

Restore past glory of Muslims

CA urges Islamic nations

UNB, Gazipur

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday urged the Islamic countries to work hard to restore the past glory of Muslims in science and technology, noting that no OIC nation is now technologically advanced.

The CA's call came at the 21st convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT), a subsidiary of Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), at the IUT auditorium on the outskirts of the capital.

Fakhruddin said the arrival of Islam some fourteen hundred years ago transformed the world civilisation as Muslim scholars enriched different branches of science and technology during the golden era of Islamic civilisation.

Recalling their immense contributions to mathematics, chemistry, medicine, physics, architecture, arts and philosophy, he said the renaissance in Europe owes much to the enlightened minds of Islamic scholars.

"Sadly, Muslims have not always lived up to that glorious heritage," he regretted.

Noting that the technological revolution of recent years has dramatically changed the lifestyle of people across the globe, the CA said the march of technology is also accelerating the process of globalisation, making markets more competitive, which warrants

that the Muslim countries continuously update their technological know-how and acquire, adapt and apply necessary skills efficiently and effectively in a bid to remain competitive.

"Islamic countries must devote more resources, time and effort to set up and run world-class educational institutions, universities and R&D establishments in order to transform themselves into truly knowledge-based societies", he said adding that OIC member states currently spend less than a half percent of their GDP on research

and development, compared to 2.4 percent by developed states.

Fakhruddin requested the OIC general secretariat to consider introducing academic scholarship like that of the Commonwealth to enable the science graduates of OIC member states to pursue higher education.

He also urged the secretariat to raise fund from member countries to support R&D activities for the common good of the Ummah.

"We in Bangladesh remain fully prepared to provide all possible help and assistance in these areas",

he asserted.

Congratulations to the 191 fresh graduates on their success in obtaining bachelor, master's and post-graduate degrees and diplomas for the 2006-07 academic year, Fakhruddin said. "You'll soon enter a new phase of life, which is both challenging and demanding... always keep in mind that pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong affair".

Describing the bond of friendship that the students have developed in the Islamic brotherhood as a lifetime tie, the CA said, "I'm confident you'll be able to make far-reaching contributions in enhancing effective exchange of knowledge and skills and at the same time consolidate the existing unity of the OIC countries."

He said the main objective of the IUT is to blossom into a centre of excellence to cater to the socio-economic needs of the OIC member states and that the IUT still has a long way to go to occupy a position of honour among the globally ranked universities.

IUT Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Fazli Ilahi gave the welcome address while Director General of OIC Dr Razley bin Mohd Nordin read out the speech of OIC Secretary General Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, also the IUT chancellor, at the function.



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed distributes certificates among the successful graduates at the 21st convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) at its auditorium in Gazipur yesterday.

IPU airs concern over application of EPR to trial process against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has expressed concern over the application of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) to the trial process against former prime minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina.

In a resolution adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 181st session in Geneva recently, it said the cases against Hasina were registered or brought under the EPR 2007 instead of the Criminal Code for the purpose of preventing her from engaging in political activity, since the EPR provide for a blanket denial of bail, and possibly from contesting elections.

The IPU requested the caretaker government to provide official information about the judicial proceedings against Hasina and why the EPR are applied in these cases.

It has requested the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to continue examining this case and report to it at its next session, to be held on the occasion of the 118th Assembly of the IPU in Cape Town in April 2008.

The IPU also deeply regretted that three years after the grenade attack on Hasina, no tangible results have been achieved regarding identification either of the perpetrators or of the masterminds of this crime.

STEALING

DU students hand over one to authorities

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of residents of Jasimuddin Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday handed over a fellow resident on charges of stealing cellphone sets.

Hall sources said Sohail Rana, a third year student of Law Department, stole three cellphone sets from a nearby room about four months earlier and left the dorm.

As he returned to the dorm, some students caught him and handed over to the authorities.

Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed said he directed the hall Provost Nasir Uddin Munshi to investigate into the matter and submit a report.

Quoting the provost, Prof Ahmed said Sohail might have been suffering from mental disorder.

Sources at the hall said there are further allegations of stealing goods from different rooms of the dormitory.

Death anniversary



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Achiya Parveen, a senior teacher of Eskaton Garden High School and wife of former secretary MAM Ziauddin, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of her departed soul.

