

# Get engrossed in study to cope with competitive world

President asks university faculty, students

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon both the faculty and students of universities to get engrossed in pursuit of knowledge so that a knowledge-based society can be established to cope with the competitive world.

"The best facilities would not prove enough to enhance one's intellectual capabilities unless one is prepared and willing to utilise the available opportunities for self-appraisal and development," he said this while addressing the 2nd Convocation of Southeast University at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Emphasising the need for a congenial atmosphere on the university campuses, he said the learning of higher education is a two-way interaction where both teachers and students share their knowledge and enrich each other.

Iajuddin advised students that the university is a vast arena of learning where they should devote themselves to quest for knowledge.

Mentioning teachers' role in making students worthy citizens, he said, "In fact, the role of the teacher is to inspire the sense of consciousness of students with a view to flourishing their intrinsic values and spirit."

Reminding that Bangladesh is a land of immense potential, Iajuddin said its boundless natural beauties, including the hilly forests, unbroken longest sea-beach, and the mangrove Sundarbans, rich archaeological sites and cultural and ethnic diversities are invaluable assets and the sources of inspiration.

"We feel honoured having our rich and glorious traditions. Our potential human resources, professionals both at home and abroad are putting in their creativity and sincere endeavours earned huge reputation from the world community," he told the function.

He said Bangladesh is not only endowed with natural beauty and diverse culture but also enriched with knowledge and excellence.

In this regard, he mentioned the names of Sirjan Atish Dipanker, a

noted Scientist Sir Jagadish Chandra Basu, Poet Jasim Uddin, Artist Zainul Abedin, folk-singer Abbasuddin, architect FR Khan and Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, who glorified themselves as well as the nation through their great contributions.

"We have to go ahead following the noble qualities of these illustrious sons of the soil and uphold their splendid deeds and contribu-

tions to the new generation," he said.

He noted that students are now at the thresholds of a new life which is very challenging and tempestuous for its tough competitiveness and hoped that they (students) would be able to face these challenges with their knowledge and wisdom that they have earned from educational institutions.

Reminding the students of their

responsibility to the country and society, he said, "You must live up to the expectations of the people."

Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, convocation speaker former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal, Vice-chancellor of the Southeast University Dr M Shamsheer Ali and governing body chairman of the University Md Rezaul Karim also spoke on the occasion.



President Iajuddin Ahmed hands over a crest to Vice-Chancellor Dr M Shamsheer Ali at the 2nd Convocation of Southeast University at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

## 'Implement National Women Dev Policy immediately'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday urged the government to implement the National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2008 immediately and declare an action plan accordingly in the next budget.

They also called for cancellation of the review committee formed with the persons opposing the NWDP, and punishment to those involved in snatching police arms and attacking Hathajari Police Station in Chittagong.

The meeting was organised by Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium.

In his keynote paper DRU Director Sharif A Kafi said as eminent ulemahs at a seminar on April 22 said the new NWDP has no contradiction with the Quranic laws, and the chief justice also recognised the women's movement in realising their demands as logical, the NWDP should be implemented.

If the law enforcers can take

actions against the Dhaka University students by identifying them with video footage, then why they cannot find out the people involved in the violence in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque," he asked.

Women leader Rokeya Kabir said a quarter is using the madrasa students to achieve its political interest.

She said opposing the NWDP is politically motivated.

Msuda Faruk Ratna, chairperson of BDPC, presided over the meeting.

## Court asks Sujon not to function as SCBA secy until May 25

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday, by an ad-interim injunction, directed the newly elected Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Secretary Advocate Nurul Islam Sujon not to continue his function until May 25 following a civil suit filed by defeated candidate Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun.

Judge Iftekhar Ahmed of the Ninth Assistant Judge's Court passed the order after hearing on the temporary injunction petition submitted by Barrister Mamun seeking a stay order on function of the SCBA newly elected secretary.

On May 4, Mamun, who was declared defeated after recounting votes in the election, filed the suit seeking a stay order on the takeover and function of the newly elected Secretary Nurul Islam Sujon.

Following the suit, the court issued a show cause notice upon nine defendants, including newly elected secretary, in connection with the results of the SCBA election.

The defendants are also asked to explain within three days from the day of receipt of the notice why a temporary injunction would not be imposed upon them.

After receipt of the notice, Sujon appeared before the court through his lawyers and explained why and how temporary injunction would not be maintainable against him.

In the suit, other defendants are convenor of the election sub-committee Advocate Nizamul Haq Nasim, members advocates AKM Abdul Hakim, Purabi Rani Sharma, Zead Al Malum, Motahar Hossain Saju, Ashraf Kamal and Sheikh Akhterul Islam, and former secretary Abu Mohammad Amin Uddin and newly elected assistant secretaries Fahima Nasrin and KM Zahid Sarwar (Kajol).

In his plaint, Barrister Mamun mentioned that he contested as one of secretary candidates in the SCBA election held on April 29 and 30. After counting all the votes, the election commissioner declared him elected showing that he scored two votes more than Sujon.

The news was broadcast by different electronic media the same day and published in different national dailies the following day. But the defendants, violating the provisions and rules of SCBA, recounted the votes and declared the defeated candidate Sujon elected showing that he (Sujon) scored six votes more than Mamun, the plaintiff added.

Meanwhile, Advocate Nurul Islam Sujon told newsmen at his office yesterday afternoon that they would face the court order through due legal process.



Dr Imtiaz Ahmed speaks at a view exchange meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Mujahidul Islam Selim, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Abdul Mannan and Nurul Islam Nahid.

## Reach political consensus on cancellation of foreign debt

Speakers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All political parties will have to reach a consensus on the cancellation of foreign debt as the debt providers like World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are misguiding the nation through false prescriptions, said the politicians and civil society members yesterday.

At a view-exchange meeting, they said the huge amount of foreign debt was accepted to improve the service sectors like education and health, but this debt was gobbled up by some dishonest politicians and unscrupulous businessmen.

The meeting titled 'Cancellation of Foreign Debt: Public Service' was organised by Shushashoner Janney Procharavizan (Supro) at the National Press Club in the capital.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim said all political parties will have to reach a consensus on some issues especially on the cancellation of foreign debt.

Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said the government is spending more on external debt than service sector like education, health, water and

sanitation.

"In 2007, the country had to pay \$ 1551.3 million for external debt servicing which is 18 percent of total government expenditure. On the other hand, public spendings on education and health were 16.5 percent and 7.5 percent of the total spending respectively," he pointed out.

Awami League leader Nurul

Islam Nahid said most of the foreign debt was misused or gobbled up by some dishonest politicians and so-called intellectuals.

BNP leader Abdul Mannan Jatiya Party Leader GM Kader, Awami League leader Khandaker M Jahangir and researchers Monwar Mostafa and Mohammad Shahid Ullah also spoke at the meeting.

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