

Set up regional centres of NU for quality education

Academics tell national dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National University (NU), the country's biggest public university, will have to be decentralised by setting up of regional centres for upgrading its quality of education and ensuring its transparency, said the academics at a national dialogue yesterday.

They urged the caretaker government to form a committee for identifying the problems of the university and making a roadmap to solve them.

The dialogue on 'Structural problems of National University and their solutions' was organised by Nagarik Sanghati, a non-government organisation, at the National Press Club in the city.

Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, suggested regional centres for NU to be headed by pro-vice-chancellors so that the colleges under the university could be monitored easily.

"Regional centres of NU will have to be set up in all important

places including Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal for reducing the academic loads at Gazipur centres," he added.

Prof Maniruzzaman alleged that most of the colleges under NU do not have own library, separate examination rooms and research centres which are essential for maintaining quality education.

"Most of the city colleges under NU do not have adequate library, class rooms and sufficient teachers. On the other hand, unskilled

teachers are recruited at different non-government colleges through the governing bodies. It is difficult for only one centre of NU at Gazipur to monitor all these problems," he added.

Prof Maniruzzaman said only 12 percent students of NU attend over 50 percent classes while only 30 percent students attend only 30 to 50 percent of total classes.

Lack of teachers, classrooms, library and modern curriculum are the main reasons for the absence of so many students from their classes, he said.

Prof M Abdul Mobin Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of NU, said colleges under NU have to run academic activities of two-year HSC, three-year degree (pass course), four-year honours and one-year masters courses which are beyond their capacity.

"When I was the VC, I proposed for six regional centres for smooth running of the university. But I could not implement it due to political pressure," he added.

Prof Nurul Momen of Dhaka University suggested that NU should be handed over to four public universities.

Prof AKM Wahiduzzaman of NU said many colleges under NU give the students admission in subjects that they don't have.

"Titumeer College in the capital do not have geography department, but students are admitted there with honours in geography," he pointed out.

Nagarik Sanghati President and DU Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman conducted the dialogue which was participated by Engineer Enamul Haq, DU Prof Sakawat Ansaree and NU Officer Abu Hanif.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

The Dholaipar-Kutubkhali road at Jatrabari in the city goes under water even after a little rain, but the authorities remain indifferent to the suffering of pedestrians as well as passengers.

Database to be developed on South Asian biodiversity

CU CORRESPONDENT

A database on biodiversity styled as South Asian Catalogue of Life will be developed as the core of South Asian Biodiversity Information System (SABIS) by 2012.

This was decided at the three-day-long Chittagong International Biodiversity Conference 2007 which ended here on Wednesday.

Participants at the conference believed that the catalogue will serve as a platform for information as well as building awareness for enhancing scientific cooperation to achieve environmentally sustainable development in the region.

The conference was organised by Biodiversity Research Group of Bangladesh (BGRB) at the BCSIR Laboratories.

Disclosing the decision at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club on Thursday afternoon, the organisers stressed the need for regional cooperation to promote the establishment of SABIS for collection and dissemination of primary data about South Asian biodiversity.

They urged the national governments, regional and international forums and donor agencies to come forward in implementing the project.

The organisers said at first the internet-based data would be

available in English and then it would be translated in all languages of the region.

Over 30 keynote papers were presented at the conference where 17 biodiversity scientists from home and abroad were present.

BRGB Chairman Prof Badrul Amin Bhuiya, Scientist Vishwas Chavan from India, Scientist Dr Dennis Gordon from New Zealand, Prof Jeng-Tze Yang and Software Engineer Jack Lin from Taiwan and BRGB Vice-chairman Dr Md Amin Uddin Mridha were present at the press conference.

EXTORTION CHARGE Sylhet trader files petition case against journo, 3 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A trader filed a petition case against four people, including a journalist, on charges of extortion on Wednesday night.

Gulam Rahman Zilu filed the case with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station against MA Rahim, a Sylhet-based staff reporter of the daily Manabzamin, Aminul Islam Sardar, Ali Hossain and Sanjay Dev.

In his petition, the complainant alleged that the accused equipped with arms vandalised his business establishment 'Zaibunnesa Traders' at Star Plaza market in the city's Subidbazar area and also assaulted him on January 8, 2006.

Zilu also said that when he was going to the police station to file a case, the accused stopped him and snatched a mobile phone set worth Tk 40,000 from him.

