

Upgrade edn system

President tells IIUC convocation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

President AQM Badruddu Chowdhury yesterday underscored the reorganisation and upgrade of the country's education system to cope with the present world and infuse the students with humanity, patriotism and morality.

The President was speaking at the 1st convocation of the International Islamic University, Chittagong (IIUC) on its campus at Kumira of Sitakunda thana. Former chief advisor of the last caretaker government Justice Latifur Rahman also spoke at the Convocation Speaker.

Prof. Chowdhury, also the Chancellor of the IIUC, called upon the private universities to help ensure 'education for all' in the country so that the average income group people are not deprived of quality higher education.

Urging the teachers to serve as the conscience of the nation, the president said that they had a definite and purposeful role to lead the nation towards an enlightened and secured society.

"The teachers can play a vital role in bringing back discipline in the educational institutions to ensure a congenial academic atmosphere by putting an end to violence and mistrust in the society."

Speaking on the occasion, Convocation Speaker Justice Latifur Rahman suggested strengthening all the institutions of the country such as parliament, court, media, and all political parties to lead the country towards prosperity.

He called upon all concerned to try sincerely to restore congenial atmosphere in all educational institutions in the country.

The convocation was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor of IIUC Prof. Mohammad Ali and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Abu Bakar Rafique.

Earlier, President Badruddu Chowdhury conferred degrees and diplomas on 195 students of the university and gave away gold medals to Abdul Mazid, Shams Uzzaman and Sheikh Shamim Hassan for their outstanding results.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The results of the admission test under 'Gha' unit (Social Science Faculty) of Chittagong University (CU) for BSS (honours) courses under the academic session of 2001-2002 was published yesterday.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

The viva-voce of the successful students will be held April 7 to 9.

Anniversary of Dhirendranath's death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 31st death anniversary of Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta will be observed today.

Dhirendranath Dutta was killed on this day in 1971 by the Pakistani occupation forces.

Dhirendranath, a veteran of the Anti-British movement and the language movement of 1952 was abducted by the Pakistani forces on March 29 in 1971 from his residence in Comilla along with his youngest son Dilip Dutta. Later he was killed brutally by the Pakistani army at Mainamati Cantonment.

He was born in 1886 in an aristocratic family at Ramrail in Brahmanbaria. He started his political career with Congress party and formed an organisation 'Muktisangha' in 1921 with a view to eliminating caste system in the Hindu community.

He was elected member of the then East Bengal Provincial Assembly from Tripura in 1937. He was also elected deputy leader of the Congress party in 1940. He became minister of Jukta Front government after election in 1954.

Int'l Poet of Merit Award for Bangladeshi girl

Farhana Tabassum (Bushra), a student of Maple Leaf International School, has won the International Poet of Merit Award and the Editor's Choice Award from the International Library of Poetry (poetry.com) for her poem "Life Without You," says a press release.

Her poem, dedicated to her mother late Mahmuda Chowdhury, has also been published in two books and recorded in CD as part of a poetry collection.

The awards will be given away at the International Poets' Spring Convention and Symposium in Florida.

Bushra is the daughter of A K M Nurunnabi Chowdhury and the granddaughter of late Prof Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

Obituary

Principal Tofael Ahmed, a folklore exponent and founder-member of the National Folklore Foundation, died at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 83.

A fellow of Bangla Academy, Principal Tofael collected about 1100 samples of folk crafts from remote areas of the country and set up a mini-museum at his residence.

He was the former principal of Karonia Sadat College and founder principal of Tejgon College.



Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) staged a token hunger strike at the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding reinstatement of nine journalists of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

Policy dialogue on S Asian cooperation begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day policy dialogue on South Asian cooperation begins in the city tomorrow to bring the policy planners of the region more closer and influence their policies for a shared future of South Asian nations.

The South Asian Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), an institutional collaboration of leading think tanks and academic institutions of South Asia, is organising the dialogue in cooperation with the local think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the dialogue at the BRAC Centre. Leading scholars, professionals and political and business leaders from the countries of this region will focus on the SACEPS' task force reports on South Asian cooperation.

"The main objective of the dialogue is to promote regional cooperation among the SAARC countries through research and policy advocacy," executive director of SACEPS and chairman of CPD, Prof. Rehman Sobhan said while he was addressing a press briefing in the city yesterday.

Minister for Planning and National Development of the Maldives Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Member of the Economic Advisory Committee of Pakistan President, Dr Akmal Hussain, Executive Director of Sri Lanka Institute for Policy Studies (IIPS), Dr Saman Kelegama, Advisor to the SACEPS Executive Director Dr M Rahmatullah and Executive Director of CPD Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya were present at the briefing session.

SACEPS was formed in February, 1989 and launched on January 14, last year in Dhaka with the aim of setting up a facility for institutionalising the civil society initiatives.

The organisers said six task forces prepared the draft reports on vital issues of cooperation and development in South Asia and these would be placed at the dialogue. The issues include SAFTA, WTO, investment cooperation, cooperation in energy sector, macro-economic policies and also preparation of a 'citizen's social charter' for the region.

"When all the task force reports are finalised, we will have major discussions in all the South Asian countries involving cross section of people. And in the course of discussions we will try to influence policies of the South Asia," Prof. Rehman Sobhan said.

The task force reports will be handed over to the heads of the governments of the South Asian countries. The SACEPS is also exploring the possibility of establishing a South Asian Development Forum in line with the World Development Forum at Davos, he added.

DUJ stages hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) staged a token hunger strike at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to press home their demand for reinstatement of nine journalists of BSS.

