

Expand opportunity of higher education

PM tells BOU teachers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called on the teachers of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) to take up more programmes to expand the opportunity of higher education.

She also asked them to make sure that no-one is deprived of the opportunity of higher education and to maintain the standard of courses offered by BOU, an off-campus public university.

The prime minister's directives came when the newly elected executive committee of Bangladesh Open University Teachers' Association called on her at the PM office.

The 15-member delegation included association president Prof. M Ansaruzzaman and secretary Dr M Moynul Islam. The Jatiyatabadi panel of BOU teachers swept the election to the association held recently.

In response to their demand, the prime minister assured the BOU management of arranging scholarships for the poor and meritorious students.

She also asked the teachers to modernise the examination system of the university.

The Open University currently provides distance education from SSC to graduate levels through its 12 regional and 80 local centers. There are now some five lakh students in various courses of the university.

The teachers informed the



PHOTO: PID

Newly elected leaders of Bangladesh Open University Teachers' Association called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

prime minister that the BSC Nursing programme of the university has gained much popularity and urged her to increase the duration of the BTV programme on distance education.

They also called for optimum utilisation of the modern media centre of the university by other universities and government

'Launch movement to oust government'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called upon the people to launch all out movement to oust the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government for its total failure to govern the country.

The rally was organised by Awami Jubo League, the youth front of the opposition Awami League (AL), at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday to protest police attacks on opposition activists in their bid to lay siege to Hawa Bhaban in the city on Wednesday.

Addressing the rally, senior AL leader Amir Hossain Amu said the people have showed no-trust to present regime marked by downside of law and order, price hike of essentials and widespread corruption.

He asked Khaleda Zia to take fresh mandate through fresh polls if she had confidence in the people.

AL leader Abdur Razzak said people have every right to stage demonstration in front of the Hawa Bhaban which is the real power centre of the government.

He said Hawa Bhaban men are

responsible for all corruption and they have siphoned out crores of taka from the country.

AL leader Tofael Ahmed said the repressive alliance government cannot avert its fall by resorting to political persecution on its opponents.

He condemned the police raids at the residences of the senior party leaders at dead of night on Tuesday.

Suranjit Sen Gupta, another AL leader, urged the people to unite against the misrule and repression of the government.

He said when the people were facing police atrocities, the playing of cricket by the prime minister's two sons was nothing but a farce with the countrymen.

Presided over by Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok, the rally was also addressed by Abdul Mannan, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Fazilatunnesa Indira, Apu Ukil, Zakir Hossain Khan, Faruk Hossain, Fazlul Haq Atique and Mohiuddin Mohi.

Later, the Jubo League burnt an effigy of Tarique Rahman, senior joint secretary general of the BNP.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu speaks at a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting police action on Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam during Hawa Bhaban siege programme on Wednesday.

Hi-tech facilities for peacekeepers open

UNB, Rajendrapur

Opening highly sophisticated facilities for Bangladeshi peacekeepers here yesterday, US Ambassador Harry K Thomas said Dhaka and Washington would continue to build and grow together that will serve both in terms of security and democracy.

The opening ceremony of newly installed \$ 2.1 million 'Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capability (EIPC)' equipment was held at Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT) in Rajendrapur Cantonment.

Army Chief Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury was present as chief guest. Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy Judith A Chammas and BIPSOT Commandant Brigadier General Md Najeeb also spoke.

American experts have installed the equipment at the institute under the EIPC Programme of the US government and conducted initial training.

The equipment and facilities

include computer laboratory, language laboratory, server room, VSAT, blue force tracker, video conference and reproduction facilities.

"The United States has demonstrated here today that we are firmly committed to helping Bangladesh promote its role in worldwide peacekeeping operations," the US ambassador said.

"Our continued combined efforts will allow Bangladesh to use this equipment to take the lead and host regional computer-simulation exercises and give Bangladesh the capability to participate in other UN regional and worldwide peacekeeping exercises in a hi-tech simulation environment," he said.

Appreciating the role of Bangladeshi peacekeepers, Thomas said the US is proud to be working with this peacekeeping centre, which has ground personnel supporting over 10 nations in security, police, observer and peacekeeping missions as well as helicopter aviation operations in both Congo and East Timor.

The US envoy said installation of EIPC is not only confined to a mere

ceremony but "it is a joint endeavour undertaken by our two countries that demonstrates our commitment to work together to forge cooperation and create a special bond between our militaries."

"We believe that security is the foundation of a stable country and that the rights of all individuals and freedom of religion is the foundation of society," he said.

Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury thanked the US government for including Bangladesh in their EIPC programme, saying that the modern and sophisticated equipment and facilities will certainly enhance the capability of BIPSOT to carry out its tasks in a more efficient manner.

He said Bangladesh army is proud to have been involved in many peacekeeping operations to bring about peace and stability in different parts of the world.

At present, around 6,500 peacekeepers are working in different UN peacekeeping missions. Besides, 3,500 more peacekeepers are preparing to join a peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast by August.

