

Civil-military cooperation can protect democratic institutions

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LT Gen ATM Zahurul Alam yesterday said the military never wants to go back to martial law as was evident in the past, rather it wishes to reduce its gap with the civilians and make its role more transparent.

He was speaking at a roundtable titled 'Bridging gap between civil and military through language' organised by Dhaka Language Club at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

LT Gen Alam said what the military did is something innovative. The gap between the military and the civilians has now reduced to a great extent, he said, adding that the army had to intrude into the civil administrations in many cases as in Chittagong Hill Tracts, but its reasons were not explained properly.

There was much tension about it, but now it has come down, he said, adding, "It is now understood that we complemented each other."

LT Gen Alam said there are also changes in the military; the level of education in the army is now high and their language and mindset are also changing.

Even the subjects like democracy, development and environment have been included in the syllabus of the military education, he added.

He proposed the formation of a forum like National Security



Dr Ataur Rahman speaks at a roundtable titled 'Bridging the gap between civil and military through language' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Masud A Khan, Air Commodore Mahmud Hossain and Wali-ur Rahman.

Council where politicians, representatives from civil society, military and bureaucracy will share their ideas on national security and development issues.

Speaking as chief guest Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said greater cohesion between the civilians and military can play important role for the development of a nation.

The Bangladesh army is also working with the civilians in some African countries, he added.

"Today in Bangladesh, our military leadership is increasingly becoming more conscious to develop its outreach to build better communication bridges in the area

of their operations," Dr Iftekhar said.

Interactive seminars by think tanks can also bring military and civilian stakeholders closer to each other, he noted.

Prof Dr Ataur Rahman of Dhaka University said a nation can end when her military and people stand against each other.

"We must, therefore, be cautious so that no such notion is created, rather the gaps that we have must be reduced," he added.

Dr Rahman said there should be some form of structural arrangement where the army and civilian stakeholders can play a role in protecting the democratic institutions.

Air Commodore Mahmud Hossain said military is becoming greater proponent of human security and re-constructing its language to suggest its empathy with the society at large in areas demanding a focus upon non-traditional threats and development studies.

Director of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILA) Wali-ur Rahman said the civilians are discarding their suspicion because they realise that the national army will assist them in crises like floods and typhoons.

"Since it is not 1972 or '76 or '81, they cannot go wrong. The nation is proud of the armed forces for their patriotism along with the politicians and civil society leaders," he said.

Barrister Tanja Amir said there is actually no need for integration of the military into civilians. Their roles must be separate, but surely they can come together for the issues like human security, the basic rights of the citizens.

Southeast University Vice-Chancellor Dr Shamsur Ali, Maj Gen Aminul Karim, BSS Managing Director Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury and Amader Somoy Editor Nayeemul Islam Khan also spoke at the discussion chaired by Dhaka Language Club President Masud A Khan and moderated by former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

Stripping of ex-air chief Jamaluddin's rank illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday declared illegal the government notification stripping former air chief Jamaluddin Ahmed of his air marshal rank.

A division bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Abdul Awal, after hearing both the sides on a writ petition, delivered the judgment.

A gazette notification, approved by the President and published on October 17, 2004, declared the rank of Air Marshal void, as there was no such post in the organization of Bangladesh Air Force.

The Awami League government in June 2001 had elevated Jamal to the highest rung of the air force ladder four days ahead of his retirement. Advocate AFM Mesbahuddin appeared for Jamaluddin.

Over 100 Indian trucks with rice for Sidr victims arrive in Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Around 100 rice-laden trucks sent as relief by the Department of Sports and Youth of the West Bengal entered the country through the Benapole Port yesterday afternoon.

Suvash Chakravarti, minister of the department of West Bengal, arrived at Benapole with 111 rice-laden trucks on Saturday but only six trucks were allowed to enter the port on that day, as necessary preparations could not be completed. The rest trucks entered the country yesterday.

A total of 509 trucks, including 214 rice-laden trucks on non-government level were imported through the port yesterday.

After entering the port, the rice is distributed to the areas concerned through Transhipment Yard.

But, six trucks carrying flour and lentil are yet to enter the country through the port.

RMG factory guard shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard of a garment factory was shot at Mirpur in the capital last night while a criminal in Kafrul lost his arm when the bomb he was allegedly making went off.

