

8TH BUET CONVOCATION

End dependence on foreigners in mining: PM

VC suggests a moratorium on student politics at least for some years for fair education atmosphere

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleida Zia yesterday called on the local engineers to attain the capability of exploring and tapping the country's mineral resources to end dependence on foreigners in mining.

In present perspectives of growing tendency of natural disaster, the engineers and architects will also have to be active in innovating methods and sustainable infrastructures to check catastrophe, she added.

The PM made the suggestions while she was addressing the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) teachers, students, and fresh graduates and post-graduates at the 8th Convocation 2005 of the Buet.

She called upon engineers to contribute their best to the development process of the country through their well-thought-out opinions and valuable advice.

"You will have to show the path of speedy flourishing of science and technology in the country. You will also have to be active in innovating sustainable technologies," said Khaleida, also Chancellor of the University.

Inaugurating the Buet Convocation at its playground, she told the fresh graduate and post-graduate engineers and architects that the nation wants to see them as architect of national development. "You will have to be farsighted and future-oriented in thought, innovation and formulation of planning."

Over 20,000 engineers and architects and planning experts till last year have been directly involved in the service of the country and nation through educating and doing professional duties, the function was told.

Khaleida as Chancellor conferred graduation and post-graduation degrees on the recipients as deans of respective faculties presented them before her.

This time 1,114 students have graduated as B.Sc. engineers in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 sessions from various departments of Architecture and Planning, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronics

Engineering, Engineering and



Prime Minister Khaleida Zia gives away a gold medal to a student at the 8th Convocation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) in the city yesterday.

Mechanical Engineering Faculties and Institutes.

A total of 170 students have post-graduated, two with Ph.D. This year, for the first time, the Institute of Information and Communication Technology conferred M.Sc. degree.

Besides, two students were awarded University Gold Medal for attaining the highest CGPA among all departments at graduate level while two others given Dr Rashid Gold Medal for achieving the highest CGPA at postgraduate level.

Dr Rashid was the first vice-chancellor of the Buet, and the students of 1961 batch of the then Ahsan Ullah

Engineering College, now Buet, through forming a club, instituted the Dr Rashid Award.

Khaleida distributed the University gold medals to Md Ruhul Amin of civil engineering department of 2000-01 session and Mohammad Saifur Rahman of Computer Science and Engineering department of 2001-02 session while Dr Rashid gold medal to Meher Nigar Nima and Mohammad Ahsanul Habib of Urban and Regional

Planning department.

Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh Justice ATM Afzal delivered the convocation speech. Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Huq Milan and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Mohammad Ali Murtaza also addressed the function.

The prime minister, clad in convocation robes, joined both opening and concluding convocation processions marking the august ceremony.

Khaleida urged the engineers and architects fresh from the Buet to attain the skill and strategy of limited use of resources, as far as possible, in all construction works as land and resources are scanty in Bangladesh in proportion to its population.

"Stress will also have to be given on improving the indigenous technologies," she told the function attended by ministers, vice-chancellors of different universities, students and teachers of Buet and guardians of fresh graduate and postgraduate students.

"You are certainly lucky in this poor country. Apart from your own

effort and guardians' role, contribution

of poor people is also there in your success.

Don't forget their welfare will have to remain in your planning," Khaleida advised the engineers and architects.

Congratulations the graduates and postgraduate degree recipients, she hoped that they would honour the courtesy of the people and return their total investment made in rearing them.

Khaleida thanked Buet authorities, teachers and students for maintaining fair atmosphere of education and standard of education in the university.

She noted that there is no system in the country for rating atmosphere and standard of education, academic excellence and standard of research in the universities.

If this system is introduced, it will create healthy competition among universities, which would help enhance standard of higher studies, she observed.

Former Chief Justice ATM Afzal in his convocation speech said many are trying to misguide the people by publicising Bangladesh as a 'failed state'.

"To disgrace the country means disgracing oneself," he pointed out, saying that if there are any wrongs, injustices and problems, the people of the country have to solve those. "The country cannot be disgraced anyway."

Vice-Chancellor Prof Ali Murtaza said that they have no dearth of effort to ensure high-standard engineering education but noted with regret that the present trend of student politics of the country is not suitable to maintaining the fair educational atmosphere.

Amid claps from the audience, Dr Murtaza suggested a moratorium on student politics at least for some years on trial basis. "All students can have own political philosophy, but a confrontational situation emanating from that philosophy is not desirable," he said.

The academic cautioned that it would be tough to face the challenges of this century without fair atmosphere of education and acquiring appropriate knowledge.

Mother, son get 20 yrs' RI for kidnapping two children

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a woman and her son to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping two children for trafficking.

