



Recipients of the Australian Development Scholarship pose for a photograph with Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Lorraine Barker, ERD Secretary Md Ismail Zabihullah and First Secretary (Development Cooperation), Janet Donnelly.

34 get Australian scholarships

Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker said "Australia is pleased to be assisting Bangladesh develop its human capital, by offering 34 talented men and women the opportunity to access a quality education," says a press release.

She was speaking at the pre-departure briefing session on December 5 for 34 Bangladeshis selected to study under the Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) programme 2006 intake.

Barker congratulated the recipients of the ADS scholarships. She said Bangladesh and Australia agree on the importance of human resource development and Australia is pleased to be able to provide the scholarships on a yearly basis to assist Bangladesh to develop its human resource capacity in key areas, including public policy and management, water management, education, gender, diplomacy and trade, public health and law.

Barker said the programme is a good opportunity to develop long lasting connections between the two countries.

ERD Secretary Md Ismail Zabihullah said the programme will help strengthen the human resource capacity.

He said capacity development is an important area of development that has been identified in the PRSP. He urged candidates during their period in Australia to play a positive role as they will be the ambassadors of Bangladesh and will be carrying the image of their country.

There are approximately 62 Bangladeshi students now studying in Australia under the ADS programme. Of the awards, two scholarships were given to students of indigenous background.

Nat'l building code to be a law soon

BSS, Dhaka

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas yesterday said the government would make the National Building Code a law very soon.

He said this while he was addressing a discussion on 'National Building Code and Earthquake and Disaster Management' at the Rajuk auditorium in the city.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) jointly arranged the discussion.

Presided over by Rajuk Chairman Shaheed Alam, the function was also addressed by Housing and Public Works Secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury and Director General

(DG) of DMB Rafiqul Mohamed.

The housing minister said the issue of earthquake has turned into a movement during the period of the present government. Discussions, meetings seminars and symposium are being arranged on the issue, he added.

He urged all concerned to make people aware of earthquake. Media can play a pertaining role in moulding public opinion on this issue, he said.

The minister said forecasting cyclone and flood is possible, but it is impossible in case of earthquake. He said public awareness on earthquake is increasing day by day.

BCL fails to form JU body in 4 years

JU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) failed to form a full-fledged Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit committee in the last four years, which brought all activities of the organisation to a halt on the campus.

The BCL JU unit activists could hardly bring out any procession or carry out any national programme on the campus, rather it became a unit of giving press releases.

Since 2001, after the four-party led alliance government had assumed power, the BCL activists on the campus did not get any full-fledged committee to run the organisation. Low possibility of financial benefit from this chapter, intra party feud and teachers'

politics are the causes behind not formation of the committee, BCL sources said.

Even after more than one year of the expiry of its convening committee, formed on November 27 last year with two months' deadline to form a new full-fledged committee on the campus, the central leaders are still fixing time to form a committee.

Ignoring root level activists' repeated demand of a committee, the central leaders did not form a committee fearing possible Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) harassment on activists.

Meanwhile, intra party feud among the BCL activists has come into surface with numerous groups and sub-groups working against one another.

Refuting all allegations, Liaqat Shikder, president of the BCL, said, 'The committee will be formed in two days'.

Swiss envoy calls on Hasina

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The outgoing Swiss ambassador to Bangladesh, Dr Dora Rapold, paid a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

During the hour-long meeting, they discussed different issues of bilateral interests.

Meeting sources said Rapold thanked Hasina, also Awami League president, for her cooperation in discharging her duty in Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina urged the outgoing Swiss envoy to use her good office to increase her country's investment in Bangladesh.

AL presidium member Kazi Jafrullah, MP, Sheikh Hasina's political secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury and former Ambassador Ziauddin were also present.

SUSPENSION OF UNI-TRACK EDN Publishers demand compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Pustak Prokashak O Bikreta Samity (an association of publishers and sellers of books) submitted a memorandum to the government through National Curriculum and Text Book (NCTB) chairman demanding compensation for the loss they suffered due to sudden suspension of Uni-track Education System by the government.

They also demanded the order of publishing the books of private publishers approved for the years of 2005 and 2006.

Since the Uni-track Education was new to our country, the publishers had to face difficulty in selecting writers and collecting information.

When the publishers almost completed all preparations to publish books, the sudden decision of the government pushed them into huge financial loss, they said.

They publication sector will have to incur a loss of Tk one crore for the unjustified government decision, they claimed in the memorandum.

They also protested the comment in the cabinet meeting that the preparation to start the Uni-track Education was not satisfactory.

They threatened the government to take legal action if it fails to take necessary steps in five days.

President of the association Md Abu Taher, Vice President Md Tajul Islam, Director Bahauddin Bhuiyan and other leaders attended the meeting.