MOU signed to raise funds for cancer hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission will set up a cancer hospital at Uttara in the city.

To raise funds for the 160-bed hospital, the Ahsania Mission signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo yesterday.

The dailies will extend all possible help in raising the funds.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, executive director of the mission, Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, and Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, signed the MOU at the office of The Daily Star.

The Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital will be set up at Sector # 10, Uttara, at a cost of Tk 84 crore. It will also provide treatment facilities for the poor patients free of charge.

The number of beds in the hospital will be raised to 300 in the next phase.

The names of the persons who will donate Tk 10 lakh will be placed on the list of patrons, said a press release of the mission.



PHOTO: STAR

Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman (left), Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam (third from left), and Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam (second from right) signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday to raise funds for a cancer hospital.

AWARENESS ABOUT AEDES MOSQUITO DENGUE fortnight to be observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A dengue fortnight will be observed to create awareness among the city dwellers about Aedes mosquito responsible for the disease.

This was stated by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka while addressing a meeting as chief guest in the city yesterday.

The meeting was organised by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at its conference room to create awareness among the people about Aedes mosquito.

Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP presided over the meeting.

The mayor said he will

arrange a meeting soon with the information minister along with the executives of all electronic media to launch an awareness campaign in this regard.

The DCC will also have meetings with different women organisations seeking their formal involvement in the mosquito control drive, he added.

The mayor said a special cleansing drive will be launched in Dhanmondi, Kalabagan and Kathalbagan where the prevalence of Aedes mosquito was very high last year.

Assuring full institutional support of the DCC, he hoped that people from all walks of life will extend their cooperation to control the disease that becomes prevalent in the pre- and post-monsoon period.

Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, who is the president of the advisory committee for controlling mosquito, suggested printing of several lakh posters and leaflets for creating awareness about dengue fever among the people.

He said these can be distributed among the people through volunteers under the leadership of the ward commissioners.

Earlier, speakers comprising environmentalists and ward commissioners called for launching massive awareness campaign as a precautionary step to control the breeding of Aedes mosquito.

They said as the Aedes breeds in clean water of flower-pots and abandoned pots inside a house, housewives have to be informed properly to keep their premises clean.

Habibur Rahman, chief executive officer of the DCC said 450 people were infected in dengue last year and nine of them died in Dhaka. In Chittagong, 19 people were infected while one died.

There was no dengue patient in Rajshahi and Khulna city corporations, he added.

Environmentalist Prof Nazrul Islam and writer Emdadul Haque Milon also spoke at the meeting.

DHAKA TODAY

Pantene contest

Pantene You Got The Look contest, organised by world famous consumer product company Procter & Gamble, will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 6.00pm.

Painting exhibition

The first solo exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Shahjalal Shaheen will be inaugurated. Venue: Drik Gallery, House- 58, Road- 15A, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm. The exhibition will remain open from 3.00pm to 8.00pm daily till April 29.

Photography exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a photography exhibition by Babul Bhoonik visualising the life and livelihood of the people affected by the erosion of the river Meghna. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till April 27 from 10.30am to 4.30pm daily.

Film show

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Macbeth' directed by Roman Polanski. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Movie show

The Academy Film Society will screen two American films titled 'Forrest Gump' (1994) and '21 Grams' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Inauguration

Sylhet Division Development Parishad will inaugurate its own office building and hold a reunion. Venue: 60/C Naya Paltan. Time: 9.30am.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of the gallery aaina NC will be held with artist Hashem Khan as chief guest. Venue: BNS Centre, Uttara. Time: 5.30pm.

Cultural evening

The annual cultural evening of Bangladesh International School will be held. Venue: DOHS, Mohakhali. Time: 6.30pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a monthly magazine for children and juveniles titled 'Chhotoder Patrika' will be held with poet Shamsur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: News Bank auditorium, 33 Tophkhana Road. Time: 5.00pm.

Reception

POSITRON organises a reception for its students who secured position in the merit list of the admission test of Dhaka University this year. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4.30pm.

Seminar

A seminar on the 'Economic empowerment of the disabled through employment generation', organised by the National Forum of Organisation Working with the Disabled, will be held. Venue: Social Service Bhaban auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 3.00pm.

Taher appointed chief national representative of Edexcel

DU CORRESPONDENT

Edexcel International has appointed Mirza Taher as the national representative in Bangladesh recently, says a British Council press release.

The British Council introduced Taher to the government officials, educationists and representatives of English medium schools and private universities at a programme at Sheraton Hotel.

The British Council has been conducting General Certificate Education (GCE) examinations under the Edexcel International curriculum for the last 23 years and directly communicating with 58 English medium schools in Bangladesh.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon attended the programme as chief guest. Elizabeth Lowen, deputy director of Edexcel International, and Mark Bartholomew, country exams and teaching centre manager, were also present.



PHOTO: ISPR

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas inaugurates the Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capability equipment at Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training in Rajendrapur Cantonment yesterday while Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury and Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. SM Ikramul Haque look on.



PHOTO: STAR

The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding the reopening of mills and factories.