

Asian Highway, BIMSTEC Thai envoy lauds Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Thai Ambassador Phitak Phrombubpha called on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

The Ambassador appreciated the former Prime Minister for the socio-economic development and progress made in different fields including Asian Highway and BIMSTEC during her regime.

He hoped that the existing Thai-Bangladesh friendly relations would be strengthened further in future.

The Opposition Leader also expressed her optimism that the brotherly relations prevailed during AL regime would continue further and strengthened in the days ahead.

She stressed the need for widening cooperation among the Asian countries.

Kazi Zafarullah, MP, and Political Secretary to the Awami League chief Saber Hossain Chowdhury were present, said an AL press release yesterday.

Fair on drug abuses begins today

BSS, Dhaka

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) will organise a two-day fair on drug abuses in society in the city today in observance of the International Day on Drug Abuses and Drug Trafficking.

The fair, first of its kind in the country, aims at making the people aware about the abuses of drugs and devising ways to help younger generations get rid of it.

Different non-government organisations (NGOs) working for containing drug abuses in the country will set up 10 stalls at the fair at Muktijuddha Museum at Segunbagicha here to display their posters, festoons, banners and documentaries on the subject.

IT can help reduce poverty by 50 pc: Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a function yesterday underscored the need for an in-depth applied research to set future strategy for poverty alleviation.

The applied research and the people's participation could bring positive changes in the society, they said at the inaugural session of a Programme for Research on Poverty Alleviation at the auditorium of Grameen Bank at Mirpur in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of Grameen Bank, said the country could reduce poverty by 50 per cent by achieving excellence in Information Technology.

"We need not wait till 2015 to reduce poverty by 50 per cent, we could almost eliminate it if we could acquire excellence in IT."

Bangladesh's micro-credit programme, which has created huge enthusiasm in Europe and America, is yet to generate enthusiasm in the country, he said.

Many foreign universities and educational institutions are carrying out research on the Bangladesh's success in micro-credit, but local educational institutions have so far showed little interest in the system.

Moreover, the local media have wrongly described Grameen Bank as 'Kubuliyat' without verifying the fact, Prof Yunus added.

This was due to lack of research and thrust for authenticity, he said, adding that information is available everywhere, but we got little interest in micro-credit.

Prof Yunus also stressed the need for utilising the huge youth force of the country as the youths have got the power of creativity.

Noted economist Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmood, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Kamal Uddin Siddique, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman and Deputy Managing Director of Grameen Bank M. Khalid Shams also spoke on the occasion.

Lauding the role of micro-credit for the rural poor, Prof. Wahiduddin said the rate of recovery of micro-credit is 99 per cent.

Under the Programme for Research on Poverty Alleviation funded by the Netherlands government and initiated by Grameen Bank, a total of 183 research papers were published in two years.

Another pvt university launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State University of Bangladesh, another private university, was formally launched in the city yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference, Prof. Yajuddin Ahmed, vice-chancellor of the university said it will not only uphold the principle of providing the best education to its students but also instill in them the spirit of fair competition and objective judgement.

"Our illustrious faculty will groom them up in such a way as will enable them to look at the outside world through the windows of Bangladesh" he added.

The vice chancellor said the new university obtained accreditation from the University Grants Commission in May last and will start classes in two faculties -- Business Management and Information Technology and Communication. A total of one hundred students will be admitted in graduation and post graduation classes by mid-July.

Dr A M Shamim, president of the university, said it will recruit teachers only from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

"Our students will be able to get credit transfer facilities but most important of all is that the university will have one of the most modern academic environment", said Dr. Shamim who is also the managing director of the Lab Aid Group.

Dr Mabbubur Rahman, executive vice president of the university, said initially the classes will be held at its Satmasjid Road Faculty building which will be the city campus. Apart from this, another campus will be set up at Ashulia which is now under construction.

BMA Long Course Degree results announced

BSS, Chittagong

The results of BA and BSc examinations of the cadets of 46th BMA Long Course held under National University were announced on Saturday.

Degree Certificate Award Ceremony of 46th BMA Long Course was also held at the academy auditorium on the day.

A total of 78 candidates appeared in the BA and BSc examinations. Among them, 47 were from Science group and 31 from Arts group.

In the Science group, 22 cadets got first division, 22 got second division and one got third division. The pass percentage is 97.87.

In the Arts group, 28 cadets got first division, 28 got second division and one got third division. The pass percentage is 100.

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Bangladeshi student missing in US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shubho Jahan, a Bangladeshi student studying in Houston University, Texas, has been missing since October last.

