



PHOTO: STAR
Mohila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam speaks at a roundtable on "Women in politics, in party, parliament and government", organised by Bangladesh Mohila Parishad and Saptahik 2000 magazine at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right are acting editor of Weekly 2000 Moinul Ahsan Saber and Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and on her left are Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, BNP Vice President Dr Osman Farruk and AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed. (Story on Page 16)

Define executive role of local govt commission

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need to clearly define the executive role of the proposed Local Government Commission in order to make it effective.

They said that if the commission is set up as per the proposed ordinance, it would act as a subordinate body. As a result, the commission would not be able to fulfil its objective to strengthen the local government.

The Local Government Support Project of UNDP organised the roundtable on 'Role of Local Government Commission' at a city hotel, with Manoj Basnyat, country representative of UNDP, in the chair. Academicians, political leaders and representatives of the government,

donor agencies and non-government organizations took part in the discussion.

The speakers said the role of the commission should be clearly defined so that it does not conflict with the roles of other government institutions and the local government ministry.

They also stressed the need to make the commission accountable.

Some speakers, however, said the caretaker government should focus fully on the national election instead of forming such a commission.

The present caretaker government had taken an initiative to strengthen the local government institutions and constituted a seven-member committee to this end. The committee recently submitted a report with a draft ordinance for the Local Government Commission.

Prof Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman of Dhaka University presented a keynote paper on 'An Assessment of the proposed Local Government Commission Ordinance, 2008' at the roundtable.

He said the commission would be a subordinate body as its chairman and the two members would be appointed by a search committee comprising the chief election commissioner, chairmen of the Public Service Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission, the comptroller and auditor general and the secretary to the Local Government

Division.

He suggested that the commission should be an executive body, not a recommending one.

Renowned academic Prof Muzafer Ahmad said the commission would have less power than the local government ministry if the draft ordinance is implemented.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said the draft ordinance is vague and unacceptable.

Balakrishnan Menon of the World Bank said the proposed ordinance should make it clear how the commission would be financed.

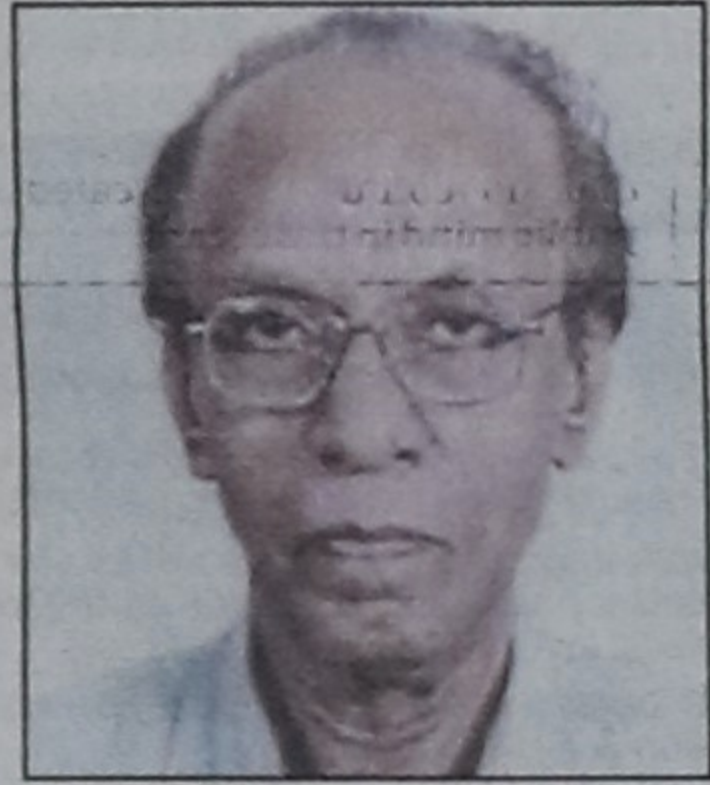
6 Indian horses arrive today

UNB, Dhaka

The six horses presented to Bangladesh Army from the Indian Army are coming today through Benapole frontier.

During Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed's visit to India last month at the invitation of Indian Army Chief Dipak Kapoor, the horses were presented to the Bangladesh Army as a gesture of goodwill and friendship.

"An officer of the Indian Army, ranked colonel, will hand over the horses formally to a Bangladeshi Army official of the same rank at Benapole border," said an ISPR press release yesterday.



Qulkhwani of Dr Zia Hasan today

Qulkhwani of Dr Zia Hasan, a renowned chest specialist and former student & drama director of Dhaka Medical College, will be held at his residence at House # 12, Road # 4/A, West Dhanmondi, Dhaka after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Dr Zia Hasan was also the constructor of the first Shaheed Minar in the country.

He was the eldest son of renowned doctor and martyred intellectual Dr Kasiruddin Talukder, the eldest son-in-law of late Abdul Jabbar Khan, a pioneering film director, and the brother of renowned lyricist late Zebunnesa Jamal and singer late Anjuman Ara Begum.

His family members requested all relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the qulkhwani.



PHOTO: STAR
SCF Chief Coordinator Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-ar-Rashid addresses a press conference at the SCF head office at Banani yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

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