

'Fund constraints obstacle to research work'

20 scholars receive UGC Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Financial constraints are the key obstacle to conducting innovative research at the universities, academics said at an award giving ceremony in the city yesterday.

They also said that innovative research can identify the causes of problems and find out the solutions, which can help the nation achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Twenty scholars from public and private universities were honoured with 'University Grants Commission (UGC) Award 2002-2005' for their outstanding research works at the ceremony organised by the UGC at its auditorium.

The awardees are Prof Ayesha Begum, Salma Akhter, Prof Md Anwar Hossain, Prof M Bahadur

Meah, Prof AS Md Abdul Haseeb, Prof Monsur Musa, Dr Gour Gobinda Goswami, Prof Dr Md Shamsul Alam, Md Abdul Hasnat, Dr GM Tarekul Islam, Prof MM Shahidul Hassan, Dr M Tofazzal Islam, Prof Md Samsul Alam, Prof Dr Md Saidur Rahman, Prof Nurul Absar, Prof MM Shahidul Hassan, Prof Mohammad Asadullah, Dr Swarochish Sarker, Jamila Ahmed Chowdhury, Prof Dilara Chowdhury and Prof Dr Tajmeri SA Islam.

Speaking on the occasion, UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said a huge amount of money is needed to conduct better research activities, but the budget is limited.

"We are now trying to get a Tk 500 crore World Bank fund for innovative research work," he said.

He also urged the university

teachers to carry out research in the field of power, environment, food, poverty eradication, education system, medical science, information technology and women empowerment.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam said the teachers should give top priority to innovative research, which will immensely help the nation develop the education system.

Prof Sirajul Islam, chief editor of Bangladeshi, stressed the need for more and more research publications.

He called on the teachers and researchers to take initiatives for joint research collaboration with foreign universities.

UGC Member Prof Dr AHM Zehadul Karim and Prof Monsur Musa also spoke.



Scholars who were honoured with 'University Grants Commission (UGC) Award 2002-2005' for their outstanding research works pose for photograph with the guests at the award giving ceremony at the UGC auditorium in the city yesterday.

10 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Habiganj, Dhaka, Netrakona and Dinajpur yesterday.

UNB from Habiganj says: Six people were killed in a road accident in Habiganj yesterday.

The accident occurred when a speeding bus hit an overloaded tempo on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Andhra in Madhabpur upazila at 2:30pm.

The bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch, leaving Rangbala, 60, of Mahmudpur village, Kamal Hossain, 30, of Dhanakura village and a two-year-old boy dead on the spot. Phul Mia, 60, of Bulla village succumbed to his injuries at Madhabpur Health Complex while Rabeya, 30, wife of Kamal and Tutul, 40, died on the way to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. The victims were travelling in the tempo.

Staff correspondent reports: A six-year-old boy was killed when a pick-up van hit him at Kagojitala in the old part of the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Fahim.

Witnesses said Fahim suffered fatal injuries after the pick-up van rammed him at around 12:00 noon when he was playing on a road near

his house at Kagojitala in Sutarpur. Relatives and locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Soon after doctors declared him dead, people, who brought Fahim to the hospital, got infuriated saying that he is not dead.

They also pounded on the police as the law enforcers tried to resist them while they were trying to take away the body without autopsy.

On repeated requests from the victim's family members, police allowed to take the body to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital under police guard where the doctors confirmed Fahim's death.

Our correspondent from Netrakona adds: Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Netrakona Sadar and Purbadhalia upazila in the district yesterday.

One person was killed in a road accident on Netrakona-Purbadhalia road at Purbadhalia Chowrasta in Purbadhalia upazila at about 10:00am.

The dead was identified as Dipak Chandra Bhadra, 35, of village Bodhi under Purbadhalia upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when a Netrakona-bound passenger tempo from knocked down Dipak at Purbadhalia Chowrasta, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police seized the tempo but driver managed to flee.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur adds: At least one person was killed and two others were injured critically in a road accident at Birampur upazila in Dinajpur yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Mahfuza Akter, 15, daughter of Md Firoz Mohamad, village Natun Bazar at Birampur upazila.

