

Provide market, need-based edn

President urges universities

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon all to work unitedly for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

"We have to engage ourselves in quest of knowledge, which would lead us to the right direction," he said while speaking at the first convocation of Manarat International University at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Mohammad Abdur Rob, chairman of Manarat Trust Shah Abdul Hannan and Yousof Sharif, on behalf of the graduates, also spoke on the occasion.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz presented the convocation speech.

Referring to the responsibility of the universities, Iajuddin, who is also the chancellor of the universities, said universities need to provide market and need-based education so that students can confidently and successfully face the challenges

of globalisation.

"The universities have a great role to play in cultivating intellect, academic spirit and also imparting quality education with a view to building a knowledge-based society."

He urged the fresh graduates to serve the country with utmost devotion, sincerity and honesty, saying that now it is "your turn to lead the nation and to transform the country into a happy and prosperous one."

The president hoped that the new graduates would demon-

strate the highest degree of personal honesty and integrity, social responsibility and commitment for the betterment of the country.

"The development and progress of a nation mainly depend on its educated young generation. Therefore, the attention should be on the proper nourishment of the youths," he said.

Three hundred graduates were awarded degrees at the convocation while eight students received gold medals for their outstanding academic excellence.

'Save schoolchildren from quake'

CU CORRESPONDENT

A safety movement titled 'Earthquake: School Safety Programme' was launched in the port city yesterday with an aim to save the schoolchildren from earthquake.

Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong organised the daylong programmes, including a procession and training workshop, to launch the movement.

Speakers at the workshop

expressed their concern over the vulnerable conditions of the existing school buildings in the city.

Seventy percent of the existing school buildings are vulnerable and if any moderate tremor jolts the city in school hours, it will take a huge toll of the lives of the schoolchildren," they added.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin was present as the chief guest at the ceremony with IEB Chittagong

Chairman Ali Asharaf in the chair.

Coordinator of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) Earthquake Engineering Research Centre Prof Jahangir Alam and Coordinator of School Earthquake Safety Programme Aliur Rahman attended the ceremony as the special guests.

Akhteruddin, in his speech, underscored the need for constructing school buildings here maintaining safety compliances to

save the future of the nation.

"Qualitative standards of existing buildings of the port city are not good. As an earthquake-prone area, people in the port city may fall victims to massive destruction if necessary steps are taken as soon as possible," he added.

He also called for at least one earthquake safety drill for the schoolchildren in every six-month to avert major casualties during earthquake.

Prof Jahangir Alam said engineering survey and detection of the faults at school buildings are much needed as any major quake can destroy a generation.

"Mass awareness along with the regular practice of saving life by the students can reduce the casualties," he said, adding that they want to spread the movement across the country through the programme.

Later, Prof Jahangir trained more than three hundred teachers from different schools of the city on 'Disaster management and ways to save life and reduce damages during earthquake'.

BSRM Steels Ltd, Bayezid Steel Industries Ltd, Ratanpur Steel Rolling Mills Ltd (RSRM), Confidence Cement and Disaster Intervention Programme (DIP) are the co-sponsors of the programme.



Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong and Disaster Intervention Programme (DIP) jointly take out a procession in the port city yesterday to make the schoolchildren aware of earthquake.

Tk 5.5 crore Japanese grant for BSMRAU

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive Tk 5.5 crore from Japan for the project titled "The Improvement of Academic and Research Capacity of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU)".

The Japanese government approved the Debt Relief Grant Assistance (DRGA) under the Japanese Counterpart Fund on August 26, said a Japan Embassy release yesterday.

The objective of the project is to (improve) enhance Agricultural research in BSMRAU by using the provided necessary modern equipments.

Since the government of Japan has financed to extend the BSMRAU and provide required equipment for this institute in 1981, the BSMRAU has carried out numerous potential research work for the rapid development of the crop sector and developed efficient manpower in agricultural disciplines.

Therefore, this project will be more helpful for expansion of agricultural education and research to improve and strengthen the administrative and academic management of agricultural sector of Bangladesh.

Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Masayuki Inoue expressed his aspirations that the Japan's assistance would greatly contribute to the improvement of agriculture sector in Bangladesh.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY Withdrawal of proposed ordinance demanded

BSS, Dhaka

The Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) yesterday sought more cooperation of the government in running the private universities smoothly.