Police said an unidentified man around 10:00pm shot Khorshed Alam, 45, of Rising Fashion in Mirpur-2 while he was on duty at the factory.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said Khorshed was shot in the head. Shoeb Babu lost his right arm when the bomb he was allegedly making went off around 8:30pm. Three others were with him when the bomb exploded.

Locals chased them but could only capture injured Shoeb.

Arrest of DU teachers beyond imagination

Speakers say at publication ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a publication ceremony yesterday said Prof Anwar Hossain in his books has said what the people of the country was afraid to say during the last one year.

Terming Prof Anwar a conscious son of time, they said his books are unique.

On one hand, the books speak about revolution and courage, and on the other, they speak about love, they added.

Agamee Prakashani organised the launching ceremony of the books titled 'Dhaka University on remand: Diary of remand and jail' and 'Statement in CMM Court' by Prof Anwar Hossain, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) in the city.

Prof Dr Mustafa Nur-Ul Islam unveiled cover of the books on the occasion.

Former Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said it is beyond imagination that the teachers of Dhaka University (DU) could be arrested from their residences and taken on remand.

"If the teachers are asked to go anywhere for the interest of the country and national security, I am sure all DU teachers will go," he said, adding, "Picking up the teachers from their residences was unnecessary."

Prof Siddique said the books narrate how the teachers were kept in the jail and how they were tortured physically and mentally.

"Our colleagues were served imprisonment as they raised voice against injustice," he said, adding that it is regrettable that the university authorities are yet to investigate into the incident for which the teachers and students had to serve imprisonment.

He said the main task of an intel-

lectual is to tell the truth and Prof Anwar has done that.

Prof Anwar said, "Universities provide a platform to practise free-thinking and we have done what people expect from us."

"I was detained for 130 days and was on remand for 12 days. During my remand, I could not write but I started writing on the night when I was sent to jail," he said.

"We haven't done any mistake, because we stood by the students whose lives were at stake at the time," he said, adding, "The countrymen and the students are still in danger."

"We told the truth with courage and dream. I hope the courage and dream will spread among all," he added.

Historian Prof Muntasir Mamun said the teachers and students of DU have been shedding blood for the country from 1952 to till date and arrest of the teachers is unfortunate.

He said the armed forces should be reformed first and if the armed forces were reformed all sorts of problems will be solved.

Prof Anwar keeps the dignity of the teachers and students of Dhaka University and that is why he deserves plaudits, he said.

Prof Mamun demanded compensation to the victims.

Prof MM Akash said the state of emergency is being used discriminately and Dhaka University must stand against it.

Presiding over the ceremony Prof Mustafa Nur-Ul Islam said Prof Anwar is the conscious son of time and he is committed as well.

Urging him to write more, Prof Mustafa said although Anwar came from science background, his writing style and presentation are praiseworthy.

Eminent litterateur Selina Hossain and Dr Muhammad Samad also spoke on the occasion.

JAMUNA BRIDGE Cop caught for taking bribe to pass overloaded trucks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Some police guards and employees assigned to look after the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge are allowing overloaded vehicles to pass the bridge in exchange for bribe.

Intelligence agency members caught Abdul Hannan, sub-inspector (SI) of the East Police Station, red handed at the east weigh station on the bridge Saturday night while he was taking a bribe of Tk 500 to allow an overloaded truck to pass the bridge. Hannan was closed following directives of the high-ups.

Tangail Superintendent of Police Abdul Mannan confirmed the incident.

The authorities set the weight limit at 25 tonnes for vehicles after numerous cracks developed on the bridge.

Four police officials including the officer-in-charge (OC) of the East Police Station were closed and a signman of Marganet One, the company responsible for maintenance of the bridge, was arrested at the weigh station on the bridge for allowing overloaded vehicles to pass the bridge in exchange for bribe last month.

City Ananda Alo Literature Award announced

The City Ananda Alo Literature Award 2008 was announced yesterday.

This year's winners are Humayun Ahmed, for his novel 'Moddhanho-2', Al Mahmud, for his poetry collection 'Shela Kora Mukh', Imdadul Haque Milon, for children's book 'K', Fazlul Alam, for his collection of non-fiction 'Savyatar Durga Sangskritir Koraghat' and Quayyum Chowdhury, for his cover design for the novel 'Boyoon'.

The prize giving ceremony will be held in front of the Ananda Alo stall on the Amar Ekushey Book Fair premises at 4:00pm today.

