

Ensure balanced edn to bridge rural-urban gap

President tells State University convocation

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday swiped at outworn education system that spawned coaching commerce and asked the authorities to undertake appropriate measures for imparting quality education to the students to help them fit in the fast-changing socioeconomic paradigm. He also pointed out another phenomenal lapse like a widening disparity between standard of education in rural and urban areas and suggested ensuring balanced education to bridge the rural-urban gap.

"Education, the main instrument of building human resources, is the essence of the time. We should have to give more emphasis on it, especially on primary education, which is the foundation of higher education."

The president said this at the First Convocation of State University at the Bangladesh-China Friendship conference centre in the city yesterday. Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University S M A Faiz was the convocation speaker.

Iajuddin, a former teacher of Dhaka University, noted that, nowadays, quality education has been centralised at the towns. But, he also found out a disparity within the urban areas as well, as a few educational institutions are doing well in comparison with the others.

"Side by side, dependence on coaching centre has been raised, which is also another concern for us."

He regretted that, nowadays, apart from respective educational institutions, "almost all students are taking

coaching from the coaching centres and an unhealthy competition is prevailing among the parents, guardians as well as the students".

Biman flight stuck at Kuala Lumpur due to technical glitches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An airbus of Bangladesh Biman has remained stuck at Kuala Lumpur airport since Sunday night due to glitches in its engine.

The Biman authorities said they sent starter (equipment to start engine) and engineers from Dhaka yesterday to fix the technical glitches. They also hoped that the airbus would fly to Dhaka today.

Biman sources said the airbus was scheduled to leave Kuala Lumpur for Dhaka at 9:00pm on Sunday but could not take off as one of its engines was not working.

Earlier on August 2, the departure of a Dhaka-bound Biman flight from Heathrow Airport in London was delayed for about 48 hours due to some technical reasons.



Labour Adviser Anwarul Iqbal speaks at a dialogue on 'The State of Women Workers in the RMG Sector: Findings from a Recent CPD Study' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan and International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman and on his left is rights activist Dr Hamida Hossain. (Story on Page 8)

PHOTO: STAR

Set up N-power plants to meet electricity crisis

Speakers say at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants at a discussion yesterday urged the caretaker government to establish nuclear power stations in order to ensure adequate power supply in the country.

They also said that nuclear technology should be used only for civilian purposes, not for military purposes.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) jointly organised the discussion on 'Impacts of nuclear weapons on health & environment: Hiroshima to Bangladesh' at the National Press Club in the city to mark Hiroshima Day.

"The demand for electricity is

increasing day by day. We should set up more power plants to meet the growing demand. We will benefit if we decide to set up nuclear power plants for this purpose," said Anwar Hossain, former chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

He said research should be conducted on how to set up nuclear power plants, which generate more electricity than other types of power plants.

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmed urged all South Asian countries to declare South Asia a nuclear weapon-free zone and launch a

campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons by 2020.

Former ambassador Walir Rahaman demanded that budgetary allocation for the health sector be increased to ensure 'Health for all' and include the topic of nuclear non-proliferation in the curriculum of preventive and social medicine.

PSR President Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Chief Editor Jagul Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke.

'Create a child-friendly atmosphere'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geetara Safiya Chowdhury yesterday called on the mass media to allocate free airtime and space to help establish child rights.

The organisations working with child rights may create a child-friendly atmosphere by raising mass awareness with the help of media, she added.

The adviser was speaking at the 'National Children Conference 2007' at the LGED Bhaban seminar room in the city as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) through its countrywide Child Communication Unit (CCU) organised the conference supported by Plan Bangladesh.

The adviser called for putting an end to the discrimination the disadvantaged children suffer and sought cooperation of all stakeholders to make way so that these children can flourish their latent talents.

CCU Member Sifat Ara Badhon said CCUs have been formed in 34 districts to help establish child rights through raising voice against repression on children.

Sifat demanded the freedom of expression of children in the mass

Bodies of two missing boys recovered from Bay

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bodies of two schoolboys, among three who went missing on Sunday morning at Patenga sea beach, were recovered yesterday morning.

Local divers recovered the bodies of Ibrahim Mian Ripon, 16, a student of class X of Agrabad Boys' High School and Abhishek Barua, 15, a student of Class IX of Municipal Model High School at around 11:30am.

The bodies were found trapped inside the wrecks of a lighter vessel that sank in the Bay near Karnaphuli estuary.

However, Maafuz Alam Arefin - another missing student of class IX of Municipal Model High School, remained untraced, sources said.

The divers continued a search for Arefin till filing of the report at 5:30pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, all classes of Chittagong Municipal Model High School were suspended after the first period yesterday to mourn the tragic end of two of its students.

The children at grassroots level are forced to work to support their families," he said.

Plan Bangladesh Sponsorship and Grants Support Manager Tushar Quader Haq underscored the need for access to Information Technology (IT) for children to become an eligible citizen of the global world.

Local Government and Rural development Adviser Anwarul Iqbal attended the concluding ceremony of the daylong conference as the chief guest.

Help flood-hit people

President urges countrymen

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the countrymen to extend their hands of help to the flood victims within their capacity to face the exigency unitedly, irrespective of party and opinion.

"We will have to work unitedly with determination like in the past," he said, as most part of Bangladesh remained under water.

He made the call when Food and Disaster Management Adviser Tapan Chowdhury called on him at Bangabhaban as the caretaker government braced with preparation for launching a nationwide relief and rehabilitation operation.

