

# Produce more engrsr rather than general graduates

## PM tells National University function

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleida Zia yesterday vested the National University with the responsibility to reallocate seats in the educational institutions giving greater share to science education as per national requirements.

In the changed context, she emphasised producing more engineers, rather than general graduates, to cater to the practical needs of the country.

"We have to give more importance to science and technology, particularly information technology," she told a function of the National University.

The programme was organised to distribute gold medals to 19 students who stood first class first in honours examinations in 2001 held under the affiliating university.

Khaleida Zia, founder-chancellor of the National University, set up in 1992 to bring all colleges under one umbrella, also distributed cheques for prize money to 38 colleges selected on the basis of their results in degree examinations of 2001 and 2002.

The specific objectives of the National University are to improve the standard of education at graduate and post-graduate levels in the colleges, modernise their syllabi and impart training to the college teachers.

The PM also distributed cheques for procuring teaching apparatus and equipment to 78 colleges in the six divisions on behalf of the varsity.

The function was held with Vice-chancellor Professor Aftab Ahmed in the chair at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium. State Minister for Education ASM Ehsanul Haq Milon, Pro-VC Prof M Khalilur Rahman, Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad and Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam also addressed the function.

The prime minister said future of the country and the nation

depends on "how much efficiently we can groom up the new generation with standard and the right education".

About the importance laid on education by her government, Khaleida Zia said the intention is not only to provide degrees but education that will help attain practical knowledge, foster human values and a mentality to succeed in the

competitions of practical life.

"In the present competitive modern world, there is no alternative to building up the future generation as human resources," she asserted.

"Good education is imperative to stimulate independent thoughts and consciousness to work for national development," the prime minister said, reminding that the national education commission has been

formed to draw an outline of the sort of education that suits the needs of the 21st century.

She expressed her hope that implementation of the proposed education policy would help groom the future generation as architects of a prosperous, respectable and self-reliant Bangladesh.



PHOTO:PID

Prime Minister Khaleida Zia gives away a gold medal to a meritorious student of National University at the award ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

# Sociology students' sit-in programme

DU CORRESPONDENT

First year students of sociology department of Dhaka University will hold indefinite sit-in programme from tomorrow in front of the department demanding immediate cancellation of the grading and semester systems.

They also threatened to go for hunger strike if their demands are not met immediately.

The first year students have been boycotting their classes to press home their demands since August 26.

The students alleged that former chairperson Prof Ishrat

Shamim had threatened them to give zero marks in their scripts if they compel the teachers to cancel the grading and semester systems.

Earlier, the students brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus demanding immediate cancellation of the systems.

# Chairman of Pak Jt Chiefs of Staff Committee arrives today

UNB, Dhaka

Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan Armed Forces General Muhammad Aziz Khan arrives in Dhaka today on a five-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

During his visit, General Aziz is expected to make a courtesy call on President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Prof Iajuddin Ahmed.

He will also meet Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Maj Gen AM Mahmuduzzaman and Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Haq.

Gen Aziz, to be accompanied by his spouse, will place wreaths at the Shikha Anirban (the eternal flame) to pay homage to the martyrs of the Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives during the liberation war.

He will also visit National Defence College (NDC), Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC), BAF Base Bashur, Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT) and Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA), said an ISPR press release.

# 1766 more held

BSS, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,766 people including two identified criminals and recovered 13 firearms along with 18 bullets during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

Of the arrested, 843 were wanted by police and 907 accused in different under-investigation cases.

Thirteen people were arrested in connection with the arms recovery and seven separate cases were filed under the Arms Act in respective police stations from where the arms were recovered, a police headquarters press release said.

During the drive, police recovered three explosives in an abandoned state.

# Protest against India's link-canal project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Greenforce, an organisation working for protection of environment, yesterday formed a human chain protesting the move of the Indian government to implement its river connecting mega project.

Addressing a rally after the human chain in front of the TSC of Dhaka University, the speakers said Bangladesh would be turned into a

desert once the project is implemented.

"Flow of water in 57 rivers of the country would be reduced drastically as these rivers originated in India", they added.

The speakers said the over all salinity in the country will also increase alarmingly due to fall in surface water level.

They urged the government to inform the World Bank and the

International Monetary Fund of the matter so that these two financial organisations refrain from financing the water diversion project.

Mamunur Rashid, a noted dramatist, urged the Indian government not to implement the project considering its disastrous effects on Bangladesh.

He said the government must sue at the International Court to stop the Indian government to implement the project.

Mamunur Rashid also urged the members of political parties, civil societies and cultural organisations to come forward to adopt a united stand against the project.

The rally was also addressed by Abu Naser Khan, chairman of the Greenforce, Golam Kibria, Alamgir Kabir, Dr Laila Anjuman and Dr Fazle Elahi.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association observes hunger strike at Muktangan yesterday to press their various demands.

# Railway drive against rooftop passengers

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway Police arrested 571 passengers at the Airport Railway Station here last month for travelling on the roofs of trains.

The railway authorities also realised Tk 17,807 from 392 passengers while the rest 179 were sent to General Railway Police (GRP) thana, a BR press release said yesterday.

# Chehlum

Chehlum of Mahbulul Islam Chowdhury (Badal), a businessman and former official of BJMC, will be held today, says a press release.

He died on July 25 at the age of 54. A doa mahfil will be held at his residence at House # 10, Road # 2, Kalyanpur after Juma prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.



# Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Nurjahan Murshid will be held at her residence at 765 Saat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and prayers have been arranged on the occasion.

Nurjahan Murshid, a renowned leader of women renaissance of Bengal and one of the major organisers of the War of Liberation, died at Shikder Medical College Hospital on September 1 at the age of 79.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and admirers have been requested to attend the qul and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

# Death anniversary



The seventh death anniversary of Professor Mohammed Noman, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University and former principal of Dhaka college, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, and feeding of the destitute have been arranged on the occasion.

Professor Noman Smriti Foundation will hold a discussion on his life and works.

A recipient of 'Ekushe Padak', Professor Noman died of kidney ailments in 1996.

Relatives, students and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

# Chowdhury Muslima Allahma



The seventh death anniversary of social worker Chowdhury Muslima Allahma, ex-chairman of Mustafa Allahma Goldcup foundation, will be observed at Sylhet and Dhaka today, says a press release.

Muslima Allahma was the mother of veteran freedom fighter, journalist and cultural & sports organiser Mustafa Allahma.

Relative, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.