

IUT in Gazipur a centre of excellence

Says OIC secy general

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu highly praised the role of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) at Gazipur in Bangladesh as a centre of excellence.

He made the appreciation when Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan had an exclusive meeting with the OIC secretary general yesterday morning.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and the OIC Secretary General both are now attending the 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Baku in Azerbaijan, according to a message received here from the foreign ministry.

During the meeting, they discussed the major issues before the

ICFM. The Bangladesh foreign minister also appreciated the work done by the OIC Secretariat.

Khan urged the secretary general to approach the member states to realise the arrear contribution of the member countries to the IUT at Gazipur.

Ihsanoglu assured the Bangladesh foreign minister that he would take personal initiatives to improve the financial situation of the university.

The OIC secretary general also thanked Bangladesh for its constructive role in various OIC bodies and hoped that Bangladesh would continue to support various OIC initiatives.

In response to a request by Khan, the secretary general conveyed his eagerness to visit Bangladesh at the earliest opportunity.

Khan, who spent a busy second day in Baku, also held a bilateral meeting with the Albanian Foreign Minister Besnik Mustafaj yesterday on the sidelines of the ICFM.

During the meeting, they agreed to examine potential areas of cooperation between the two countries.

The Albanian foreign minister expressed his country's eagerness to learn from Bangladesh's success stories in various socio-economic areas, including micro-credit, empowerment and education of women.

Khan briefed him on various positive developments in the socio-economic areas in Bangladesh.

The ICFM is scheduled to conclude today with the adoption of the Baku Declaration and resolutions on specific topics.

Another teenager confesses to crime

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Another teenager confessed to a magistrate yesterday about his involvement in cutting throats of three Manipur Cadet School students and looting valuables from one of the victim's house at Mirpur on June 15.

Rajib confessed to the Metropolitan Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas that he asked his friend Jahan to slit throats of his (Jahan) three classmates -- Kazi Naimul Islam Badhon, Wadidul Kabir Tonmoy and Kazi Nibrush Niluv.

Earlier on June 18, Jahan gave a statement to the same magistrate confessing that he cut the throats of his three classmates. He also narrated to the magistrate how they conducted the whole operation and fled from the spot with the looted goods.

In the statement, Rajib further said that Jahan agreed to sell the looted CPU to him for Tk 5,000 and he paid Jahan Tk 100 the next day of the incident.

Jahan was arrested on June 17 when he went to Rajib's house for the rest of the money, Rajib said.



Participants at a poetry reading session organised by Kabita Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Poems against aggression were recited at the programme.

Sectt staffs submit memo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sachibalay Karmokarta-Karmochari Sangjukta Parishad yesterday submitted a memorandum to the finance minister demanding implementation of their various demands.

These include 30 percent dear-

ness allowance, formation of a permanent pay commission for public servants, 10 percent secretarial allowance like that of Bangladesh Bank and Prime Minister's Office and the sale of earned leave of second, third and fourth class employees.

The demands also include approval of the Recruitment Rules 2006, formulation of recruitment rules for all employees including computer operators, low-cost housing facilities for public servants and deduction of electricity bill from the salary as is done in case of gas bill.

The parishad urged the government to change the designation of fourth class employees into office

assistants, provide them with uniforms in every two years instead of four years, promote block post holders and provide them with selection grade.

It also demanded loan facilities for public servants like the officials of Bangladesh Bank and nomination of the representatives of the council to government welfare board.

Upon listening to the demands at a meeting with the public servants at his ministry, M Saifur Rahman assured them of implementing their demands.

Parishad President Md Nurul Alam and Secretary General Md Abdul Khalek were present at the meeting.

NCTB TENDER Criminals obstruct contractors from submitting bids

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) officials caught two criminals red handed yesterday while they were obstructing aspirant contractors from submitting their bids for an NCTB tender.

The last time for submitting the tender was 2:00pm yesterday and a group of criminals including Amin and Gaffar were obstructing contractors submit their proposals for a Tk 50 lakh tender for woods and metal plates, according to an NCTB press release.

After capturing the two, the NCTB authorities telephoned the Motijheel police. As the police rushed there, other criminals fled the scene. Amin and Gaffar were handed over to the police.

NCTB Deputy Secretary Abdul Hye filed a case with the Motijheel Police Station in this connection.

Alamgir Kabir now in charge of women affairs ministry

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Alamgir Kabir has been given the charge of the ministry following the death of minister Khurshid Jahan Haque.

"The prime minister gave Alamgir Kabir the charge of the women and children affairs ministry as per Rule 3 of the Rules of Business 1996," said a Cabinet Division notification yesterday.

Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Haque died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka on June 14.