The private universities have restored discipline in higher edu-

Arms, phensidyl seized; fugitive arrested in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered three firearms, 73 bottles of phensidyl in an abandoned state and arrested a convicted fugitive from different places of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong in last 24 hours ending at 12:00 noon yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team recovered one foreign made revolver and two single barrel guns in an abandoned state from a salt field at Bhaluakhali under sadar upazila in Cox's Bazar, a Rab press release said.

The same team nabbed Md Monirul Haq, a convicted absconder and accused in 11 criminal cases pending with Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station from Bhaluakhali area.

Besides, another team seized 73 bottles of phensidyl in an abandoned state from Rasulabad residential area in the port city yesterday, the release added.

cation and earned satisfaction of students and guardians through introducing and implementing academic calendars, MA Kashem, chairman of the APUB, said this at a view exchange meeting with the editors and senior journalists of the print and electronic media on the proposed private university ordinance at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

MA Kashem demanded the government to withdraw the proposed private university ordinance. "Due to the ordinance, there will be a negative impact on the higher education," he opined.

"The universities are also contributing a lot to the socio-economic development of the country," he added.

APUB Vice President Abul Kashem Haider and IUBAT Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Alimullah Miyan also spoke on the occasion.

The Financial Express Editor Moazzem Hossain, The Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Chief Editor Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, The Bangladesh Today Editor Colonel (retd) Mahmud ur Rahman Chowdhury and Head of News of ATN Bangla Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul were present.

MA Kashem said a total of 51 private universities were set up in the country after the enactment of the Private University Act in 1992 where about 1.5 lakh students are studying and the number of students is increasing day by day.

"The universities have been playing an important role in expanding higher education," he said.



PIZZA HUT 'Eat as much as you can' offer again

METRO DESK

Pizza Hut has once again brought the 'Eat as much as you can' offer, says a press release.

The offer will be valid only during the month of Ramadan.

The offer give people the opportunity to have Pizza Hut's amazing Pizzas from the Favourites Line Pan Pizza just for Tk 349 only and unlimited refills of Pepsi at Tk 75 only.

This Tk 349 offer is for one person only and prices are exclusive of VAT. Only after finishing the Pizza and/or Pepsi, it will be replenished.

"When it comes to remembering, you'll always find us at the forefront cheering for the cause. And, that's the backdrop of this Ramadan offer. I hope, our customers will welcome this offer and rejoice the iftar in their way," said Akku Chowdhury, executive director, Transcom Foods Limited, the franchisee of Pizza Hut and KFC in Bangladesh.

Starting from the first day of holy Ramadan to the last day of the holy month, the offer will be available at Pizza Hut's flagship restaurant at Gulshan and Dhanmondi outlets only. Offer will be valid from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.



The nearabouts of Pagla lagoon in Narayanganj was stinking yesterday after Wasa authorities leave the rotten fish, which they were supposed to take away and dump under ground, on the spot. The water of the lagoon became toxic due to dumping of waste.

Preserve archaeological sites

Speakers tell seminar

BSS, Savar

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the authorities concerned to preserve the country's glorious ancient history and traditional archaeological sites for the future generation.

Speaking at the seminar titled 'Ancient history of Bangla

Archeology' at the central auditorium of Jahangirnagar University (JU), they said Bangladesh has a glorious history and rich archaeological sites and resources found in various excavations bear testimony to the golden and traditional ages of this region now known as Bangladesh.

They underscored the need for unearthing the real ancient history and the archaeological treasures to make them familiar with the present as well as the future generation of the country.

Presided over by President of Bangladesh Itihash Samity (BIS) Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Muniruzzaman inaugurated the seminar.

Bangladesh Itihash Samity (BIS) and JU Archeology Department jointly organised the daylong seminar, divided into three sessions.

Anwar Hossain laid stress on knowing various languages to unearth the hidden ancient history of Bangladesh.

"We should know at least three languages including Sangskrit and English to explore the ancient history and tradition of the territory," he said.

The lack of knowledge about languages, he said, bar unearthing of the real history of our motherland.

Prof Muniruzzaman said science is inseparable from history and archaeology as far as the detection of the historical sites is concerned.

Chairman of JU Archeology Department Prof Ashit Baron Paul, seminar member-secretary Prof Muzammel Haque and BIS General Secretary Prof Nurul Huda Abul Monsur also spoke at the seminar.

A total of eight keynote papers were presented in the seminar.

