



President Iajuddin Ahmed addresses the 4th Convocation of East West University at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Outgoing Pak HC meets president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed said strengthening the aarc is an imperative for the South Asian nations. He made the remark when outgoing High Commissioner of Pakistan Manzar Shafiq called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Iajuddin, through the envoy, invited Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to visit Bangladesh. He also conveyed his greetings to the Pak President.

He praised the outgoing High Commissioner as he said the relationship between the two countries "has been cemented" during his tenure.

The President also pointed out Bangladesh's achievements in poverty alleviation, women empowerment and micro-credit sectors.

The Pak High Commissioner lauded the programmes initiated by Bangladesh government to provide free education for women.

He emphasised expansion of the achievements of Bangladesh in various sectors, including women education, gender issue and micro-credit operations, to the Saarc countries.

The Pak envoy expressed his gratitude to the President for his "all-out cooperation" during his tenure.

Tk 284.55 cr KCC budget

No new taxes proposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Khulna City Corporation announced a budget of Tk 284.55 crore for 2005-06 fiscal year yesterday, with no new taxes proposed.

The budget was presented at a press conference at the Zia Hall in Khulna city.

Terming the coming fiscal year as a 'golden year' for the city-dwellers, Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman said the new budget is a surplus budget and development-oriented.

The city-dwellers will get better services from the city corporation and more development programmes will be implemented

through increasing earning sources and realising outstanding municipal taxes, he said, adding that no newly constructed buildings will be exempted from holding taxes.

The mayor said four important development projects involving Tk 589.73 crore are in the pipeline to provide the residents with all modern facilities and beautify the city. The project profiles have been submitted to the government for their inclusion in the Annual Development Programme, he added.

The four projects are a surface water treatment plant, a sanitation project, mosquito eradication and improvement of the drainage

system and solid waste management project.

According to the proposed budget, the city corporation will earn Tk 39.38 crore from taxes, fees, fines, rents, profits and other sources.

"I have a long-standing desire to establish a private university at a cost of Tk two crore and a hospital equipped with all modern medical facilities at a cost of Tk 10 crore," the mayor said.

But all these depend on necessary funds from the government, he said, adding that it is time to make Khulna City Corporation self-reliant so that projects can be implemented without government grant or foreign aid.

University in rented house not desirable

President tells EWU convocation

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the educational institutions to come up to absorb the needed change to provide quality education.

"A change is taking place very fast in social life all over the world. In future, the change is expected to get momentum because of the rapid development in communication as well as information technology," he said.

The President was addressing the 4th Convocation of East West University at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre here.

To provide quality education, he said, there are needs for some essential components, including professionalism in teaching, dedication, congenial atmosphere in educational institutions, library and residential facilities on the campus, opportunity for students to exchange views among themselves and with their teachers.

"But it's unfortunate to note that the private universities since their inception have no residential facility, not to speak even of their own faculty buildings. Universities in rented house in busy commercial and residential areas are not desirable," the President said.

He further said the environment for universities should be calm and quiet and called upon the authorities concerned to come forward to solve the existing problems with a view to ensuring quality education.

Iajuddin, who was a teacher of Dhaka University for a long time, called upon the new graduates to uphold truth over untruth, justice over injustice, honesty over dishonesty and guide those who have fallen from the right path.

"Through your hard work, sincere devotion to duty and commitment to the organisation you serve, and above all the zeal for serving the nation and humanity you can help build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh," he told the graduates.

Talking about the role of parents, guardians and the society, Iajuddin said their role is very important in providing quality education. "The family and the community, in which the students live and move, have to play their due role in support of what have been taught by the teachers," he said.

Iajuddin assured the audience that the government is very much aware of the responsibility for ensuring the standard private universities in the country.

Education Minister M Osman Faruk, East West University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Musa, East West University Board of Directors President Dr Mohammed Farashuddin and former advisor of caretaker government Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui attended the function.

Speaker visits ailing Whip at CMH

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday visited ailing Jatiya Sangsad Whip Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Jamiruddin spent some time beside Jamal and enquired about his treatment.

The Speaker wished his early recovery.