

Ensure quality edn

President tells Sixth IUB convocation

BSS, Dhaka
President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon the private universities to ensure quality education and widen the range of their faculties covering moral education.
"Private universities which limit their academic scopes to only market-driven forces cannot serve our ultimate purpose," he said, adding that the universities should widen the range of its faculties covering not only their market needs but also the social needs.
President Chowdhury was presiding over the sixth convocation of the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC) in the city.

He urged the academicians to identify the challenges of university education and resolve the issue of social and moral dimensions of the higher education.
"Access to education is a basic human rights and we must bear the responsibility of catering to the educational needs of the largest section of population," he said.

"This renewed 'democracy' and 'quality' visions must be embraced and sustained by renewed commitment by the government, the universities, public or private and the society."

The President, who is also the Chancellor of the IUB, suggested that the base of development and quality of life of the people could be enhanced only by providing quality education at all levels and for all segments of society.

"We all have an obligation to contribute to shape our future, bright and assured, for the younger generation," he added.

President Chowdhury said that all advancement was targeted ultimately towards improving the quality of life.

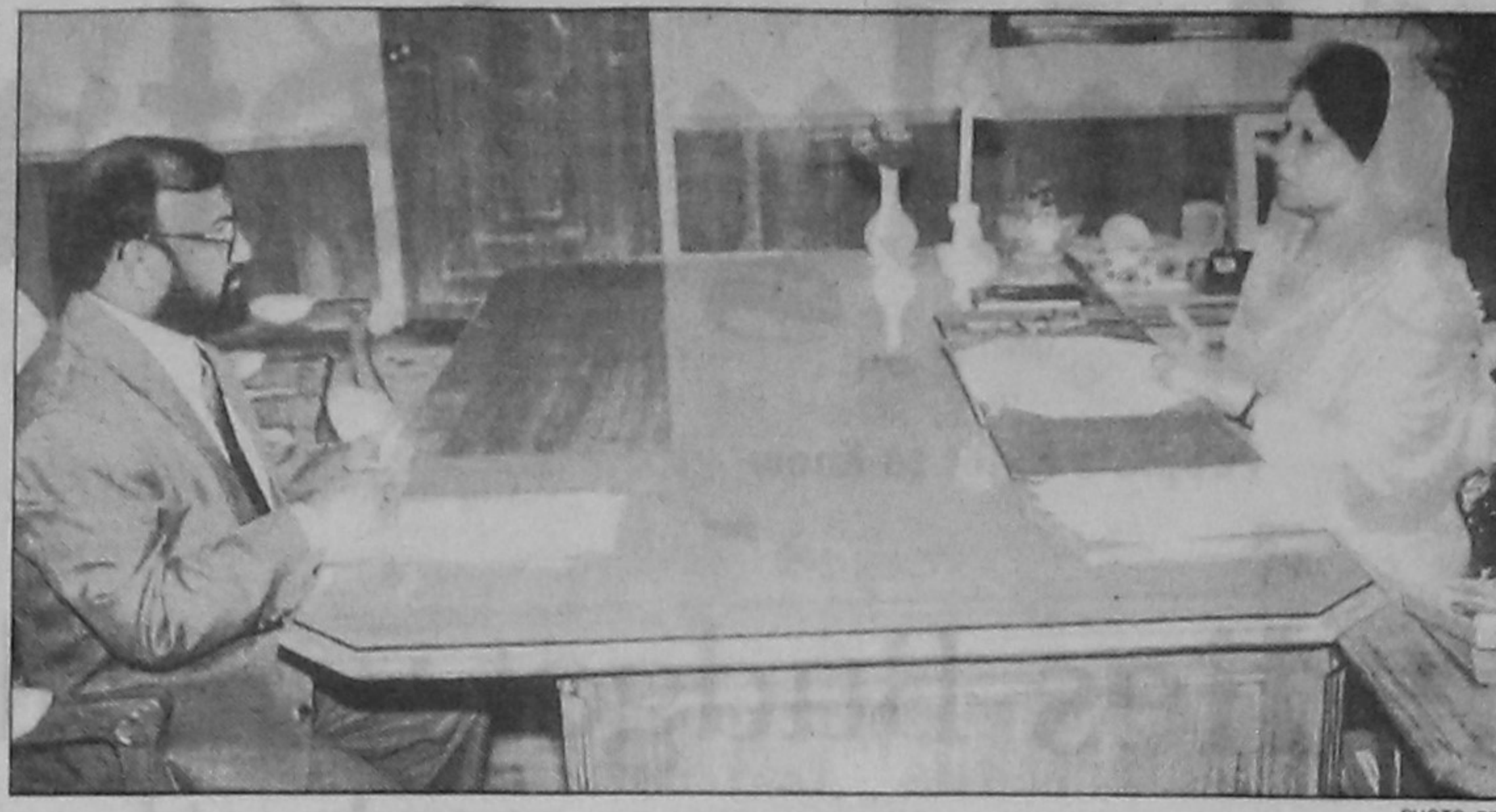
"Our university must produce those qualified people who can create in our environment the speed to growth, spearhead the force of advancement, face the competitive and future world and pursue principle of social welfare in all development," he said.

