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## Five receive Ekushey Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed has called upon all to be pledge bound and sincere about their responsibility and accountability to the people and future generation in the spirit of martyrs of the Language Movement.

United effort is imperative for building a happy, prosperous and disciplined society based on justice and knowledge, he said while handing over the prestigious Ekushey Padak to five distinguished personalities for their outstanding contribution in their

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## Ekushey Padak

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 respective fields.

"As a nation we are now passing through a critical moment as different evil forces and evil mechanisms disturbed exploring our unlimited potentials," the CA said at the award giving ceremony held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Fakhruddin said the aspirations of the nation have been shattered due to the dishonesty, immorality and criminal activities of a section of people who were very powerful.

"The spirit of Amar Ekushey will help us in consolidating and strengthening our commitment to overcome all barriers and achieve our goals," he observed.

"I believe the nation imbued with the spirit of immortal Ekushey would be able to reach its desired goals as the general people of the country are peace-loving, honest, tolerant and hard working."

The CA said although the nation is yet to achieve expected level of economic development, it has a splendid history and heritage in the fields of education, literature and culture.

In this regard, he recalled the peaceful, harmonious and non-communal lives of the people in this land for thousands of years.

Fakhruddin described said the Language Movement, the long struggle for independence and attaining democracy as great achievements of the country.

Paying tributes to the personalities who received Ekushey Padak for 2007, he said they have made immense contribution in the fields of literature, music, fine arts, photography and drama.

"The nation feels proud to hon-

our you by giving recognition to your sincerity, honesty and dedication to your respective fields," he said.

Recipients of the award are former chief adviser of a caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman and Mohammad Mahfuzullah (literature), Anwar Pervez (music- posthumous), late M A Beg (photography-posthumous), and Dr Selim Al Din (drama).

Adviser for education and cultural affairs Ayub Quadri chaired the function attended by diplomats, chiefs of the three services, high civil and military officials, civil society members and previous recipients of the award.

Fakhruddin emphasised increasing use of Bangla in all spheres of life. He also stressed quality education for the new generation to turn the country's huge population into human resources.

Recalling the supreme sacrifice of Salam, Rafiq and Jabbar for upholding the dignity of the mother tongue, he said it is unprecedented in the history of mankind. "Every year we get renewed spirit at this time (Amar Ekushey)," he observed.

Asked about his feeling after getting the award, Habibur Rahman said, "We expect the wind of hope would start blowing very soon for realising the desire for peace and prosperity of the people."

He hoped the caretaker government would be able to achieve the nation's goals, and wished it all success.

Ayub Quadri said 296 eminent citizens and two institutions have so far received Ekushey Padak.

The award comprises Tk 40,000 in cash, a gold medal and a certificate each.