Achiya passed away due to brain stroke at Bumrungrad Hospital, Bangkok in Thailand on this day in 2002.

DIALOGUE WITH EC

AL body prepares draft proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League's (AL) committee for dialogue with the Election Commission (EC) over electoral reforms yesterday prepared its draft proposals to be placed at the dialogue scheduled for November 4.

The AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will finalise the proposals at a meeting tomorrow.

At a meeting yesterday, the 21-member committee for dialogue finalised the draft proposals.

Chaired by AL presidium member and chairman of the dialogue committee Tofail Ahmed, the meeting disagreed with several points in the EC's draft proposals regarding the registration of political parties.

The meeting, which was going on until filing of this report at 8:30 last night at the AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi, decided that they will

formally oppose the EC's conditions, including not using anyone's picture on posters except the party chief's, having at least 33 percent women all unit committees, and dismantling front organisations and foreign unit committees.

The AL will also ask the EC to simplify the registration rules. The meeting also decided that the ALCWC will give the final opinion on these issues.

Briefing reporters during a break in the meeting, Tofail said they would urge the EC not to cancel the Representation of People Order (RPO), 1972. Rather, it should be modified and updated, he added.

The AL leader said they would sit with different professional groups at 6:00pm today and with the Gonotantri Party within a day or two to exchange views on electoral reforms.

He also said they would place their proposals based on the AL-led 14-party's 31-point reform proposals.

BCMCL engr demand regularisation of jobs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Eighteen sub assistant engineers of Barapukur Coal Mine Company Limited (BCMCL) at a press conference yesterday demanded regularisation of their jobs.

The conference was held at Dinaipur Press Club where Md Rafiqul Islam read out the keynote of the press conference.

The engineers alleged that at least 42 sub assistant engineers have been appointed since 2004 on temporary basis and of them, at least 28 engineers trained by CMC left their jobs in the last two years due to negligence of BCMCL officials to regularise the jobs.

They added that they asked BCMCL officials to regularise their jobs several times but of no avail.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, having chances of light rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 19.1 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at 6:05am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	20.8	66	66
Chittagong	32.0	22.8	73	75
Rajshahi	31.6	20.4	83	84
Khulna	32.0	22.5	77	88
Barisal	32.2	20.4	75	83
Sylhet	31.7	20.0	74	71
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.5	63	83

DEATH IN CUSTODY

Two Narsingdi cops closed to police lines

UNB, Narsingdi

Two sub-inspectors of Narsingdi Model Police Station accused of beating a young man to death were closed to the police lines following several hundred people demonstrated in front of the police station and DC's residence.

Police super Shahabuddin Khan yesterday ordered the action against sub-inspectors Matiar and Akbar.

Several hundred angry people demonstrated on Monday night with the body of Morshed Rana, 30, who was allegedly implicated in false charge and beaten to death at the police station. The body was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hospital report said the body of Morshed bore marks of deep injuries.

Relatives of the victim demanded exemplary punishment to the policemen, including OC Alam, responsible for the death.

EXPLOSIVES RECOVERY CASE

Charge hearing deferred to Nov 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hearing of charge in the case of arms and explosives recovery from the much-talked Surjodighol Bari in the city has been deferred for the 4th time.

Now it will be held on November 25, court sources informed yesterday.

The case started after the arrest of outlawed JMB chief Shaikh Abdul Rahman, his accomplices and family members on March 2, 2006.

Ferdous Ahmed, additional district and sessions judge who is also the arms and explosives judge of Sylhet, deferred the framing of charge as one of the accused in the case Shabbir Ahmed Dulal could not be brought to the court from Dhaka Central Jail.

Five other accused including Shaikh Rahman's wife Nurjahan Begum alias Rupa, daughter Afifa Rahman and housemaid Chameli Begum were produced before the court.

Huge explosives were recovered and seized from the Surjodighol Bari at Shaplabagh area after the surrender and arrest of Shaikh Rahman, his wife, daughter, sons and others in the morning of March 2, 2006.

However, Shaikh was hanged in another case.

Production at Zia Fertiliser Factory suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Production in Ashuganj Zia Fertiliser Factory was suspended yesterday as the power supply system in the plant went out of order at around 4:00am.

According to official sources, the self-power unit of the factory became inoperative as a fault developed in it.

Factory engineers have started repairing the fault which may take two to three days.

As a result, production of 1400 metric tons of urea daily remains suspended.

