Nurture next generation properly

President tells 2nd convocation of Daffodil Int'l University

UNB, *Dhaka*

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon all including, guardians, teachers and the authorities of educational institutions and conscious section of the society to properly nurture the next generation for the sake of the country.

The president also underscored the need for ensuring quality education to the students through providing state-of-the-art curricula and ensuring congenial academic atmosphere in all universities, both private and public.

"Educational institutions, from primary to tertiary level, have enormous role to play in producing a mammoth number of valued and efficient people," he said while addressing the 2nd convocation of Daffodil International University (DIU) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal was the convocation speaker at the function. Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Dr Aminul Islam and chairman of its Board of Governors Md Sabur Khan also spoke on the occasion.

PHOTO: PID

President Iajuddin Ahmed gives away chancellor's gold medal to a successful graduate at the 2nd DIU convocation in the city yesterday.

"I believe, as the centre of excellence, educational institutions, particularly universities, have a responsibility to generate high-quality human resources to meet the demand of time," the president told his audience.

He emphasised on ensuring need-based education along with traditional one so that students and professionals can confidently face the emerging global challenges.

The president said the faster development of information technology as well as the emergence of market economy has thrown a great challenge to us.

"However, the competitive nature of the global economy and the challenge of the digital divide can be responded only by harnessing skilled human resources," he added.

He said the people of Bangladesh have a great passion for knowledge and "we want to make a knowledge-based society with the spirit of our glorious past."

"We want to build an enlightened society, where the knowledge would be the main driving force for attaining the overall development and it needs a huge scholarly and morally upgraded people who would lead the nation to the right direction in the days to come," he added.

He hoped that the knowledge and skill that the graduates have acquired would be the main tools to face the growing challenges and they will be able to reach the zenith of the success by dint of their excellence and wisdom.

He urged the graduate students never to compromise truthfulness with falsehood and justice with injustice in their professional life. "Be committed to your countrymen and devote yourself to the wellbeing of the nation."

Ecnec okays 13 projects of Tk 9,768cr

10,000 Sidr-hit families to get housing facilities

UNB, *Dhaka*

Some 10,000 landless families in eight Sidr-hit districts would be provided with housing facilities during the next fiscal year.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) approved the project at an estimated domestic funding of Tk 101.69 crore at its meeting at NEC conference room yesterday with chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair.

Some 1,000 barracks would be constructed under the project to be implemented in 2008-09 to house 10 landless families in each of the barracks.

The 11th meeting of the Ecnec during the current fiscal year approved 13 development projects of Tk 9,768 crore, including foreign assistance equivalent to Tk 6,158 crore for four projects, Planning Secretary Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting.

Out of the 13 projects, nine would be implemented entirely with local resources.

Ecnec approved another major project (revised) of Tk 7,492 crore, including foreign assistance of Tk 4,995.63 crore, to construct 398 school-cum-cyclone shelters in 13 coastal districts.

The other projects approved included procurement of 100 CNG-driven and single-decker buses for Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), construction of railway tracks from Tarakandi to Jamuna Bridge, construction of 50 police station buildings, process automation of postal department, DMCH expansion and modernisation, and rehabilitation of deep tubewells remained out of order.

Fatwa against college principal condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, UK unit, has condemned the fatwa (religious edict) against the principal of a college at Syedpur in Jagnnathpur, Sylhet.

Tahrikul Olama, an Islamic organisation, issued the fatwa against Syed Abul Ahmad, principal of Syedpur Adarsha College, recently as he spoke in favour of establishing cable TV system in the area.

At a meeting held in London recently, the Nirmul Committee leaders expressed their grave concern at this incident.

They said the fanatical groups in Bangladesh are carrying out their activities at will, and the progressive people are becoming hostage to their whims. But the government remains silent, they added.

Taking advantage of this situation, the fanatical outfits want to take the country back to the Middle Ages, they said.

The leaders demanded an immediate ban on Tahrikul Olama and punishment to those who have discredited the principal.

Presided over by President of the committee's UK unit BB Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed by Ishak Kajal, Rafiqul Hasan Khan, Ansar Ahmed Ullah, Matiar Chowdhury and Gopal Das, said a press release.

