



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gives away certificates among the students of Islamic University of Technology at its 18th convocation in Gazipur yesterday.

Develop human resources in IT and biotech

PM tells IUT convocation

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the countries of the Muslim Ummah should initiate a united effort to develop adequate human resources in the areas of information technology and biotechnology.

"The more the country is advanced in the discipline of engineering and technology, the more it is developed," she said reminding that many countries changed their fortune by successful implementation of this knowledge.

Khaleda pointed out that it is possible to attain desired development, multiply many times the production of crops and cure diseases by effective use of these technologies.

"We not only can change the fate of the Islamic Ummah but can also establish a strong foundation in associating ourselves in the mainstream of world class science and technology through initiating such steps," she said.

The prime minister was addressing the 18th Convocation of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), an institution of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), in Gazipur.

Vice Chancellor of IUT Dr M Fazil Ilahi and Registrar Muhammad Ahsan Habib also spoke. Assistant Secretary General of OIC Ambassador Thierno Nabika Diallo read out a written speech of the OIC Secretary General and Chancellor of the IUT, Dr Abdelouahed Belkeziz, on the occasion.

Education Minister M Osman Faruk and State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman were also present.

A total of 194 students from different countries, including Bangladesh, were awarded diploma, bachelor's and master's degrees in various disciplines at the convocation.

The prime minister also handed over gold medals and certificates of appreciation to meritorious students

who topped the list in their respective classes.

The prime minister said she would like to see IUT as the best centre of education in the field of engineering and technology and make meaningful contribution in creating skilled manpower to face the challenges of the 21st century.

She expressed her optimism that IUT would be transformed into a world class institution of knowledge science, engineering and technology and the students from this institution will make immense contribution to development of their respective countries.

Recalling the golden age of Islamic Civilisation when many Muslim scholars enriched the discipline of medicine, chemistry, mathematics, physics, astronomy and other branches of science, Khaleda said the countries of the Islamic Ummah have to work unitedly to bring back those glorious traditions.

DHAKA
T O D A Y

Chhayanaout

Chhayanaout will hold a cultural function as part of its Autumn festival. Venue: Skating Ground, Dhanmondi lakeside (south). Time: 6.30am.

Nandan

Nandan, a cultural forum, organises a musical evening titled 'Na Dekha Chhilo Je Bhalo'. Venue: YWCA Bhaban, 3/23 Iqbal Road. Time: 6.15pm.

Film show

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Heaven' directed by Tom Lykwer. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 5.00pm.

Muldhara film show

Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will screen three films titled 'David Copperfield Illusion', 'Mohabbaten' and 'Romeo + Juliet'. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am, 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Documentary show

Spectra Convention Centre will screen a documentary on 'St. Martins'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan-1. Time: 4.00pm.

Art competition

Russel Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad organises an art competition for the children on the occasion of 40th birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel. Venue: In front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.00am.

Kawali

Noted singer Hasan Shihabi will render kawali. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman will attend the function as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers' Auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

Book fair

The opening ceremony of a weeklong book fair to mark the inauguration of the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: University campus, Mohakhali. Time: 4.00pm. The fair will remain open from 2.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Lions award

The award giving ceremony of Lions Award, organised by International Association of Lions Clubs, will be held with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sundarbans. Time: 4.00pm.

Founding anniversary

The 32nd founding anniversary of Simanto Khelaghar Asar will be held. Venue: 17/1, Dinanath Sen Road. Time: 8.30am.

Roundtable

Projonma Academy organises a roundtable on the causes and remedies of present intolerant politics in Bangladesh. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 4.00pm.

Rally

Kendrio Khelaghar Asar will hold a rally to mark the World Children's Day. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 11.00am.

Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of Agrani Bank Employees Welfare Association Conference CBA will be held with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas as chief guest. Venue: BCIC Auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 4.00pm.

Plastic fair

The concluding function of International Plastic Fair will be held with Commerce Advisor Barkat Ullah Bulu as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 7.00pm.

Meeting

An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association will be held. Venue: Dr Milton Hall of BSMU. Time: 3.30pm.

Blood donation

Two voluntary blood donation camps, organised by Quantum Foundation, will be held. Venue: 158, West Rampura and 163/1 Crescent Road. Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Ramna police detain 26 Buet students at the police station yesterday after arresting them from the Buet campus for protesting the price hike of admission form.

26 Buet students arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-six students were arrested from the Registrar Building of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday as they protested the price hike of admission form for 2004-05 session.

Sources said the arrestees included Vice-president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front Buet chapter Subroto Sarker, General Secretary Anupam Shawkat Shanto and Organising Secretary Ahsan Habib Rumon.

Prior to the arrest, the Buet administration held talks with the student leaders who vowed to continue their protest against the price increase of admission forms to Tk 500 and Tk 700 from Tk 400 and Tk 500 respectively in previous year.

