



President Iajuddin Ahmed gives away a crest to Brac University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury at the 3rd Convocation of the university at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Seek ways to face challenges of natural disasters

President urges researchers at 3rd Convocation of Brac University

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the scholars, researchers and scientists of the country to seek ways of reducing the loss of life and property and to face the challenges of the natural phenomenon.

He said: "Bangladesh is a country of immense potentials. But our cherished development is being hindered again and again by the repeated natural catastrophe including cyclone, flood, tidal surge and natural degradation. The phenomenon of global warming is also another alarming issue for us."

The president was addressing the 3rd Convocation of Brac University at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in the morning.

Iajuddin reminded that the development and progress of a nation mainly depends on its educated young generation. "Our attention should be focused on the proper nourishment of the young population."

The president, who is also the

chancellor of the university, said that as the cradle of wisdom, the universities have great role to play in cultivating intellect, academic spirit, and also imparting quality education with a view to building a knowledge-based society.

"In an age of globalisation, we would have to provide market and need-based education along with conventional arts and sciences so that our students can face the global challenges confidently."

He expressed happiness that the Brac University has already introduced some unconventional degrees like Masters in Public Health, Masters in Disaster Management, and Masters in Governance and Development.

The president also thanked the university authorities for commencing such well-timed subjects and taking the institution to great heights in collaboration with some of the world's topnotch academic institutions.

He said: "As responsible member of the society, we have to facilitate equal opportunities to the underprivileged section of the

society so that a balanced and prosperous nation is established."

Iajuddin urged the university authorities to further promote a strong culture of excellence in scholarship as well as research for generating more intellectuals and professionals.

Congratulating the graduating students, he said: "You must put your wisdom at your every endeavour and thinking so that the congenial atmosphere of living and state of justice at all levels are upheld."

Remember, university education is not the mark of closing rather it is just the beginning."

He added: "It needs creativity, integrity, patriotism and love for people in developing yourself and serving humanity."

He also urged all to work unitedly for building a happy and prosperous abode for all. Brac University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and pro-VC Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed also addressed the function. Prof. Rehman Sobhan was the convocation speaker.



Ozair Farooq passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Advocate Ozair Farooq, former president of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 63.

Family sources said Farooq suffered a massive heart attack in his private car near Baridhara. He was rushed to Apollo Hospitals where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Earlier, the veteran lawyer appeared in the court of the vacation chamber judge of the Supreme Court in connection with a case, court sources said.

Farooq, also a member of the advisory council of Awami League, left behind his wife Momtaz Farooq, son Barrister Imtiaz Farooq, daughter Dr. Nusrat Farooq and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at his ancestral village at Chatkhil in Noakhali today.

Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman and General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam in a joint statement expressed profound shock at the death of Ozair Farooq, who was also ex-president of the English Alumni Society of Dhaka University.

Farooq played a significant role in different movements, including those for establishing democracy, justice, the rule of law, and the separation of the judiciary, they said. "We lost a trusted friend of ours at his sudden death."

In another statement, Supreme Court Bar Association President M. Amir-ul-Islam and Secretary AM Amin Uddin expressed deep shock at the death of Farooq.

Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association, Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh and National Bar Association of Bangladesh also expressed deep shock and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Int'l Children's Festival in Dhaka from Oct 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An International Children's Festival will be held in Bangladesh next year with a view to bringing together talented children from across the world to help them become the voice of the future.

The festival, first of its kind in Asia, will be held from October 2 to 12.

Some 250 children from North America, Europe, South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Tuvalu and the host country will join the festival organised by Kochi Kontho Asar USA (KKA) in association with Kochi Kontho Foundation (KKF) and Kochi Kontho Asar Bangladesh.

KKA Child Ambassador Nora Ali announced this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday. The children who are joining this festival will be in their professional

fields in the next ten years and they can come up with policies, technologies and funding arrangement to address catastrophic situation, said Nora, who is also the America's Junior Miss 2007.

The objectives of the festival are to sensitise the children to the issues affecting their lives, encourage talents from all over the world and give them a chance to know and be known and recognised, said Shehla Iftekhar, director of Public Relations and Mass Communication, KKA USA, while reading out a statement of the speech of KKA President Hemayet Hossain.

Later, Nora Ali handed over a cheque for Tk 4.66 lakh on behalf of KKF to Dr. Mahmud Rahman, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Council for Child Welfare, for providing nutritious food to 40 physically challenged children.

