



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of Deshbandhu CR Das Gold Medals pose with Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman and other guests at the award giving ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

No permanent classrooms for RU applied math students

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of the applied mathematics department of Rajshahi University yesterday demanded designated classrooms for the department.

There are no permanent classrooms for the students although the department has been introduced in 2003, they said at a press conference on the campus.

They also demanded a fully fledged computer laboratory, a seminar room, and rooms for chairman and the teachers.

A total of 250 students, enrolled in four batches, have been facing serious problems due to lack of such facilities, they added.

The students have already begun an indefinite class boycott programme since September 6 to press home their demands.

At the press conference, they threatened to stage a mass hunger strike if their demands are not met within three days.

In a written statement, Humayun Kabir said they have been using classrooms of other departments, which often create many problems.

Even some of the students and their teacher were assaulted by the students of computer science department for using their classroom recently, he added.

The students said that they have informed the vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellor, science faculty dean, proctor, student advisor and registrar of their problems several times, but to no effect.

They also alleged that many high officials of the university even warned them not to stage any demonstration in the future. The students formed a seven-member committee to continue their agitation.

22 honoured with Deshbandhu CR Das Gold Medals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 22 distinguished personalities received Deshbandhu CR Das Gold Medals at a ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

The Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Gobeshana Parishad (CR Das Research Institute) awarded them in recognition of their outstanding contribution to different fields. The winners have been selected for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, who attended the ceremony as the chief guest, gave away the gold medals to the awardees while Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman was present as special guest.

The winners of 2004 are former president Abdur Rahman Biswas and Eng. Md Shahiduzzaman MP (social service), Meyor Sadeque Hossain Khoka (city service), Rezaul Bari Dina MP (organiser), Quazi Sirajul Islam (advancement of education), Rokia Afzal Rahman (empowerment of women), Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed (economist) and Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed (banking).

Congratulating the awardees, Abdullah Al Noman said the research on eminent personalities and giving the awards would have a positive impact on politics.

The present politics cannot establish the rights of the countrymen as vengeance has seriously been undermining the democratic practice, he said.

The awardees of 2003 are Md Shahid Alam (city development),

Sharif Rafiqul Islam (water resources expert), Khatib Abdul Jahid Mukul (social service), Dr M Akhtaruzzaman (medical service), Ferdousi Rahman (music), Md Nazrul Islam (industrialisation) and Mohammad Noor Ali (best producer).

SM Abdul Mannan (social service), Dr Qazi M Badruddoza (agriculture), Qazi Abdul Alim (sports), Abdul Jabbar Khan (posthumous) (film), M Aman Ullah (banking and insurance), Towhida Anwar (women's empowerment) and Syed Abu Siddique (agriculture-based industrialisation) received the award for 2002.

Speaking on the occasion, Rokia Afzal Rahman, former advisor of a caretaker government who won the award, said the credit goes to the rural women for whom she works.

The women of Bangladesh have achieved a remarkable success in the arena of empowerment, she said, adding that the latest report of the World Economic Forum reveals that the country is far ahead of many of its neighbours in terms of women's empowerment.

Rokia also said that she received the award on behalf of women in Bangladesh.

Former secretary ABM Golam Mostofa, Secretary General of the institute MA Matin, Chairman Heshamuddin Ahmad and Vice-Chairman ATM Ahsan Habib Kohinur also spoke.

The CR Das Research Institute has been giving the awards since 1992.

FUEL PRICE HIKE

Last phase of CPB programme begins today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) begins a four-day-long programme from today at different parts of the country as part of its mass demand programme protesting the price hike of fuel and vowing to resist fundamentalist forces.

The CPB will hold rallies, street-meetings and councils in Gazipur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Maulvibazar, Sylhet and Sunamganj districts supporting the dawn to dusk hartal on September 18 to realise its 11-point demand.

The last phase of the mass demand programme will start with a rally from the CPB office at 9:30am.

CPB General Secretary Sazzad Zahir, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Emdadul Haque Millat, Aslam Khan, Zia Haider Dipti and Baki Billah will take part in the rally.

One commits suicide in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man committed suicide by taking poison at his residence at Kalurghat yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Bahadur, 30, son of Amin Ullah of Bhola Sarkarer Bari at Kalurghat under Chandgaon Police Station.

Police quoting locals said Bahadur took the poison at around 7:00am. He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he died at 8:15am.

Saudi industrialist Gopali calls on Hasina

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Renowned Saudi industrialist and chairman of a top business organisation Al Tawah Group Mohammad Abdullah Al Gopali called on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

The meeting discussed bilateral trades specially investment and manpower export and various problems faced by Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak said.

Nanak said Saudi trade giant told Hasina that more skilled Bangladeshi workers could work there and he is ready to extend his helping hand but Bangladeshi embassy has plenty to do in this regard.

Gopali sought all out cooperation from the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in all respects, including trade and commerce, Nanak added.

Hasina also urged Saudi businessmen to invest in Bangladesh, the Jubo League chairman said.

Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam MP, Al Tawah Group director MA Sobhan Hossain Bhuiyan, former ambassador Ziauddin Ahmed and Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agency (BAIRA) vice-chairman Abul Bashir were also present at the meeting.

BCU calls strike in Ctg on Sept 14

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chatra Union (BCU) yesterday called for student strike on September 14 in all schools in Chittagong.

The BCU Chittagong district unit announced the strike protesting the price hike of paper and other educational materials.

BCU Chittagong unit President Siraj Ud Doula and General Secretary Sujun Nandi, in a statement said that through the price hike of papers and other education materials the government was discouraging the study of poor students.

"It would force around one-third of the poor students to drop out," they said. Earlier, the BSU, Chittagong brought out a procession protesting the price hike of education materials from Darul Fazal Market premises.

The BCU leaders at the rally threatened to go for tougher movement unless the price of education materials was brought down immediately.

Siraj Ud Doula presided over the meeting where Ujjal Shikder, Sujun Nandi, Quamrul Islam, Yusuf Sohel, Tipai Aich, Rajib Banik and Preetam Das spoke at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

A two-day orchid exhibition, organised by the Orchid Society of Bangladesh, began at House # 2, Road # 95, Gulshan in the city yesterday.