In a press conference in the city yesterday, Almas Parveen, mother of Shubho, claimed that her son is not in the custody of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) as the university authority e-mailed her on June 17, 2002.

When Almas Parveen contacted the INS from Dhaka, it denied that Shubho was arrested.

Shubho went to America in 1995 to study electrical engineering. Dr. Lee, the Vice-Chancellor of Houston University, used to look after Shubho and contact his mother in Dhaka when needed.

On June 3, Dr. Lee sent an e-mail saying that Shubho was arrested by FBI in an allegation of threat to the US president through internet.

Shubho's mother told the journalists that she believes Shubho has become a victim of a conspiracy as he told her earlier that a design of space ship done by him had been stolen.

Bangladesh foreign ministry has contacted the mission in Washington, but there is no clue regarding Shubho's whereabouts.

The mother of the missing student urged the Bangladesh government as well as the American government to help find her son.

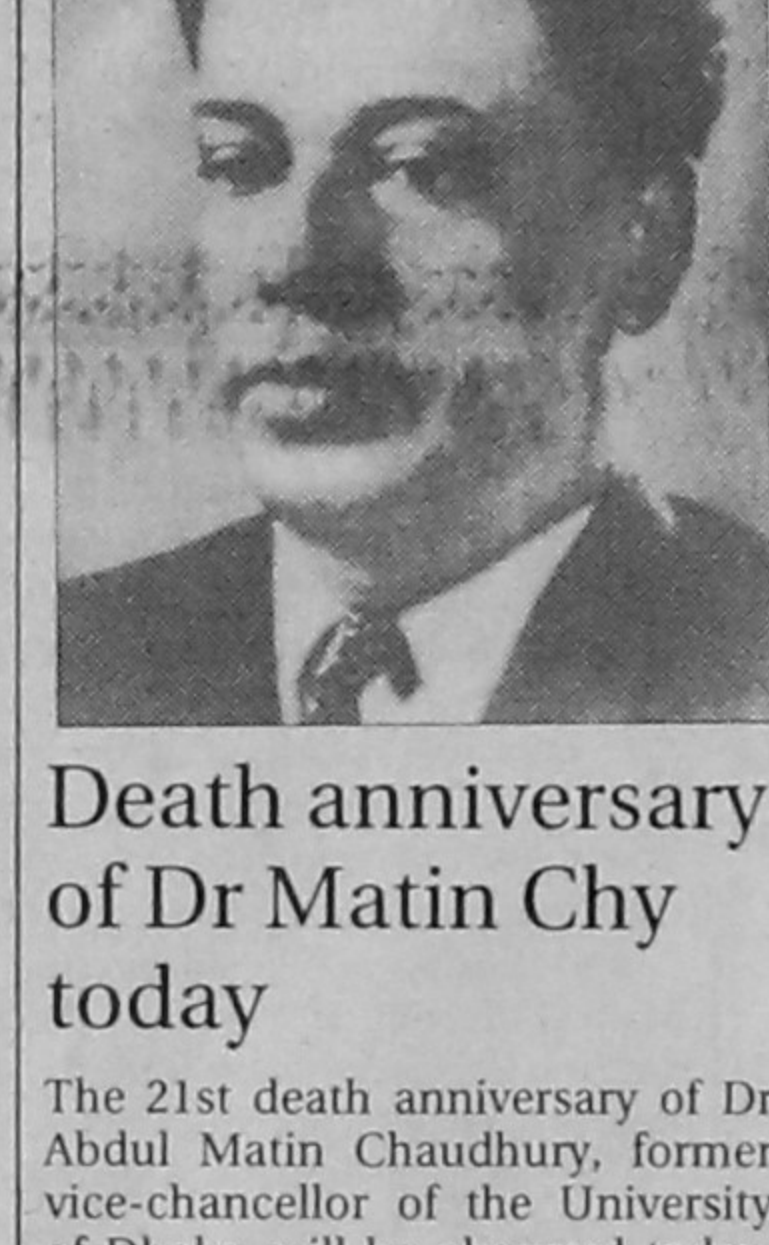
Death anniversary of Dr Matin Chy today

The 21st death anniversary of Dr Abdul Matin Chaudhury, former vice-chancellor of the University of Dhaka, will be observed today, says a press release.

Dr Abdul Matin was also the founder chairman of the Bangabandhu Parishad.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, Qurankhwani will be held at the Dhaka University mosque, at his village home as well as at his Gulshan residence.

A milad mahfil will also be held at the residence of his son at house 21/A, Road 121, Gulshan, after 7 pm today. Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad.



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