

Ensure quality education

President urges private universities
BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the authorities of the country's private universities to extend all academic facilities to the students for ensuring quality education at their respective institutes.

He made the call when a three-member delegation of United International University led by its Chairman Hasan Mahmud Reza called on him at Bangabhaban in the city.

During the meeting, president said it is the responsibility of all concerned to ensure that the poor but talented students are not deprived of getting higher education.

The delegation apprised the president of different activities of the university and invited him to chair the forthcoming first convocation of the university.

The president consented to chair the convocation.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Rezwan Khan and member of the governing body Ahmed Ismail Hossain were present.

Concerned secretaries of the president office were also present at the meeting.

Air chief briefs president on China visit

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban and apprised him of his recent visit to China on an invitation from the Chinese air chief.

The Chief of Air Staff returned home on November 15 after attending the 'Peace and Development Forum-09' held in China marking the 60th anniversary of the Air Force of China.

The Air Chief apprised the President of his meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao and air chiefs of different countries, including China, during the forum.

Zillur hoped that such a "high-level visit between Bangladesh and China would further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries".

The president also lauded the constructive role of Bangladesh Air Force in different nation-building activities across the country, especially in relief operation during natural calamities.

Secretaries concerned of the president office were present during the meeting.



Risking their lives, people cram into a launch to go home to enjoy Eid holidays with their near and dear ones. The picture was taken from First Buriganga Bridge at Postagola yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Climate change to cost trillions

Say economists

AFP, Paris

Estimates vary widely on the costs of damage from climate change, easing these impacts and taming the carbon gas stoking the problem, but economists agree the bill is likely to be in the trillions of dollars.

Figures depend on different forecasts for greenhouse-gas emissions and the timeline for reaching them. In addition, key variables remain sketchy.

How will rainfall, snowfall, storm frequency and ocean levels look a few decades from now? How will they affect a specific country or region? And how fast will nations introduce low-carbon technologies, carbon taxes and other policies that alter energy use?

Despite these uncertainties, economists share a broad consensus: climate change will ultimately cost thousands of billions of dollars, a tab that keeps rising as more carbon enters the atmosphere.

"The cost of climate impacts goes up with the delay on emissions mitigation," said Sam Fankhauser of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics (LSE).

"On the cost of adaptation, there's a timing issue. For instance, there's no point building sea walls now if the sea levels are only going to rise gradually over the next 50 years. But we do know that costs of adaptation will go up non-linearly, in other words exponentially, with the degree of warming that we have."

Following is a snapshot of the main items on the tab.

-- IMPACTS: Warming of between two to three degrees Celsius (3.6-5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times would inflict a permanent loss in global world output of up to three percent, according to the 2006 Stern Review, authored by British economist Nicholas Stern.

But this would rise to an average of five to 10 percent loss of GDP with warming of five to six C (9.0 F), with poor countries suffering costs "in excess" of 10 percent of GDP.

On current trends, Earth is headed for an average increase of 4 C (7.2 F) this century, to which 0.74 C (1.33 F) of warming from the 20th century must be added, according to the so-called A1FI emissions scenario of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

-- MITIGATION: Action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases focuses on more efficient use of coal, oil and gas and a switch to clean renewable sources.

The European Union (EU) and others have set the target of limiting overall warming to 2C (3.6 F), which entails stabilising carbon concentrations in the atmosphere at 450 parts per million (ppm).

Attaining this would require 10.5 trillion dollars in energy-related invest-

ment by 2030, which would be additional to money committed under existing policies, the International Energy Agency (IEA) says.

The largest increase -- 4.7 trillion -- is in transport, mainly to purchase more efficient, but more expensive, vehicles.

Investment to make buildings more energy-efficient would cost an additional 2.5 trillion dollars by 2030 while a switch to clean or low-carbon power generation would notch up another 1.7 trillion.

-- ADAPTATION: Estimates of the cost of protecting against water stress, flood, extreme storms, rising sea levels and other ills vary widely, from four billion a year to 109 billion annually over the next 20 years.

A widely-regarded estimate put forward in 2007 by the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) suggested the bill by 2030 could be between 49 and 171 billion dollars annually, of which 27-66 billion would be

needed in developing countries.

The figure is based on the need to climate-proof infrastructure; help agriculture; protect water supplies; defend coastal zones; and treat malnutrition, diarrhoea and malaria, which are among the diseases likely to be amplified by climate change.

But this is only half, or even just a third, of the likely cost, as it does not factor in protecting ecosystems, energy, tourism, manufacturing and mining, according to a paper published in August by Martin Parry of Imperial College London.

By way of comparison, the EU estimates developing nations will need 100 billion euros (150 billion dollars) per year by 2020, for both adaptation and mitigation.