Monju, Shahid JP chairman, secy general

Anwar Hossain Monju and Sheikh Shahidul Islam were elected chairman and secretary general of the central working committee of Jatiya Party (JP) on June 10 for the year of 2006-08, says a press release.

The central presidium members of the newly formed committee are - Abdul Rahim, Begum Kamrunnahr Jafar, Begum Taslima Hossain, A K Samsul Huda, Shah Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury, Azam Khan, Col (Retd) Dr Abdul Latif Malik, Habibur Rahman Hoby, Maziful Haq Bebu and Amena Bari.

Sadeq Siddique was elected additional secretary general.

Vice Chairmen of the committee are Abu Sayed Khan, Amir Hossien, Sheikh Mohammad Jainal Abedin, Amanat Hossain Amanat, Badruddoza Ahmed Suja, Ejaj Ahmed Mukta, Syed Akil Ahmed, Samsul Ulum Master, Hossain Ali Sardar, Ali Ahmmad Khan Milu and Nurul Haque.

Thai Festival begins June 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Royal Thai Embassy will organise Thailand Festival 2006 in collaboration with Thai Airways from June 25 to July 2 in Dhaka, says a press release.

The festival features Thai cultural performance at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 7:30pm on June 25 and Thai Food Festival on June 26-July 2 at Cafe Bazar of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

The occasion also includes a seminar on "Tourism and Medical treatment" from 9:00am to 1:00pm on June 29 at the Grand Ballroom of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel and Thai Fruits Festival from June 29 to July 1 at leading superstores of the city including Agora, Pick and Pay, Lavender, PQS and Family World.

The cultural performance on June 25 will be dedicated to the homeless people in Bangladesh and therefore, each viewer has been requested to bring one kilogram of rice for the charity fund.

The main objective of the festival is to promote understanding in tourism and business sectors between Thailand and Bangladesh.

RU staffs' strike ends

RU CORRESPONDENT

Three-day work abstinence of Rajshahi University officials and employees under the banner of Officer and Karmachari Oikya Parishad ended yesterday.

The abstinence programme to press their five-point demands almost paralysed administrative and academic activities, with no classes and examinations held in the last three days.

The employees yesterday laid siege to the administrative building and staged a rally in front of it.



Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam inaugurates a tree plantation programme of Bangladesh Air Force by planting a litchi sapling on the BAF Base Paharkanchanpur Headquarters premises at Tangail yesterday. Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam was also present.

Export, import of Nepal thru' Mongla port discussed

Envoy meets Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Nepalese Ambassador Bhagirath Basnet made a fair well call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

Sources close to the hour-long meeting said Bhagirath stressed the need for making Mongla Port more effective in the interest of international trade of Nepal.

They also discussed the ways and means to overcome the barriers for the export and import of Nepal through the Mongla Port.

Hasina, also Awami League president, conveyed her greetings to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and his cabinet colleagues. AL leaders Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Syed Abul Hossain MP were present at the meeting.

'Maps & Metaphors' to be launched on June 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Council Bangladesh will launch a book titled 'Maps & Metaphors' -- writings by young writers from Bangladesh and the UK -- at the council's auditorium at 6:00pm on June 24.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will be present as chief guest and Professor Kaiser Haq will be present as special guest at the ceremony while Dr June Rollinson, director of British Council, will preside over the function.

The book is a collaborative effort of Brine Pickles, a group from Bangladesh and the young writers, from the UK, under British Council's Connecting Futures Project.

British Council initiated the project titled Maps and Metaphors under its Connecting Futures in 2003 in order to set up a forum for a group of young creative writers from Bangladesh and the UK.

Through the forum they have been exchanging ideas, views and writings and create mutual understanding, increase awareness and appreciation for each other through ideas of faith, ethnicity and other issues around.

Brine Pickles, a group of Bangladeshi young creative writers between the ages of 15-25, worked with a similar group of creative writers in the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY JCD cadres attack BCL procession, 9 injured

STAR REPORT

At least nine activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured when cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) attacked their peaceful procession on Islamic University (IU) campus yesterday.

According to campus sources, the BCL brought out the procession as part of its declared programme at about 11:00am.

The BCL student front of main opposition Awami League, was observing a seven-day programme demanding immediate removal of the vice-chancellor (VC) for 'mass recruitment' at the university.

Yesterday, the BCL was scheduled to stage a sit-in in front of the VC's office.

But the JCD, student wing of the ruling BNP, equipped with firearms and various lethal weapons attacked the BCL procession in front of the administrative building at around 11:30am.

Around 100 JCD cadres took part in the attack. They chased the BCL men out of the campus.

They also fired several shots.

