



President Zillur Rahman gives away a gold medal to a student at the 13th convocation of North South University on its Bashundhara campus in the city yesterday.

President urges pvt varsities to reduce tuition fees

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the country's private universities to reduce their tuition fees alongside creating more opportunities of higher education for the students of middle class families.

"Offer more scholarships for the poor but brilliant students," he said this while he was addressing the 13th convocation of North South University (NSU) on its Bashundhara campus.

The president said universities have huge responsibilities to serve interest of the country's common people.

"Keep in mind that education shouldn't be only based on curricula and certificates, and universities should not be merely profit-making organisations."

He asked the university authorities to properly discharge their responsibilities in this regard. "Universities should provide clear knowledge to their students about the country's history, tradition, civilisation, culture and lifestyle of the mass people."

Zillur said the students should know the history of all important movements of the country's people and contribute towards welfare of the common people imbued with

patriotism. Congratulating the new graduates, he called upon them to always uphold the national interests during their professional life without compromising with injustice and untruth. "Never forget the country and its people, wherever of the world you live in."

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's declared 'Vision 2021' for building a hunger, poverty and illiteracy-free IT-based prosperous Bangladesh, he urged all, including the young generation, to make their united endeavors for implementing the vision.

A total of 726 students were conferred upon postgraduate and undergraduate degrees in different disciplines in the convocation.

Sonia Ferdous Hoque and Syeda Kamrun Nahar Ahmed were awarded Chancellor's Gold Medals while Sheehan Rahman and Nasreen Sultana were awarded Chancellor's Gold Medals in recognition of their outstanding academic results.

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert McDougall addressed the convocation as speaker. NSU Vice Chancellor Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqi and chairman of NSU Foundation MA Kashem also spoke on the occasion.

One killed in mudslide in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A rickshaw puller was killed in mudslide in Kutubpur Haripur area under Bandar upazila yesterday.

The victim identified as Mujibur, 40, was sitting beside a deep pit by the side. Officer-in-Charge Harun-or-Rashid of Bandar Police Station said earth-cutting work was in progress near a power plant in the area around 10:30am. The victim died on the spot when the earth caved in and he fell under the lump of mud.

Four hurt in boiler blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Four workers were injured in a boiler explosion at export-oriented Radian Knitwear garments in Shibur Market under Fatullah upazila here yesterday.

Sources said the boiler exploded at around 11:00am.

The victims were identified as Shipon, 24, Shirin, 20, Bakul, 22, and Masum, 23.

The injured were taken to Khanpur 200-bed Hospital and they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

The condition of Shipon was stated to be critical.

Future of Bangladesh depends on youth leadership

Says British HC

METRO DESK

The future of Bangladesh does not just belong to English medium or Bangla medium or Madrasa students, it belongs to the youth leadership, said Stephen Evans, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, at the graduation ceremony of a youth leadership training programme held at Lake Shore Hotel in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) organised the month-long training programme 'Building bridges through leadership training'.

Dr Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, was the special guest at the programme. Businessmen, academics, civil society members as well as media men also attended the programme.

A total of 42 students were competitively selected from over 150 schools, madrasas and universities for the programme. The training programme included workshops on leadership, public speaking, teamwork, problem-solving and community service.

After two weeks in intensive training at Biam Foundation in Dhaka, the participants spent more than 1200 hours in commu-

nity service in a slum in the city. The British High Commissioner said, "Not only did you serve, but you came together to serve. Though you attend different types of schools -- madrasas, Bangla medium schools, and English medium schools -- you worked together. This is crucial. The future of Bangladesh does not just belong to English medium students or Bangla medium students or Madrasa students. It belongs to all of you. All of you together will decide what you want the future to hold."

Dr Atiur said, "I think that in the context of Bangladesh, this unique initiative by BYLC is highly commendable. Their focus in generating an inclusive, tolerant and just society is the perfect approach."

Niaz Rahim, managing director of Rahimafrooz Superstores, said, "Even in the corporate sector, we find a dearth of leadership among the employees. But to see such youth exercising real leadership programme is a fabulous feat."

BYLC's concept and teaching methodology was originally developed at Harvard Kennedy School's Centre for Public Leadership and the programme as supported by British High Commission in Dhaka.

Hold mid-term election to test popularity of Tarique

Delwar tells govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday called on the government to hold a mid-term election to test the popularity of BNP and its Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman.

"The present government is trying to banish Tarique from politics like the previous caretaker government did. The so-called caretaker government also tried to kill him but failed. The present government is also misleading people through propaganda campaign against Tarique in the state-run media," Delwar alleged at a rally.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the BNP, organised the rally in front of the central office of the BNP at Naya Paltan in the city to protest the 'propaganda' campaign against Tarique.

"BNP is a pro-people political party. Instead of talking irrelevant stuff, test Tarique's popularity through mid-term election," Dewar told the government.

"Once you hold the mid-term election, you will realise that your (Awami League-led government) popularity has come down to zero," said the BNP Secretary General.

The BNP leader also threatened to launch a tough movement if the government does not refrain from the propaganda campaign.

Presided over by JCD President Sultan Salauddin Tuku, the meeting was also addressed by BNP Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas, Senior Joint Secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Joint Secretary Amanullah Aman.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



This is the second death anniversary of Mohammad Alam, a freedom fighter and former chief photojournalist of the daily Ittefaq, says a press release.

