

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY ACT

Many private universities have failed to fulfil preconditions

President tells 3rd IIUC Convocation

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has lamented that many private universities have failed to fulfil the preconditions of the Private University Act.

He was addressing the 3rd Convocation of the International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

The president, also chancellor of IIUC, said only a few of the private universities have permanent campus, full time faculty members, sufficient library facilities, conducive academic atmosphere and well-planned co-curricular and extra curricular activities.

"...a serious business motive is lying behind the whole process, which is undesirable and unexpected for the nation," he said.

Iajuddin hoped that the authorities of the private universities would realise this unrealistic phenomenon and would take necessary steps to overcome the situation.

He urged the University Grants Commission (UGC) to examine and monitor the academic and administrative aspects of both the public and private universities so that the quality education is ensured for the students. "If needed, the government will make necessary amendments to the Private University Act."

He said Bangladesh, being a



President Iajuddin Ahmed speaks at the 3rd Convocation of International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

developing country, has given due attention to alleviate poverty, illiteracy, deforestation and malnutrition with a view to attaining sustainable development within a short span of time.

"Therefore, we need huge capa-

ble and efficient human resources to attain our cherished goals and to cope with the present world order."

The president said that with the fast pace of development, universities have an important role to produce skilled and ideal citizens, who

would lead the country in the right direction in the future.

Education can help a lot in achieving the target, he said, adding: "We have to combine quality and morality so that the ethical standard is achieved in our personal life."

He asked the IIUC authorities to take necessary steps with a view to making synthesis between traditional and modern values so that "our students can compete confidently in this competitive world."

Iajuddin said the faculty members of public and private universities should try to enrich themselves with the state-of-the-art knowledge so that the students can get modern ideas and innovation from them.

He called upon the erudite teachers to come forward in this regard.

He said: "If we work unitedly, we will be able to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the nation as a whole."

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, was the convocation speaker at the programme.

IIUC Vice-Chancellor Prof. AKM Azharul Islam and Secretary of Islamic University Chittagong Trust Mohammad Shamsul Islam also addressed the function. IIUC Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Abu Bakr Rafique gave the address of welcome.

PHOTO: STAR

9 establishments fined Tk 20.77 lakh in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

A mobile court here yesterday realised about Tk 20.77 lakh from nine commercial establishments as fines, compensations and outstanding water bills after conducting separate drives in the port city.

It also unearthed huge pilfering of Wasa water by four establishments and arrested three officials of the organisations.

Besides, the mobile court seized 21 tons of substandard bricks from Mohana Bricks, Quality Bricks and SK Bricks from Hathazari and Rangunia upazilas in the district and 300 kgs of rotten milk from Oriental Bakery and Confectionery in Nasirabad Industrial Area.

Special Magistrate of Chittagong Wasa Mohammad Munir Chowdhury conducted the drives in cooperation with Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

The penalised commercial establishments are Hotel Al-Arafat and Boarding, Wazi Beg-International Limited, Washmart Washing Plant Limited, J Alam, Mohona Bricks, Quality Bricks, SK Bricks and Oriental Bakery and Confectionery.



Prof Anisuzzaman inaugurated a five-day exhibition of photographs by photojournalist Firoz Chowdhury and his daughter Affa Faiza Chowdhury Adrita at Zainul Gallery of Fine Arts Institute in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SUICIDE OF SCHOOLGIRL Bring culprits to book

Parents appeal to CG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Bijli Akhtar Swapna, a schoolgirl who committed suicide because of frequent teasing by local hoodlums at Pallabi in the city, yesterday said the gang has now been threatening them with death if they do not withdraw the case filed in this connection.

They urged the caretaker government to bring the culprits to book immediately.

"We are now suffering from an acute sense of insecurity as the prime accused, Tunda Majibar, and his accomplices are threatening us with death repeatedly if we do not withdraw the case filed with Pallabi police station," said Mosharrarf Hossain Musa, father of Swapna, at a press conference.

He also said that his daughter committed suicide on July 20 last year, but the charge sheet of the case is yet to be framed.

Thirteen-year-old Swapna took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her house at Adarshanagar in Pallabi.

Musa, a fish vendor by profession, alleged that Tunda Majibar, a resident of Adarshanagar, and his accomplices often tried to gather in front of his (Musa) house to take drugs.

"As I prevented them from taking drugs, Majibar had his sister file a false case against me only to harass me," he said.

"I then went on the run in fear of police. During this time, Majibar and his accomplices teased my daughter and even made indecent proposals to her, which compelled my daughter to commit suicide," he said.

Avilasi Begum, mother of Swapna, said, "We are passing every hour in fear as the gang repeatedly threatening us."

Farewell reception to outgoing air chief

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshall Fakhurul Azam was given a farewell reception at the Armed Forces Division in the city yesterday.

Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury accorded the farewell in the morning, said a ISPR release.

Speaking on the occasion, Maj Gen Jahagir Alam expressed gratitude to Air Vice Marshall Fakhurul Azam for his cooperation while discharging his duty as the Chief of Air Staff.

He also recalled the happy moments with the Air Chief and presented him a crest on behalf of the Armed Forces Division.

Senior military officials, among others, were present at the function.

Meets president

Another report adds: Fakhurul Azam also made a farewell call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city.

Welcoming the Air Chief, the President lauded his contribution in Bangladesh Air Force and wished him good health.

The Air Chief expressed his deep gratitude to Iajuddin for providing support and cooperation during his tenure as Air Chief.

Muggers kill one in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was stabbed to death and three others were stabbed by the muggers in separate incidents in the early hours of yesterday in the city.

The dead was identified as Furkanuddin, 35, while the injured were Didarul Alam, 32, Md. Jewel, 24, Monwar Hossain Bappi, 28.

A gang of four muggers stopped Furkan near a furniture shop at Shenpara in Mirpur while he was going to his residence in the same locality along with his nephew, Didrul Alam at around 12:15am yesterday. The miscreants stabbed them indiscrimi-

nately when they refused to hand over their belongings, including cellphone sets.

They stabbed Didar in his head. Police rushed the two to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious injuries where the doctors declared Furkan dead. Didar is undergoing treatment at DMCH.

Didar told the newsmen at the DMCH that Furkan, a caretaker of a house in Shenpara, came to visit him.

In another incident, a gang of three snatchers stopped Muhammad Jewel, 24, and his cousin when they were going to Mailbagh in a rickshaw at about 1:30am yesterday. They

stabbed Jewel and snatched away three mobile sets and money.

Jewel, a college student, told the journalists that he came to Dhaka from Barisal for medical check-up.

Meanwhile, a gang of muggers snatched away a cellphone set and Tk 1200 from one Monwar Hossain Bappi, 28, at about 12:00am yesterday at Khilgaon area.

Monwar said snatchers stabbed him in his head and hand while he was returning to his residence from one of his friend's house after watching the cricket match between Sri Lanka and England.