The President advised the graduating students to uphold truth over falsehood, justice over injustice, and honesty over dishonesty and abhor corruption, disdain immorality and hate violence.

A total of 160 students including 133 undergraduates and 27 graduates were conferred degrees during the convocation. So far, 612 students graduated from the University since it was established in 1993.

Education minister Dr M Osman Farruk attended the function as special guest. IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. Bazul Mobin Chowdhury, treasurer A Hafiz Choudhury, Syed Almas Kabir and Ruhul Amin also addressed the function.

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury led the convocation procession.



Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

'All vehicles to be converted into CNG within 2 years'

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said all the petrol- or diesel-run vehicles in the country would be converted into Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) within next two years to check air pollution as well as maximise the use of natural gas.

"We need to widen the area of natural gas use as well as reduce loss on the diesel and petrol," he said at a seminar on "Regional cooperation in the fields of energy and mineral resources," organised by Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI).

Presided over by BCI acting president AK Azad, the seminar was also addressed by UNOCAL president and managing director Scott Barber, Chief of Ganashasthya Kendra Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury and Salek Sufi of Petro-bangla.

Former chairman of Petro-bangla Mosharraf Hossain presented the key-note paper on the subject.

The state minister said the government is actively considering to promulgate necessary law to forcibly conversion of the vehicles

into CNG to make the country free from air pollution.

He said adequate gas filling stations will also be set up by this time.

Regarding the export of gas, he said there was no pressure from any foreign company or country for export of gas, but the foreign companies and other development partners advised us for the export to make the sector cost-effective as the drilling and exploration required huge amount of money.

The government will take its decision on the issue after receiving the reports of two separate expert committees.

But, he said, we have signed 10 production-sharing agreements, including four during the previous BNP government, with foreign companies. "We invited them to drill and explore gas as it needed huge money, and they are advising us to export gas to guarantee their investment return. If we can pay their cost, they will go back," he said.

He made it alert that the gas drill and exploration is stopped at this moment, and if the country does not go for immediate drill and exploration, there would an

cut shortage of gas for domestic and commercial use in two years time.

He said maximum gas is being used for production of electricity.

"We may think of using our coal resources for the electricity generation."

The state minister also pointed out the misuse of gas by domestic, commercial and industrial consumers. Meter-system will be introduced for 8 lakh consumers in Dhaka by next year.

The state minister said an independent energy regulatory commission would be formed soon to look into the interest of the energy and gas sector.

E-Generation scholarship

The Fourth R Inc., a USA-based international franchise leader in the field of computer education, has announced e-Generation scholarship under the youth IT programme through its Bangladesh master licensee GP Tech Solutions (BD) Ltd. which is better known as The Fourth R of Bangladesh, says a press release.

The Fourth R Inc. started its operational activities in Bangladesh in September last year. But the admission procedure has been initiated a few days ago both in its youth (3 to 18 years) and adult (18 years) programmes.

The scholarship offer is valid only for the first ten meritorious students of each classes from every school irrespective of Bengali and English medium under the youth IT programme, company sources said.

"Students will have to undergo a merit test to qualify for scholarship, the range of which is 5 per cent to 100 per cent on total tuition fees," M. Tazin Alam, Managing Director of the Fourth R of Bangladesh, said. This offer is valid till the June 13.

For further information, interested students may contact Hoque Chamber (4th floor), 89/2, West Panthapath, Dhanmondi. (Tel: 9136867-70 and Email: info@fourthrbd.com)

Steps underway to introduce IPPS

Moudud tells seminar

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed underscored the need for introducing an Independent Public Prosecution System (IPPS) to ensure fair and impartial trial.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has already approved in principle, the IPPS to rid the people and the judiciary of frustration, he told a seminar on Managing the Political-Civil Service Interface in the city yesterday.

Barrister Moudud said, "the lack of co-ordination between police and public prosecutors and their biased role in investigating cases are affecting the whole prosecution process, contributing to the lack of people's confidence in the judiciary."

Four killed in Barisal incidents

BSS, Barisal

At least four persons including a woman and a minor girl were killed in separate incidents in the district on Thursday and Friday.

Police said, one Majid Fakir, 42, was killed and two others were injured when lightning struck them on late Friday at Hapania village under Gouranadi upazila. The injured were admitted to the local Thana Health Complex in critical conditions.

They were working in the field when the lightning struck them. Nizam Uddin, 25, a physically handicapped person, died on the spot on Friday when he jumped from the 3rd floor of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

He was undergoing treatment in the hospital, police and hospital sources said. Meanwhile, one Sajeda Khatun, 18, committed suicide by taking poison on Friday at Ashtakathi village under Sadar upazila.

Reetu, seven-year old girl, was electrocuted on Thursday night at Torky Bandar of Gouranadi upazila. She came in touch with a live wire and died on the spot.

