



President Iajuddin Ahmed gives away a gold medal to a successful graduate at the third convocation of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology yesterday.

Dedicate life to welfare of nation

President urges graduates at Ruet convocation

RU CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the graduating students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) to dedicate themselves to the welfare of the nation.

Saying that Bangladesh is a country of huge potential, he underscored the need for developing efficient technocrats and science-minded human resources to cope with the challenges of the 21st century.

"Educational institutions, particularly engineering and technology universities, have a vital role to play in building a mechanical and technology-based nation by providing quality science and technology-based education to the students," he said at the third convocation ceremony of Ruet.

Prof Mozaffar Hossain, former vice chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), delivered the convocation speech while Ruet Vice Chancellor Prof ANM Anwarul Haque spoke.

Iajuddin also asked the students to demonstrate their moral duty

and the highest degree of personal honesty and integrity in their professional arena.

"I hope you will serve the nation with the utmost dedication imbued with the sense of patriotism," he said.

He advised the students to groom themselves as rational human beings and a useful member of the society and the nation.

"I am very pleased to know that Ruet is in a commanding position of research and publication in the country according to an OIC survey," he also said.

Our goal is to build a knowledgeable society and that's why the government sanctions the highest budget in education sector, he said.

Ruet VC said, "Most of our budget is spent for the payment of salary of the teachers and employees, so we don't have enough fund for research purposes."

He urged the president, advisers and the well-to-do of the society to extend their hand and patronize the engineers to do more research works.

A total of 1,100 graduates received certificates at the convo-

cation while 22 students were awarded gold medals for their outstanding academic performances.

Iajuddin, also the chancellor of all universities, distributed the certificates among the successful students of 1996-97 to 2002-2003 sessions.

Students who have won gold medals are Abu Taher Md Zillur Bari of Civil Engineering (CE) department, Shahin Uddin of Electrical and Electronic and Engineering (EEE), Anwar Hossain of Mechanical Engineering (ME), Dewan Abdul Kader of CE, Rabiul Islam of EEE, Zakir Hossain of EEE, Rabiul Islam Sarker of ME, Mir Zahangir Kabir of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Rakibul Islam of EEE, Dalim Kumar Pal of CE, ATM Nasiruzzaman of EEE, ATM Mominul Islam of ME, Mahmudul Hassan of CSE, Probr Kumar Das of CE, Salma Nazia Rahman of EEE, Masud Rana of EEE, Mustafizur Rahman of ME, Zahangir Alam of CSE, AHM Russell of CE, Delwar Hossain of EEE, Mustafizur Rahman of ME and Subashis Kumar Sheel of CSE.

BAHODDERHAT MURDER CASE

Verdict on Mar 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

The arguments in the sensational Bahodderhat eight-murder case ended here yesterday.

After hearing the arguments, the court of the 2nd Additional Metropolitan Session's Judge Ekramul Haq fixed March 27 for pronouncing the verdict of the case.

The case was filed in connection with the brutal incident at Bahodderhat on July 12, 2000 when armed terrorists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, shot eight persons, including six leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, dead.

The Shibir cadres waylaid and attacked the microbus carrying the BCL men near Bahodder Bari in a move to establish supremacy over the new campus of Technical

Students

FROM PAGE 1

know how they would prepare themselves for the SSC exams in one year after getting fresh books in class X.

"As a teacher I couldn't clearly understand the SQ method. How will I impart knowledge about it to my students?" said Prof Rafiq Afroz, principal of Ispahani Girls' School and College.

Only two out of 70 teachers in the educational institution received training on SQ method, she added.

"I was panicked when I realised that I couldn't work out the method using the only model question available. Our teachers also couldn't tell us anything clearly about the new question pattern," said ABM Raihat Rahman Joy, a student of class IX at Motijheel Ideal School and College.

"Most of my class mates are still in the dark about the SQ system."

"The system might be better. But students have no clear idea about it due to a lack of new textbooks," said Iyasmin Ara, whose daughter studies at Viharunisa Noon School.

"Besides, class IX students get the system out of the blue which is very difficult for them at this level," she added.

This year, NCTB did not take proper measures to print new textbooks allegedly to get benefits from a syndicate of printing houses.

Allegations are rife that a clique of dishonest printing press owners led by top leaders of Bangladesh Printing Industries Association (BPIA) illegally printed a huge number of additional textbooks last year couldn't sell several lakh of those.

"Around 20 lakh traditional textbooks remained in store. The BPIA president himself had around five lakh old textbooks. For this reason these printing owners bribed the top NCTB officials for not publishing the fresh textbooks," a former leader of BPIA told The Daily Star.

The NCTB chairman denied the allegation and said his officials and employees were not influenced by anyone.

"New SQ textbooks were not published because many books were washed away due to floods and cyclone Sidr and affected students would have to buy old books again," he said.

"The decision of not publishing the Structured Question pattern textbooks was made in January last year. But I took the charge as the NCTB chairman in August. So I was not involved in this decision," he told The Daily Star.

However, leaders of Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association (BPBA) said NCTB did not publish new textbooks for the benefit of some dishonest printing press owners.

"We held several meetings with NCTB top officials in October and November last year and assured them that we could provide 23 new textbooks with SQ exercises in 15 days. But NCTB did not pay heed to our assurances," M Abu Taher, president of BPBA, told The Daily Star.

