

Create atmosphere of quality education, confidence

President tells NSU convocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the private universities to create an atmosphere of confidence and quality education so that guardians, employers and the policymakers cannot undermine their degrees.

"If the issue of quality education is ignored, it will hamper the progress of the private universities as well as the interest of students," he said at the 10th convocation of North South University (NSU) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Hall in the capital.

The President lauded the private universities saying that those have played an effective role in stopping brain-drain and decreasing outflow of educational expenses, but these are also facing many constraints, including lack of own campus, library facilities, research works and congenial atmosphere.

Urging the University Grants Commission to monitor the overall academic atmosphere and quality of education he said, "I believe, the private universities will be able to find ways and means to solve their problems."

Turning to the students, the Chancellor of the university expressed the hope that they will demonstrate higher degree of personal honesty and integrity, social responsibility and commitment for the betterment of the country.

"Ask not what your country can do for you because it already has done a lot for you. It is now your turn to



PHOTO: PID

President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed gives away a medal to a meritorious student at the 10th convocation of North South University (NSU) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

acknowledge this debt and ask what you can do for your country," he asked the students.

NSU Vice-chancellor Professor Hafiz GA Siddiqi termed quality education at affordable price as the most serious challenge of the private universities and suggested operationalisation of an effective Accreditation Council to improve quality of education.

Trading in education within the World Trade Organisation system is

getting high visibility resulting in the increase of a number of profit-oriented universities in the country, he said, adding, "This is not a healthy situation." In such cases, greed for profit prevails over the concern for quality promoting too much of materialism and ignoring spirituality, Siddiqi said, adding, "The universities must devise methods that combine the two in a balanced way."

Reminding the students the vice-chancellor said, "An educated person

is not only a highly skilled person, rather an enlightened one who serves others, particularly those who are marginalised."

Speaking as the convocation speaker Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Chai Xi said education makes a man responsible for the building of a nation and a world.

The bilateral exchange in education and communication sectors between Bangladesh and China is an integral part of the comprehensive cooperative partnership featuring long-term friendship and mutual benefits, he said.

Chai Xi said establishment of the Confucius Institute at the NSU in February last will help Bangladesh students learn and understand China and further strengthen the friendly relations between the two nations.

A total of 518 students including 91 MBA degree recipients graduated from the university through the convocation. Out of a total of 412 undergraduate students, 24 received Summa Cum Laude (with greatest praise), 23 Magna Cum Laude (with great praise) and 52 Cum Laude (with praise).

The vice-chancellor conferred gold medals to three undergraduates Shams Mahmood Imam, Saima Khan and Abdullah Al Mazed and two graduates Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Rezwana Ahmed.

Chairman of NSU Foundation Board of Governors Ragib Ali also spoke at the convocation.

Ex-dist judge commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former joint secretary of law ministry allegedly committed suicide at the city's Adabar area yesterday.

Police recovered the body of Taslim Uddin Ahmed, 67, also a former district judge, from inside the bathroom of his residence at Pisciculture housing at Adabar area around 10:00am.

Anwara Begum, victim's wife, finding her husband locked in the bathroom for more than one hour, got suspicious and informed the neighbours.

They broke the lock and found Ali hanging from the shower pipe with a lungi, added the family sources.

Taslim, who had no children, was mentally imbalanced, said the family members.

The body of the deceased was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Bank officer killed in city road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bank officer was killed when a speeding bus hit his rickshaw at Jatrabari in the city yesterday morning, prompting a mob to set fire to the bus.

Murshed Ali, 52, principle officer of the Sonali Bank, Sadarghat Branch, was going to his office at around 8:45am when the accident took place near Jatrabari intersection.

Critically injured Ali was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died two hours later. The rickshawpuller was also severely injured, witnesses said.

Protesting the accident, a mob burnt down the Gabtoli-bound bus, but the driver and helper managed to escape.

In another road accident, an unidentified woman was crushed to death under the wheels of a heavy vehicle on Mirpur road near Suhrawardi Hospital in the early hours of yesterday.

The body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

Mobile court fines 5 vehicles Tk 25000 in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court here yesterday fined five vehicles Tk 25000 for reckless driving and lack of fitness.

Sources said the court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury awarded the forfeitures to four city service buses and a trailer seized in separate drives under vehicular ordinance.

The court also ordered concerned Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to cancel the fitness certificates of the vehicles.

The court found that different parts of the vehicles including brake light, back gear light, indicator light, wiper, steering wheel, mile meter and fuel meter were out of order.

Most of the tires were damaged while the door glass, window glass and windshield were found broken, sources said.

Nurul Huda made BNP vice-president

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday made former State Minister Md Nurul Huda as one of the vice presidents of national executive committee of party, says a press release.

Khaleda took the decision as per Article 6(B) 11 of the party's constitution.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina offers munajat beside the body of City AL President Mohammad Hanif at his residence at Nazirbazar in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

'4-party alliance cooks up multi-layered conspiracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It would be disastrous for the nation to hold the general election under the recently announced schedule, speakers at a commemorative meeting said yesterday.

"The four-party alliance has cooked up a multi-layered conspiracy like an onion" - we are peeling off one layer only to find another layer and in this situation it would be disastrous not only for the 14-party, but also for the nation, plunging the country into grave crisis" said Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh.