A Buet press release said the agitating students had been obstructing the sale of forms illegally since last few days and the administration was forced to disperse them.

The press release also mentioned that a total of 805 forms have so far been sold.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Sheikh Ahmed Jalal, a freedom fighter, diplomat and litterateur, says a press release.

He was also a Tokyo correspondent of the Bangladesh Observer and the Ittefaq in the sixties.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence, Prime Dell, House-31, Road-123, Gulshan-1 after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dr Towhidul Anwar

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Dr Towhidul Anwar, former director general of Press Institute of Bangladesh and professor of mass communication and journalism at Dhaka University, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 59/H, Isha Khan road after Asar prayers.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

Set up nat'l gene bank to preserve seeds

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to set up a national gene bank to preserve indigenous seeds.

They also called for enforcing the Farmers' Right Protection Act to protect the bio-diversity of the country.

The seminar on 'Intellectual Property Right Issue in Agriculture' was organised by Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) Debating Society at the university auditorium on the occasion of first Sher-e-Bangla Cup Debate Competition-2004.

"Developing countries including Bangladesh are technologically poor but rich in gene while the developed countries are technologically rich but poor in gene," said Prof Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, chairman of genetics and plant breeding department of the SAU while presenting the keynote paper at the seminar.

He said some developed countries are conspiring to pirate the gene of different plants and animals from the developing countries through various agreements.

Not a single significant crop grown in USA had originated there but now it had a lot of gene, he

pointed out. Prof Shahidur recommended seed exchange facilities for the farmers by providing necessary training.

He regretted that the Bio-diversity and Community Knowledge Protection Act, drafted by the National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources, was submitted to the government in 1998, but no decision has been taken yet.

Speaking as chief guest at the seminar, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said: "We had over 16,500 types of rice seed in the past but now we have only 3,500 types."

He called for setting up of a national committee to create public awareness about the importance of preserving the bio-diversity of the country.

SAU Vice-chancellor Prof AM Faruq presided over the seminar while former Bangladesh Rice Research Centre director M Nasir Uddin and SAU Prof Rafiqul Islam took part in it.

A four-day long debate competition was started on October 6 that joined 25 teams from the 20 universities and it will end tomorrow.



On behalf of the Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art, Member of the Board of Governors Farooq Sobhan (centre) hands over a cheque for Tk Tk 6.51 lakh to BDRCS Chairman Maj Gen (retd) ZA Khan for the flood victims recently. General Secretary of SPBA Rafi Haque (right) was also present.

'75 pc denied access to ICT sector in Saarc countries'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day regional workshop on 'Attempts and success of ICT roadmap to villages in the Saarc countries' began in the city yesterday to evolve methods of ICT use in the agriculture sector.

The workshop also aims to focus on development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in natural resource management, agriculture production system and agro-processing markets in villages.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar said although 75 percent of total population in the Saarc countries live in the rural areas, they hardly get access to the ICT sector.

He said the digital divide is more alarming in the context of rural agricultural development, which has widened the information gaps between the village and city.

The minister, however, said that ICT is not a magic formula that is going to solve all the problems of a country like Bangladesh. Presenting the keynote paper, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice chancellor of BRAC University, said Bangladesh suffers from a lack of connectivity with the outside world through fibre optic network.

Because of absence of any national Internet exchange, traffic is

being routed through other countries, he added.

He also pointed out that Saarc countries are lagging behind in the ICT sector.

Presided over by Dr Nurul Alam, executive chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, the inaugural session was also addressed by Dr Wais Kabir, director of Saarc Agricultural Information Centre, and ASM Abdul Halim, secretary of ministry of agriculture.

Cobra arrests 320, recovers 24 firearms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cobra, a special police team, seized 24 firearms and 72 bullets during their drives in the city last month.

The team also arrested 320 people, including 73 listed criminals, during the period, says a press release.

Besides, plainclothes Detective Branch (DB) teams retrieved 12 firearms, 80 ammunition and 21 home-made bombs in Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) area last month.

They also arrested 1,549 people, including 30 listed criminals.

Art Society donates money for flood victims

The Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA) held an exhibition recently to raise funds for the flood-affected people, says a press release.

Seventy-two artists and 11 private collectors donated 91 artworks for the exhibition.

The entire sale proceeds of Tk 6.51 lakh was donated to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to help the flood victims.

Member of the Board of Governors of SPBA Farooq Sobhan and General Secretary Rafi Haque handed over the cheque to BDRCS Chairman Maj Gen (retd) ZA Khan.

ZA Khan greatly appreciated the SPBA for its humanitarian efforts to provide the assistance for the flood-affected people during this national crisis.

DU exams postponed

UNB, Dhaka

All the examinations of Dhaka University, except the 2nd year examinations of biochemistry and molecular biology and genetic engineering & biotechnology departments, under its annual course system have been postponed till October 11 due to unavoidable reasons.

Fresh dates of the examinations will be announced soon, said a DU press release.