

No scope for compromise on quality of education

President tells vice chancellors

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman said the government has given utmost importance on the education sector to ensure quality education for all and ruled out any leniency on this question.

"I think it is essential to ensure quality of education and there is no scope for compromise on it," he said.

The president also emphasised introducing more IT-based curricula in primary

to university levels from now on for implementing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's declaration for building a 'digital Bangladesh' by 2021.

He made the observations when a delegation comprising the vice chancellors of seven public and private universities called on him at Bangabhaban.

He also underscored the need for taking initiatives to make science education popular in the secondary and higher secondary levels of

education alongside arts and commerce education.

Zillur termed the universities the centre of excellence in practicing freethinking and suggested the VCs to expand extracurricular activities for the students at their respective university and build them as worthy citizens.

He urged the private universities authorities to provide special financial aid to the poor but meritorious students as educational expenses are higher in the private universi-

ties.

The delegation comprised VC of Noakhali Science and Technology University Prof Sanjoy Kumar Odhikari, VC of Patuakhali Science and Technology University Prof Syed Shahkawat Hossain, VC of North South University Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqi, VC of Independent University Bangladesh Prof Bazlul M Chowdhury, VC of Northern University Prof A W M Abdul Huq, VC of Southern University Prof A Z M Nuruddin Chowdhury and VC of International Islamic University Prof M Mahbubullah.

Members of the delegation, particularly private universities, told the President that it was very difficult to acquire five acres of land in the capital city as per the UGC's conditions for the private universities.

They requested him to ease this condition for smooth running of the private universities.

They also apprised the president of various activities of their universities, saying that they are "committed to ensuring quality education" at their respective institution.

Secretary of the President's Office Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Md Ehtesham Ul Haque and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present.



Vice chancellors of different public and private universities pose for photograph with President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Govt-NGO efforts needed to stop child trafficking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Long-term project and integrated efforts of the government and non-government organisations are needed to stop child trafficking, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

They also stressed the need for forming community interventions team awareness forum or watch committee comprising border guards, union parishad and NGO to stop child trafficking, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

Children from rural and slum areas are mostly victims of trafficking due to lack of social security and poverty, he mentioned in his keynote speech.

They also stressed conducting a national survey on child trafficking for getting authentic statistics on trafficking as well as formulating an action plan.

With the support of Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Bangladeshi Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organised the seminar titled "Combating child trafficking: Context Bangladeshi citizen's role" at Biam Foundation in the city.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder in his speech as the chief guest urged the non-government organisations to come forward to address the issue as it is difficult for only the government to deal with it.

He said media can play an important role in creating awareness among the people about women and child trafficking.

Quoting a study of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), Dr Mohammad Shahjahan, secretary general and executive director of Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh in his keynote speech said around 25000 women and children are trafficked out of the country every year.

BSAF Director Kafil Uddin moderated the seminar with Anwar Karhal, executive director of Unnayan Shahojogy, in the char. Around 25 NGO representatives participated in the seminar.

Hearing on Amini's bail petition May 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers of Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, on Wednesday submitted a bail petition to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in a case filed for bomb attack on a Sramik League procession on May 1.

After the hearing, Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed May 27 for hearing on the petition along with lower court records.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tofail Hassan on May 17 rejected Amini's bail petition when he along with his lawyers appeared before it.

Sramik League leader Akbar Hossain filed the case against Amini and nine others.

Additional Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary said a total of 661 cases have been in the last five years in connection with the child trafficking and of them, 344 were disposed of.

A total of 233 people were convicted while 172 were awarded life-term imprisonment and eight people were sentenced to death, Javed said.

He said not only the law enforcement agencies but also the people from all strata of life should come forward to deal with the issue as women and child trafficking is a social problem.

Mahmudul Kabir, country director of Terre des Hommes Netherlands, urged the government and organisations concerned to help address the internal trafficking as a large

number of women and children are being forced into prostitution and other illegal activities in the country.

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'Root out communal forces from country'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a mourning meeting on Wednesday urged the people to follow the ideology and works of late Syed Ahmed, a lawyer and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, and come forward to build the country a secular and real democratic state and root out the communal forces from the country.

They made the appeal at a memorial meeting of Syed Ahmed, organised by Shammiliti Aijibhi Samannay Parishad (SASP) at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium.

SASP Convener M Amir-UI Islam presided over the meeting. Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdul Hamid, Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak, MP, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, state ministers Abdul Mannan Khan and Shamsul Haque Tuku, SCBA President AFM Mesbahuddin and Secretary SM Rezaul Karim, Bar Council Vice Chairman Abdul Baset Majumder, Syed Rezaur Rahman and ZI Khan Panna, Subrata Chowdhury and Syed Ahmed's daughter Shahnaz Ahmed Joyaspoke.

They said Syed Ahmed was not only one of the organisers of the Liberation War but also a responsible leader of the lawyers in the country.

They prayed for peace of the departed soul of Syed Ahmed and expressed sympathy to his family members.

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