Judge Mohammad Mujibul Kamal of the First Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression gave the verdict in presence of the convicts Pearsa Begum and her son Quamrul.

After cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses, the tribunal gave the sentence to the convicts for kidnapping Masud, 7, and Razu, 9.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of six prosecution witnesses.

The prosecution story in brief is that Pearsa and Quamrul kidnapped the two children from in front of a residence at East Dhania of Shyampur Police Station in the city when the two were playing at about 9:00am on September 15, 2002. The two were rescued from a residence at South Dhania and police arrested Pearsa and her son Quamrul from there.

Masud's father Mohammad Mizanur Rahman filed a case with Shyampur Police Station accusing the two under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 the same day in this connection. The investigation officer pressed charges against Pearsa and Quamrul on October 23 the same year.

The court framed charges against the two on September 9, 2003 and its trial began on January 4 this year.

Mannan Bhuiyan should resign, says Mahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahi B Chowdhury, organising secretary of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB), yesterday called on LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to resign as he himself admitted the government's failure to stop repeated grenade attacks.

"Mannan Bhuiyan should resign immediately as he admitted the government's failure and administrative weakness in regard to checking the grenade attacks in the country," Mahi said in a press release.

Obituary

Chowdhury Abdus Sattar, former official of forest department, died of old age complications at the Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

Sattar, husband of Sanjukta Mohila Parishad (SMP) Vice-President Fatema Sattar, left behind his three sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

SMP President Rosy Begum and General Secretary Quazi Rina expressed deep shock at the death of Sattar and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Amir Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Alhaj Mohammad Amir Uddin Sarkar, eminent businessman of Fulbariya in Bogra, died of a cardiac arrest at his residence on January 24 at the age of 75.

He was buried at his family graveyard.

He is survived by his wife, seven sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

Death Anniversary



Today is the 17th death anniversary of Professor MU Ahmed, a pioneer psycho-therapist and the Founder of Clinical Psychology Movement in this Sub-continent, says a press release.

Asghar Hossain



The sixth death anniversary of Asghar Hossain, a freedom fighter, will be observed today at his village home Wahedpur under Debidwar upazila of Comilla district, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quarkhawani and Milad Mahfil will be held. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

1,373 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,373 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES, CULVERTS

'Price quotation should be consistent with market price'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price quotation for construction of small bridges and culverts under food for works programme in rural areas should be consistent with the prices of raw materials in the market to maintain the quality of work.

The decision was taken at a high powered meeting at the ministry of food and disaster management yesterday as a section of contractors offer lower price quotation to compete in tender bid.

This year, about 200 small bridges and culverts will be constructed in 92 upazilas under the rural infrastructure development project under food for works programme.

"The decision was taken as we fear that the lower price quotation will ultimately affect the quality of the work for rural infrastructure,"

said a high official after the meeting.

"Many contractors have been quoting lower price just to get the job. But we think they would not be able to implement the project properly. So the quoted price in the tender should be consistent with the market price," he said.

The Public Procurement Regulations also support this initiative, he added.

Minister for Food and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf presided over the meeting attended by Deputy Minister Asadul Habib Dulu, Additional Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarker, Director General of the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation Mahfuzur Rahman.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of 14 projects of the ministry under the annual development

programme (ADP). The government has allocated Tk91.19 core for these projects.

The bridges are being constructed as part of a five-year project for the development of rural infrastructure that began in 1999-2000.

The government has allocated Tk 40 crore for the project this year and each Upazila will get Tk 50 lakh under the programme.

The official said all the upazilas concerned will be given instructions to follow the new rules aimed at maintaining the quality of the work.

According to sources, the government will also review the work orders given before the recent price hike of the construction materials, specially iron rods. The prices of rods increased significantly in recent times, they pointed out.



Police officers inspect a procession of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad at Shahbagh in the city yesterday as it was protesting the Habiganj grenade attack.

Ctg Fine Arts student drowns in Kaptai Lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A second year student of Fine Arts Institute, Chittagong, drowned in the Kaptai Lake on Saturday evening.

The victim was identified as Enjoy Chakma, 22, of Modhupur in Khagrachhari. His body is yet to be recovered, family members said.

They said Enjoy slipped away from the engine boat near Samata Ghat when he along with his friends were on the way back to town and drowned. Two of his friends immediately jumped to the Lake to rescue him but failed.

Enjoy came to Rangamati on Thursday to join a marriage ceremony and he went on a picnic with his friends the following day.

All efforts failed to recover his body till Sunday evening.

Hartal brings woes to tourists in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The 60-hour hartal called by the opposition has brought woes to the tourists in Rangamati who came here to enjoy the scenic beauty of the hilly areas.

They are now feeling the pinch as they are running short of money but cannot return home because inter-district transports are not available.