The group then took him to Kalibari area and threatened him with death, he said, adding that the group also demanded Tk 50,000 and later freed him when he agreed to pay.

The Officer in charge of Kotwali Police Station said that the police are investigating the allegations. A regular case may be recorded after preliminary investigation, he said on Thursday.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 32nd edition of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka at 5:45 pm today.

BNP leader Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed and Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury will feature in the four-member panel for this week's Sanglap, says a press release.

Masud Hasan Khan of BBC Bangla Service will moderate the Sanglap, jointly organised by BBC World Service Trust and BBC Bangla Service.

The recorded Sanglap programme will be aired on BBC Bangla radio at 7:30pm tomorrow and on Channel i at 8:00pm on Monday.

Technical training for 50 underprivileged girls in Ctg

JOBS Trust Bangladesh (JOBS) recently launched a five-month technical training course on sewing, embroidery and block boutique for 50 underprivileged female adolescents in the Karnaphully area of Chittagong, says a press release.

Working under the Unicef-funded "Creating Livelihood Opportunities to Contribute to Empowerment of Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh" project, JOBS has teamed up with ERECT, a sister concern of Agrajatra, to provide market-led technical training and subsequent employment for the adolescents.

The overall goal of the initiative is to create a sustainable income for the adolescents that leads toward financial independence and discourages parents from considering early marriage options for their daughters.

Suspected militant held in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a suspected militant with a pencil-sized battery, six-foot wire and several small electronic parts at Mirsarai Railway Station in Chittagong on Thursday.

The arrestee was identified as Md Ahad Mian alias Musa, 24, son of one Fazul Haq of Bajitpur upazila in Kishorganj.

The railway police arrested Ahad at around 4:00am as he was moving around suspiciously. They challenged him and searched his body only to find that he was carrying the battery and electronic parts.

Officer in charge of the GRP Chittagong Station Nihar Ranjan Das told reporters that Ahad might be a member of any militant organisations and that he was making inconsistent statements.

Meanwhile, the police also

arrested two persons with two knives from Chittagong Railway station at around 2:15pm on Thursday.

The arrestees were Nayan, 22, son of late Sirazul Islam of South Jiri in Patiya, and Jasim Uddin, 32, son of Ahammadur Rahman of East Madarbari.

"Nayan and Jasim might be involved with robbery and snatching in trains," said the OC.

Bss adds: Police, in separate drives, arrested six miscreants and recovered arms and porno CDs during the last 24 hours ending at 4:00pm yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Fatikchhari police raided Pindong area and arrested three miscreants with a foreign-made LG gun at 10:30pm on Thursday night.

Woman journo commits suicide in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A woman journalist of a local daily allegedly committed suicide at Darga Mahalla in the city on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Rahena Begum, 26, staff reporter of the daily Shyamol Sylhet.

Police said Rahena Begum, mother of a 14-month-old girl, hanged herself from the ceiling of her bedroom at night. He body was recovered at about 8:00pm.

Rahena's husband Ashik-uzzaman, a lecturer of Taiyeb Ali College in Jaintapur upazila, was in Dhaka on that night.

Police recovered an eight-page letter written by Rahena in which she mentioned that torture by her mother-in-law and sister-in-law forced her to commit suicide.

The police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a floating body of an unidentified youth at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Police said the youth, aged around 26 years, was found wearing black pants and a checked shirt.

They recovered the body from a pond at Mirpur Golartek at around 10:30am and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Police said they showed the body to the people in the neighbourhood for identification but nobody could recognise him.

Locals suspect that the body was thrown to the pond after murder.

Reception to injured UN peacekeepers May 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Injured Bangladeshi peacekeepers and family members of those who were killed or died at UN peacekeeping missions, will be accorded a reception at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on May 29 to mark the International Peacekeeping Day, says a press release of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed will attend the function as the chief guest.

Invitation letters have already been sent to the wounded peacekeepers and relatives of the deceased to join the programme.

Two relatives of the deceased peacekeepers can attend the function and have been requested to report at 17 East Bengal at Chairman Bari, Banani, in the city by 5:00pm on Sunday. The retired injured peacekeepers have been asked to report by 5:00pm on Monday.

For more information, the concerned people may call 9111288 or 01817041766.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Holiday market at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city draws a good number of customers yesterday. But the vendors are worried that they would not be able to carry on business activities under the open sky during the upcoming monsoon. So, they demanded establishment of a hawker market for them.