



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed witnesses a spectacular firing exercise of Bangladesh Air Force, 'Fire Power-2008', at the BAF Firing Range at Rasulpur in Tangail yesterday.

## CA witnesses BAF annual firing exercise

BSS, Rasulpur

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed witnessed the spectacular firing exercise of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) 'Fire Power-2008' at the BAF Firing Range yesterday.

Fakhruddin attended the annual firing exercise of BAF, on its concluding day as the chief guest, in which different types of fighter aircrafts, transport aircrafts and helicopters took part.

Following various modern tactics of air warfare those aircraft demonstrated air to ground firing with bullets, rockets and bombs on make-shift targets.

Helicopters dropped troops through rappelling, which is a very useful method of mobilising forces quickly to a forward position during war.

Besides, BAF transport planes dropped logistic items through parachute, which is indigenously made by Bangladesh Air Force. This system is also suitable for dropping relief goods in remote and inaccessible areas during natural calamities.

The exercise was rounded-off with a spectacular low-level aerobatics of BAF fighter aircrafts, which kept the guests spellbound.

In the demonstration, BAF pilots displayed a partial firepower of BAF, which is essential in safeguarding the sovereignty of the country.

Among others, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser AF Hassan Arif, Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Ghulam Quader, LGRD Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal, Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Md Abdul Mubeen, diplomats and high civil and military officials were present on the occasion.