The winners will each receive Tk 30,000 and a crest.

Poet Asad Chowdhury, litterateur and actor Amad Hossain and media personality Muhammad Jahangir were juries in selecting the awardees.

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr M Rezaul Karim of biochemistry and molecular science department of Rajshahi University (RU) passed away due to heart disease at a hospital in Japan on Saturday night at the age of 46.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Family sources said there was a serious problem at Karim's heart and he was under treatment at Osaka Graduate School of Medicine and Hospital in Japan since 2005.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Mammunul Keramat, Registrar Prof Muhammad Shafi, his colleagues and students expressed deep shock at his death.

They also prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Prof Dr Md Ansar Uddin

Prof Dr Md Ansar Uddin, chairman of the Department of Islamic Studies of Dhaka University (DU), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, six daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at the Banani graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza after Asr prayers at DU central mosque premises yesterday.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, and Treasurer Abdul Syad Abul Kalam Azad expressed deep shock at his death. They also conveyed sympathy to his bereaved family members and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

MA Motaleb

MA Motaleb, former customs official and father of Md Azizur Rahman, joint secretary of the central executive committee of Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, passed away at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 86, says a press release.

He left behind his six sons and five daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Members of the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. They also conveyed sympathy to his bereaved family members.

Establishing 'Higher Education Zone' underscored

Sri Lankan minister meets UGC chairman

UNB, Dhaka

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam and visiting Sri Lankan Deputy Minister for Higher Education Mohamed Musthafa yesterday underscored the need for establishing 'Higher Education Zone' in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

They came up with the opinion when a three-member Sri Lankan delegation headed by the deputy minister called on the UGC chairman at his office.

The UGC chairman briefed them about the existing condition and opportunity of higher education in Bangladesh. They discussed admission opportunities for Sri Lankan students to study in Bangladesh.

Prof Nazrul apprised the deputy minister that in Bangladesh, there is huge opportunity for Sri Lankan students to receive higher education in the disciplines of medical, dental, engineering and architecture.

The UGC chairman drew attention of the Sri Lankan minister to send more students to Bangladesh for higher education.

The delegation expressed satisfaction over the standard of education being imparted by some private universities here, including North South University, Brac University, East West University, USTC and AIUB.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner Vadivel Krishnamoorthy was present at the meeting.

Reception to Latifa Akand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Islamic History and Culture of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday accorded a reception to Prof Latifa Akand, former teacher of the department, for getting Begum Rokeya Padak 2007 for her contribution to socio-economic development of women folk.

Speaking as the chief guest in the occasion DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said Prof Latifa Akand was very popular in her working life. Her honesty, sincerity and efficiency were exemplary to all. We are feeling privileged by taking the opportunity to honour her, he added.

Latifa Akand said teachers and students have to be honest in their personal lives and urged the students to be prepared to work for the development of the country.

