

# AL's return to power depends on performance

Says AK Khandaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planning Minister AK Khandaker at a discussion yesterday said the government should perform well, otherwise the ruling Awami League will not be able to return to power.

"We need to perform well and fulfil expectations of the people from us otherwise, I believe, AL will not be able to return to power next time," he added.

Khandaker, also deputy commander-in-chief during the War of Liberation, said this at the discussion to mark the Victory

Day at Public Library in the city with MBOKS President SK Habibullah in the chair.

"Those who say and think that AL will remain in power forever are actually deceiving all."

He said war criminals must be tried to uphold the rule of law and the government is committed to doing so. The government has already taken some initiatives to start the trial, including budgetary allocation for it.

He said the War of Liberation was not a war of some military officers, rather it was

people's war.

Speaking as the key discussant, PM's Adviser HT Imam said list of Razakars, Al-Badrs and Al-Shams should be prepared alongside the list of freedom fighters.

In a flashback to the history of liberation war, he said Zia himself never said that he announced the independence of Bangladesh.

"In his book, Zia himself wrote that he joined the War of Liberation as he was inspired by the speech of Bangabandhu on March 7."

The discussion organised by

Muktijoddha BCS Officers' Kalyan Samity (MBOKS) to mark the Victory Day eventually turned into a bilateral meeting between HT Imam and the former BCS officers who said they were illegally terminated from service by the BNP-Jamaat government.

Imam asked the officers to prepare a list of officers who do not belong to the ideology of the liberation war, saying: "Prepare a list of those officers and give information to us, we will take action."

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique also spoke.

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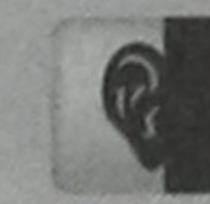
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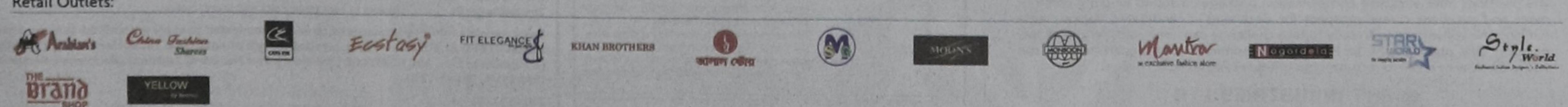
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