

## Muslim nations must regain past glory in science, tech

CA tells IUT convocation

UNB, Gazipur

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said Muslim nations must regain its previous glory, particularly in science and technology, through exchange of information and collective efforts.

"We must regain our standing in the world, which we can only achieve if we communicate with one another, share and exchange information and ideas, and cooperate (with each other) to make coordinated individual and collective efforts," he told the 22nd Convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT).

Addressing the function at the IUT auditorium, the CA said Muslim scholars like Al Razezi, Al Beruni, Muhammad Al Khwarizmi and Omar Khayyam during the mediaeval period enriched different branches of science and technology, including chemistry, mathematics, medicine, physics, architecture and literature.

He said, "They were pioneers of modern science and technology, yet today many of the OIC nations do not possess the same level of cutting-edge scientific capability due to the fact that we failed to adequately pursue and strengthen our knowledge base."

Fakhruddin said knowledge is essential for establishing peace and stability within a state as well as nation. "Our Prophet (SM) had put great emphasis on acquiring knowledge. The arrival of Islam 1400 years ago illuminated the world civilisation," he said.

"The OIC member states must commit themselves to living up to our shared scientific heritage. We must devote more resources, time and efforts to fostering excellence in science both by setting up world-



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at the 22nd Convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Gazipur yesterday.

class educational institutions as well as by encouraging research and development of the highest international standard," he told the function.

OIC Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Dr Ali Akbar Salehi read out the speech of OIC Secretary General Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, also the IUT Chancellor, at the function.

IUT Vice Chancellor Dr M Imtiaz Hossain and IUT Registrar Ahsan Habib also spoke on the occasion.

The chief adviser distributed certificates, the OIC Gold Medal 2008 and the IUT Gold Medal 2008 among the students. Shahidul Amin received the OIC Gold Medal 2008 while Fakhruddin, Rakib Imtiaz Zaman and SM Didar Al Alam the IUT Gold Medal 2008 for their outstanding academic performance and achievements. All the four gold medal winners are Bangladeshi

students.

The CA also attended a ceremonial academic procession on the campus.

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, diplomats, academics, IUT teachers, students, fresh graduates and post-graduates and their guardians were present at the function.

In his speech, the CA said the application of technology has dramatically changed the quality of life for human beings in the recent past.

"Furthermore, the rate of change in knowledge base is now much faster than ever before. Technology also accelerates the process of globalisation, which in turn, further accelerates technological progress," he said.

"In order to remain competitive in an increasingly dynamic world, we must ensure that we can both benefit from and contribute to the scientific and technological prog-

ress of our times, particularly in terms of practical economic applications," Fakhruddin observed.

Today the global community is facing many crucial challenges, including volatile energy prices, scarcity of food, climatic change and environmental pollution, he said, adding that these are all areas in which the application of technology can make a significant difference indeed. Technology will have to be part of any solution.

"Energy is a key element to the economic development of any country. Technological solutions will be required to provide sustainable sources of energy for going forward, as well as to deal with the climate change that our emission of greenhouse gases has already caused," he noted.

The CA said the consequences of climate change will be catastrophic if the underlying causes are not addressed. The very survival of countries like Bangladesh is threatened by potential rises in the sea level. The global community must tackle climate change, while also ensuring that sustainable, environment-friendly energy solutions are pursued.

He also stressed that it must be ensured that female students can pursue education in the field of science and technology where they are today grossly underrepresented in the OIC member states.

He urged the graduate and post-graduate students to discharge their professional responsibilities efficiently and ethically to benefit themselves and humanity at large.

"You should remember that the pursuit of knowledge is a continuous process, and you must ensure that you remain up-to-date and competitive in this dynamic world," he told the graduates.



Awami League leaders offer munajat after placing wreaths at the graves of four national leaders at Banani Graveyard in the city yesterday on the occasion of Jail Killing Day. (Story on Page 16)

## All parties to take part in polls

Hopes British HC after meeting with Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commissioner Stephen Evans who met with BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday evening expressed the hope that all the political parties would take part in the ensuing parliamentary election to make it acceptable.

Talking to newsmen after an hour-long meeting from 6:30pm Stephen said he discussed political, economic and overall situa-

tion prevailing in Bangladesh.

Asked how he views the ensuing election under the emergency the British diplomat said he welcomes the government move for gradual relaxation of emergency rules toward creation of atmosphere for holding free, fair and neutral polls with participation of all parties.

Replying to another question if he discussed BNP's participation in the election Stephen said,

"It is their matter. What we want is all parties should take part in the fray."

Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, foreign affairs adviser to Khaleda Zia, Reaz Rahman and Khandker Delwar Hossain, were present during the meeting.