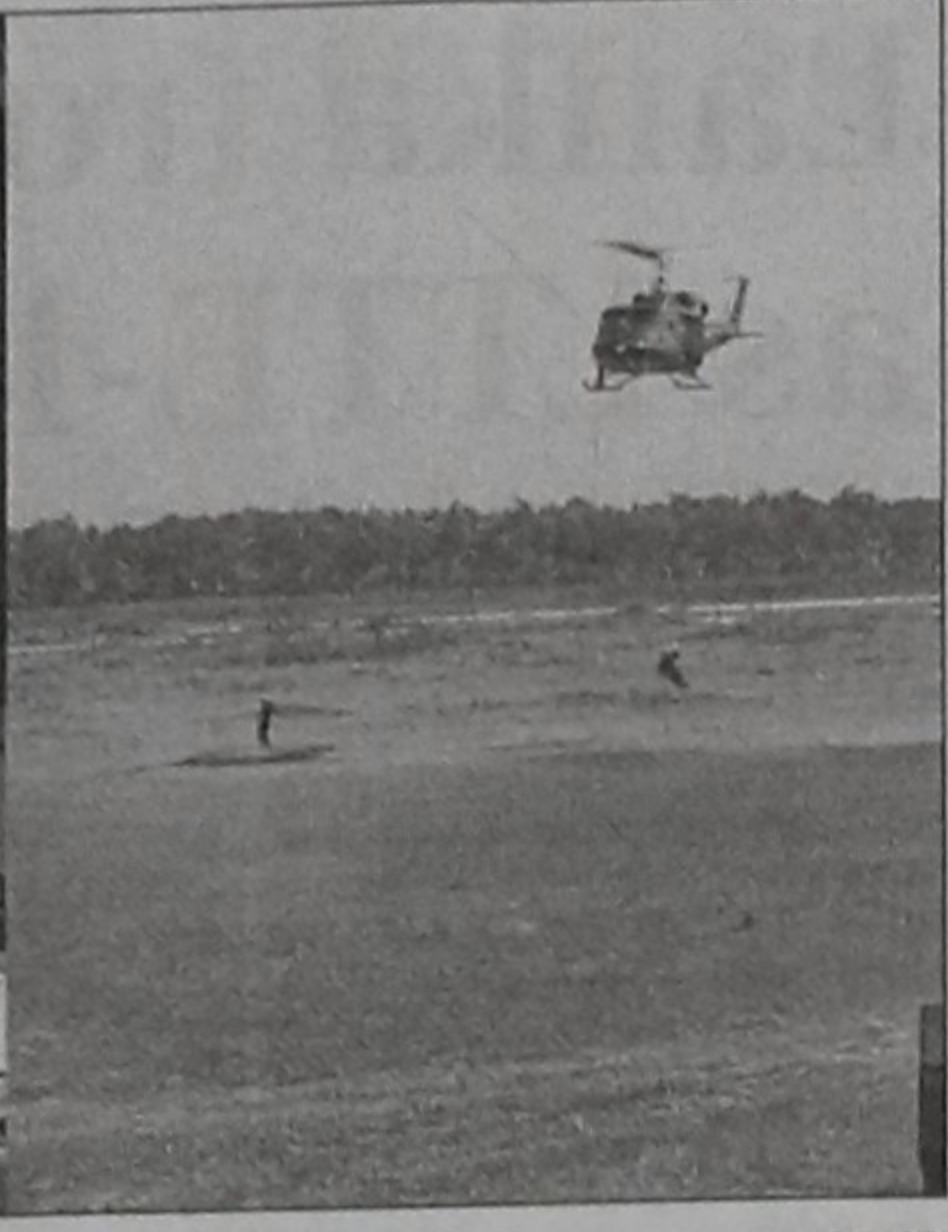


PHOTO: PID

## Society lacks awareness about autism

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The society still lacks awareness regarding the issue of autism although it has already addressed different types of disabilities successfully, speakers at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop said yesterday.

Autism, a brain development disorder that is characterised by impaired social interaction and communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior is comparatively new phenomenon in medical science and the society lacks awareness in handling the autistic group.

Even the Disability Welfare Act 2001 also missed the issue of autism, the speakers said.

Autistic Children's Welfare Foundation Bangladesh organised the workshop with a view to creating awareness and training on autism and strategies to overcome the day to day challenges faced by parents with autistic children and adults.

While speaking as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of the workshop at city's LAOWA Club, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said some changes on the disability issue has taken place in the country of which attitude change is significant.

"And it is important because if we cannot change our attitude, specific intervention could not do much," he said adding that special services for the autistic children is equally important and we should think of addressing the interests of the special group with utmost sincerity.

Director General of the Directorate of Social Service Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury was present at the programme as special guest while President of Autistic Children's Welfare Foundation Bangladesh Yusuf Abdullah Harun, Dr Rawnak Hafiz and Jane Neil-MacLachlan from the United Kingdom were present as resource persons.

## Kalyan Party nominates 43 candidates for JS elections

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Kalyan Party (BKP) has nominated 43 candidates to contest the 9th parliamentary elections.

The BKP announced the names of the candidates, including its chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, Birpratik, who will contest from the two constituencies in Dhaka, said a party press release yesterday.

The candidates are: Syed Mohammad Ibrahim (Dhaka-13 and 17), BKP Acting Secretary General Sadek Ahmed Khan (Dhaka-9), Mohammad Mobinul Haq (Dhaka-2), Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman (Dhaka-4), M Ibrahim Adil Khan (Dhaka-7 and Khulna-2), KH Nazir Ahammed Muktar (Gazipur-3), Muhammad

Abdus Sobhan (Narayanganj-5), Shahidur Rahman Tamanna (Comilla-6), Col (ret'd) Mostak Hossain (Comilla-9), Mohammad Nazrul Islam (Brahmanbaria-4), Alauddin Didar (Feni-3), Tofazzal Hossain Akand (Sherpur-1), Mohammad Mushfiqur Rahman Mintu (Netrakona-4), Mosharraf Hossain (Faridpur-1), Tushar Kanti Baruri (Madaripur-2), SM Shariful Islam (Rajbari-1), Mohammad Aminul Ehsan (Kishoreganj-5), Mohammad Kahir Mahmud (Sylhet-1 and 6), Moulavi Mohammad Helaluddin (Sylhet-4), Shuvashish Samoddar Shuva (Barisal-1), Tapan Kumar Mitra (Pirojpur-1), Md Abdul Gaffar (Pirojpur-3), MHR

Sayem (Patuakhali-1), Mohammad Shajahan Ali (Bagerhat-2), Mohammad Yusuf (Chittagong-1), Shahzada Alam (Chittagong-10), Mohammad Golam Ishaq Khan (Chittagong-13), Lt Col (ret'd) Enamul Haq Chowdhury (Chittagong-14), Fariduddin Khan (Chittagong-7), Mohammad Ilias (Chittagong-8), Advocate Syed Junadeus Salam (Chittagong-9), Obaidur Rahman Chowdhury (Cox's Bazar-1), RAM Ismail Faruk (Cox's Bazar-3), Mohammad Salauddin Biswas (Rajshahi-1), Mohammad Ferdous Alam (Chapainawabganj-2), Mohammad Sadruzzaman (Chapainawabganj-3), AKM Shariful Islam (Bogra-1), Mohammad Ekramul Haq (Nilfamari-3) and Mohammad Ali Sarkar (Kurigram-3).