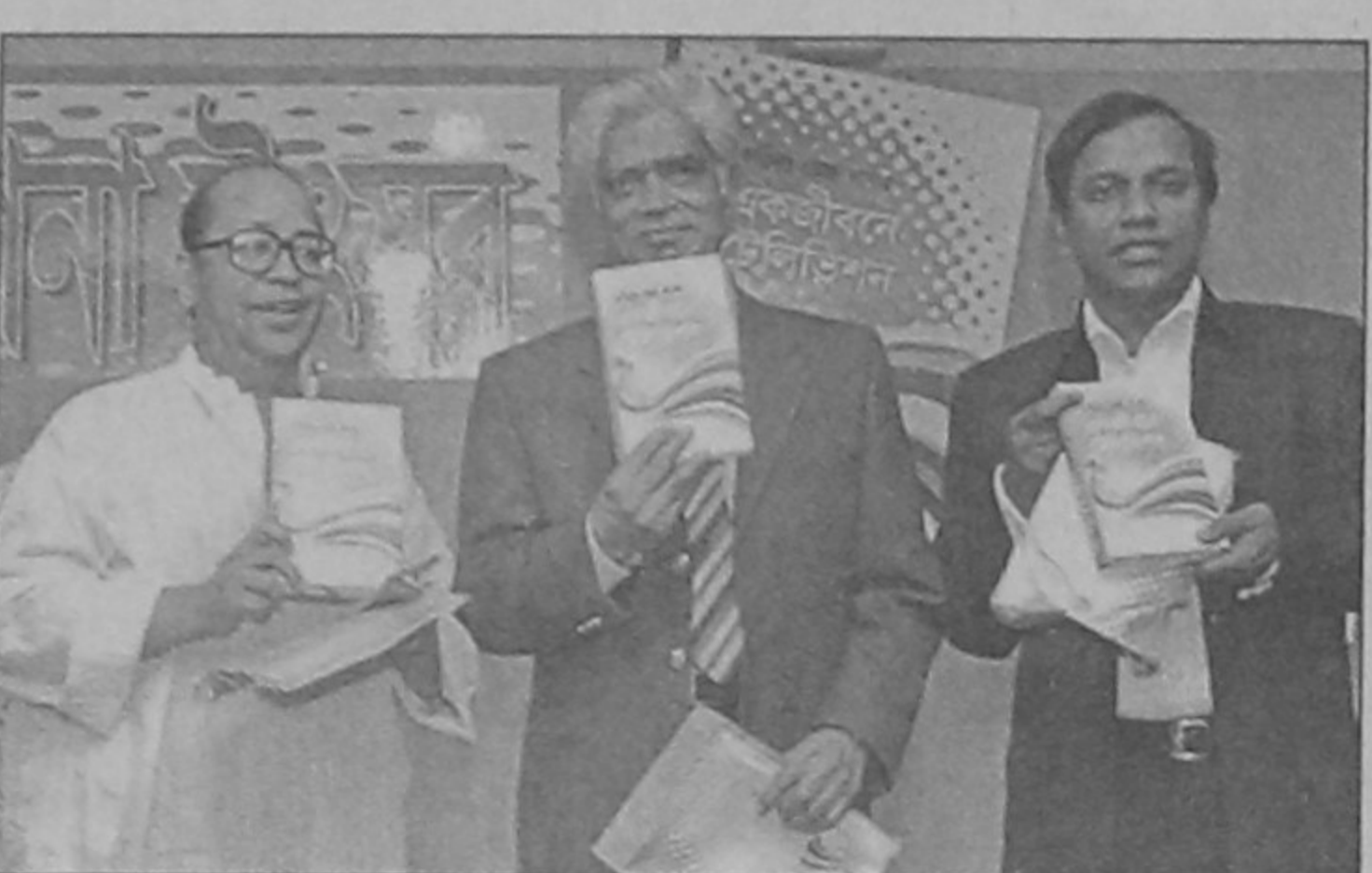
Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury of Department of History, Dr Habiba Khatun of Department of Islamic History and Culture, Prof Ayesha Begum and the daily Jai Jai Din Editor Shafiq Rehman also spoke on the occasion.

Deal between key Iraq Shiite figures collapses

AFP, Najaf

Radical Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's movement yesterday announced it was cancelling a pact it signed four months ago with its main Shiite rival aimed at reducing tension between the two groups.

The agreement between the Sadrist and the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council (SIIC) of Abdel Aziz al-Hakim "has failed and is cancelled," Nassar al-Rubaie, spokesman for the Sadr bloc in parliament, told AFP.



Launching ceremony of a book titled 'Ek Jiboney Television' written by Faridur Reza Sagor was held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. (From left) Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Channel-I, Jamil Chowdhury, former GM of BTV and Mazharul Islam, CEO of Anyoproskash, hold copies of the book at the launching ceremony.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organises a seminar on 'Regional trade agreements (RTAs) in Asia-Pacific: Impact on Bangladesh'. Venue: FBCCI conference centre. Time: 11:30am.

Reminiscence meeting

Rajshahi University Alumni Association organises a reminiscence meeting to mark the Dr Shamsuzzoha Day. Venue: Hall-2, Supreme Court Bar Association. Time: 4:30pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication, and Steps Towards Development jointly will organise a discussion on mother languages in Bangladesh. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Talk

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a talk on 'Looking to 2009: Crucial choices for the new American administration'. Ambassador Howard Schaffer of School of Foreign Services, Georgetown University, USA will talk on the topic. Venue: BEI conference room. Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Left Democratic Front organises a discussion on the spirit of Ekushey and movement for democracy. Venue: Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust building. Time: 3:30pm.

