



PHOTO: PID

President Iajuddin Ahmed gives away a crest to a student at the 6th convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday.

Offer scholarships, fee waivers to poor meritorious students

President asks private universities

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the private universities to offer a large number of scholarships and generous fee waiver for the poor but meritorious students.

The President, who is also chairman of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), said this in his presidential speech at the 6th convocation at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk attended the programme as the convocation guest while former president of the Philippines Fidel V Ramos was the convocation speaker.

On the occasion, AIUB Vice Chairman Dr Carmen Z Lamagna handed over certificates to the gradu-

ating students.

The President started his speech paying deep respect and honour to the unfading memory of the martyrs of the historic language movement and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Congratulating the graduating students, Iajudin said universities play a pivotal role in creating human resources and that's why university education is strategically important for development objective.

He said a large number of students are taking lesson from the private universities, which help the nation to save foreign exchange for acquiring higher education.

He hoped that the country's universities should invest in a holistic education system with wide ranging faculties covering not job market but also sci-

ences and liberal arts.

He said by providing quality education relevant to social needs at all levels, the country can democratise opportunities for all the citizens.

"By providing such opportunities to all segments of society we can make Bangladesh into a genuine stakeholder in building a rational and stable social order as well as enormously enhance the country's prospect," he said.

The President appreciated agribusiness MBA introduced by AIUB and its investment in human resources, educational infrastructure, laboratory facilities, library, teaching aids and ICT facilities.

Dr Osman Farruk said the AIUB, its administration and teachers have worked well to create 'great leaders of tomorrow'.

One to die for killing business partner

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his business partner Tarun Kumar Saha at Dohar 13 years ago.

Judge (In charge) SM Solaiman of the 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in absence of the convict Matiur Rahman.

Punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his surrender or arrest, the judge said.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 9 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, Matiur Rahman called the victim Tarun out of his shop and took him to his (Matiur) village home at

Dohar in Dhaka district for discussion on an urgent matter at about 6:30am on August 1, 1993.

Matiur then killed the victim with sharp weapons to misappropriate Tk 1 lakh deposited to him (Tarun).

Victim's elder brother Arun Kumar Saha filed a case with Dohar Police Station against Matiur the same day. The investigation officer pressed charge against Matiur on November 26 the same year.

Memorial meet on Kibria today

Bangabandhu Smriticharcha Kendra will hold a memorial meeting to mark the death anniversary of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria today, says a press release.

The meeting will be held at 4:00pm at Biswa Sahitya Kendra in the city.

Kibria, also an Awami League leader, was killed in a grenade attack while attending a party meeting in Habiganj on January 27 last year.

Advocate Abdul Hamid MP, Matia Chowdhury and Asma Kibira will address the meeting.

Teenage worker stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy was stabbed to death allegedly by his employer's brother-in-law while another employee was injured trying to resist the attacker at Khilgaon in the city early yesterday.

Police arrested Sajjad Hossain on charge of killing Sujon, 14. The injured employee, Ishak, 20, has been undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police said Sajjad along with the two employees was sleeping at the house of his brother-in-law Zakir Hossain, owner of Sadia General

Store. But he woke up at around 1:00am and started stabbing Sujon with a *boti* (curved knife).

Ishak, woken by the screams of Sujon, tried to resist Sajjad but was also attacked and injured.

As both the victims raised an alarm, residents of the house rushed to the scene and caught Sajjad.

Zakir Hossain and some other family members rushed both the injured to the hospital where the doctors declared Sujon dead.

Khilgaon police said Sajjad had told them that he is a drug addict.

Japan Festival begins tomorrow

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Japan Festival organised jointly by the Embassy of Japan and the Bangladesh National Museum will be held at the Museum from February 7 to 18.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam will be the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony at the poet Sufia Kamal auditorium at 11.00am on February 7, according to a Japan Embassy press release.

Prof. Mahmudul Haque, director general of the National Museum, and Matsushiro Horiguchi, ambassador of Japan will be present.

The programmes include Clay Work Exhibition, Photo Exhibition, Discover Japan Exhibition, Seminar on Japanese Language and Japanese Film Festival.

The festival will enhance the mutual understanding and friendly relationship between the two countries in future, sources said.