Police sources said a Dinajpur-bound bus collided head-on with a truck at Birampur rail crossing, leaving Mahfuza dead on the spot.

Nora Ali donates \$1000 to Dhaka Community Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nora Ali, the Bangladeshi origin America's Junior Miss-2007, handed over a cheque for \$1000 to Dhaka Community Hospital yesterday.

Nora and her elder sister raised the amount in America for the hospital. Her mother Dr Mahfiza Ali accompanied her during the visit to the hospital.

Nora came to know about the hospital activities from her elder sister Nicole Ali, who completed a course from the hospital in August 2007.

Dhaka Community Hospital authorities accorded a reception to Nora on the occasion.

In her speech Nora expressed her desire to participate in any project of the hospital.

Dr Mahfiza also spoke in the programme presided over by Prof Mahmudur Rahman.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Shammiliti Nari Samaj yesterday demanded the trial of war criminals immediately in a special tribunal.

In a joint statement, Advocate Salma Ali, Farida Akhter, Hajar Sultana, Tahera Begum Jolly, Rokeya Rafiqul Baby, Sheema Das Shimu, Kohinur Begum, Sultana Akhter Ruby and Suraiya Banu said that the collaborators of Pakistani occupation force should be banned from politics in Bangladesh.

'Bring back artefacts from France'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Left Democratic Front yesterday condemned the steps to send valuable artefacts to France in an opaque way and offensive comment of the French envoy.

They also expressed concern over the uncertainty to bring those artefacts back from France.

At a meeting, the leaders also demanded immediate steps to

bring the artefacts back from France and punishment to the persons responsible for the theft of two Vishnu statues.

Presided over by CPB leader Shahidullah Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Ruhin Hossain, Prince, politburo member of Workers Party Nurul Hasan and Harun Chowdhury of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during early morning, Met Office said, adding that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 27.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 9.6 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at 6:40am 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	24.8	14.5	83	61
Chittagong	25.0	15.3	77	80
Rajshahi	24.6	9.6	100	90
Khulna	25.6	14.0	100	79
Barisal	25.7	13.0	92	84
Sylhet	26.7	15.2	83	72
Cox's Bazar	27.8	16.2	75	72

Moudud on 12 hours' parole

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed was given 12 hours' parole yesterday to attend the burial of his elder brother Masud Ahmed.

Masud passed away on Wednesday night due to old-age complications.

Witnesses said Moudud came out of Dhaka Central Jail at 4:15pm. He was taken to Azimpur graveyard straight away by a prison van under escort of police and jail security personnel, where he attended the namaz-e-janaza for his brother.

The home ministry granted 12 hours' parole to Moudud after his family members submitted an application, Brig Gen Zakir Hassan, Inspector General (prisons), told The Daily Star.

Deputy Inspector General (prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiqui said, "At least 16 policemen and a jail security man are escorting Moudud during the parole. He would be brought back to the jail soon after the end of his parole."

Our neighbouring countries like India have developed proper field for IT jobs and the outsourcing of the sector is quiet developed," he added.

He then contacted the Election Commission office and the officials told him to contact the local thana election office.

When he contacted the local thana election office, an officer told him to contact them after January 6 about the time for taking photograph, the lawyer said.

"According to the voter slip given to us, election officials were supposed to take photos of the voters at the voter registration centre at this school today (Thursday), but I found no officials there," said Advocate ZI Khan Panna, a resident of Kalabagan.

"A security guard of the school told me that no officials came here today to take photograph," he added.

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Police seized the tempo but driver managed to flee.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur adds: At least one person was killed and two others were injured critically in a road accident at Birampur upazila in Dinajpur yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Mahfuza Akter, 15, daughter of Md Firoz Mohamad, village Natun Bazar at Birampur upazila.

Police sources said a Dinajpur-bound bus collided head-on with a truck at Birampur rail crossing, leaving Mahfuza dead on the spot.

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