

# Build knowledge-based society to face global challenges

## President tells AIUB convocation

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called upon all to ensure the optimum use of the country's limited resources for building a prosperous Bangladesh.

"Our aim should be to build an IT-oriented knowledge-based society to face

the global challenges," he told the 9th convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Sakir Ozkan Torunlar delivered the convocation speech at the function.

AIUB Vice Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna and its Trustee Board Chairman Dr Anwarul Abedin also spoke on the occasion.

A total of 858 students were conferred graduate and post-graduate degrees in different disciplines. Among them three were awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medals for

their outstanding performances.

Referring to the 'Change of Charter' declared by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Zillur called upon the country's planners, implementing agencies, teachers and civil society members to sincerely perform their duties from their respective fields in this regard.

"We need to move ahead by taking various programmes for building a prosperous Bangladesh step by step," said the president, also the chancellor of the university.

He said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had cherished a dream of turning the country into 'Sonar Bangla', which is yet to be fulfilled.

He congratulated the new graduates and said the nation expects that they would contribute immensely towards building a self-reliant prosperous Bangladesh.

"I believe that you will be able to elevate the country's image to a great height in the international arena with your talents and works," he said.

Zillur paid homage to the army officers brutally killed during the BDR carnage at its Pikhana headquarters here on February 25-26.

He termed the deaths of the talented army officers an irreparable loss to the nation.

Earlier, a one-minute's silence was observed in memory of the army officers and others killed in the BDR carnage.



President Zillur Rahman gives away a gold medal to a successful graduate at the 9th convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

# Seven killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

At least seven people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur and Gopalganj yesterday.

A correspondent from Comilla reports: At least two people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Raypur in Daudkandi upazila early yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as micro driver Md Rostom Ali alias Shwapan, 35, of Kafurl Police Station and Dudu Miah, 43, of Munshirhat in Dhaka.

Police said the accident occurred at about 5:30am when a Chittagong-bound covert van collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound microbus, leaving them dead on the spot.

Daudkandi police sent the bodies to Comilla Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, a minor boy was killed and two others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Govindapur in Chandina at about 6:00am.

The dead was identified as Atik Anwar alias Oanon, 11, son of Anwarullah of Shantinagar in Dhaka.

Police said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound private car collided head-on with passenger bus, leaving the minor boy dead on the spot and two others injured. The injured were rushed to Chandina Health Complex in critical condition.

A correspondent from

Lalmonirhat says: Two people, including newly married woman, were killed and another was injured in separate road accidents in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

A potato trader was killed when a truck coming from Kurigram hit him on Rangpur-Kurigram Road in Teesta area at about 9:00am while he was going to Mostafi Bazar by a by-cycle. The dead identified as Jahedur Rahaman, 30, son of Abdur Rahaman of Teesta village died on the spot.

The local people seized the truck and its driver. They also blocked the Rangpur-Kurigram Road for an hour. Later, police brought the situation under control.

A newly-wed woman identified as Anita Rani, 24, was killed and her husband Mukul Chandra, 32, injured critically when truck from Burimari hit their motorcycle on Lalmonirhat-Burimari Highway at 10:30am when they were going to Mukul's house at Patgram.

Mukul was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition. They got married three months ago.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur adds: A least one person was killed and three others were injured in a road accident at Durgapur village under Birampur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The dead was identified as Bhabesh Chandra Roy, 55, son of late Romoni Kanta Roy of village Polipraipur under Birampur upazila.

Police said the accident

occurred when a speedy motorbike hit a rickshaw van from behind on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway near Durgapur village under Birampur upazila, leaving four people injured on the spot.

Later locals rushed the injured to Birampur Upazila Health Complex where Bhabesh succumbed to his injury.

A correspondent from Gopalganj adds: An eight-year-old girl named Shampa was killed in a road accident at Gopalganj on Sunday.

A Madaripur-bound bus of Ruposhi Paribahan ran over her on Gopalganj-Tekerhat Road while she was returning home at Bhennabari village of Sadar upazila in the evening after buying an icecream. Shampa died on the spot. She is a daughter of Kalachand Mondal.

## 'Reinstate Pandora workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday demanded immediate reinstatement of the workers of Pandora Sweaters and compensation for attack by criminals on the workers, says a press release.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front organised the press conference at its office at Topkhana Road in the city.

General Secretary of the front Rajekuzzaman Ratan read out a written statement at the press conference.

They also demanded withdrawal of the cases against the leaders of the worker.

## Director, dy director appointed at PMO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government appointed a director and a deputy director at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

Md Abdus Sabur Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, has been made director while Md Mahub Alam, senior assistant secretary attached with the establishment ministry, deputy director, according to a gazette notification.

## 9 US-FUNDED CYCLONE SHELTERS Groundbreaking begins this week

UNB, Dhaka

Groundbreaking begins this week for nine new US government-funded Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters in Cyclone Sidr-affected Khulna division.

Groundbreaking sites include Kholishakhali, Sultapur, Nona Donga, Mohishcharoni, Betkhashi, Shakhariatoro Shaheed Smriti, Paschim Mollikerbar, Sreefolata Dohkin Para, and Bikotnari Primary Schools in Bagerhat district.

