

Ensure quality edn to develop intellect, morality in society

President urges universities

UNB, Chittagong

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the universities to impart contemporary knowledge in consonance with up-to-date curricula and moral values to ensure quality education and develop intellect and morality in the society.

"Bangladesh, being a developing country, needs huge capable and competent human resources to face the challenges of the 21st century," he said while presiding over the 3rd convocation ceremony of University of Science and Technology (USTC) at its Bhashani auditorium.

The president reminded that educational institutions particularly

universities, the prime movers of producing human resources, have great roles to play in providing quality education to the students so that they can make themselves worthy enough to face the challenges ahead.

He said John Milton, the great thinker of education during the 17th century, had emphasised the "synthesis of quality with the morality in the learning process" with a view to acquiring perfect education for the students so that they can perform their deeds justly, skillfully and magnanimously.

"The thinking of Milton is not out-of-date and still equally important for the well-being of the society."

He said it is important to give

more emphasis on quality and moral education so that the present generation and the posterity could make themselves more able and worthy to face the challenges ahead.

Iajuddin also emphasised on giving all-out attention and focus on primary education, which is the foundation of higher education, for achieving overall advancement of the society.

He mentioned that the SSC results, published recently, have given a clear indication that there are gulfs of difference between rural and urban in imparting quality education to the students.

He urged the authorities concerned to find out the root causes of the differences and to take

corrective measures in this regard.

He expressed his confidence that the graduating students of USTC are fully prepared to take the responsibility, which would be given by the nation.

All must have to work unitedly imbued with the spirit of patriotism and utmost dedication for the sake of the nation, he said.

Iajuddin expressed sympathy for those, who have lost their loved ones at the devastating landslides that occurred a few days ago in Chittagong.



PHOTO: PID

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin administers oath to Suraiya Begum, a newly appointed member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission, at his office in the city yesterday.

2 new PSC members take oath

BSS, Dhaka

Two newly appointed members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) M Nurunnabi and Suraiya Begum took oath here yesterday.

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin administered their oath, an official handout said.

Chairman of the PSC and its members and senior officials of the commission secretariat were present.

Dr Saiful made envoy to Spain

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Dr Mohammad Saiful Amin Khan, currently serving as the principal in Foreign Service Academy, as the country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain.

BANGABANDHU CASE 105 DU teachers shocked at Mainul's remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 105 teachers of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday expressed surprise and shock at Law Adviser Mainul Hossain's comment that the Bangabandhu murder case is not on the government's priority.

"We cannot understand that being a lawyer and important person of the government how could Mainul term the Bangabandhu killing as 'an old political incident' and the case is not on the government's priorities," they said in a statement.

The teachers said Mainul's terming the killing of Bangabandhu and the subsequent case as 'political incident' has hurt the people and is tantamount to showing his sympathy to the killers of Bangabandhu instead of showing neutrality.

"Perhaps, he has mixed up the Bangabandhu killing with the killings that took place at different times at Ittefaq Bhavan," they said.

The statement urged the chief adviser to caretaker government to keep vigilance so that the implementation of the verdict of the case is not disrupted by any 'illegal intervention or influence' of anyone.

The signatories to the statement included Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, Dr Harun-Ar-Rashid, Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dr Hosen Mansur, Dr Anwar Hossen, Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, Dr Muhammad Samad, Dr Khondoker Ashraf Hossain, Dr Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury and Prof Aminur Rashid.

'Solve problems of 56 Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives of 56 Bangladeshi workers, now living in Kuwait, yesterday sought government intervention to solve their problems that they are going to face due to a restriction of the Kuwaiti government on changing the employers.

At a press conference in the city, Abdul Hye, brother of one worker Abdul Halim, said their future is now hanging in balance due to restriction of Kuwaiti government on providing new visa and permission to change workplace from one company to another.

He said the workers were working in a project of their contracting company named Doha West Power Generation and Water Production Station, and that contract has now ended.

A new company has got the contract for the project and is interested to keep the workers with them considering their efficiency.

But the workers would not be able to join the new company due to Kuwaiti government's restriction, he said.

Hye urged the government to

hold bilateral talks with the Kuwaiti government to help solve their problems on an urgent basis.

DCC names road after FF Sabu

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) renamed the road from Arambagh Police Box to Kamalapur Station and from Rajarbagh intersection to New Circular Road at Motijheel Colony as 'Muktijoddha Mesbah Uddin Ahmed Sabu Sarak' in recognition of his outstanding contribution during the liberation war, says a press release.

He was a valiant freedom fighter and founder of various welfare organisations.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will unveil the name plaque of the road at 12:30pm on June 24 opposite the Arambagh Police Box.

College student shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was shot by a gang of unidentified criminals at Santinagar in the city last night.

