



Winners of the Prime Minister Gold Medal Award pose for photograph with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the award giving ceremony at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PRIME MINISTER GOLD MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY

# Maintain quality of edn, financial transparency in universities: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday suggested opening new departments and faculties in the institutions of higher education to catch up with the fast-changing, competitive world.

She also urged the officials concerned to play a more effective and meaningful role in maintaining quality of education, congenial atmosphere and financial transparency in universities.

The Prime Minister reminded that the responsibilities and scope of work of the University Grants Commission (UGC) are widening with the gradual increase in the number of universities in the country.

In this respect, she urged all concerned, including the teachers, guardians and students, to play their expected role in maintaining a healthy atmosphere in the seats of higher education.

The PM was addressing the "Prime Minister Gold Medal" award ceremony at the International Conference Centre.

Recipients of the award included eight from Dhaka University, seven from Rajshahi University, six from Bangladesh Agricultural University, five from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, six from Chittagong University and four each from Jahangirnagar University, Islamic University and Khulna University.

Presided over by Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof Dr M Asaduzzaman, the function was also addressed by Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon and two of the recipients of the award.

Khaleda Zia reminded that education is the backbone of a nation and there is no alternative to education to turn the population into human resources.

The PM congratulated the meritorious students on their outstanding academic results and hoped that they would be equally successful in their careers.

She reminded the students that the common people bore their educational expenses in public universities and that it is now their turn to repay the debt.

The Prime Minister described the teachers as 'conscience of the society and the nation' and said they should be the real friend, philosopher and guide of the students.

She highlighted some of her government's steps for develop-

ment of education sector, including giving the highest allocation of Tk 9,686 crore, checking copying at examination and making textbooks available to students in time.

She mentioned that country's four BITs have been upgraded to full-fledged universities, and programmes are underway to establish three more universities in Jessore, Noakhali and Comilla.

Dr Osman Farruk in his address underscored the need for increased funds for the improvement of standard of education in universities.

He, however, said the universities should not look to the government but ensure better financial management and increase their own incomes.

About autonomy of public uni-

versities, he said autonomy does not absolve the universities of their accountability to the government.

## WASA DRIVE Tk 10.5 lakh realised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) conducted a drive against bill defaulters in the city yesterday.

The mobile court led by Wasa's first class Magistrate Kazi Wasiuddin snapped the connection of a building at Motijheel Commercial Area for not paying a bill amounting to Tk 10 lakh.

The owner of the building however gave a cheque for Tk 5 lakh instantly and got back the connection by promising to pay the arrears soon.

The mobile court also snapped the connection of Hotel Pentagon at Kamalapur for not paying a bill of Tk 6 lakh.

The court found an illegal water pipeline alongside the legal one and took immediate action against the owner who paid Tk 50,000 in cash and issued a cheque for Tk 5 lakh instantly to restore the connection.

The mobile court also realised arrears from three more houses at Kamalapur.

Sources said the Wasa drive is aimed at alerting other bill defaulters so that they pay their arrears spontaneously.

The drive will continue in the capital and Narayanganj by turns, the sources added.



A Wasa man snaps the connection of Hotel Pentagon at Kamalapur in the city yesterday for not paying a bill.

## JCD activist beaten for teasing female DU teacher

DU CORRESPONDENT

An activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was beaten up for teasing a female teacher and a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League was assaulted for keeping his girlfriend in his hall room at night yesterday.

Witnesses said Mizanur Rahman Mizan, a first year student of political science and a resident of Sir AF Rahman Hall of Dhaka University, went to Teachers-Students Centre where a programme of anthropology department was going on, and teased the female teacher.

Another teacher of the department Rashid Mahmud caught Mizan red handed and beat him up with the help of other students.

Mizan however sought apology for the misdeeds saying that he would see the female teacher today in this regard.

Meanwhile, students of Jagannath Hall beat up a resident student Shyamol Dutta Bepari, organising secretary of the hall unit BCL, for keeping his girlfriend in his room at night.

Sources said he brought his girl friend Shila Saha, a third year student of Management of Eden College, to his room at North Building and stayed together at night.

Being tipped off, a group of rival JCD activists went to Shyamol's room at around 3:30am and found the two. They beat up Shyamol and assaulted the girl before handing over them to the house tutor.

Hall Provost Prof Nim Chandra Bhawmik told The Daily Star that a teacher has been given the responsibility to look after the matter.

"We will take action against the student at a meeting tomorrow (today)," he added.



During a mobile court operation against adulterated food in Chittagong city, law enforcement men force a worker of a sweetmeat shop, Misti Bitan, to dump rotten sweetmeat and stale milk into a drain yesterday.

## DU soil deptt trust board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Soil, Water and Environment Department of Dhaka University Trust for the year 2005-2007 was held on August 29 at TSC auditorium on Dhaka University campus.

The newly formed Trustee Board members include Prof Dr SM Imamul Huq as chairman, Alhaj Muhammed Aman Ullah and Prof Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman as vice-chairmen, Prof Dr Md Akhter Hossain Khan as executive director and Mirza Masood Husain as finance director.