## Three killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Netrakona and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Our correspondent from Netrakona adds: Two people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Durgapur road at Suknakuri under Durgapur upazila in Netrakona yesterday.

The dead were identified as Saleh Ahmed, 50, of Khusukanda village and Raham Ali, 45, of Billapara village.

Police and local sources said the accident occurred when a Durgapur-bound passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch losing its control leaving Saleh Ahmed and Raham dead on the spot.

The injured were sent to Netrakona Sadar Hospital and Durgapur Upazila Health Complex.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds: One person was killed in a road accident at Chhayebaria village under Sadar upazila in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The victim was identified as Md Rafique Mia, 35, of Aminpur village under Sadar upazila.

Sources said the accident occurred when Rafique was crossing the road a speeding truck knocked him down. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

## Training on development of prison management

METRO DESK

Robert Allen and Andrew Barclay, British experts from the International Centre for Prison Studies, held a daylong training programme with Bangladesh prison officers on the development of prison management techniques and procedures yesterday.

The programme was organised as part of their seven-day visit sponsored by the British High Commission in Dhaka, says a press release.

They will also hold a series of discussions and events with prison officers, representatives of civil society, law students, lawyers and senior members of the judiciary, to explore possible solutions to problems that affect prisons worldwide, such as alternatives to prison sentencing, prison management, and overcrowding.

British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Stephen Evans said, "Improving criminal justice systems in Bangladesh, including through police reform and alternative dispute resolution, is a priority for the UK because better access to justice is important both to development and the protection of human rights."



PHOTO: STAR

A team of National Democratic Institute calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

## Nari Maitree celebrates silver jubilee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nari Maitree, a women's rights organisation, celebrated the silver jubilee at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

It also published a souvenir to symbolising the spirit of the organisation spreading as the light for the welfare of women and children.

Geetara Safiya Choudhury, chairman and managing director of ADCOMM Limited, unveiled the cover of the souvenir as the chief guest.

Lauding the efforts of the organisation, she said it has earned a huge success which is praiseworthy for its welfare activities for women and children.

Nari Maitree Chairperson Prof Latifa Akhanda presided over the programme where its founder president Dr Jahera Begum and founder member Feroza Khanom also took part.

The programme was followed by a colourful cultural programme.

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## Polls to be free of arms

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed said they will put a four-tier security measure in place along with deployment of additional forces for the elections.

The chiefs of police and Rab made their commitments public at an event at Rab-1 headquarters in Uttara of the capital where seized illegal narcotics were destroyed, while the DMP commissioner made the commitment at the monthly crime conference in Rajarbagh Police Lines Telecom Auditorium.

The IGP said police will take special initiatives against the goons for hire ahead of the general election if necessary.

Speaking as the chief guest at the narcotics destructing event, the IGP said proper and strict implementation of the country's existing laws is enough to combat illicit drug trade and other criminal activities.

The law enforcing agencies incinerated a huge quantity of illicit narcotics worth over Tk 2 crore seized in the last 2 to 3 months.

The elite battalion yesterday destroyed 252.8 litres of banned Indian cough syrup Phensidyl contained in 42,488 bottles, around 300 kilograms of cannabis, and over 1.5 lakh Yaba tablets.

The IGP said everybody must work together to route illegal drugs from the country as the law enforcers cannot do it alone.

procedures too lengthy, Nur Mohammad said due to loopholes in the legal system, many notorious drug traders and criminals came out of jails on bail.

"Now the time has come to rethink the problem," said the IGP, who recently earned the ire of higher authorities for his comments about delays in promulgating the proposed police ordinance.

Rab DG Hasan Mahmood Khandakar said his force will take all necessary measures to ensure law and order during the elections, and the public will be informed about that through the media at a suitable time.

Many prominent individuals including movie star Razzak and singer Fahmida Nabi also spoke.

Meanwhile, DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed said the chief adviser already ordered the police to put in place necessary security measures to ensure the safety of voters and for smooth voting.

He said striking forces will be deployed to ensure security at several polling centres. Such ready-to-act forces will also be kept stand by at the police control room, he added.

"Strict actions will be taken against any element trying to obstruct the elections," Naim said.

Replying to a question, the DMP commissioner said he does not see any possibility of terrorist activities on the eve of the elections, but added that the intelligence agencies will nonetheless step up their watch.

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