



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 crisis.

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 manuscript 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 Mijanur 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 crisis. The president, the prime minister and most of the cabinet ministers and law-makers 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.

Agency Award 2008.

A photo exhibition on 'Migrant Labour's Daily Life' and 'News Clipping Exhibition on Migrant Labour' will be held and a telefilm be staged.

The first NRB conference was held in the city in December 2007. Scholars Bangladesh President ME Chowdhury Shamim, co-organiser of the conference, at the press briefing also said manpower sector is the most important sector, yet it is the most neglected one.

Mohammed K Haq, Morshed Alam, Nizam Chowdhury and Nasim Ali among NRBs also addressed the briefing.

They emphasised the importance of establishing standard training institutes at thana/upazila levels to make the huge manpower skilled, taking steps so that expatriate Bangladesh labour does not face harassment starting from the recruiting agencies to their workplace, providing bank loan on low interest to send manpower abroad and insurance facilities for NRB workers.

## 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 Banasri 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 Banasri, restricting the movement of people through the Banasri project area.

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

They said they have been using the road for many years, which was once a halott (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 at 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 Banasri 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 connections 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 Banasri 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 Fazu, 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.



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

PHOTO: STAR

## 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 Shahdeen Malik said as the local government is not running as per the articles 59 and 60 of the constitution, it is a violation of the constitution.

"Developed countries laid

emphasis on strengthening the local government, but we concentrate on the development of central government instead of local government," he added.

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.

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

Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shujan (citizens for good governance) said the local government is now fully controlled by parliament members and bureaucrats.

This should be stopped to

strengthen the local government, 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.

Chairmen from different

upazilas including Matlab, Kawkhali, Nabi Nagar, Kamalganj, Akkelpur, Sunamganj Sadar, and vice-chairman from Mahadebpur and Nabiganj also spoke on the occasion.

Parliament members Hasanul Haque Inu, Fazle Hasan Badsha and AFM Muzammel Haque were present at the view exchange meeting chaired by BUCVF Convener Mohibur Rahman.

## NRB confce on manpower dev begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day conference of Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) begins at a city hotel in the evening today with special focus on development of manpower.

President Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the conference titled 'First NRB manpower development and opportunities conference-2009: A third approach to nation building' at Hotel Sheraton.

A large number of expatriate Bangladeshi scholars and professionals will take part in some 10 seminars, co-organiser of the conference Scholars Bangladesh said at a press briefing at the hotel yesterday.

The government ministers and senior ministry officials will participate in the programme.

On the concluding day, four institutions will be awarded 'Innovation in Remittance Collection Award 2008', 'Migration Sector Development Award 2008', 'Best Institute for Trade Skilled Development Award 2008' and 'Best Recruiting



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 Hai Shibby, 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, chief 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,

Shariful Islam, an expert from National Academy for Educational Management, Prof Sayed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University, Prof Shaheen Kabir of Jahangirnagar University, Fazlur Rahman, associate professor at the Institute of Education and Research (IER) of DU, Jannatul Ferdous of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College and Md Quamrul Islam of Govt Laboratory High School.

## Desco pays Tk 78.17cr in taxes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (Desco) has paid Tk 78.17 crore in taxes for 2008-09 through the National Board of Revenue (NBR), says a press release.

Of the amount, Tk 56.27 crore was paid in income tax of the company, Tk 12.59 crore in taxes for import and bank interest and Tk 5.69 crore in dividend tax.

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