Workshop

Acid Survivors Foundation organises a workshop on acid violence and role and responsibilities of government and journalists to prevent it. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

National Democratic Party organises a discussion on spirit of Ekushey and present perspective. Venue: national Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors will organise a two-day workshop on comprehensive rehabilitation of torture victims. Venue: Planning and Development Academy. Time: 3:30pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of the two-volume documentary book on liberation war titled 'The Evidence' by Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali will be held. Venue: Somoy Prakashan (stall 164-166), Ekushey book fair. Time: 5:00pm.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said adding that night temperature may rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 28.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore, Khulna and Mongla and lowest 8.7 degrees Celsius at Srirampol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:55pm today and rises at 6:29am 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	26.1	12.9	73	58
Chittagong	24.7	13.4	60	67
Rajshahi	26.0	09.2	88	65
Khulna	28.8	13.2	77	47
Barisal	28.0	13.0	--	63
Sylhet	26.0	13.4	67	54
Cox's Bazar	26.9	13.5	51	76

NOAKHALI TEXTILE COLLEGE 'Re-fix exam fees'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The B Sc first-year students of Textile Engineering College in Noakhali has urged the authorities concerned to re-fix their final examination fees at an affordable limit.

Some of the students yesterday travelled all the way from Begunagari to Chittagong University (CU) to submit a memorandum to the vice-chancellor in this regard.

In the memo they said the fixation of fees at Tk 7300 was not at par with other educational institutes and too high for them to pay.

They sought the intervention of CU VC in re-fixing the fees at Tk 4000 before the scheduled time of submitting the fees.

While talking to The Daily Star, the students said the fee for the same examination at Pabna Textile Engineering College under Rajshahi University was Tk 3500 while the amount was further bellow at Tejgaon Textile Engineering College in Dhaka.



Dr Shamsuzzoha's death anniversary today

RU CORRESPONDENT

The death anniversary of Prof Dr Shamsuzzoha will be observed on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus today.

On this day in 1969, he was shot dead by Pakistani military junta in front of the RU main gate accelerating the mass movement against the Agartala conspiracy case.

A popular teacher Dr Zoha was the RU proctor and reader of the chemistry department.

His death sparked violent protests across the then East Pakistan leading to the fall of Ayub regime. Elaborate programmes have been taken up by RU authorities to observe the day in a befitting manner.

These include hoisting of black flags atop important buildings, placing of wreaths at Zoha memorial grave and discussion.

The Zoha Memorial Lecture at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium will be attended by Dr Akbar Ali Khan, a former adviser to caretaker government, as the main speaker.

Milad and doa mahfils and blood donation programme have also been arranged.

A six-day-long exhibition of books and journals published by the university will begin today.

RU Teachers' Association (Ruta), Progressive Teachers' Society and Officers' Society will organise separate discussion meetings at Jubree building.

RU Martyred Memorial Archive will remain open from 7:00am to 5:00pm on this occasion.

Earlier, Ruta demanded of the government to declare February 18 as 'National Teachers' Day' to uphold the outstanding contribution of Shaheed Dr Zoha.

95,000 fowls culled in Badda farm

FROM PAGE 1

The culling at Omega Poultry Farm, that had around 1.65 lakh fowls, began on 9:00pm Saturday as Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) has confirmed presence of deadly H5N1 virus of bird flu in the chickens.

About 996 eggs were destroyed as well at the farm at Beraid till 2:30pm yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Dhaka District Livestock Officer Shaikh Saidur Rahman said the culling might be completed by the day.

"After culling the poultry of this farm, we will cull the backyard poultry and poultry of other family farms. There is no big farm within one kilometre radius of this farm," he said.

"Four hundred labourers had been working in three shifts to cull the poultry from Saturday night and 300 labourers are working in every shift today," Alif Ahmed Khan, chairman of Omega Poultry Farm, said.

Culling also continued in Pabna, Nilphamari, Dinajpur and Gazipur in the country, according to the Bird Flu Control Room.

GP distributes winter clothes in Sidr-hit areas

Grameenphone distributed blankets in different Sidr-affected areas in Barisal and Khulna districts recently, says a press release.

Around 2,000 blankets were distributed at Mathbaria, Galachipa, Alipur and Mohipur in Barisal while the Sidr victims at Morelganj and Sharankhola upazilas in Khulna district received another 1000 blankets.

Community Reconstruction Centre (CRC), a partner NGO of Grameenphone, provided support during the distribution programme in Khulna.

Debashish Roy, deputy general manager, and Arkanul Islam, manager, corporate social responsibility of Grameenphone, were present during the distribution of the blankets in Khulna and Barisal respectively.