Necessary work is underway to constitute the IPPS, the law minister said, adding that experts from Canada and the United Kingdom have already shown their interest in providing logistic support and assistance in this regard.

Jointly organised by the Institution of Human Rights of Bangladesh and the Police Staff College (PSC), the seminar was held at PSC auditorium.

Chaired by Commandant of the college Mohammad Nurul Alam, the seminar was addressed by Inspector General of Police (IPG) Modabir Hossain Chowdhury. High senior police officials, among others, were also present.

Barrister Moudud said police is the most important institution for a civil government as the police is totally dependent on the government for maintaining law and order.

Help preserve environment: RCC mayor

BSS, Rajshahi

Mayor of Rajshahi City Mijanur Rahman Minu, MP has urged the people to help preserve environment in the country for the greater interest of public health and national progress.

Addressing the concluding day of three-day environment function on Friday on the occasion of World Environment Day at Bhuban Mohan Park here Mayor Minu said polluted environment acts like cancer and eats up the vitality of a nation.

Rajshahi City Corporation organised the 3-day fair under the auspices of Rajshahi Healthy City Programme in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Mayor stressed the need for keeping the city free from environmental degradation and called upon the peoples to plant more trees to save the country from the degradation.

Maldives minister health issues with President

BSS, Dhaka

The Maldives Minister for Health and Chairman of the Health Ministers Forum of South East Asia Region (SEAR) countries, Ahmed Abdullah, called on President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The Maldives Health Minister discussed with the President about regional health issues and bilateral cooperation among the member nations of SEAR.

The members of the SEAR are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, DPR Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Maldives.

President Chowdhury welcomed Abdullah and his delegation in Bangladesh. He pointed out that a coordinated effort should be initiated immediately to combat common enemy of the SEAR countries like HIV/AIDS.

He stressed on global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The President said the SEAR should initiate simple but effective motivational and mass awareness programme about the diseases and take preventive steps in this regard.

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Recommendation of the Board for
payment of Dividend for the year 2001.

This is to notify for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Bank in its 154th meeting held on 8th June 2002 between 12:00 Noon to 15:00 hours recommended for payment of Dividend to the Shareholders as under for the year 2001, **subject to the approval of Bangladesh Bank.** They have also proposed for Right Shares @2:1 subject to approval of Securities & Exchange Commission. The Right Shares will be issued at par.

(a) **Cash Dividend @ 30% on the holding of shares.**
(b) **Stock Dividend @ 10% of shares held by each shareholders.**
(c) **Right Share @ 2:1 (one Right Share for each two shares held).**

The Board also decided to hold the 7th Annual General Meeting of the Company on 5th August 2002 at 10:00 A.M. in the Ball Room of Hotel Sonargaon, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.

This information is furnished as per SEC Directive No. SEC/SRMID/2000-985/2248/PRA-02/1 dated December 19, 2000

A. K. QURESHI
Senior Executive Vice President
& Company Secretary

June 08, 2002.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A Multinational Joint Venture Lease
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qualified candidates for the following positions:

- Chief Accountant (AGM/DGM):**
 - FCA with at least 10 years working experience. Preference will be given to candidates who worked in a similar position for 3/4 years in Banks/Financial Institutions.
 - Age not exceeding 40 years.
- Manager Internal Control/Internal Audit:**
 - Masters/MBA with at least 10 years working experience. Preference will be given to candidates who worked in a similar position for at least 3/4 years in Banks/Financial Institutions.
 - Age not exceeding 40 years.
- Assistant Manager Credit & Marketing (2 Posts):**
 - MBA/M.Com- major in Finance/Marketing/Banking or MBM having at least 4/5 years working experience. Preference will be given to candidates who worked in credit division in Banks/Financial Institutions.
 - Age not exceeding 35 years.

All candidates must be computer literate & fluent in spoken and written English.
Attractive package commensurate to qualifications for deserving candidates.

Candidates meeting above requirements should send their CV with a recent passport size photograph latest by **24th June 2002 to: The Advertiser, Box No. A-2482, C/O The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka 1215** mentioning the position being applied for at top of the envelope.

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NOTICE OF THE THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Mercantile Bank Limited will be held on Saturday, the 29th June 2002 at 11.30 am at Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka to transact the following business :

Agenda

- To confirm the minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting held on 19th August 2001.
- To adopt the Audited Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account of the Company for the period ended on 31st December 2001, alongwith the Auditors and the Directors Report.
- To declare Dividend for the year ended on 31 December 2001.
- To appoint Auditors of the Company for the term until the next Annual General Meeting and fixation of their remuneration.
- To elect Directors in place of those who will retire in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company.
- To transact any other business with permission of the Chair.

By order of the Board of Directors

(A K M Shahidul Haque)
Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka, the 08th June 2002

Notes :

- Any Member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting may appoint any person as his/her Proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. Proxy form duly signed must be submitted at the Registered Office of the Company at least 72 hours before the Meeting.
- A letter of consent to discharge the duties of a Director shall have to be signed by each intending Director and to be filed for onward submission to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms as per section 93 of the Companies Act-1994.