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President, PM offer gratitude to foreign friends

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said Bangladesh is happy to recognise the contributions of the country's foreign friends and well-wishers for their wholehearted support to the 1971 Liberation War and invaluable services from respective position.

"Their valuable inspiration and support gave impetus to achieving our victory", he said at an awarding ceremony of the nation's foreign friends at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

A total of 75 individuals, six organisations, and the Mitra bahini (allied force), and the people of India were conferred with "Bangladesh Liberation War Honour" and "Friends of Liberation War Honour".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also expressed her sincere gratitude and respect to all the foreign friends of Bangladesh for their invaluable contributions yesterday.

It is the pride of the entire nation to recognise the friends of Bangladesh and pay homage to the unsung heroes of the freedom war and hard-earned independence, she said.

RECOGNITION AFTER 41 YEARS

Recognition of four other Indians sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Swadhin Bangla Football Team (SBFT) has expressed resentment over the non-inclusion of four persons in the list of foreign nationals who were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the country's War of Liberation in 1971.

The four Indian nationals, Deepak Kanti Ghosh, Nawab Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, Tarun Chattopadhyay and Mihir Ghosh, should have been included in the list of foreign friends, they said.

SBFT, in a press release yesterday, said, under the support of Deepak Kanti Ghosh, the then district administrator of Nadia of West Bengal, the Bangladeshi flag was hoisted at Krishna Nagar Stadium on July 24 in 1971. The Bangladeshi national anthem was also sung on that day, when no other countries had recognised it.

Nawab Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, former captain of the Indian Cricket Team, took part in a match between SBFT and Maharashtra-11 in 1971 and personally contributed Rs 20,000 to intensify the liberation movement.

Tarun Chattopadhyay, a photojournalist, and Mihir Ghosh, general secretary of Bangladesh-India Maitree, also had played important roles from their position during the liberation war.

SBFT had earlier informed these contributions to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, yet the names of the four Indians friends were not included in the list.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, on Saturday, said a national committee had prepared a list of 560 foreign nationals and organisations and the process to honour the foreign friends would continue.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina confer awards--'Bangladesh Liberation War Honour' and 'Friends of Liberation War Honour'--on foreign friends at a ceremony at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. 1. Simon Dring of UK; 2. Chief Minister of Tripura, India Manik Sarker; 3. Lt Gen (ret'd) Jack Frederick Ralph Jacob of India [holding his hand up and saying Joy Bangla] 4. Dr Kirsten Westergaard of Denmark; 5. Barrister Nora Shariff of Ireland; 6. Tsuyoshi Nara of Japan; 7. Lear Levin of USA and 8. Rajmata Bibhu Kumari Devi of Tripura, India. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR



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The Daily Star

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The Daily Star brings the biggest event celebrating the spirit of Chittagong. The inauguration of this grand festival will be held at M.A. Aziz Stadium on 30 March, 2012.

Time: 4:00 PM

The extravagant evening will feature **Nagorik Shomabesh, Fireworks & Laser Show.**

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Musical Performances by:

Renaissance

L.R.B

Arnob

& Orin, Kishore, Shondipon, Zahed, Sirajul, Nishita, Sustain

The Daily Star cordially invites you and your family to join the celebration of this great city.