

# Ensure quality edn to make students competent

Nahid says at EWU convocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday called on the private universities to make every effort to ensure quality education in order to make students competent and efficient so that they can cope with the challenging world in the new era.

Private universities in the country have been playing a vital role in providing desired education for the students, he said, adding, "I believe that our private universities will make every effort in ensuring

quality education."

The minister said this at the 8th convocation of the East West University at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Congratulating the graduating students, he said the convocation does not mark an end to their learning, rather it is a time that reminds the responsibility of serving the nation which has been bestowed on them.

"Your university had laid a strong foundation of you (graduates)," he said, asking the graduates to apply their

knowledge they have learnt from the university with a vision of contributing to the country's overall development.

The minister called on the private universities to arrange merit-based scholarships more for the students belonging to the less privileged class.

Delivering the convocation speech, noted Prof Anisuzzaman said, "A university is not only a place for transmitting received knowledge, it must create new knowledge where we lag behind."

One of the problems of higher education in Bangladesh stems from overcrowding, he said, adding, "I am not against the expansion of higher education, but I think that higher education is not for everyone; it's for the deserving."

Laying emphasis on primary and secondary-level education, he said, "Every citizen has a right to primary education, but we have not been able to give this minimum quantum of education to all, although, time and again, we have set target dates for that."

He reminded the graduating students that they have a debt to this country which sooner or later they will have to repay.

Appreciating the role of East West University, he said, "Although the university is only in the thirteen years of its existence, it has made a mark by imparting quality education and by refusing to treat education as a commodity for business."

EWU Vice Chancellor Prof Moheemul Haque and President of the Board of Directors Jalaluddin Ahmed also spoke.

A total of 923 students from 15 programmes received certificates in the convocation. Of them, 671 students were conferred undergraduate degrees and 252 students received graduate degrees at the convocation, while seven students were awarded gold medals for their outstanding academic achievements.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid gives away medal to a student at the 8th convocation of the East West University at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

## Khetmajur Samity council begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 7th National Council of Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity will begin in Dhaka tomorrow, says a press release.

Justice Golam Rabbani will inaugurate the council at Muktangan at 3:30pm.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim and convenor of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Port and Electricity Sheikh Md Shahidullah will be present at the inaugural ceremony.

Members of Udichi Shilpi Goshiti will render songs. Later, farm labourers will take out a procession.

## Planning Week begins at Buet today

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day Planning Week will begin at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) auditorium today.

This year's theme of the week is 'Planning for Inclusive Urban Development'.

Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Mashur Rahman will inaugurate the week as the chief guest. The programme will be followed by an exhibition on planning and development.

URP Students' Association of Buet (USAB) and Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Buet will jointly organise the function in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and Urban Partnership of Poverty Reduction.

## DU Master of Dev Studies admission test Friday

METRO DESK

The written test of the qualifying examination for admission into Master of Development Studies (MDS) course at the Department of Development Studies for the session 2009-2010 of the University of Dhaka will be held at 10:00am on Friday, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and Room No 5002 and 5014 of the Arts Building of the university, says a press release.

## Major reshuffle in KCC admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) has brought a major reshuffle in its administration.

Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque issued an official order on Monday reshuffling his administration for public interests.

In the admin shake-up, Collector of Taxes Sheikh Mohiuddin Hossain has been made store super downgrading his rank and status.

Store Super Jahangir Hossain has been made storekeeper. Deputy Collector of Taxes Nuruzzaman Talukder has been appointed as estate officer which is higher in rank and status than his previous post.

Licence Officer Nazrul Islam has been made new collector of taxes, while UD clerk Hafizur Rahman Chowdhury was made licence officer.

Assistant Assessor of Taxes Harun-ar-Rashid has been made as another licence officer (vehicles), while Shafiqul Islam of that section has been made UD assistant.

Storekeeper Matleb Gazi has been made secretary of ward no 8 office while secretary of that ward office

Nazrul Islam has been transferred as Super of Zia hall. Super of Zia hall, Moniruzzaman Rahim has been made a UD Clerk.

UD Clerk of Works department Shahinuzzaman has been sent to Health department as UD Clerk, while LD assistant Ibrahim Howlader of works department has been promoted as UD assistant.

Assistant Cashier Gazi Parvez has been promoted to assistant collector of taxes, while Assistant Collector of Taxes Faruque Hossain Talukder has been made deputy collector of taxes.

## 1,188 more arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police in separate raids arrested 1,188 people on various charges from different parts of the country in 24 hours as of 6:00am tomorrow.

Eight firearms and 16 bullets were also recovered during the countrywide drive, said a Police Headquarters release.

Besides, 64 motorbikes without valid documents were seized during the period and 304 cases filed under Motor Vehicles Act.

## Non-govt pry teachers for sufficient funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers' Association yesterday demanded allocation of sufficient funds in the upcoming national budget.

They placed their demands before the government at a press conference at the association office at Tophkhana Road in the city.

Md Samsul Alam, president of the association, presented the keynote paper.

They also demanded an individual salary scale for the primary teachers and the discrimination between government and non-government primary school teachers be eliminated.

They threatened to wage a movement if their demands are not met.