Trillions spent in mitigation and adaptation will have an economic benefit and create new jobs, although exactly how far they will ease the cost of impacts is -- once more -- hard to calculate, say economists.

Abducted RMG worker found dead in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

A garment worker, who went missing since Wednesday night, was found dead at Zianagar in south Keraniganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Arif, 18, worker of Gius Uddin garments at Kaliganj and son of Abul Bashar of Zianagar.

Police said Arif remained missing as he was kidnapped by a gang of miscreants at 11:00pm on Wednesday while he was returning home from his workplace.

On information, police recovered the slaughtered body of Arif at about 2:00pm yesterday and sent it to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Victim's elder brother filed a case with local police station.

Documentary Council executives

METRO DESK

Filmmakers Shabnam Ferdousi and Anwar Chowdhury were elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Documentary Council for a two-year term, says a press release.

They were elected at its annual general meeting at Sanskriti Bikash Kendra in the city on November 20.

Other office-bearers are: Saiful Haque Omi -- vice president; Hamed Kibria -- joint secretary; Farashat Rezoan -- finance secretary; Mamunur Rashid -- office secretary; Mridul Mamun -- publicity secretary; Farid Ahmed -- screening secretary; Ahmed Zaki -- international secretary; and Paul James Gomes -- education and training secretary. General members are Fauzia Khan, Sentu Roy, Reshmi Ahmed, Bayezid Kamal, Nahidur Rahim, Zahedin Joy and Bivash.

1,519 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,519 people on various charges in separate drives across the country in 24 hours as of 6:00am yesterday.

Fourteen firearms, 12 bombs and 120 bullets were also seized during the country-wide drive, said a police headquarters release.

Besides, 40 motorcycles were seized during the drive for not having valid documents while 378 cases filed in this connection.



PHOTO: ISPR

Participating officers pose for photograph with Chittagong Area Commander and General Officer Commanding of 24 Infantry Division Maj Gen Mohammad Shamim Chowdhury at the Graduation Certificate Award Ceremony of Officers' Gunnery Staff Course (Air Defence)-6 of Bangladesh Army at Artillery Centre and School at Halishahar in Chittagong yesterday.

Seven killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Magura, Narayanganj, Kurigram and Gopalganj in last two days.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj reports: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Sattikri on Hatikumul-Bonpara highway under Solonga Police Station in Sirajganj on Wednesday night.

The victims were identified as Mansur Ali, 35, a microbus driver and Rashel Ahmed, 23. Both are of Panchpaika village in Bogra. The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar hospital.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a wheel of the Dhaka-bound microbus exploded and fell into the roadside ditch.

On information, Police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies and sent to Sirajganj Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Our correspondent in Magura adds: One person was killed in a road accident

near Napda-square on Magura-Faridpur highway yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abu Sayeed Sheikh, 45, of Chougachhi village in Sreepur upazila.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus knocked him while he was crossing the road.

He was rushed to Magura Sadar hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Our correspondent in Narayanganj adds: One person was killed in a road accident near Madanpur bus stand on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bandar upazila in Narayanganj on Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Hasimun Bibi, 75, wife of late Asmat Ali of Bagdobaria in Madanpur.

The accident occurred when she was crossing the road a covered van hit her.

The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent in Kurigram adds: Two bicycle riders were killed in a road accident at Nageswari upazila in Kurigram yesterday.

The victims were identified as Nur Alam, 30, son of Abdur Rashid and Hamidur Rahman, 28, son of Abdus Sattar.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a passenger bus hit them from behind at Aleper Tepoti on Bhurungamari-Kurigram road, leaving Nur Alam dead on the spot.

Hamidur died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

UNB adds: A cattle trader was killed and two others were injured as a cattle-laden truck plunged into a roadside ditch at Sonasur under Sadar upazila in Gopalganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nur Mohammad of Nagarkanda in Faridpur. Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound truck turned turtle and fell into the ditch at about 2:00pm as its driver lost control over the steering, leaving Nur dead on the spot and two others injured.

One injured Shah Alam was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital while another to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Army presence in CHT acceptable

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable in the city yesterday viewed that the presence of the army in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is acceptable, but the administration must be run by civilians.

The discussion titled 'A decade of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Agreement: An evaluation' was organised by the daily Bhorer Kagoj at its office marking the completion of a decade of the CHT peace accord.

Shah Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on CHT affairs ministry, presided over the function.

Rashed Khan Menon MP, Hasanul Huq Inu MP, Maj Gen (ret'd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan

MP, Mujahidul Islam Selim of CPB, Prof Harun-ar-Rashid of Dhaka University and journalist Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury took part in the discussion.

Shah Alam said all confusions will be removed once the Land Commission on CHT starts survey the lands and distribute those to the real owners.

Subid Ali said no development activities can be undertaken in the region without peace established through implementation of the peace accord.