Avian flu a real health security threat

Says Maj Gen Maswood

UNB, *Dhaka*

National and international experts yesterday began a brainstorming workshop to find out prospective solution to combat pandemic Avian flu before a disaster breaks out in the country.

Inaugurating the four-day workshop organised by the Bangladesh Armed Forces and US Pacific Command, Armed Forces Medical College Principal Maj Gen Muhammad Maswood said Avian influenza is a real health security threat for the world community.

He said the very nature of pandemic potentiality of H5N1 virus and its spread through migratory wild ducks made it almost impossible to break the chain of virus transmission from its natural reservoir to domestic birds and other animals.

Giving a statistics, he said so far 382 human cases with 63 percent fatality have been confirmed in 14 countries. Among the affected countries most are in Asia with highest number of cases in Indonesia.

Maj Gen Maswood said in Bangladesh through Avian H5N1 infection occurred in poultry population, so far one human case has been detected recently.

Maj Gen Maswood said the purpose of the workshop is to develop an early detection and rapid response capability at local, national and international levels.

Civil and military delegates, participants from home and abroad, civilian elite, NGOs and national and international experts are participating in the workshop being held at Hotel Westin.

Maj Gen Abdul Moyeed Siddiqui, DG of Medical Services, Maj Gen Golam Rabbani, consultant physician, Brig Gen Abdul Kalam Azad, commandant, Armed Forces Medical Institute, and Brig General Md Zillur Rahman, director of Medical Services (Army), were present at the inaugural session.

Navy chief visits special sea exercise area

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam on Sunday visited Chittagong naval area and monitored activities of special sea exercise 'Operation Witch Hunt' of Bangladesh Navy to defend offshore resources and installations, says an ISPR press release.

During the visit navy chief urged naval personnel to utilise the technology to construct a time-befitting naval force.

He emphasised on practical exercises considering the present perspective of global security. He also emphasised to continue such exercise with Bangladesh Air Force and other organisations.

Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Commodore Commanding BN Flotilla, Commodore Superintendent Dockyard and high officials and sailors were present on the occasion.

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The photography contest is titled, "Bangladesh - My Love," which invites photographs taken anywhere in Bangladesh except Dhaka. The photographs should bring to light a positive image of Bangladesh, based on any specific district or region.

Size of the entries can be either 16" x 20" or 12" x 16", and participants are allowed to submit any number of entries. Submissions will be acknowledged in digital format (CD/DVD only) and print format. Photographers will have to print out their entries eventually, if they are selected.

Ten winners will be selected who will receive certificates, crests and cash prizes. The winner will receive a cash prize of Tk. 25,000, the 1st runner's up entry will receive Tk. 20,000 and the 2nd runner's up entry will receive Tk. 15,000. The rest of the ten winners, 4th to 10th, will receive Tk. 5000 each.

The prize-winning photographs will be featured in a district level festival all around Bangladesh.

For more information, log onto "www.celebratinglifebd.com"

THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION IS 30th JUNE 2008.

For any further enquiry, please contact:

Rafi Hossain
Festival Coordinator
The Daily Star
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Please write the job title, Education Promotion Assistant on top of the envelope.

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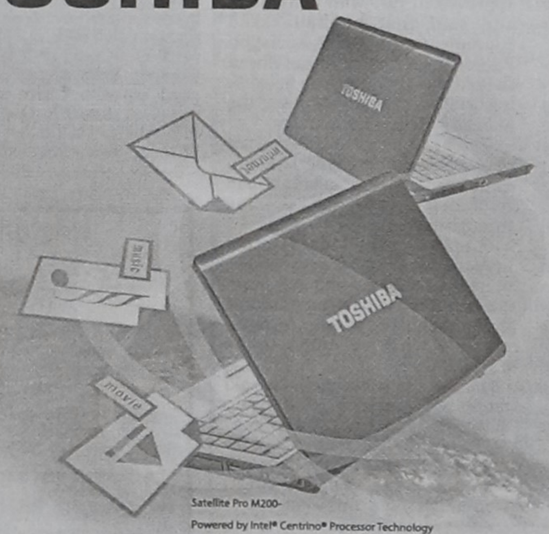

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