



Members of the election committee of Awami League call on Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda at his office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Impart quality education

President tells universities at 3rd convocation of UAP

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the university authorities to impart quality education so that students can acquire knowledge of international standard and cope with the global challenges.

"To face the growing challenges of globalisation, including market economy, our students have to be more skilled in their relevant fields," he told the 3rd Convocation of the University of Asia Pacific at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

The president, also the chancellor of the university, said the country needs academically proficient and technically-skilled human resources to expedite the pace of development.

He said the educational institu-

tions especially universities have significant role in creating capable human resources as well as opening the avenues of multi-sectoral branches of knowledge, including the practice of free thinking.

"I call upon the university authorities to uphold the image and dignity of the esteemed institutions for the sake of the nation," he said.

The president congratulated the new graduates and hoped that they would be able to reach the zenith of success by dint of their excellence and wisdom.

"Remember, you would always abide by truth and justice and uphold the fairness and morality at every steps of your life," he said, adding, "be committed to your countrymen and devote yourself to the well-being of the nation."

Adviser for Primary and Mass Education Rasheda K Chowdhury also spoke while former Ambassador Farooq Sobhan gave the convocation speech.

Vice-chancellor of the university Prof Abdul Matin Patwari and acting chairman of UAP Foundation AA Moniruzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Nowrin Nowshaba of pharmacy department and Farzana Zaman and Tuhin Zahur of business administration received gold medals from the president for their outstanding results.

Rasheda said country's education curriculum must be updated on a regular basis to keep pace with the current global science and technology so that the students could compete in the international arena.

Bomb explodes near prison cell at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bomb exploded in front of the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU) yesterday, injuring a female patient.

Identified as Shushama, 55, the patient was admitted to the emergency unit of the hospital and was released in the afternoon.

Shahbagh police said the bomb went off at around 12:30pm in between the C-block and D-block and the patient received wounds while she was walking around.

Police said they were investigating the incident whether it was planted or was thrown from outside.

Witnesses said panic-stricken patients and visitors at the hospital began running here and there as thick black smoke filled the area.

Police rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area. They also collected samples of the explosives. It was a handmade bomb wrapped with red scotch tape.

Reshuffle in admin

UNB, Dhaka

The government has brought some changes at the top level of the civil administration in a latest reshuffle.

According to a handout, Roads and Railways Secretary Dr Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman has been transferred to Post and Telecommunications Ministry while Secretary (OSD) of Establishment Ministry ABM Abdul Huq Chowdhury transferred as Secretary to Religious Affairs Ministry.

It said Primary and Mass Education Secretary M Mosharrif Hossain Bhuiyan has been made ERD Secretary.

Post and Telecommunications Secretary Iqbal Mahmud has been sent to Roads and Railways Department in the same post.

Additional Secretary of Water Resources Ministry Badrul Alam Tarafdar has been made secretary in-charge of the Primary and Mass Education Ministry.



Rajuk bulldozes unauthorised structures along Tejgaon-Gulshan link road under Hatirjheel-Begunbari Integrated Development Project in the city yesterday.

Don't hand over health service to private sector

Speakers urge govt at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging the government not to make health service a commercial commodity by handing over its health sector to private sector, the speakers at a roundtable yesterday made a series of recommendations to include them in the proposed national health policy (NHP).

The roundtable titled 'What we expect in national health policy' was organised by the National Health Right Movement Committee (NHRMC) with the support of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The speakers said the government must strengthen the local governments to implement the NHP while it (the government) should ensure strict enforcement of the policy by monitoring the activities of the local governments after decentralising their power.

Presenting the keynote paper at the roundtable, Sardar Arif Uddin, theme leader of ActionAid Bangladesh, said the NHP must have the option of addressing health hazards caused by climate change, as the people of Bangladesh are vulnerable to frequent natural calamities.

He said problems of the people living in urban areas and those living in rural areas including char, haor and coastal areas are not the same, and so the health policy should contain different measures to address their problems.

Similarly, problems of people of different ages are not the same, and there exist traditional misconceptions regarding reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases, said the speakers, adding there should be a clear instruction in NHP restricting alluring adver-

tisements regarding solution of health problems in electronic and print medias.

They said doctors charge fees at their will during private practice as the government does not fix their fees, and similarly private clinics and hospitals virtually have no accountability.

There should be health audit like financial audit to find out irregularities in this sector, they said alleging no doctor has ever been convicted for the death of his/her patients due to negligence of his/her duty.

The speakers said health issues of elderly people, addicted persons and the handicapped are not stressed equally in the proposed NHP which is available in the web site to seek public opinion.

They said in the advertisement of a happy family, people see two children with their parents but their grand parents are not seen there.

So children may think that elderly people should not be accepted in a happy family, they said, adding, the NHP must restrict such advertisements which make a certain segment of the society insecure.

Dr Laila Anjuman Banu of Mahila Parishad said 30 percent of the total population are adolescent but they are not aware of reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases and they form a wrong conception about them leading to increase of maternal death.

She demanded of the government to incorporate these topics into the textbooks at secondary and higher secondary levels.

The speakers said the drug addicts have the right to be rehabilitated and street children have the right to access to government health service.

So the NHP should have clear direction in this regard, they added.

With Professor Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, president of NHRMC, in the chair, the roundtable was addressed by Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani as chief guest.

Barapukuria case against Khaleda adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday adjourned Barapukuria coal mine graft case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 15 others until October 29.

Judge AK Roy of Special Court-2 fixed the date following a prayer from the defence lawyers and asked them to submit the copy of stay order to the court.

As the court began, the defence lawyer prayed for long adjournment, saying that the case proceedings have been stayed for three months.

Earlier on October 16, the High Court (HC) stayed for three months the proceedings against her in the case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission.

The state counsels yesterday appealed to the court to issue an arrest warrant against Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

None of the accused appeared before the court.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Divisional Special Judge Golam Mortuza Mojumdar deferred the witness deposition in MiG-29 case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six others until January 7.

Tk 1.11cr foreign currencies seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man with huge amount of foreign currencies in the city yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as car driver Md Jamal Mollah, son of Abdul Huq, a resident of Nakhhalpara area in the city.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-3 led by Squadron Leader Md Khalid Shams took a position in front of Super Star Hotel and Restaurant in Shahbagh area and intercepted a private car.

They seized the currencies of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bangladesh worth Tk 1.11 crore in two bags from the car. The Rab members arrested the

driver and also seized cheque-books of different banks.

Rab officials said Jamal, who was appointed four months ago as the driver of one Khaja Faruk Ahmed of West Nakhhalpara, used to carry bags of foreign currencies from the spot to the house of his employer's house after an interval of two to three days.

The driver also used to carry the amount on alternate days from his employer's house to the airport from which passengers would carry these packs of currencies, they added.

The Rab sources further said that some officials of civil aviation would escort the passengers who carried the bags.

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وَدَاوُدَ الرِّجْمِيَّ الرَّحِيمِ

Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal,
Love leaves a memory
no one can steal.

- Unknown

Azimur Rahman
(1935 - 2001)

- The Family