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IK Gujral, former prime minister of India called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Mrs Gujral are also seen. — PID photo

Gujral meets Samad

Former Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral met Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday and discussed various issues, including the prospect of SAARC and peace in the region, reports UNB.

They discussed the ways to quickly resolve the problems among the nations to keep pace with advancement of modern world and face the challenges of the new millennium.

The progress of implementation of the outcome of last year's three-nation business summit in Dhaka also came up for discussion.

Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami and Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Deb Mukherjee were also present during the meeting.

Gujral meets Ershad

Former Prime Minister of India Indar Kumar Gujral yesterday made a courtesy call on former President and Jatiya Party chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad at Baridhara office, reports BSS.

Gujral is now in the city to participate in the four-day conference of the Asian Parliamentarians.

The two leaders discussed matters of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interests during the hour-long meeting.

Party secretary general Nazim Rahman Manju was present on the occasion.

DU orientation held

Orientation session of freshmen of Biological Science and Pharmacy Faculty of Dhaka University, organised by the Office of the Student Counsellor and Guidance, was held yesterday at the TSC auditorium, reports BSS.

Pro Vice-chancellor Prof. Muhammad Shahadat Ali addressed the function as the chief guest.

Freshers of Bio-chemistry, Psychology, Zoology, Soil Science, Botany, Micro-biology, Pharmacy and Aquaculture and Fisheries departments were introduced to different institutions and activities of the university.

Director in charge of the Student Counsellor and Guidance Office Prof. Hamida Akhter Begum chaired the function, which was also addressed by Dean of the Faculty Prof. Muhammad Sirajul Islam Khan, Chairman of Zoology Department Prof. Gulru Begum Sufi, Student Adviser of the same department Prof. Gulshan Ara Latifa, Chairman of Bio-chemistry Department Prof. Khondoker Abdul Rahim and Chairman of Botany Department Prof. Mozammel Haque.

Voice of Freedom published

Bangabandhu Parishad has published a book titled 'Voice of Freedom,' which includes English version of selected speeches, statements and announcements of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

The 184 page book contains all the major statements and announcements of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib in the Constituent Assembly as well as in the National Assembly of then Pakistan.

His other speeches and announcements have been included in the publication in five separate chapters — six-point to declaration of independence, efforts to build Sonar Bangla, foreign policy of Awami League government, defence policy and second revolution.

Zahid Hossain has compiled and edited the book while Quayyum Chowdhury sketched the cover design.

Bangladesh envoy to Russia presents credentials

Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Bangladesh's newly appointed ambassador to Russia, has presented his credentials to President Boris Yeltsin at a colourful ceremony at the Kremlin, according to a message received here yesterday, reports BSS.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and senior officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry were present at the function when Kaiser presented his credentials on Tuesday.

While accepting the letter of credence, Yeltsin recalled the historic background of Bangladesh-Russian relations and described it as friendly. He expressed the hope that the relations would be further strengthened during the tenure of the new ambassador.

10 new schools in city soon: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government was planning to re-structure the total education sector for its rapid development and also to bring changes in the examination system, reports UNB.

In this regard, she mentioned that a modern and effective education policy was going to be adopted that would be implemented after taking opinions from all sections of society.

She said the government had taken up steps for development of education sector and increasing the number of educational institutions. In this regard, she said ten more schools would be set up in the capital soon.

She unveiled the government plans talking to a delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Teachers Associations at her office.

A 56-member delegation of the federation, led by president Sheikh Amanullah and secretary general Kazi Farook Ahmed, met the Prime Minister to apprise her some of their problems.

She called upon the teachers

to render their best possible service to elevate the standard of education and help flourish talent of the students.

"We will have to improve the standard of education and be more careful about the students so they can be groomed in the best possible way," said Hasina.

She said with the increase of population, pressures were mounting on the educational institutions as well as the number of failed students was increasing day by day.

"If a student fails an examination, it creates tension among the guardians and frustration among the students," she said calling upon the teachers to take steps to cut down the rate of failure.

Hasina also said that the government would reward hardwork of the teachers and also take account of those who will neglect their duties.

The government has already announced a new pay scale and included the non-government teachers into the new pay structure, she said, adding that the government will also take steps to solve the problems of the teachers.

DU course credits to be accepted by US varsities

By DU Correspondent

The students of Dhaka University can now get admission in different US universities by transferring credits. Admission to post-graduate courses will now also be easier.

This was disclosed by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury in a press briefing yesterday at the administrative building after returning from a 12-day university exploring tour in the USA.

The tour, funded by the UNFPA, was conducted to justify the course curriculum of the newly formed Department of Population Sciences with different US universities, student and faculty exchanges and to exchange long term research and other collaborative programmes.

Addressing the programme, the VC also said that different US universities praised the course curriculum and other activities of DU and assured co-operation by providing funds for development programmes.

"We will approach different organisations like World Bank for funds when the written agreements of US universities

reach us," project coordinator of Population Sciences and tour member Prof. A K M Nur-un-Nabi said.

They also said the Dhaka University Alumni Association in New York (DUAANY) expressed their desire to help the university by forming a foundation. "The DUAANY assured scholarships to meritorious students and will also help the students for admission in USA," they said.

"In a programme, the DUAANY has already announced four scholarships and has also agreed to provide computers in all departments of the university shortly," VC said.

The VC was also present at the yearly conference of the Bangladesh Pharmacists Association (BPA) in USA. The BPA comprising about 300 renowned Bangladeshi pharmacists in US also promised to help the DU," VC said.

Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury and Prof. Nabi visited a number of private and state universities including John Hopkins university, Harvard, Boston and University of North Carolina.

DU student beaten up for absence in BCL procession

By DU Correspondent

A resident student of Sahidullah Haq Hall of Dhaka University was beaten up allegedly by the activists of ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on Tuesday night after he refused to join its procession.

The student was identified as Humayun Kabir Hira, a masters student of Applied Chemistry and resident of room no. 23.

Sources quoting the victim said, "the BCL cadre beat him up and set fire on his books and belongings at around 11:30 pm."

When contacted with the hall authorities said, "No complaint so far has been filed in this connection."

Parliamentary team chiefs call on PM

Leaders of the delegations attending the first-ever Asian Parliamentarians' Conference for Peace and Cooperation (APCPC) met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Sonargaon Hotel last night and exchanged views on different aspects, reports BSS.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Secretary of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat Gazi Manzoor-e-Mowla were present on the occasion.

Later, the prime minister hosted a dinner in honour of the participating leaders at the hotel.

Ministers, members of parliament and high civil and military officials attended the dinner.

Time extended

The 2nd solo photography exhibition of Shakkor Majid titled 'Traveller's Clicks' going on at the conference room of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in the city has been extended till September 9.

The exhibition will remain open daily from 09-12 hrs and from 17-20 hrs (except Saturday), says a press release.



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