

Reunion of '70 batch Buet graduates begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The campus of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) turned into a funfair with retrospection of the graduates of 1970 who are celebrating 40 years of completion of their graduation.

The graduates under a platform 'Buet '70' started the three-day celebration with the slogan 'Friendship Forever' on the campus.

Former vice chancellor (VC) of Buet Prof Abdul Matin Patwari inaugurated the Buet '70 Grand Reunion by hoisting the national flag in front of the Buet auditorium.

Later, they paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the liberation war who were the graduates of Buet '70 batch.

The martyrs include Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Hossain, Shaheed Muhammad Badiul Alam, Shaheed Muhammad Ahsanul Habib, Shaheed Muhammad Habiburrahman, Shaheed Jalaluddin Ahmed, Shaheed Abu Selim Shahiduzzaman, Shaheed Abul Kalam Shamsuddin Ahmed and Shaheed Saleh Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury.

At the inauguration ceremony, Prof Matin said the graduates of '70 witnessed turbulent situation in the country. They participated in the six-point movement of '66, mass uprising of '69, election of '70 and liberation war of '71.

Speaking as the special guest, Buet VC Prof AMM Shafiullah said though the engineers has always been active in nation building, not a single engineer was awarded the most prestigious Independence Day Award.



Graduates of 1970 batch of Buet, who are freedom fighters, pose for photograph with the guests at a grand reunion organised by the Buet '70 on the campus yesterday.

'Form separate ministry for elderly people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop called for establishing a separate ministry for elderly and veteran people.

They lamented on the fact that both the youth and the children have ministries to tend to their needs, whereby the elderly people remain as the responsibility of a department whose primary function is to help people with disabilities.

"There is a ministry to feed my son and there is also a ministry to tend to the needs of my grandson. But who is there to take care of me? No one!" said Abdul Sattar, 60, a Sidr victim from Bagerhat.

"The fact that we have to resort to a department with disabilities is humiliating," he said.

The workshop on 'Mainstreaming ageing issues in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Plan' was organised by Resource Integration Centre (RIC) in association with HelpAge International and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany at the National Press Club on Thursday.

"If not a ministry, there is a desperate need for at least a separate department to tend to the needs and facilities of the elderly people," said

RIC Director Abul Haseeb Khan.

Other discussants at the workshop stressed the need to bridge the gap between the old and the youth, terming it vital to the proper development of the country.

"The elderly people should be taken to schools and educational institutes so that they can share their experiences of the Liberation War with the young generation. This would evoke patriotism in the youth," said Abu Syeed Khan, managing editor of the daily Shamokal.

The speakers pointed out that the older people are usually the worst affected when it comes to natural disasters.

They said women and children tend to receive special treatments, especially during natural disasters, but despite being vulnerable in more than one way, the elderly are usually neglected.

Speaking as the chief guest, Environment and Forest Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumdar said that a lot of work has been done to fight natural disasters and keep the losses to a minimum. But the situation of the elderly people who tend to be most affected by the disasters have remained largely overlooked.

PM exchanges New Year greetings with AL activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday exchanged New Year greetings with leaders and workers of Awami League and its different associate bodies at her official residence Jamuna.

Thousands of AL men thronged Jamuna to greet Hasina, also president of AL with flowers in their hands.

The party men and other guests wished the premier good health and long life.

In return Hasina also exchanged pleasantries with them and prayed for the country's peace and prosperity. The premier showed love and affection to the children who came with the guests.

Most of the members in the council of ministers, Prime Minister's advisers, Members of the AL Advisory Council and Central Working Committee and its different associate bodies and many pro-AL organisations went to Jamuna to greet the Prime Minister on the first day of 2010.

Party leaders Syed Ashraf Islam, Sahara Khatun, Nurul Islam Nahid, Dipu Moni, Amir Hossain Amu, Matia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Abdul Latif Siddique, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Mahbul Alam Hanif and Mrinal Kanti Das, among others, were present on the occasion.

Jatiya Party Presidium Member Ziauddin Bablu also went to Jamuna to greet Hasina.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam was also present.



Children are engrossed in painting pictures at a competition at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Environment Network organised the event on the occasion of the 3rd International Conference on Bangladesh Environment.



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Rare griffon vulture sent to safari park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The forest department sent a Eurasian griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) to Bangabandhu Safari Park in Cox's Bazar yesterday for its conservation, says a press release.

Local people in cooperation with the local correspondent of the Prothom Alo Mahbubur Rahman rescued the injured vulture from Sonapur area of Noakhali on December 8.

On December 27, wildlife expert and forest conservator Dr Tapan Kumar Dey identified the rare bird as griffon vulture and asked the authorities to send it to the safari park for better treatment.

Veterinary surgeon Dr Malek took the charge of providing treatment to the vulture.

The rare species of bird permanently lives in Pakistan and Kashmir. It often can be noticed in northwest India, Nepal, West Bengal, Bangladesh and East Assam during winter.

The rescued griffon is brown and 1.2-metre long.

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16 veteran leaders honoured

DU CORRESPONDENT

Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust honoured 16 veteran leaders for their contribution to social and progressive political movements.

The leaders include writer Ajoy Roy, Azizul Islam Khan, Emdad Hossain, architect Mazharul Islam, principal Fazlul Haque Khandaker, educationalist Prof Rangalal Sen, singer Ajit Roy, Aziza Idris, Ahmedur Rahman Azim, poet Mahadeb Saha, photojournalist Rashid Talukder, women leader Bela Nabi, Mirza Anwarul Islam Tanu, peasant leader Promoth Sarker, Mihir Dasgupta and Moksedur Rahman.

The Trust accorded a reception to the leaders at a function at Shaheed Tajul Auditorium in the city on Thursday.

The programme was organised to mark the 19th death anniversary of Comrade Moni Singh, one of the organisers of the Liberation War and former president of Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Speakers at the function also recalled the contribution of late Comrade Prasun Kanti Roy, popularly known as Barun Roy, an anti-British movement veteran and organiser of the Liberation War.

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