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Dr Carmen Z Lamagna, vice-chancellor of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), speaks at a roundtable on 'Giving nurses due recognition: Promoting nursing education in Bangladesh' at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. The AIUB in partnership with The Daily Star, JSI-Bangladesh and Katalyst organised the event. (Story on Page-16)

# Give highest priority to public interest in project planning

## PM asks development planners

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has asked the development planners to give the highest priority to utility and public interest in project planning, formulation, adoption and implementation.

She also urged all concerned to be more active and careful about logical project costs and timely implementation.

"Assigned duties will have to be performed honestly and sincerely," said the prime minister while inaugurating the newly built Rural Development Engineering Centre (RDEC) yesterday. Diplomats, development partners of Bangladesh and officials of local government and LGED attended the function.

She advised the LGED engineers to acquire latest knowledge and technology, evolve durable, suitable and low-cost homegrown technologies for welfare of the country and its people.

Khaleda said her government believes in works, not in word, and believes in politics of development. It has been proved again and again through development activities carried out by the BNP governments.

"When we come to power, massive progress and development works take place in the country. We have proved it again in the last four years," she told her audience.

The prime minister said the activities of LGED will have to be made more dynamic and pro-people for improving the lifestyle of rural people, women empowerment and poverty reduction.

She stressed the need for participation of people's representatives in formulation of LGED development programmes for making those more meaningful.

"As a result, public-importance projects will get priority. Transparency and accountability in development activities will increase. Our commitment for building up

strong local government institution and establishing good governance will come true."

By unveiling a plaque, the prime minister formally inaugurated the 15-storied building beside the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) headquarters in the city's Agargaon area, which cost about Tk 19 crore.

Jica, JBIC and Japan government provided technical and financial assistance for the RDEC project.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Huq Zia and Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Matsuhiro Horiguchi also spoke on the occasion.

Japanese Ambassador Matsuhiro Horiguchi said the RDEC inauguration is not just an occasion to mark the completion of a building but the opening of a new chapter in the history of rural development of Bangladesh. In this new era, this

unique facility will surely act as a center for excellence in carrying forward the country's pro-poor and pro-rural development goals, he said.

Referring to Jica and LGED project, he said through this collaboration they also hoped to materialise the shared vision of the two governments to maximize utilisation of both internal and external resources for the greater wellbeing of the rural masses.

"We believe this will contribute to reducing poverty, a main pillar of PRSP," the Japanese ambassador told the function.

Horiguchi noted that Bangladesh government has given high priority to rural development in all its policies, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, also a shared concern of all development partners of Bangladesh, including Japan.

After the inaugural function, the prime minister planted a sapling on the LGED premises.

# Resist plot to create anarchy

## BNP leaders tell Ctg rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

BNP leaders at a rally yesterday called for resisting the conspiracy of the opposition parties to create anarchy in the country.

The 14-opposition party combine is trying to create anarchy ahead of the next general election, said Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman.

He also said the bomb attacks by Islamist militants are an act of brutality

and against the teachings of Islam.

The minister urged all to create mass awareness in order to resist these anti-Islamic forces.

The BNP Chittagong city convening committee organised the rally at Laldighi Maidan to protest bomb blasts across the country and the conspiracy against four-party alliance government.

The rally was held amid tight security measures. Members of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP)

and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were deployed in and around the meeting venue and at the entry and exit points.

BNP city committee convener Syed Wahidul Alam MP presided over the rally while former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and State Minister for Forest and Environment Zafrul Islam Chowdhury were present as special guests.

Sramik Dal leader M Nazimuddin, M Ersad Ullah and Abu Sufian also spoke.

## JU admission form submission date extended

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) have fixed the next Friday as an extended date for submission of admission forms while the distribution of admission forms ended yesterday.

It was decided yesterday considering the helpless situation of the applicants who could not submit filled-up admission forms in the last two days due to political unrest. The authorities, however, decided not to extend the time for distribution of admission forms. The admission test will be held on scheduled time.