The DUJ observed the hunger strike also to protest the repression on newspapers and the attacks on the journalists across the country.

It also announced an action programme to realise their demand. The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and DUJ will lay a siege to the office of BSS Managing Director on April 3 as part of the programme.

Political leaders and representatives of different professional organisations expressed solidarity with the DUJ hunger strike.

Awami League leaders Tofail Ahmed, Obaidul Kader, Haji Selim, Dr. Hamida Banu Shova, and Mayor Mohammad Hanif, CPB president Monjurul Ahsan Khan, BMA general secretary Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Prof. Golam Rahman of Dhaka University joined the programme and addressed the journalists.

They called upon the newsmen to build a united movement against the government's move to politicise the newspaper industry.

Among others, BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, vice-president Amirul Momenin, general secretary Akhter Ahmad Khan and treasurer Monjurul Ahsan Khan, CPB president Kazi Rafiq, and general secretary Molla Jalal, general secretary of National Press Club Swapnil Kumar Saha, Atif Mahmud, Shahjahan Mia, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Harun Habib, Saiful Islam Talukder and Jaharal Chandra Das took part in the hunger strike.

DHAKA TODAY

Award distribution

An award distribution ceremony will be held with President AQM Badruddu Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time: 4.45pm.

Workshop

The closing session of the regional workshop on 'Sexual Abuse of Children Beyond Commercial Dimension' will be held. Venue: YWCA Bhaban, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 11.00am.

BFJA award

Bangladesh Film Journalists' Association gives away the Film, Television, Music, Dance and Stage Performance Award 2001. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 4.30pm.

Conference

International Studies Association, Bangladesh organises a national conference on 'Reinventing SAARC and South Asian Politics' with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Riaz Rahman as chief guest. Venue: International Relations Conference Centre, Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.

Workshop

A two-day workshop for the treatment of childless couples organised jointly by Bangladesh Fertility Society and Infertility Treatment and Research Centre begins with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium.

Seminar

JICA Alumni Association of Bangladesh organises a seminar titled '30 years of Japanese Cooperation for Economic Development of Bangladesh'. Venue: Hotel Sheraton.

Discussion

In observance of Independence and National Day, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Matsyaji Dal organises a discussion with Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Photo Journalists' Association.

auditorium, Purana Pallan. Time: 3.00pm.

Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony for the winners of children art competition organised by NIDO of Nestle Bangladesh Limited will be held. Venue: BET's Centre, House-55, Road-4/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.30pm.

Meeting

A meeting of Management Net will be held. Venue: IBA premises, University of Dhaka. Time: 5.00pm.

Mahfil

The weekly Asheque-e-Rasul (sm) Mahfil of Dewanbag Sharif will be held. Venue: Babu Rahmat, 147 Arambag. Time: 10.00am.

Art competition

Oikatan Sangskriti Charcha Kendra organises a children art competition to mark the Independence and National Day. Venue: St. Augustin Tutorial, 12/1 Nandlal Dutta Lane, Luxmi Bazar. Time: 10.00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Discussion

Rover Scout Group of Titumir Government College organises a discussion titled 'Safe Blood Transmission'. Venue: College premises. Time: 12.00 noon.

Annual Sports

The Annual Sports of Shahjahanpur Mirza Abbas Women College will be held with Works and Housing Minister Mirza Abbas as chief guest. Venue: College ground. Time: 10.00am.

Memorial discussion

Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited organises a memorial discussion and doa mahfil marking the death of its chairman Mohammad Yunus. Venue: Bank premises, 196 Malibheel C/A. Time: 4.00pm.

WASA officials asked to check 'system loss'

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the Dhaka WASA officials to take pragmatic measures to check 'system loss' for ensuring smooth supply of pure water to the city dwellers.

"System loss" should not exist any longer; persons responsible for this would be punished," he warned while addressing a seminar on "city dwellers' hope and aspiration from WASA and responsibility of the authorities."

Organised by the Dhaka WASA Diploma Engineers Association, the seminar was addressed by State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Haq Zia, Deputy Minister of the same ministry Advocate Ruhul Quddus Dulu, Dhaka WASA Chairman M A Hakim, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA Dr Khondker Azharul Haq and Dr M Sajjad Hossain of Dhaka University.

Executive Editor of the Janakantha Borhan Ahmed presented the key-note paper while president of the Institute of Diploma Engineers Association Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan presided.

Erratum

There was an error in the report headlined 'Truck with Tk 15 lakh fabrics looted' in the March 28 edition of The Daily Star, which should be Tuesday night (March 19) instead of Friday night.

The LGRD minister criticised the officials for failing to send the bills to the consumers on time.

"The billing system should be improved so that the consumers can pay their bills easily and on time," he said.

The sewerage system should also be developed and leaks in water lines must be repaired to improve pure water supply, Mannan Bhuiyan said.

Mannan Bhuiyan, who is also secretary general of Bangladesh Nationalists Party (BNP), said, "It is unfortunate that the prices of mineral water is higher than that of milk and petrol."

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 31st death anniversary of Shaheed journalist Khondakar Abu Taleb. Abu Taleb was brutally killed by Razakar and Al-Badr, collaborators of the Pakistani army, at his Mirpur residence on this day in 1971.

He worked in various newspapers including the daily Ittefaq.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, a discussion and a doa session will be held at 3.30 pm today at Shaheed Abu Taleb High School at Mirpur-10.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Barisal divisions today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met officials said.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and the lowest 19.2 degree at Dhaka.