



Students, teachers and alumni of Dhaka University take out a colourful procession from the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) yesterday to mark the DU Day.

## DU Day celebrated

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Day was celebrated yesterday amid much enthusiasm and festivity.

Dhaka University started its journey on this day in 1921. Since then, teachers and students of the university have been playing a significant role during different national crises.

The theme of this year's celebration was -- Higher education in democratisation'.

To mark the day, hundreds of students and teachers of the university took out a colourful procession from the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC).

Former VCs, distinguished personalities, teachers, students and alumni of the university also took part in the procession.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique led the procession that paraded different streets on the campus.

Former students and guard-

ians also came to the campus to take part in the event.

Flags of DU and other halls were hoisted atop the buildings while Prof Arefin cut the DU Day cake.

Later, Prof Arefin inaugurated a three-day photography exhibition on the history and traditions of the university on TSC premises.

On the occasion, special food was served at the student dormitories.

The central library of the university also put rare manuscripts on display.

A discussion was also held at the TSC auditorium where lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, former VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, former Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Prof Shahadat Ali, Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury and DU Teachers' Association President Khondakar Bazlul Haque spoke.

DU senate and syndicate members, deans of different faculties, chairmen and directors of different departments and institutions and hall provosts were also present at the discussion presided over by Treasurer Prof Mianur Rahman.

Speaking at the discussion, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "Dhaka University does not only give away certificates but also develops the students as enlightened citizens of the country."

A good number of alumni have exerted their leadership qualities during different national crises. The president, the prime minister and most of the cabinet ministers and lawmakers are former students of this university, he said, adding, "So, the future Bangladesh is being built in Dhaka University."

He urged the young generation to work for the common people.

Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury stressed the need for providing higher education in mother tongue.

Festivity was in the air throughout the day as teachers, students and different organisations chalked out elaborate programmes.

The daylong programmes also included a mock debate competition between teachers and students, friendly soccer matches and a cultural programme where present and former students of the university took part.

## Meradia residents suffer as Eastern Housing wall blocks road

HELEMUL ALAM

Residents of Nayapara in Meradia have been suffering for over three months as Eastern Housing authorities have blocked a road passing through its Banarsi project area by constructing a wall in violation of an order of DC office.

The residents of the area said Eastern Housing authorities on March 16 constructed a concrete wall across the road linking Meradia and South Banarsi, restricting the movement of people through the Banarsi project area.

The residents used this road as a short cut to nearby bus stand located in the project area. Buses from South Banarsi go to Mirpur-1 via Banarsi, Rampura, Badda, Gulshan, Mohakhali and Farmgate, said local people.

They said they have been using the road for many years, which was once a halot (Khas land).

After a previous attempt to block the road by Eastern Housing, local residents filed a complaint with the deputy commissioner office on June 7, 2007. Following an investigation, the DC office gave a directive on November 25, 2007 to keep the road (CS 1022, RS 1905) open for the residents, said Sarwar Zahan, a resident of Nayapara.

The wall also separated some seven plots of private owners on its southern side. As a result, the residents of the plots cannot come to Meradia by taking a short cut, Sarwar added.

Ali Akbar, another resident, said around 20 schools and colleges are located in the project area. Students living in Nayapara used the road to reach the institutions, but the wall has made the distance longer as they now have to use

an alternative road.

Another resident Momtaj Nayem said her son Mahbub Al Hossain is a student of Faizur Rahman School in Meradia Hat and now they have to walk around one more kilometre to reach the school due to the roadblock.

Mina, the mother of a class one student of Brac school in Banarsi area, made the same complaint.

Around 80 people have been living in Nayapara for

about 15 or 20 years ago and they took electricity and water connection with the help of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority and Dhaka Wasa, said local people.

When contacted, Director of Eastern Housing Ltd Nazim Nawaz Chowdhury said the company has got the halot land from the DC office in exchange for the company's land.

"We gave 14.145 acres of land to the DC office in 2000

and 3.7275 acres in 2003 and received a piece of land, including the halot land," he said.

"If we allow this land to be used as a road, our main objective of exchanging the lands will not be fulfilled. We have a plan to develop more plots on the land," he said, adding that there are several alternative roads in the Banarsi project area, which the Nayapara residents can use.

He also said the company has already reached deals with most of the residents regarding plots. Only two or three families have been left out, but they are ready to make deals, said Nazim.

Mamunur Rahman Fazul, councillor of Ward No. 26, said the road (halot) is being used by local people for long.

The government should not have exchanged the land with the land of the housing company, he said.

The road was constructed during the tenure of BNP-led alliance government, he said, adding that the present government should take proper steps to address the issue and keep the road open for the people of the area.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Zillur Rahman said they have received complaints from the local residents and would take steps to demolish the illegal structure soon.



PHOTO: STAR

The wall that blocks the road from Nayapara to South Banasree.

## Strengthen local govt as per constitution

### Speakers tell view exchange meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday urged the government to strengthen the local government as per the constitution for the overall development of the country.

They said the development of the country is not possible without strengthening the local government.

The meeting titled 'National budget and local government' was organised by Bangladesh Upazila Chairmen and Vice-chairmen Forum (BUCVF) at the National Press Club in the city.

Legal expert Dr Shahidul Islam said the local government is not running as per the articles 59 and 60 of the constitution, it is a violation of the constitution.

The government should take steps to resolve the conflicts between the chairmen

and parliament members over the local government issues, he added.

He also alleged that the budgetary allocation for the local government is not sufficient.

The speakers said the government should take the initiative to strengthen the local government as stated in the articles 9, 11, 59 and 60 of the constitution.

These articles have already given power to the local government for the overall development of the country, they added.

Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin said Upazila Parishad Act should be revised to empower the local government by giving them autonomy.

The government should take steps to resolve the conflicts between the chairmen

and parliament members over the local government issues, he added.

Azmat Ullah Khan, chairman of Tongi Pourasava (municipality), said four-F should be ensured to strengthen the local government.

"These are functions, functionaries, funds and freedom. Without any of them, it is not possible to strengthen the local government," he added.

This should be stopped to

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BUCVF Convener Mohibur Rahman speaks at a meeting at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin and on his left is CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim.

PHOTO: STAR

## Body to improve level of English edn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a 16-member committee to give suggestions to improve the level of English education in the country, said a press release yesterday.

The committee, headed by University Grants Commission Member Prof Atul Ha Shibly, will evaluate the English education system at the secondary school level, identify the problems and suggest ways to address them.

It will also make a plan for a national English education academy and a long-term plan to improve the standard of overall English education.

The committee will submit its recommendations to the education ministry within two months.

The other members of the committee include an additional secretary (development) and a joint secretary (secondary) of the education ministry, director of planning of the ministry, director general of Secondary and Higher Secondary Directorate, chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board, chairman of Dhaka Education Board,

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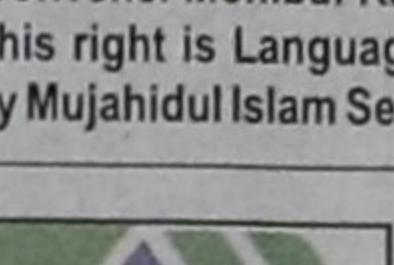
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