitude and pride on behalf of the nation for the successful achievements of the NRBs, Fakhruddin said that there is an urgent need to devise sustainable ways to pool financial and human capital for the country's development.

"It is now necessary more than ever to create the environment and opportunity for the NRBs to make long-term contributions to the socio-economic progress of the nation," he added.

In a rare open question and answer session, Fakhruddin said the government and the Election Commission are still trying to work out the legal and logistical issues about allowing the NRBs to vote.

He also urged the NRBs to establish a forum through which they can formally engage in activities with local administration and organisations.

Meanwhile, the investigators are yet to find out the motive behind the theft and destruction of the 1,500-year-old relics that were stolen from ZIA on December 22.

The two along with 143 others were awaiting shipment to Paris for an exhibition at the Guimet Museum.

### Mainul

FROM PAGE 1

He said democracy and good governance cannot be restored through mere free and fair elections as it requires a new trend of politics and new leadership.

The adviser urged the judges to practise judicial activism the way it is done in the developed countries for quick dispensation of justice.

He said the judges will also have to decide whether the trials of the war criminals are to be tried under the International War Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973.

About the association's demand for 50 percent appointment of the higher court judges from district judges, Mainul said the government will look into the matter.

Supreme Court Registrar Ikhtiar Ahmed in his speech dismissed the allegation that he had given postings of the newly recruited judicial magistrates by abusing power.

The Royal Bengal Tiger usually

## Hong Kong granted greater democracy

AP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong will be allowed to directly elect its leader in 2017 and all of its lawmakers by 2020 at the earliest, China said yesterday, an announcement that sparked protests by pro-democracy activists who sought an earlier date.

"A timetable for obtaining universal suffrage has been set," the former British colony's leader, Donald Tsang, said in announcing the decision early Saturday. "Hong Kong is entering a most important chapter of its constitutional history."

Political analysts noted that candidates contesting the leadership race may still need to be nominated by an electoral committee and that Beijing will likely remain involved in the election process.

Setting a timetable for universal suffrage would help end conflicts in Hong Kong and allow the bustling financial hub to focus on developing its economy, said Qiao Xiaoyang, a senior member of China's parliament who flew to Hong Kong to explain the decision.

He said Hong Kong would be allowed to choose its leader through a direct election in 2017, and all its lawmakers by 2020 at the earliest. Changes would need to be made gradually, starting in 2012, the date of the next leadership race, he said, without saying what those changes may be.

The widely expected announcement dealt a blow to Hong Kong's opposition pro-democracy camp, which had campaigned heavily for full democracy in 2012 for both the leadership and legislative leadership.

Hundreds of people marched through central Hong Kong in protest, saying they had been cheated out of their right to full democracy. Holding banners that read "democracy delayed is democracy denied," they accused Beijing of failing to listen to the wishes of Hong Kong's 7 million people.

"We are extremely disappointed you could say we are furious about this decision in ruling out 2012," Democrat Party chairman Albert Ho told Hong Kong government RTHK radio station. "The wishes of the Hong Kong people have been totally ignored."

"All activities pertaining to pre-poll arrangements, including printing of ballot papers and logistics as well as training of polling personnel, have been adversely affected," it said in a statement.

In some places, the commission said, the security situation was "not conducive" to holding the elections which Benazir had come home from exile in October to contest.