The victim was identified as Rasip Bin Sarwar, a second year student of Bangladesh Rifles Public School and College.

The criminals sprayed bullets on Rasip while he was loitering in front of his house at Peer Shaheb Lane at 8.30pm, hospital sources said. He was shot in his right leg. The criminals left the place immediately after the incident.

Rasip was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DrAKM Golam Sattar passed away due to lung diseases at the Square Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 70.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and son Reefat Bin Sattar, a Grand Master in chess, to mourn his death.

Bangladesh Chess Federation, chess players, organisers and arbiters condoled his death and conveyed their deep sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Death anniversary



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Tolamoti Halder, mother of Chaitanya Chandra Halder, court correspondent

of The Daily Star, says a press release.

On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at her village home at Nayakandi Bajitpur under Rajoir upazila in Madaripur district.

Chehlum



Khan Bhavan, 115-Sadar Road in Barisal after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend Qurankhwani and milad mahfil.



PHOTO: STAR

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury inaugurates a book fair organised by Annito on the Public Library premises in the city yesterday. Ankur Prakashani, Pragati Publishers and Onnesha Prakashan are taking part in the fair.

'Women's empowerment a must for sustainable development'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women should be brought into the mainstream of society to ensure their empowerment, which is crucial to sustainable development of the country, speakers at a view exchange meeting said yesterday.

Women's empowerment is a multi-dimensional process of achieving rights to participate in key social, economic, political and cultural domains, they said, adding that the budget of 12007-08 fiscal lacks specific indicators in this regard, although allocations for women have increased in some cases.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) and Women for Women jointly organised the meet titled 'Women's empowerment: Economic and political context' at the National Press Club.

"Although we are calling for a

gender sensitive budget, it is not possible to formulate such a budget without adequate data," said Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government.

Women and children affairs ministry should consult with women's rights organisations and adopt specific proposals to solve the problem using a multi-sectoral approach, as it is not possible for the ministry alone to address all the issues involving women, he said.

Dr Akbar also called for bringing changes to the constitution and the election system in order to increase the representation of women in parliament to 50 percent.

There should not be any women's wings of political parties, rather women should be brought into the mainstream of politics, he added.

Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan said that although political reforms are getting priority at present, no steps

have been taken to address the issue of political empowerment of women, who account for 50 percent of the population.

Criticising the 'Minus two formula' in the context of present situation, women leader Farida Akhter said such a patriarchal attitude would jeopardise the political empowerment of women.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said women would achieve their empowerment when they would be able to establish their control over capital and technology.

Prof Mohammad Farashuddin and former secretary Moshir Rahman also spoke at the programme moderated by President of Women for Women Dr Mahmuda Islam.

Assistant Programme Manager of BNWLA Kohinur Begum presented the keynote paper while Fawzia Karim Firoz presided.

'Withdraw ban on Hasina's US visit'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as two thousand women in a statement yesterday urged the caretaker government to withdraw ban on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's going to the United States.

They said the women folk of the country are deeply shocked as the government stood in her way while she was set to see her pregnant daughter in USA.

A ban on her going abroad goes against the spirit of women's rights, they said, adding that such order corrodes democratic values.

The signatories to the statement included Manzila Farook, Nazma Ahmed and Baby Mahua.

Guidelines for admission into 11th class

Last date for admission July 26

UNB, Dhaka

The government has announced the guidelines for admission into 11th class for the academic year 2007-08.

According to the guidelines, no selection or admission test will be held for admission. Admission of students will be made on the basis of results of SSC or equivalent examinations.

Priority will be given by turn to candidates securing A+ (43 points) down to 40 points, said a PID hand-out.

For the colleges at division and district level, 10 percent seats will be kept reserved for admission seekers from outside the Sadar while the rest open to all.

But whatever the policy, students

of respective school and college will get preference for admission.

Students who passed SSC or equivalent examinations held in 2005, 2006 and 2007 can be admitted into any board-recognized colleges.

The last date for admission this year is July 26 while the classes will begin on August 1. However, admission will be allowed with late fee up to August 5.

In case of any violation of the guidelines, MPO and permission for teaching or recognition of non-government colleges will be cancelled.

For the government colleges, punitive action will be taken against the concerned principal, warned the handout.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of Brac's Post-primary Basic and Continuing Education (PACE) programme's inter-school debate competition pose for photograph with the guests at Brac Centre auditorium in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Md Nazim Uddin, Education Secretary Md Montajul Islam, Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed and eminent litterateur Hayat Mamud.

Train Jamboree from June 28

Bangladesh Scouts is going to lunch Jamboree on the Train for the first time in the country to mark the centenary of scouting, says a press release.