Library cum edn dev centre to be set up in every upazila

METRO DESK

Non-government college teachers have started to set up library cum centre for development of education in every upazila with access to students and guardians along with teachers, says a press release.

Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) has initiated the programme.

Barura Upazila College in Comilla has become the pioneer in this respect who set up the centre on Thursday.

Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed, chief coordinator of National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) and president of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA), inaugurated the centre at the college.



Winners of a music and art competitions pose for photograph with the guests at National Press Club in the city on Friday. The club organised the event.

14th council of Chhatra Moitri begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14th council of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri (BCM) begins today at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium at Dhaka University, says a press release.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon will inaugurate the two-day council with BCM President Rafiqul Islam Sujon in the chair.

Bangladesh Economic Association Secretary Dr Abul Barakat, Sammilita Sangskrit Jote President Nasiruddin Yousof Bachchu and Bangladesh Nari Mukti Sangsad Convener Hajera Sultana will address the inaugural session.

Representatives and observers of its 72 district committees will take part in the council which will hold discussions on its political and constitutional reports and bring amendments to its constitution.

New leaders will be elected in the final session of the council.

Over 150 top graft suspects

FROM PAGE 1

Al Mamun, former BNP lawmakers Shahidul Islam Master, Salauddin Ahmed, Mashirur Rahman and Abul Khair Bhuiyan, former Jamaat lawmaker Abdullah Mohammad Abu Taher, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Shahjahan Chowdhury and businessman Salman F Rahman.

Among the accused, Khaleda obtained ad-interim bail in two cases, her son Tarique Rahman ad interim bail in all 13 cases, Khandker Mosharraf in all 12 cases, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in six cases, and Giasuddin-al Mamun in 12 out of 14 cases.

AL President and former premier Sheikh Hasina, who is now abroad on parole, did not get bail in any of the 14 criminal cases against her.

An HC bench on February 6 this year upon a petition granted ad-interim bail to Hasina in the Tk 3 crore extortion case filed by businessman Azam Chowdhury.

The bench also quashed proceedings against her in this case and declared illegal bringing the case under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR), 2007. Against the HC verdict, the government filed an appeal with the Supreme Court (SC), which on May 8 revoked it.

Hasina has recently filed a writ with the HC challenging legality of initiation and continuation of the case and the HC on August 28 issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the initiation and

continuation should not be declared illegal.

An ACC lawyer yesterday told The Daily Star the HC has granted bail on a few grounds to those who were accused of committing corruption, extortion and other crimes.

"The main ground is that the ACC officials could not submit investigation reports within the stipulated 60 days after filing the cases. But the provision of submitting investigation reports within 60 days after filing the cases is not mandatory. We'll prove it when detailed hearing of the HC rules will take place," he added.

He, however, said the hearing on the HC rules would not be held till October 11, the day of reopening of the HC after its annual vacation.

"The vacation of the HC starts on August 31 and continues until October 11. In this period five benches including our division benches will hear and dispose of the urgent matters. The rules earlier issued by it would not be heard during the vacation," he said.

He added the ACC would fight the legal battle against the graft suspects in the HC after the vacation and would take the legal initiative as per the HC guidelines.

the graft cases have convicted over 100 people with imprisonment of different terms.

The convicts include Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda, Mirza Abbas, his wife Afroza Abbas, and his brother Mirza Khokon, Harris Chowdhury, Aman Ullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman, Giasuddin-al Mamun, his wife Shahida Yasmin, Mamun's brother former lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim, Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, his son Mir Helal Uddin, OC of Fatullah Ashraf Islam, AL leaders Nasim and his wife Liala Arjumand Banu, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Manjural Ahsan Munshi, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, Dr Firoz Mahmud Iqbal and his wife Imtiaj Begum, Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim, Salauddin Ahmed, former secretary ANH Akhter Hossain and his wife Nazim Banu, Rashid-un-Nabi Millar, SM Ahsan Habib, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury Maya and his son Dipu Chowdhury, Sheikh Helal Uddin and his wife Rupa Chowdhury, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mufti Shahidul Islam, Atiqullah Khan Masud and his wife Shamima Khan.

More than 30 of the convicts have filed appeals with the HC against the punishment handed down by the special courts set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

The appeals are now pending with the HC.

Source: says the ACC, the government and individuals have so far filed cases against 1,139 people and the ACC pressed charges in 188 cases.

The special courts dealing with