He also said NCTB would have got additional royalty if officers agreed to the proposal.

Guardians of students from different renowned high schools meanwhile formed a human chain at different places in the capital a few days ago demanding deferment of the system once again.

They demanded that the caretaker government introduce the SQ method from class VI instead of class IX so that students can be familiar with it at an early stage.

"Only 10 percent teachers were trained up about the SQ method and even most of the trained teachers could not understand it clearly," said Utpalla Bhattacharya, mother of a student of class IX at Motijheel Ideal School and College.

NCTB Chairman Prof Masir also agreed that the SQ method should be introduced from class six instead of class nine.

"We've trained up 8,800 teachers on SQ method under Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP). It is true that many teachers did not understand it clearly because it is very difficult to make question rather than answer," he added.

Ministry sources say the introduction of structured questions is a component of a Tk-793 crore SEDP project.

Training Centre at Kalamia Bazar.

Out of the 22 charge-sheeted, ten were arrested so far.

Of them Md Ilias, Mofizul Azam and Alamgir Kabir Siddique alias Manik were behind the bar, Mia Mohammad Toufique, Md Iqbal Hossain, Bazal Ahmad and Md Solaiman were on bail and Abdul Quayyum Chowdhury alias Rimon alias Imon went absconding after release on bail.

Top-notch Shibir terrorists Sajjad, Habib Khan, Saiful Islam, Nesar Ahmad, Abdul Hakim, Abdul Hamid, Belal, Enamul Haque, Abu Naser Azizur Rahman, ABM Muztaba and Hiru are still at large.

Australian Edn Exhibition begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day Australian Education Exhibition began at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

Some 11 Australian universities, technical and vocational institutions are taking part in the exhibition to provide students and their guardians with information about courses and facilities in their institutions.

Inaugurating the exhibition, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett said more than two lakh students from 140 countries, including Bangladesh, are studying in the educational institutions in Australia.

More than 5,000 Bangladeshi students are currently studying in Australia and that the high commission continues to receive a huge number of applications from students, he added.

The participating institutions are Australia Campus Network, Latrobe University, Australian Institute of Commerce & Language, Canberra Institute of Technology, Curtin University of Technology, Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology, Monash University, Swinburne University of Technology, The University of New South Wales, University of South Australia and University of Southern Queensland.

The exhibition will remain open from 10:00am to 5:00pm today.

Australian Trade Commission of the Australian High Commission and IDP Education jointly organised the exhibition.



Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett inaugurates a two-day Australian Education Exhibition at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

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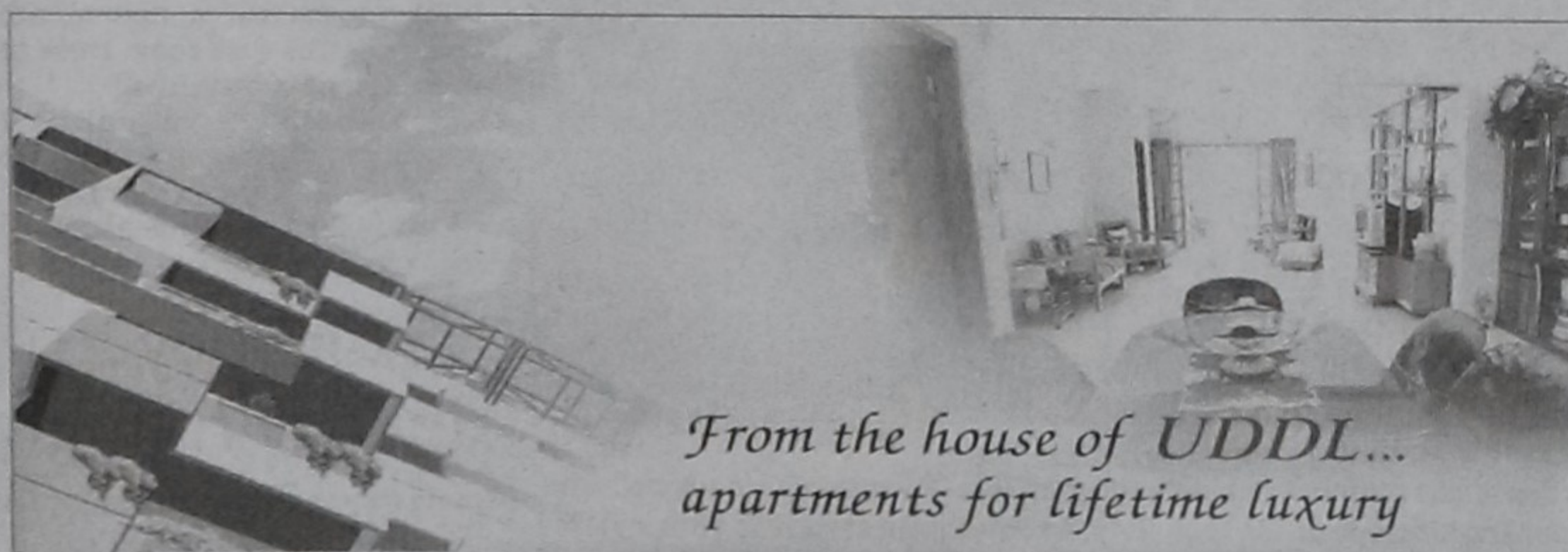
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A group of job seekers take out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding relaxation of age limit in the 28th BCS exams by one year.



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