He asked the adviser to take proper and timely measures and give all-out efforts for mitigating the misery of the flood victims. He asked for alert so that the victims could get the relief supplies properly.

DU correspondent adds: Different socio-cultural organisations yesterday urged the government and all concerns to come forward to help the flood victims across the country with pure drinking water, relief materials and necessary medical assistances.

They also urged all to help the marooned rehabilitate.

Teachers of Dhaka University have decided to donate their one day's salary for the relief, a press release said.

DU Teachers' Association (Duta) in an urgent general meeting on Sunday urged all to take up initiatives to prevent post-flood epidemic through preparing oral saline and collecting medicines and water purifying tablets.

Among other organisations, Labour Employment Right, Karmobi Nari, Bangladesh Medical Association, Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association and Jatiya Krishak Samiti O Bangladesh Khetmajur Union urged all concerns to come forward with relief and medicines.

Meanwhile, the DU authorities formed a committee headed by DU President Prof Sadruddin Amin to conduct relief activities.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon also formed a relief cell and urged all to donate to the cell.

Besides, many organisations began to distribute relief goods among the flood-affected people at different regions of the country.

Bangladesh Communist Party led by President Manjurul Ahsan Khan distributed relief goods at Gaibandha Sadar.

President of Jatiya Tran (relief) Committee Justice Golam Rabbani yesterday distributed relief goods among 225 affected people in the city.

Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University, Tangail and Centre for Asian Art and Culture (CAAC) also have taken up special measures to assist the flood victims.

ASA provides all the funds from its own resources and it would not receive any local or foreign donation.

Implementation of the programme has been started from August 1. It deployed 4,000 staff to implement the programme.

Tk 1 cr DBBL help

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited donated Tk 1 crore to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for flood victims, says a press release.

Abul Hasnat Md Rashidul Islam, chairman of the Board of Directors of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, handed over a payment order for Tk 1 crore to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday at his office. Zahid Hossain Khan, director of the board, was also present on the occasion.

United Commercial Bank Ltd

United Commercial Bank Ltd donated Tk 25 lakh to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for the flood-affected people, says a press release. Managing Director Hamidul Huq and Executive Vice President and Company Secretary M M Rafiqur Rahman handed over a cheque to the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday on behalf of the Board of Directors of the bank.

USAID Relief

The US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday said the USAID will provide approximately \$ 135,000 to CARE for purchase of survival pack rations.

CARE Bangladesh in another press release said it is distributing 41 metric tonnes of high protein biscuits, received from CARE Norway, among 33,400 affected families in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Sunamganj, Netrokona and Kishoreganj.

It will also set up two water treatment plants with funds from OFDA and USAID in Sirajganj and Jamalpur towns.

Meanwhile, Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) said its member organisation Brac yesterday extended its operations to 36 districts. The organisation has prepared a Tk 23 crore budget for flood relief.

The other member organisations of FNB that started relief operations include GK, RDRS, SARPV.

PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed receives cheques from different organisations and individuals who donated money to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for the flood victims yesterday. (From top) Agriculture Adviser CS Karim hands over a cheque amounting to one day's salary of officials and employees of the agriculture ministry. Power and Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury hands over a cheque on behalf of Square Group. Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam hands over a cheque amounting to one day's salary of the members of the Navy. Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman hands over a cheque amounting to one day's salary of the members of the Air Force. Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad hands over a cheque amounting to one day's salary of the members of the police force. A representative of an organisation hands over a cheque to the chief adviser.

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More support for flood victims

STAR REPORT

Different organisations and individuals donated money to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund at his office yesterday.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman yesterday handed over cheques for Tk 30.33 lakh and Tk 25 lakh respectively from a day's salary of the members of Navy and Air Force to the Chief Adviser's relief Fund for the flood victims, says an ISPR release.

Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Air Marshal Zia on behalf of their services gave the cheques separately to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office. Principal Staff Officers of Navy and BAF were present on the occasion.

Air Marshal Zia apprised the CA that members of the Air Force had spontaneously come forward to donate a portion of their monthly ration to the flood victims. Besides all transport aircraft and helicopters are being kept ready for 24 hours for air delivery of the relief goods to the flood-affected areas.

BAF personnel are also ready to participate in the post-flood rehabilitation programme of the government.

Inspector General of Police

ASA adds: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad today handed over a cheque for Tk 1.85 crore to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

Members of the Bangladesh Police donated their one-day salary to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for the flood-affected people.

Expressing his gratitude to the members of the police, CA said the money would help ease sufferings of the flood-affected people.

The IGP told the Chief Adviser that the members of the police have donated their one-day salary spontaneously in aid of the flood victims.

The DMP commissioner and high officials of the police were present on the occasion.

ASA allocates Tk 30.11 crore

ASA, a leading NGO of the country, allocated Tk 30.11 crore for the flood-affected people, says a press release.

ASA will distribute Tk 20 crore among two lakh affected families as interest free loan. Each family will receive Tk 1000. It offers 100 percent withdrawal of savings of Tk 10 crore to the flood-affected members. Tk 10 lakh has been allocated to provide water purification tablets, Oral saline and emergency approximately medicine. It also donated Tk 1 lakh cash to Kurigram district administration for the flood victims.

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UNB, Dhaka

The advisers of the caretaker government have been assigned to the current national priority task of monitoring relief and rehabilitation operation in different districts affected by the current floods.