Earlier, the factory stopped production of urea on October 16 as a fault was detected in its ammonium plant.

Its operation remained suspended up to October 22.

Due to weeklong suspension, the factory failed to produce about 9,800 metric tons of urea at that time.



PHOTO: PID

Advisers see off President Iajuddin Ahmed at Zia International Airport prior to his departure for the United States yesterday.

7.5 lakh visually impaired people in country

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday said there are about 7.5 lakh visually impaired people in the country of whom 40 thousands are children.

They said most of the visually impaired people live in rural areas due to poverty, lack of awareness and facilities for eye treatment.

The discussion was organised by Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) in association with Orbis International at LGED Bhaban in the city.

Channel i and Daily Amar Desh were the media partners of the discussion.

In his keynote paper, Dr Abu Raihan, country director of Orbis International, said 12 elderly people and one baby are losing their sights

in every minute across the globe.

He said of the 7.5 lakh visually impaired people, two-thirds are preventable.

There are 450 ophthalmologists and 650 eye specialists in the country although it needs much more ophthalmologists and eye specialists for the treatment of blind people.

Mentioning some of the reasons behind visually impairment, Raihan said having nutritious food and immunisation and taking special care of mothers during pregnancy can help stop the disease.

Speaking as chief guest, adviser to former caretaker government Mahubul Alam said awareness about the disease among the poor rural people is a must to eradicate visually impairment.

He said though the number of

doctors has increased in recent times, the number of eye specialist did not increase proportionately.

Presiding over the discussion, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, chairman of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, said suspension of school health programme was not a good decision of the government.

He suggested vegetables and nutritious foods including intake of de-worming tablets twice a year by the babies to get rid of many eye problems.

He also called on the media to disseminate the information about the disease among the people.

MMC Executive Director Kamrul Hossain Monju, public health specialist Dr A M Zakir Hussain and Change Maker President Tanbir ul Siddique also spoke on the occasion.

Babar jailed for 17yrs over illegal arms

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(BSSMMU) Hospital where was under treatment. The judge took his seat at 12:45pm, went through the judgement and then read it out. Babar was standing during delivery of the verdict.

The judgement mentioned that Babar was awarded minimum punishment considering his ill health although the charges of possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his residence that were proved justified maximum punishment.

Following the verdict, Babar looked gloomy and did not make any comment.

VERDICT

The judgement said recovery of unlicensed firearms and ammunition took place from the exclusive possession and control of the convict. The prosecution witnesses by their cogent evidence proved that an unlicensed revolver and 25 bullets were recovered from Babar's room, which were kept in a red-black coloured bag.

Moreover, the arms and ammunition were recovered in presence of Babar's wife and others. So, he had violated provisions of the Arms Act and committed offences, and he shall be punished, the judge said.

OBSERVATION

In his observation, the judge said the prosecution has been able to prove the charges under sections 19(A)/(F) of the Arms Act, 1878, against the accused beyond all reasonable doubt. The accused who had ornamented the portfolio of state minister for home and also a lawmaker violated the law for keeping unlicensed revolver and 25 bullets in his possession and control.

The offences justify maximum punishment but the state from the very beginning to the end of the trial produced the accused before the tribunal from the prison cell of the BSSMMU Hospital, and the papers spoke that the accused is sick. So, considering his ill health, the accused shall be awarded

minimum punishment for the ends of justice, the judge added.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments. The court recorded statements of 15 prosecution witnesses including the complainant and investigation officer of the case.

RAID AND ARREST

The joint forces conducted a raid on Babar's Gulshan residence, at about 1:45pm on May 28 and recovered four firearms -- a shotgun, a .22 bore rifle, a pistol, and a Brazilian revolver, two magazines and 297 bullets in a red-black coloured bag.

Of those, Babar failed to show any valid documents for a revolver and 25 bullets.

The forces also arrested him from his residence the same day. Later, he was shown arrested under the Emergency Power Rules and placed on a four-day remand for interrogation.

In his forwarding report, the IO mentioned that when Babar was in charge of the home ministry, he acquired a huge amount of money and wealth by means of looting and corruption. Terming Babar corrupt and plunderer, the report said four firearms including an illegal one were recovered from his house during his arrest. He has caused serious damage to the country's economy and disrupted public safety, the report added.