Chowdhury described the meeting as 'courtesy call' when they discussed continuation of existing excellent relationship between Bangladesh and Britain.

Stephen assured of cooperation with any future government in Bangladesh, he added.

Asked if they discussed BNP's participation in the ensuing election Chowdhury said it is an internal matter that will be discussed with the government.

## NIKO GRAFT CASE SC stays Mamun's bail by HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for one month the High Court (HC) order granting a bail to controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun and staying the proceedings against him in the Niko graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

After hearing a stay petition filed by the ACC, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin also asked the ACC to file a regular leave to appeal with the SC against the HC order.

Counsel for Mamun, Barrister Fakhruddin Islam yesterday told The Daily Star that his client was granted bail by the HC in 16 cases out of total 18, but the Appellate Division stayed eight HC orders.

He said the HC on August 26 granted bail for six months to Mamun in Niko case and stayed the proceedings against him in this case for the same period.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan appeared for the ACC.



Local Government Division Secretary Shaikh Khurshid Alam addresses a seminar at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Nobuko Kayashima, Lokman Hakim Talukder and Shams Uddin Ahmed.

## Water of over 30pc tubewells arsenic-contaminated

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water of more than 30 percent tubewells in the country are arsenic-contaminated raising further the number of arsenicosis patients, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

This problem however can be resolved through a sustainable arsenic mitigation programme that the LGRD ministry in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has successfully implemented in Jessore, they added.

At a seminar at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city, the speakers said under the project 'Sustainable Arsenic Mitigation under Integrated Local Government System (SAM-ILGS) in Jessore' some 30000 people of two upazilas are now getting arsenic-free water.

Involving the union parishads and making the community people aware of arsenic contamination and its health hazards, safe drinking water is being supplied under the project, they added.

They said filtering the water of different water bodies, the surface water has been supplied to the people at Sharsha and Chawgachha upazila through the pipelines.

The union parishads has also been made self-sufficient in conducting arsenic test while the locals have to pay Tk 50 for each test as the tubewells that are not arsenic-affected might be affected at any time, said Project Director Shams Uddin Ahmed.

Treatment of arsenicosis patients has also made possible in those upazilas by providing 10 percent allocation of the union parishads for them, he added.

While speaking as chief guest, Local Government Division Secretary Shaikh Khurshid Alam

said, "The example of Jessore can be replicated in other areas and thus we can ensure safe drinking water by 2015."

He also urged Jica to come forward with such programme in other arsenic-affected areas of the country.

"Though we have achieved 97 percent safe drinking water coverage, it has come down to 74 percent due to arsenic contamination in different areas especially in southern region of the country in recent years," said Joint Secretary of Local Government Division Lokman Hakim Talukder.

He said sustainable mitigation programme involving the local administration and community people could be introduced in other areas also.

Resident Representative of Jica Bangladesh Office Nobuko Kayashima, Project Manager Kazuyuki Kawahara, Superintending Engineer of the Directorate of Public Health Engineering Amanullah Al Mahmood also spoke on the occasion.

The outcome of the project that began in 2005 was also disseminated at the seminar.

## Businessman shot by extortionists

Factory worker hospitalised with bullet injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman was shot and injured critically by suspected extortionists at Karatitola under the city's Sutrapur thana yesterday.

Police said Hasibul Haque Zakir, 32, a businessman and an aspirant for Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) councillor of ward no. 76, was taken to the city's Square Hospital where he is fighting for his life.

Locals said a gang of three terrorists shot Zakir in the head by taking him to a nearby lane when he was going to attend a namaj-e-janaza programme at Karatitola at about 12:30pm.

The injured was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital

(DMCH) and then shifted to the Square Hospital.

Police and locals said Zakir announced himself as an independent councillor candidate from the ward no. 76 and started campaigning.

They said top terror Shaheed and his cadres demanded toll from him and frequently threatened to kill him to realise their demand. Zakir also transferred his house from Karatitola to Nayabazar to avoid any trouble.

A case was filed with Sutrapur police station.

Meanwhile, a factory worker was shot in the chest by armed men at Bhagalpur in Savar yesterday afternoon. He was admitted to DMCH for treatment.

## Reshuffle in admin

UNB, Dhaka

Hedayatullah Al Mamun, additional secretary of establishment ministry, has been transferred to the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry, said a handout yesterday.

Mohammad Hanif, managing director of Jiban Bima Corporation, has been transferred to the information ministry while OSD (joint secretary) at establishment ministry SM Mezbahul Islam has been appointed member of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and member of PDB SM Shamsur Zakaria has been transferred to Jiban Bima Corporation as its managing director.



British High Commissioner Stephen Evans calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

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