"I took preparations for a three-day visit to Rangamati but the hartal took away my happy moments as I'm running short of money," said Asif who came here from Dhaka on Thursday.

Failing to return home, Asif and his six other friends moved from the economy class accommodation of posh hotel to the hall room of Motel George, a cheaper residential hotel in the town's college gate area, said Belal, an employee of the hotel.

Around 200 tourists staying in the Parjatan Motel, Green Castle and Sufia hotel are facing the same fate due to the hartal that will end this evening.

Tajul Islam, who came from Cox's Bazar along with his family members, said, "I was aware of only one-day hartal but I heard the news of the extension of the hartal at late night which has thrown me into uncertainty." "Our budget is too inadequate to cover two more days," he said on Saturday.

On Saturday night, pickets damaged a taxicab at Reserve Bazar in which tourists were travelling. However, they escaped unhurt after some senior Awami League leaders stepped in, witnesses said.



Opposition Awami League lawmakers took out a mourning procession in the city yesterday protesting the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four other Awami League activists in Habiganj grenade attack.

AL blames govt for Kibria's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday blamed Prime Minister Khaleida Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and their Jamaat allies for the killing of Shah AMS Kibria, an internationally reputed economist, valiant freedom fighter and former finance minister.

The killing of Kibria is the part of a blueprint of the BNP-Jamaat government to stop the voices of democratic forces, eliminate pro-liberation axis and destroy communal harmony in order to establish religious extremism in the country, Jalil told the reporters while addressing a post-hartal briefing at AL Dhanamondi office in the city.

"Kibria's killing is not an isolated incident, but a sequel to the killings of Ivy Rahman and Ahsanullah Master MP," Jalil said.

He said the government is out to kill AL leaders and activists to eliminate pro-liberation forces, destroy religious harmony and violate human rights.

"They will continue to repress the opposition leaders and activists

as they did during the second day of hartal, even journalists were not off-limits to their barbaric attack," the AL general secretary said.

The life and property of the people is not safe under the BNP-Jamaat regime, even MP's are being

Husband kills wife for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A man chopped his wife to death for dowry at a village in Banskhali upazila of the district on Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Noor Begum, 28, mother of four children, and wife of one Nabi Hossain. Police said the incident occurred when Noor refused to oblige her husband who was insisting for moneys dowry.

Being infuriated, Nabi brought a machete from the kitchen and chopped her indiscriminately. She died on the spot.

Afterwards, Nabi tried in vain to commit suicide by taking poison. Police arrested him yesterday.

killed one after another, he added.

Jalil alleged that the government did not co-operate with the FBI and Interpol in the investigation of August 21 grenade attack on the life of AL President Sheikh Hasina.

He expressed his apprehension that the government would not conduct a proper investigation into the killing of Kibria and five others as it (government) did in the killings of Ahsanullah Master and Ivy Rahman.

"All these are nothing but eye-wash to divert the attention of the people," he added.

Jalil demanded impartial investigation into all bomb blast incidents and killings starting from Udichi bomb blast.

The AL leader called on democracy-loving patriotic forces to be united to bail out people from the repression and torture of the fundamentalist government.

AL central leaders including former foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Matia Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu and Advocate Rahmat Ali were present on the occasion.

2 killed in road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday.

Of them, Anwar Hossain, 32, a driver of an ambulance, died on the spot while Abdullah, 38, managing director of Titas Gas Company, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Three others, injured in the accident, were admitted to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

Police said the accident occurred when a truck laden with cement collided with an ambulance of Titas Gas Company at Soydana under Mirzapur upazila at about 4:00am.

Bangladeshi envoy presents credentials to Jamaican governor general

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Jamaica Rafiq Ahmed Khan presented his credentials to the Jamaican Governor General, Sir Howard Cooke, recently.

The high commissioner also had an exclusive meeting with the Governor General and conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the president and the prime minister of Bangladesh to him.

He briefed the governor general about different programmes undertaken by the government led by Prime Minister Khaleida Zia for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

Reciprocating the sentiment, the governor general referred to the excellent relations existing between the two countries and expressed the hope that the present ties would be further consolidated in the coming days.

The governor general congratulated the Bangladesh Cricket Team for its first test series victory and said Bangladesh is a popular name in Jamaica as well as in the Caribbean as a test playing nation.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar, AGM, Book exhibition, Inauguration, Reception, Indian film show, Lions meeting

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

There are chances of light rain or drizzle at places over Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Dinajpur, Mymensingh, Tangail, Noakhali and Comilla.

Night temperature may rise slightly over southern part and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. Met office said predicting that light to moderate fog may occur during early morning.

Highest temperature 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 10.2 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:44pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)