Following the seizure, Sub-inspector (SI) Helaluddin filed an arms case with Gulshan Police Station against Babar on June 3.

SI Khabir Ahmed, also the IO of the case, pressed charges against Babar on June 23 showing 16 people as prosecution witnesses.

The court framed charges against the accused on July 25.

Special Public Prosecutor Kabir Hossain appeared for the state while advocates, Abdullah Mahmud Hassan and Sanatullah Miah defended the accused.

GRAFT CASE

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed a graft case against Babar with Ramna Police Station on October 4 for taking Tk 21 crore in bribe to save Bashundhara Group chairman's son from murder charges.

JSD founding anniversary today

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will observe its 35th founding anniversary today, says a press release.

JSD was founded by a group of youths on October 31 in 1972 with a view to establishing a society free from all kinds of exploitation.

To mark the occasion, JSD has will hold a discussion at the Institute of Diploma Engineers at Kakrai at 4:00pm today.

Awami League Acting President Zillur Rahman, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, CPB General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim and Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik will speak at the discussion.

DHAKA TODAY

Report release

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will release reports on 'Global competitiveness report 2007-08' and 'Bangladesh business environment study 2007'. Venue: CPD dialogue room. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra and Sanofi Aventis will jointly organise a workshop on breast cancer awareness. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Interactive meeting

Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Chittagong organises an interactive meeting with traders, producers and exporters of bamboo. Venue: Ban Bhaban conference room. Time: 9:30am.

Theater workshop

Bureau of Non-Formal Education organises a four-day interactive workshop on theater development to raise awareness on education among the working children, their parents, employers and community people. Venue: NGO Forum office. Time: 10:30am.

PHM workshop

People's Health Movement (PHM) Bangladesh and Education for All will jointly organise a workshop on profit making and low quality of medicine. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 10:00am.

IDDR seminar

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will organise a seminar to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) 2007. Venue: Public Complex, the release added.

Works auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Left Democratic Front will organise a discussion to mark the 40th death anniversary of Ernesto Che Guevara. Venue: Shaheed Asad Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

ISD discussion

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organises a discussion to mark the 35th founding anniversary of JSD. Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Reunion

Freedom fighters of Chittagong region living in Dhaka will meet in a reunion. Venue: Officers' Club. Time: 8:00pm.

Publication ceremony

Publication ceremony of a book written by staff officer of sector-9 of Liberation War Advocate Obaidur Rahman Mostafa will be held. Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Luncheon meeting

American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh arranges its October luncheon meeting. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 12:30pm.

Branch opening

People's Leasing and Financial Services Limited organises its branch opening ceremony. Venue: 99 Gulshan Avenue. Time: 10:00am.

Exhibition

Berger Paints Limited and Institute of Architects Bangladesh jointly organise a two-day open exhibition beginning from today. Venue: North South University. Time: 10:00am.

Saifur serving purpose of a special quarter

Says US chapter of BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Chapter of BNP has reiterated its full confidence in the leadership of former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

The BNP US unit leaders said this at a rally organised by US chapter of Jubo Dal at Jackson Heights at New York, reports US-based news agency NewsWorld.

Regarding the new committee led by former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, they said the BNP US unit leaders would not carry out orders issued by anyone other than Khaleda Zia.

Pointing finger at Saifur Rahman, they said he is serving the purpose of a special quarter.

Presided over by Jubo Dal President Zakir H Chowdhury, the rally was addressed by Sulaiman Bhuiyan, Zillur Rahman Zillu, Belal Mahmud and other BNP and Jubo Dal leaders.

Meanwhile, Zia Sena termed the BNP standing committee meeting a new conspiracy and said the leaders who benefited from BNP are now engaged in hatching conspiracy against the party at a time when the party chairperson is leading an inhuman life in the jail.

In a statement signed by Monjur Hossain, general secretary of Zia Sena, they also said the grassroots leaders have no support to the man who takes chairman's responsibility excluding the chairperson and takes back the expelled leaders.

The country people will not forgive them who are hatching conspiracy against BNP, they added.

Teenage girl succumbs to burn injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage girl succumbed to her burn injuries in the early hours of yesterday two days after she was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Tejgaon police rescued Jahanara, 18, daughter of one Mintu Shikdar of Durgapur village under Hilla upzila of Barisal, from Tejgaon area on Sunday and rushed her to DMCH in critical condition.

Her family members live in Chittagong.

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