The theme of the Jamboree, that starts on June 28 from Chittagong and ends at Dinaipur on July 2, is "Jamboree on the Train: Knowledge, Thrill and Friendship".

The Train will travel about 800km in which the scouts will participate in various attractive programmes. About 3000 participants from home and abroad will participate in the event.

The inaugural function will be held on June 29 at 10:00am at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city.

Adviser to the Caretaker Government Barrister Moinal Hossain is supposed to be the chief guest in the inaugural function.

CDA holds meeting with owners of illegal structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday held the first of a series of meetings with the owners of illegal or unplanned structures, people who have been encroaching roads or footpaths deviating its plan since long.

On the first day, people residing in the areas stretching from Bohaddarhat under Chandgaon Police Station to Tiger Pass in Doublemooring PS attended the meeting.

CDA Authorisation Officer Ashraful Islam said the meeting was initiated to clear all or any fear and panic among the people regarding the move and to give proper guideline to help them streamline the faults, the deviations or irregularities their plans, structures or plots have for long.

He said the meeting was, mainly, attended by the city dwellers who

have plots and structures but didn't obtain any approval against those, deviated CDA plan or design or encroached part or whole of roads and footpaths.

"The move is part of our continued efforts to bring an order in the overall housing system of the port city that have long been in a mess and to create scope for better urbanisation for the citizens, keeping in mind the growing expansion and demand in future," said Shah Md Akhtaruddin, the CDA chairman.

He said notices were served time and again to all the citizens concerned who participated in the meeting.

CDA sources said the second and third such meetings will be held on June 24 and June 25 and people from Dewanhat to Port Connecting Road (PCR) in Nimtala and from PCR to Katgarh in Patenga will attend those.

Director of construction firm arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces arrested a director of a construction firm yesterday in the wake of allegations that his firm did not follow the Rajuk-approved design during the construction of an apartment building in the city.

Mohammad Iqbal, a director of the Ideal Home Builders Limited, was arrested at noon when he went to the Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha) Bhavan in the city for official purposes.

Police said the Ideal Home Builders constructed a 16-storey residential-cum-commercial building in the Shantinagar area about two years ago without following the original design approved by the Rajuk, the sole authority to approve building plans and monitor construction.

It also sold all the apartments and spaces for shops.

But the buyers recently came to know that the developer did not follow the Rajuk-approved design. They lodged a complaint with the joint forces against the firm.

The joint forces arrested Iqbal from the Rajuk Bhavan and handed him over to the Paltan police.

Meanwhile, Mobarak Hossain, a Rajuk official, lodged a case against Iqbal with the Paltan Police Station yesterday.

ASP NET SCHOOL DEBATE

Viqarunnisa

becomes

champion

Viqarunnisa Noon School became champion in UNESCO ASP Net School Debate Competition, says a press release.

A total of 90 students of 22 schools under ASP Net of Dhaka took part in the three-day competition organised by Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) with the assistance of UNESCO Dhaka.

The closing and prize giving ceremony was held at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) auditorium in the city yesterday.

Buet Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AMM Safiullah attended the programme as the chief guest while Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Education Md Ashrafur Makbul presided.

UNESCO Representative in Bangladesh Malama Meleisea, Director General of National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM) Prof Hosne Ara Firoza and BNCU Secretary Dr Md Mahmudul Hasan also spoke.

1,518 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police, in separate drives, arrested 1,518 people on various charges across the country in 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, they recovered 11 firearms, 20 other weapons and 16 bullets and also filed two cases under the Arms Act while another under the Explosive Act.

BRAC INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE

Bhotapara Girls'

School emerges

champion

Bhotapara Girls' School in Godagari, Rajshahi clinched the title of Brac's Post-primary Basic and Continuing Education (PACE) programme's inter-school debate competition, says a press release.

Syed Abul Hossain Academy of Kalkini, Madaripur became the runner up in the competition while Nusrat Jahan, student of Bhotapara Girls' School in Godagari, Rajshahi, was deemed best speaker.

Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed presided over the event and distributed prizes among the winners. Education Secretary Md Montajul Islam was present at the occasion as the chief guest, while special guest and eminent literary personality Hayat Mamud inaugurated the event. Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Md Nazim Uddin and Director of BRAC Education Programme Shafiqul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

The competition was judged by Father Adam of Notre Dame College, Rashid Ara Begum of Holy Cross School and Sharmin Rahman of Rajuk Uttara Model High School and College. Executive Director of BRAC Mahbub Hossain and Deputy Executive Director Md Aminul Alam were present on the occasion.

The 6-month debate tournament was organised between BRAC-supported non-government secondary schools. A total of 99 schools across the country took part in the competitions in which, prior to the final round, a semi-final round as well as various regional, district and divisional inter-school sessions and intra-school debates also took place.