About nine BCL activists were injured, of them the condition of one Ashraful Islam was serious, said President of IU unit of BCL Keramat over cell phone.

Police were deployed on the campus but they remained inactive during the clash.

Later, angry BCL men ransacked one IU transport at Sheikhpara Bazar, adjacent to the campus, when it was going to Jhenidah town.

They also barricaded Khulna-Kushtia highway for about half an hour.

The BCL called an indefinite strike at the university from today.

Kushtia and Jhenidah units of BCL have extended support to the strike.

The university reopened on June 11 after a long 20 days of unscheduled closure since May 20.

The university was closed down following rampage by IU and Kushtia units of JCD as the university authorities failed to fulfil their demand with regard to recruitment of 200 people.

On May 18, the university authorities appointed 88 people most of whom were JCD and ICS activists (Islami Chhatra Shibir, student front of jamaat) against 53 circulated post.

Different organisations including the BCL chalked out programmes to protest the mass recruitment saying it is an extra burden on the university which has already a Tk 10 crore budget deficit.

Germany to offer more scholarships to Bangladeshi students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Germany will increase the number of scholarships to Bangladeshi students in the field of natural and agricultural sciences and Information Technology.

German Ambassador in Dhaka Frank Meyke said this when he called on Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk at his office yesterday.

Germany will also simplify the visa process for Bangladeshi students and it will write to the University Grants Commission soon to this regard.

Dr Osman Farruk requested the German envoy to introduce more language courses at German Cultural Centre for Bangladeshi students willing to go to Germany for higher studies.

He sought technological and technical assistance from Germany for the science and technology universities to improve the education standard in the country.

Lauding the government programmes for women and vocational education, the German envoy said Bangladesh has become an example to the developing countries with regard to women education.

He also agreed to consider Bangladesh's proposals for upgrading science and technology education.



Ittefaq Karmachari Union executives

Kazi Bazlur Rahman and Jahanara Begum yesterday were elected president and general secretary of Dainik Ittefaq Karmachari Union for two years, says a press release.

The ten-member executive committee was elected for the term 2006-2008 at the Ittefaq Employees' Entertainment Centre where its Assistant Editor Yasin Ahmed conducted the election as chairman.

The other office bearers are: Vice President Sharafat Ali Patwary, Joint Secretary Dipak Chandra Roy, Treasurer Jahangir Alam Patwary, Publicity Secretary Abdul Malek Miajee and Executive Members S M Shamsul Huda, Abul Kashem Milon, Abu Sayeed Khan and Abdul Latif.

After the announcement of election result, President of Danik Ittefaq Workers' Union Fazle Imam and Chief of Dainik Ittefaq unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists Syeed Shahjahan congratulated the newly elected committee.

Death anniversary

Today is the 19th death anniversary of AKM Israil, one of the pioneers of anti-colonial movement against the British Empire, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Kalaia in Baufal, Barisal.

Akhaura bypass rail line to open tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Akhaura bypass rail line will be inaugurated tomorrow with a trip of 718 Jayantika Express from Sylhet to Dhaka, says a press release.

On the occasion, Sylhet-bound Upaban Express will be on a special trip from Dhaka despite weekly holiday on June 21.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the rail line at Azampur Rail Station while Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda will also attend the function.

Another incident on the highway, a truck driver was killed



Mir Atiar Rahman, a resident of village Prembagh at Abhoynagar, Jessore, speaks at a press conference in the city yesterday bringing allegations of harassment of his family members by local BNP leaders and activists. On his right is his wife Nilufar Yasmin.

Training for BOU officers inaugurated

The inaugural ceremony of the week-long training-cum-workshop on "Professional Writing, Editing and Quality Control" for the officers of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) was held at its Gazipur campus yesterday.

A total of 30 officers of different divisions of the university are participating in the workshop. BOU Vice-Chancellor M Ershadul Bari inaugurated the workshop as chief guest while Pro-Vice-Chancellor M A Razzque presided over the function.

Among others, Treasurer M Farid Ahmed, Registrar Md Monjur-E-Khoda Tarafder, Adviser Monjurul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

Seminar

World Health Organisation organises a seminar on 'Indoor air pollution, health and household energy'. Venue: IDB Bhaban conference room. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar on budget

A Centre for Women Journalists Bangladesh organises a seminar on budget. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Zia Parishad will hold a discussion on 'Bangladesh: Towards economic progress'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Dhaka Union of Journalists will hold a discussion to mark the Journalist Repression Day. Venue: National Press Club.

Exhibition

Liberation War Museum organises an exhibition on 'Refugee Life: 1971' to mark the World Refugee Day. Venue: Museum auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists will hold a roundtable on 'Freedom of press in Bangladesh: Past and present'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.