He also said the four-party alliance has cooked up a multi-layered conspiracy like an onion" - we are peeling off one layer only to find another layer and in this situation it would be disastrous not only for the 14-party, but also for the nation, plunging the country into grave crisis" said Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal organised the meeting to mark the 19th death anniversary of Mohammad Toaha, one of the pioneers of the communist movement in Bangladesh.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the activities of President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed, the speakers said the caretaker government is a 'shadow government' of the four-party alliance.

Free and fair election cannot be held with Iajuddin Ahmed as the chief adviser who has been acting as a puppet of Khaleda-Nizam, said JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu.

Dilip Barua, general secretary of Samyabadi Dal, observed that a

society free from oppression has to be established to remove the gap between the rich and the poor.

Abul Khayer of Samyabadi Dal, advocate Enamul Haque of the National Awami Party and Nurul Islam of Gonotroni Party also spoke.

The communist leaders observed that once they became united under the leadership of Comrade Mohammad Toaha, once behind Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam and now they are under the banner of 14-party to forge a movement against communalism and militancy.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP-led four-party alliance stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting countrywide 'anarchy' by AL-led 14-party alliance.

'Pursue constructive politics'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon all the political parties to pursue constructive politics instead of confrontational one to keep the democratic process on track and establish peace across the country.

They also urged all to work together to save democracy and ensure a free and fair election to materialise the dream of Dr Milon.

Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (Dab) held the discussion to mark the 16th death anniversary of Dr Milon at Shaheed Dr Milon Hall at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Dr MA Mazed, former adviser to the caretaker government, urged the country-

men to be dedicated like Milon to save democracy as well as country's independence and sovereignty.

Dab Secretary General Dr AZM Zahid Hussain said Milon's sacrifice had fuelled the anti-autocratic movement to a mass upsurge that restored parliamentary democracy in the country.

He also said when democracy is taking an institutional shape, some political parties, ignoring national interest, are conspiring to destroy it by creating anarchy.

He also said the professionals will not tolerate any attempt to destroy democracy.

He urged the caretaker government to create a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election and take necessary actions against those who are creating anarchy across the country.

BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr MA Hadi said the country is reeling under a severe crisis as the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party along with some lawyers and civil society members are trying to destroy democracy by foiling the next election.

Saying none but the political parties can solve the crisis, he urged the political leaders to solve the prevailing crisis politically.

DAB President Prof Dr AKM Azizul Haq, who presided over the discussion, said the 14-party, with the sole aim to cling to power, is hatching conspiracy to foil the election despite knowing that election is the prerequisite for democracy.

Dab central committee leaders also spoke at the discussion.

HOLLAND CENTRE ROBBERY

Police yet to arrest criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite evidences received from closed-circuit television (CCTV), police are yet to arrest the criminals involved on Sunday's massive robbery at Holland Centre shopping complex in the city three days into the incident yesterday.

The market was reopened after a two-day closure but anxiety still haunts the traders, said Emdadul Haq Babul, general secretary of the market committee, while talking to The Daily Star.

"We are ready to provide the police with all the information regarding the three criminals seen on the CCTV to help them conduct the investigation," he added.

Ramjan Ali, sub-inspector and investigation officer of the case, said the forged documents given to the security office by the criminals are hampering the investigation.

"The detained three suspects who are under interrogation are yet to provide any effective information," he added.

Meanwhile, members of Bangladesh Jewellery Society yesterday expressed their solidarity with the traders of the complex demanding immediate arrest of the criminals.

They also called for necessary measures to stop the recurrence of such incidents.

Body found in sack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of an unidentified youth was found in a sack at Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

The police recovered the body with towel and wire tied around the neck in Mridhabari area at around 1:00pm, sources said.

According to the autopsy report, the youth aged about 25 was strangled. The autopsy was carried out at Sir Salimullah Medical College.

Reform EC, cancel polls schedule

Demands citizens' body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Combined Citizens Movement (CCM) yesterday enforced its Election Commission (EC) siege programme demanding reconstitution of the EC and cancellation of the election schedule.

The CCM demands also included removal of all controversial persons from the EC, publishing of correct voter list and resignation of President Iajuddin Ahmed from the post of chief adviser.

Speakers at the programme said the election schedule was declared at midnight through a coup at Bangabhaban keeping the advisers in the dark.

Through their activities the

chief adviser and the EC have proved that their target is to help 4-party alliance capture power by holding a rigged polls, they said.

The speakers also vowed to foil their evil design.

Presided over by Steering Committee Member Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, the programme was also addressed by acting president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahrir Kabir, ASM Shamsul Arefin, General Secretary of Sammiilita Sangskritik Jote Golam Kuddus, Secretary General of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Md Salahuddin and former MP Dr Anis Akbar.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER 31 Dhaka College JCD men get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to 31 Dhaka College Unit Jatryatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists in connection with an attempted murder case filed against them by a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza passed the order upon a bond of Tk 2,000 with two guarantors when the accused, including its president and general secretary (GS) surrendered before the court and sought bail.

The case was filed with New Market Police Station against President Moniruzzaman Manik, GS Anwarul Kabir Milon and 29 others for attacking and injuring the BCL leaders and activists of Dhaka College unit on November 5.



PHOTO: STAR

Students who came out successful in this year's MBBS admission test form a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding immediate steps to start the admission process of government medical colleges.