Mrigendra Mohan Saha, secretary general, Alhaj Shahidul Islam, senior vice president, Md Abdul Jabbar, vice president, and Kazi Kamal Pasha, treasurer, were present.

## BARAPUKURIA PLANT Workers demand reinstatement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The 56 labourers of Barapukuria Power Plant, who were retrenched on April 1, yesterday brought out a protest procession at Phulbari town to realise their six-point demand, including reinstatement in their jobs.



Members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) stage a token hunger strike in front of the Ducus Bhaban on the Dhaka University campus yesterday urging Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to change her decision and take over the BCL leadership as organisation leader.



Campaign for Good Governance stages a demonstration at Shahbagh in the city yesterday protesting privatisation of healthcare services. The event was organised on the occasion of the World Health Day.

## Minister hints at massive changes in BDR

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Col (Retd) Faruk Khan yesterday hinted at a sea change in the battered Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) through its resurrection as he presented a comparative picture of the border security forces of neighboring countries like India and Pakistan.

He also assured that the probe report on the Feb 25-26 BDR carnage would surely be authentic and not like the enigmatic one on the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League rally in the capital.

"The countrymen will certainly know the mysteries behind BDR brutality and the killers will be identified within the shortest possible time through investigation," said Faruk Khan, who has been assigned to coordinate

the probe bodies formed to look into BDR massacre.

He said three teams on both 'inquiry' and 'investigation' are working and the inquiry bodies would submit their report within the latest one-month term.

He shared the progress in investigation into the BDR carnage with the reporters at his office in the afternoon.

The former military man hinted that massive changes would be brought in BDR structure to make modern and time-worthy.

About border forces' structures in the neighboring countries -- India and Pakistan -- he said they have two to three types of border forces.

Asked about possibility of restructuring the mutiny-ridden BDR in line with the neighbours having two to three tiers, he paused and then said, in a smiling mood: "Let's wait and see."

He said they are taking recommendations from the former BDR DGs in restructuring the border force, virtually beheaded through the killing of all its top commanders deputed from the army.

Talking on the progress of investigations, he said the investigations progressed free and fairly.

"It takes a little bit time to

have an authentic, unbiased and acceptable report -- and for this the deadline has been extended," he said.

Asked about bringing some political bigwigs of both major political camps under questioning, he did not like to name any names and said all would be brought under questioning if their links were initially found.

"Countrymen want it. They're waiting to see a true report," he said, reassuring all about a sure-fire success in the hunt for tracking down the killers involved in the carnage.

He said 850 suspects have so far been arrested in connection with the BDR carnage and many gave confessional statement.

Replying to a question he said nine BDR jawans, those who opposed the carnage, were killed in the onslaught and their families would be given due respects and compensation.

He said they got 1000 kinds of evidences and satellite footages have been added to the list as latest evidence.

He reiterated that borders are now well guarded, notwithstanding the big setback.

On the new BDR DG's recent visit to India, he said they discussed various issues trying to strengthen border security from both the sides.

## 'Train health workers to deal with HIV patients'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a programme yesterday said that alongside raising awareness, it is imperative to train the health workforce to deal with the people living with HIV/AIDS properly.

They said this at the launching ceremony of Publications on National Guidelines and Manuals for Clinical Management of HIV and AIDS' at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) conference room in the city.

The experts also said that the health service providers should be sensitised so that they don't discriminate and stigmatise people.

The manuals and guidelines will be helpful for the health practitioners, they added.

National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP) of the DGHS developed the manuals and organised the programme with the technical support of Family Health International and Engender Health. It was funded by USAID.

Speaking as the chief guest, Director General of DGHS Prof Shah Monir Hossain reiterated the need for coordinated and concerted effort of all stakeholders to fight AIDS. In this regard, the importance of the treatment guideline, training and counseling manuals would be of immense value to the country.

"Nationwide case detection and survey is also needed along with sustainable facilities to address the cases of HIV/AIDS," he said.

"Universal precaution system should be introduced at all the hospitals and at the same time care and support should be of paramount importance in the HIV/AIDS programme," said Prof Nazrul Islam, the department of Virology of BSMMU.

Line Director of NASP Dr Mohammad Ishaque Khan presided over the programme while Khadijat Majidi of USAID, David L. Piet of Family Health International, Abu Jamil Faisal of Engender Health, Bangladesh and Prof Mahmudur Rahman of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) were also present.

## Baishakhi Mela at St Gregory's High School April 14

METRO DESK

A Baishakhi Mela organised by Gregorian Association will be held on April 14 at St Gregory's High School, says a press release.

A 'Baishakhi evening' will also be organised on April 16 at All Community Club in Gulshan area where noted singers will render sweet numbers.

Interested Gregorians have been requested to contact Gregorians Munadir Islam on 01819217320, Shamsul Azam on 9551413 and 9550632, Shameem Hussain on 9558007 and 9558015, Azim on 8855799 and Haider on 01711644592.

## BSCIC

Staff correspondent adds: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) will organise a 10-day 'Baishakhi Fair' on Bangladesh Academy premises from the Bangla New Year day on April 14.

Entrepreneurs of cottage industries across the country will display their products in the fair.

Discussion and folk music show will also be arranged every day during the fair.

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