A release of the US embassy yesterday said these nine sites are part of a US government-funded project to build 24 multi-purpose cyclone shelters through the US Pacific Command (PACOM). The multi-purpose schools will be used daily as schools when not needed for emergencies.

The groundbreaking on these nine sites makes a total of 13 multi-purpose cyclone shelters under construction in Cyclone Sidr-affected areas of Khulna and Barisal. These

## Isabel visits Brac school

METRO DESK

World Bank (WB) Vice President for South Asia Region Isabel Guerrero and Country Director Xian Zhu paid a short visit to a Brac school at Badda in the city yesterday and later called on the Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed, says a press release.

Following the visit Isabel Guerrero stated, "I was inspired to see the bright and cheerful faces of girls and boys who are receiving holistic education in Brac schools. The success and outreach of Brac programmes demonstrate the high potential of Bangladesh and resilience of its people."

Later, she met with Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed at Brac head office.

They exchanged views on a number of topics including the likely impact of the global financial crisis on the poor. Both agreed that the provision of quality education, at both primary and secondary levels, remains an important challenge for Bangladesh.

## Partnership in higher edn stressed

METRO DESK

A three-member delegation of the British Council led by David J Lock, director of International and UK Projects at the UK Leadership Foundation for Higher Education in London, called on the UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam at the latter's office yesterday, says a press release.

Prof Nazrul briefed them about the role and activities of the UGC. He also appraised the delegation of the higher education system in Bangladesh.

During the meeting, they focused on developing partnerships in teaching and research in the field of higher education of the UK and Bangladesh.

They also stressed the need for building long term professional relationships at different areas within their institutions.



World Bank Vice President for South Asia Region Isabel Guerrero and Country Director Xian Zhu paid a short visit to a Brac school at Badda in the city yesterday.

## Call to stop discrimination against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Employees of Brac at the concluding ceremony of celebration of the International Women's Day yesterday pledged to work together to prevent all discrimination against women.

In a formal declaration at Brac Centre, they vowed to refrain from abusing women, protest any incident of violence against women.

They called for immediate implementation of the National Women Development Policy, formulation of Uniform Family Code and withdrawal of reservations to article 2 and 16 (1)(c) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Faustina Pereira, director of Human Rights and Legal Services at Brac, hoped that there would be a time in future when all discriminations against women will be eliminated and celebration of a special day to ensure their rights will not be necessary.

Sheepa Hafiza, director of Brac Training Centre for Gender Justice and Diversity and Advocacy, read out the declaration of the Day.

"Women of the world still need to fight for equal rights even after 99 years of launching of the International Women's Day", she said.

However, it is a matter of hope that 19 women became members of the 9th parliament through direct vote, four women became ministers and one became state minister. It is an achievement, she added.

The celebration ended with songs and poetry recitation by

Brac employees.

Meanwhile, Department of Modern Languages at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised a daylong reading session of literary works by women on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

The IUB Vice Chancellor Prof Bazul Mobin Chowdhury, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman and Prof Nazrul Islam were present at the session.

## New water pump opens at Khilgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday inaugurated the operation of a water pump at Block-A in Khilgaon in the city, says a press release.

At least one lakh people will get supply of water from the pump, the release said.

Saber Chowdhury in his speech assured the local people of fulfilling all the promises he made during his

election campaign.

He also said the government has agreed in principle to construct a loop of Khilgaon Flyover to reduce traffic congestion in the area.

Rabiul Kawsar, executive engineer of Wasa Modes Zone-6, Alamgir Chowdhury, president and Sharif Ali Khan, general secretary of Khilgaon Thana Awami League and other local leaders were present at the programme.

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The University will conduct interviews for September intake and issue Admission Letters ON THE SPOT as below :

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<h3>আজিমপুর</h3> <p>সাইজ : ১০৫০ বর্গফুট ৬/৪/৫, শেষ সাবেক ব্যাকার যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>	<h3>উত্তরা</h3> <p>সেইটর : ৩, ৪ ও ১০ সাইজ : সিলেস ও দুপসের যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯ ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>	<h3>ওয়ারী</h3> <p>লাসারী গ্রোপার্টমেন্ট ও দোকান সাইজ : ৮০০-১০৪০ বর্গফুট যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯ ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>	<h3>কাকরাইল</h3> <p>দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব-পশ্চিম কর্ণার প্রট সাইজ : ১৮১০ বর্গফুট যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>	<h3>গুলশান</h3> <p>সাইজ : ২১০০ বর্গফুট দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম কর্ণার প্রট যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>	<h3>ত্রীণরোড</h3> <p>সাইজ : ১২৯৭-১৪১০ বর্গফুট ৪/৭, ত্রীণরোড, ঢাকা-১২০৫ যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>	<h3>পলগোয়েল কারনেশন</h3> <p>সেন্ট্রাল এসি শপিং সেন্টার রেডি দোকান বিক্রয় যোগাযোগ : ৮৯১১১৯১ ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>	<h3>মগবাজার</h3> <p>সাইজ : ৭৯০-৮৯০ বর্গফুট কর্ণার প্রট যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৬৯</p>
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**বিল্ডিং ফর ফিউচার লিঃ**

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