Zakia Khan, vice president of KKA, Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chief adviser of KKA and KKF Bangladesh, and Ferdous Chowdhury, joint chief coordinator of ICF 2008, also spoke at the press conference.

US embassy closed tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The American Embassy, including the Consular Section and the Public Affairs Section with the Archer K. Blood American Centre Library and the Student Advising Centre, will remain closed tomorrow on the occasion of the New Year.



Faizul elected Gulshan Club president

Engineer M. Faizul Islam (Selim) has been elected president of Gulshan Club for 2007-2008 on December 29, says a press release.

The executive committee members are Alam Mahbubul, Ali Ahmed, Khwaja Shafiqur Rahman, Md. Majbar Rahman, Dr. Misbahul Alam Khan, MKM Kamal Uddin, Dr. Mohammed Naseem Nabi, Sabrina Samad, Syed Masud and Ummei J. Khan. The executive committee members were elected unopposed.

Free distribution of books among pry students begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Free distribution of books among primary students across the country will begin tomorrow.

Divisional commissioners at division level and deputy commissioners at district level will distribute books among the students of primary school and Ibtidai level for 2008 academic session, said an official handout.

In the three hilly districts, deputy commissioners and district councils will jointly organise the distribution.

Meanwhile, all the books for primary and Ibtidai levels have already reached the districts and upazilas.



Bangladeshi origin America's Junior Miss Nora Ali speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. On her left is Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelley and on her right is Zakia Khan.



ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal addresses a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. On her right is TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman. (Story on Page 16)

Mustafa Kamal new envoy to Thailand

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed Mustafa Kamal, currently serving as Bangladesh Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, as the next ambassador to Thailand.

More donations to CA's fund

UNB, Dhaka

Fifty-one more individuals, institutions and organisations donated Tk 8.53 crore, 15,990 US dollars and 3,000 British pounds to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund in last two days for the cyclone victims, who are in need of rebuilding their life and livelihood.

Receiving donations yesterday Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said the government in near future would go for implementing large-scale physical infrastructure rehabilitation works in the coastal belt battered by cyclone Sidr.

"The government is discussing with the representatives of friendly countries and development partners for a long-term rehabilitation programme in the coastal belt," he told while receiving the donations.

The amounts of yesterday's donations are Tk 8,42,17,863, US\$ 15,990 and 3,000 pounds sterling while that of Saturday was Tk 10.72 lakh.

Sunday's donations include

British HC closed tomorrow

British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public on 1 January 2008 for New Year, says a press release.

Nora Ali visits RMG factory in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Nora Ali, Bangladeshi origin America's Junior Miss-2007, yesterday visited a garments factory at Tongi in Gazipur.

There she talked to the children at daycare center of the factory.

Nora said as a Bangladeshi she feels proud when she finds 'made in Bangladesh' label tagged with the apparels in US market. She had a long cherished desire to visit a garment factory in Bangladesh and this time her dream came true.

Contingent, UN Mission, Congo, US\$ 3,500.

Other donors include Rabeya Rahman, Elephant Road, Dhaka, Tk 68,000, Abeda Majid, Banani, Dhaka, Tk 1 lakh, Sylhet Society, Uttara, Dhaka Tk 1.35 lakh, Delta Life Insurance Co Ltd Tk 28.05 lakh, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association gave various readymade garments, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, UK Chapter, 3,000 pound, Cyber Cafe Owners of Bangladesh Tk 40,000, OEKO-Tex Ltd Tk 3.50 lakh, OBAT Helpers Inc (USA) US\$ 3,000, Belal/Sujon/Shilu, Campaign Committee of New England, USA, US\$ 9,490, Computer Source Ltd Tk 3.42 lakh, Eric Maloney and Sunera Rahman, New York, Tk 5 lakh, Dhaka Expatriate Association, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tk 1.34 lakh and Balagong-Osmani Nagar Adorsha Upazila Samity, London Tk 5.20 lakh.

Those donated funds on Saturday include Mashjid-Ul-Takwa Society Tk 4.57 lakh, Engineers Institution Bangladesh, Kuwait chapter, Tk 2.05 lakh, Jessore Club Jessore, Tk 40,000, Employees of Bangladesh Carriage and Wagon repairing factory Tk 80,433, some Bangladeshi expatriates in Dubai including SM Majharullah Mia Tk 65,000, Gauchul Azam Complex Dighinala, Khagrachhari, Tk 2,801 and Integrated Monipuri Association Bangladesh, Sylhet, Tk 40,700.

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Michael Blunk
Customs Officer

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