



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gives away a gold medal to a student at the 20th convocation ceremony of Islamic University of Technology at Gazipur yesterday.

## Muslim world has to be integrated into mainstream of science: PM

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the Muslim world has to be integrated into the mainstream of knowledge and science to survive and advance in this fast-changing and highly competitive world by overcoming backwardness in all fields, specially in military technology.

She called upon the Muslim world to give a fit reply to untrue and misleading campaigns in certain mass media against Islam and Muslims through democratic advancement, socio-economic progress and supremacy in knowledge and science.

The prime minister made the remarks while addressing the 20th convocation of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) at its auditorium in Gazipur.

"Sustainable technologies will have to be devised and applied for socio-economic prosperity and development. Backwardness in all fields, particularly military technology, will have to be overcome. This has become essential now to build up a rightful and balanced world order," she told the audience from the Islamic academia in technological field.

She said in the new millennium today revolutionary changes are taking place in various branches of science and technology and skilled human resources would have to be groomed up through qualitative improvement of education.

Khaleda noted that in recent times untrue and misleading campaigns are being dished out by some mass media against Islam and Muslims, and at some places, the struggles

for establishing freedom and self-determination are being branded as religious terrorism.

Conspiracies are also going on to belittle the religion of Islam as well as its adherents in various ways and on variegated pretexts, she said.

"We have to give a fit reply to these ill attempts through democratic advancement, socio-economic progress and supremacy in the fields of knowledge and science. For this, mutual understanding, solidarity and unity of the Islamic Ummah throughout the world is urgently needed," the PM told the Islamic University function.

Director General of OIC Dr Razley Bin Mohd Nordin read out the speech of OIC Secretary General and Chancellor of IUT Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu at the function. IUT Vice-chancellor Prof Dr M Fazli Ilahi delivered the welcome address at the function attended by ministers, diplomats, teachers, newly graduated and other students of IUT and guardians of the graduated students.

A total of 197 students of Bangladesh and other Muslim countries were conferred upon Bachelor's, Master's, postgraduate diploma, higher diploma and diploma degrees for the academic year 2005-06 in Technical Education, Computer Science and IT, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

The prime minister distributed certificates and gold medals to the recipients. Students of Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Maldives, Afghanistan, Palestine, Sudan, Jordan, Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gambia and Senegal were awarded the

degrees.

Md Mohiuddin Khan, B.Sc. in CIT, was adjudged for OIC Gold Medal 2006 for securing the highest GPA followed by Naseeb Ahmed Adnan, B.Sc. Engineering in Electrical and

Electronics, and Md Raju Hossain, B.Sc. Engineering in Mechanical department, were adjudged for IUT Gold Medals 2006.

All the three top-grade students are Bangladeshis.

### POOR GAS SUPPLY

## Production at Ctg urea fertiliser factory suspended again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A sudden disruption in gas supply once again forced suspension of production at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) here yesterday.

Production at CUFL factory on the other bank of the Karnaphuli came to an abrupt halt after the pressure of gas in the supply line came down drastically at around 9:15am, sources said.

The disruption in supply took place since Bakharabad Gas Systems Limited (BGSL) reportedly failed to receive required quantity of supply from the offshore gas field of Sangu.

It also forced BGSL to reduce supply to Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) and Raozan Power Plant though production was not hampered there significantly, said the sources.

According to sources, the gas supply to CUFL came down to 37 million cft as against the daily demand of 50 million cft forcing the factory to suspend the production yesterday.

It happened only eleven days after both CUFL and Kafco, the two main gas-based industries in Chittagong region, faced a debacle in production due to disruption of gas supply on September 6.

CUFL General Manager (operations) Shahidur Rahman said the factory could not continue production with a supply less than 80 per cent of the normal one.

After suspension of operation, it will now take the factory some 72 hours to resume production and suffer a daily production loss of 1700 metric tons of urea, he said.

However, sources in BGSL claimed that with a gas flow of 1.75 million cft per hour, they made a supply of 42 million cft to CUFL

yesterday.

Sources in Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) said GTCL yesterday provided BGSL with some 125 million cft of gas from Sangu as against the usual daily supply of 180 million cubic feet.

Besides, 90 million cft gas was brought to Chittagong from the national grid yesterday.

Non-availability of usual quantity of gas from Sangu had been causing the disruption in supply to

BGSL and elsewhere since Sangu tripped on September 6, they said.

During the disruption in supply Raozan Power Plant received 70 million cft of gas as against its daily demand of 100 million cft.

Sources said BGSL has already informed through a letter that supply to the 42-MW Raozan Power Plant would continue in reduced quantity (70 mcf) till October.

Chittagong region needs around 300 million cft gas daily for its gas-based industries.



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## Vitamin D halves pancreatic cancer risk: study

REUTERS, Washington

People who take vitamin D tablets are half as likely to get deadly pancreatic cancer as people who do not, US researchers reported recently.

Now they are checking to see if getting the vitamin from food or sunlight also cuts the risk.

The study suggests one easy way to reduce the risk of pancreatic cancer, the fourth-leading cause of death from cancer in the United States. This year, the American Cancer Society estimates that 32,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed, and only 5 percent of patients will survive more than five years.

"Because there is no effective screening for pancreatic cancer, identifying controllable risk factors for the disease is essential for developing strategies that can prevent cancer," Halcyon Skinner of Northwestern University in Chicago, who helped lead the study, said in a statement.

"Vitamin D has shown strong potential for preventing and treating prostate cancer, and areas with greater sunlight exposure have lower incidence and mortality for prostate, breast, and colon cancers, leading us to investigate a role for Vitamin D in pancreatic cancer risk."

Working with colleagues at Harvard University, Skinner's

team examined data from two large, long-term health surveys involving 46,771 men aged 40 to 75 and 75,427 women aged 38 to 65.

They found that people who took the US Recommended Daily Allowance of Vitamin D, 400 IU a day, had a 43 percent lower risk of pancreatic cancer.

Those who took doses of less than 150 IU per day had a 22 percent reduced risk of cancer.

Writing in the journal Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention, the researchers said taking more than 400 IU a day did not reduce the risk further.

Vitamin D is produced by the body when sunlight hits the skin, but most Americans do not get enough sunlight to produce the needed amount. Milk, both dairy and soy, is fortified with the vitamin. Some foods such as fish, eggs and liver also contain vitamin D.

"In concert with laboratory results suggesting anti-tumour effects of Vitamin D, our results point to a possible role for Vitamin D in the prevention and possible reduction in mortality of pancreatic cancer," Skinner said.

"Since no other environmental or dietary factor showed this risk relationship, more study of Vitamin D's role is warranted."

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