He said the army should stay in the garrison in the hill tracts and the government has right to use them in the event of country's territorial integrity is threatened.

Menon who was involved in reaching the December 1997 peace accord with the Parbatya

Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCSS) viewed that the problems of the hill tracts could not be resolved in an isolated way. CHT has to be involved in the mainstream politics.

He said BNP-Jamat alliance government opposed certain provisions of the accord. But it neither annulled nor implemented it.

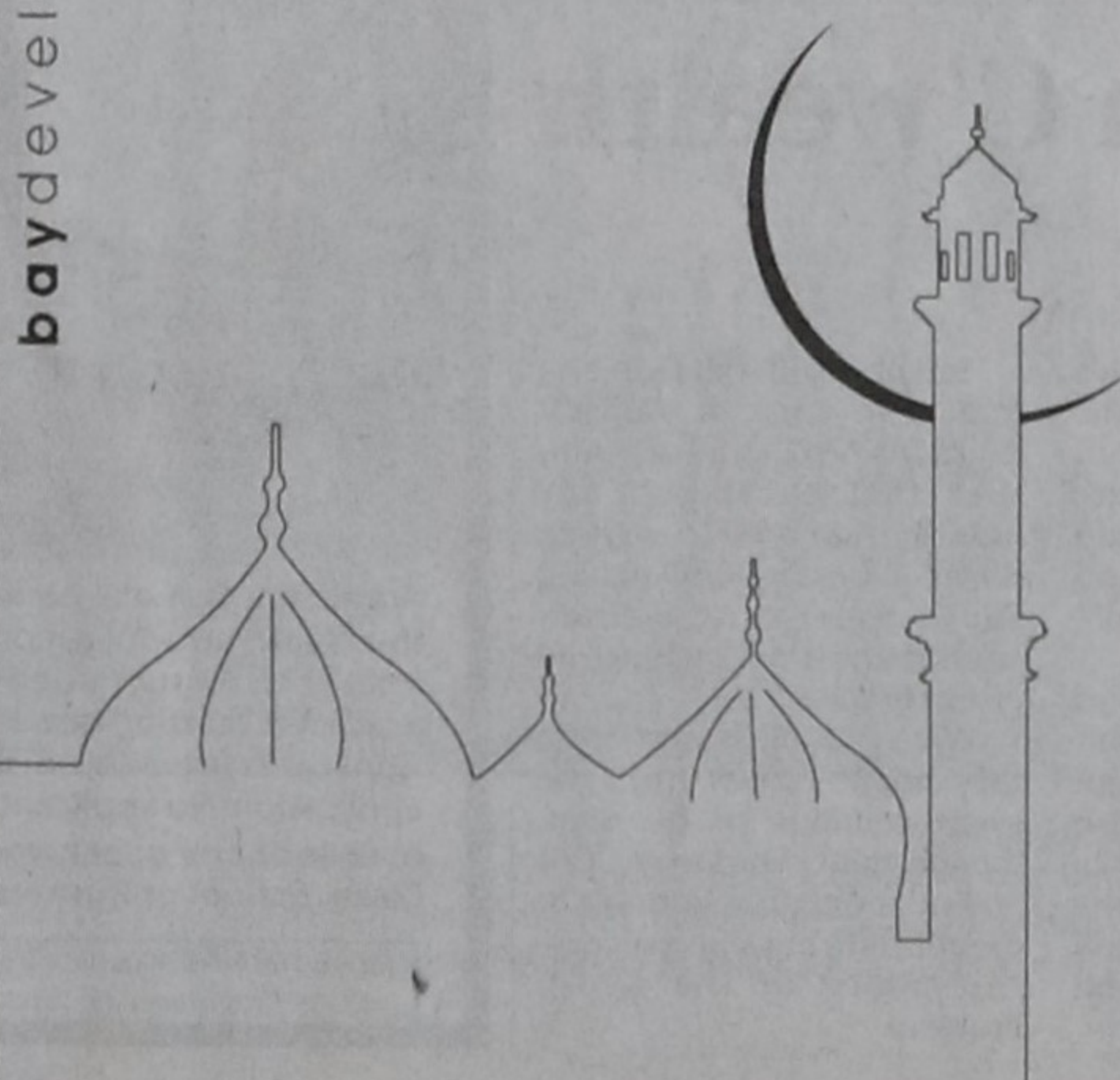
Inu lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her success in reaching the accord with the tribal insurgents and thus ensured peace in the hill tracts. She is now to ensure implementation of the accord within the current tenure of her government that ends in 2014.

terming the peace accord as a time-bomb, Mujahidul Islam Selim said if it is not implemented, it may explode.

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Eid Mubarak

May the blessing of this Eid bring to the rest of your year an abundance of love, joy and prosperity



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