He was also personal photographer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Uttar Delpara of Matuail. Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

'Clean Dhaka' campaign begins today

City dwellers generate 4200 tons of solid waste a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) launches the fourth 'Clean Dhaka' campaign today to raise awareness and involve the people in the solid waste management.

DCC officials announced the weeklong programmes at a press conference at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

The Clean Dhaka Week-2010 from January 10 to 16 is arranged with the cooperation of Japan International Cooperation Agency, WaterAid, Safe, Earth Club and Grameenphone.

The programmes include rallies, loudspeaker publicity, distribution of leaflets and posters and cultural functions to demonstrate community-

based waste management and create public awareness in 90 DCC wards, said DCC Chief Executive officer Md Abul Kalam Azad.

The DCC mayor will award the most active ward in waste management on January 22.

The DCC will receive 100 modern and efficient compactor waste disposal trucks from Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) by April, which will help stench-free collection and disposal of solid wastes in the capital, said Azad.

Most of the existing 297 trucks are outdated and at least 30 of them remain out of order.

With the new ones, the total number of functional trucks will stand at 358 by April.

A total of 1.5 crore people, including 1.20 crore permanent city dwellers, generate a total of 4200 tons of solid waste everyday, said DCC Chief Waste Management Officer Captain Bipan Kumar Saha.

The DCC has a total of around 8030 waste cleaners to cover a 144 square miles area of 90 wards, he said.

"The DCC team can remove at best 2200 tons of waste," said Saha. "And a total of 1.70 lakhs rag-pickers take away 800 to 1000 tons for recycling."

The rest 1000 tons of waste go into the drainage system, water bodies, canals and rivers, said Captain Saha.

Absence of segregation of domestic wastes, lack of

proper collection mechanism, construction materials dumped in drains and inadequate road coverage constitute one-third of the problems the DCC faces in the waste management, he said.

In 2005, DCC with Jica technical assistance prepared a ten-year master plan for a well-coordinated waste management.

The DCC collects Tk 33 crore from the city dwellers for waste cleaning every year, but it pays Tk 110 crores for the job. Jica contributes Tk 50 to 60 crores to the waste management expenditure.

Clean Dhaka project director Dr Tareq Bin Yusuf was present at the press conference.



Recipients of Cherie Blair Fellowship for the students of Asian University for Women pose for photograph with Cherie Blair, a patron of the university, in the port city of Chittagong yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Let voices of girls be heard through education

Says Cherie Blair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Cherie Blair, wife of former British prime minister Tony Blair, has called on all to ensure education of girls as well as women to let their voices be heard and opinions be expressed through harnessing talents.

She made the call while addressing a public reception accorded to her at the proposed permanent campus site of Asian University for Women (AUW) at Pahartali in the port city of Chittagong yesterday.

The programme was organised by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, who also hosted a dinner in honour of Cherie, a patron of AUW, leading international lawyer and human rights advocate.

Cherie said Chittagong was the right centre of the new venture of women education. Terming Chittagong a city of universities, she said it (Chittagong) would now have AUW, a university of ambition, which would educate carefully selected young women

to turn this part of Asia into one of the dynamic growth regions of the world.

In Bangladesh, boys and girls have equal access to education up to higher secondary level. But at the tertiary level, the access of girls is very limited, she added.

Cherie said women education gets much importance as the country is governed by women for most of the time under democracy.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself has been supporting the idea of educating women and committed to women education, said Cherie, referring to what she realised at her meeting with Hasina on Friday.

Later, the mayor presented a golden key of Chittagong city to Cherie at the reception programme.

AUW Support Foundation Bangladesh Board of Directors Chairman Rokia Afzal Rahman, AUW Bangladesh Chief Executive Officer Kamal Hossain, Monowara Hakim Ali of Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs, directors and

teachers of the university accompanied Cherie.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Abdu Salam, also president of Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pledged all-out support of CDA to develop the permanent campus of AUW.

Acting Vice Chancellor (VC) of AUW Hun Ann Ku said the university started its academic calendar with a preparatory Access Academy Programme on its temporary campus in four rented buildings in the port city on April 6, 2008.

It began with an enrolment of 129 students from 12 countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The students of the first batch are now doing their undergraduate programme at AUW under 35 professors.

The number of students rose to 300 students with admission of a new group of 141 students in August last year. The number would rise to 450 and teachers to 55 from August this year, said the VC.

BDR chief leaves for Myanmar to discuss border issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-member delegation led by Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam left Dhaka for Myanmar yesterday to discuss border related issues with Myanmar authorities.

During the five-day visit starting today, the two sides will also try to find ways to strengthen friendly relations and boost confidence between the two neighbouring countries, says a BDR press release.

The delegation includes officials from BDR and the foreign and home ministries.

During the trip, the BDR chief will meet his counterpart Nasaka Kwei, and the interior and home ministers of that country.

He will also call on the Bangladesh ambassador in Yangon, according to the itinerary sent to the home ministry from the BDR headquarters.

The BDR chief will visit the Bangladesh-Myanmar border at Maungdan in Rakhine state, where the military mobilisation occurred last year and now stands a barbed wire fence erected by Myanmar.

He is also scheduled to visit the border immigration headquarters of Myanmar and the headquarters' western command as well.

A BDR letter sent to the home ministry in December, last year said the BDR chief will also discuss border issues like smuggling of arms and drugs, recent Nagak activities along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, fishermen faced by Bangladeshi fisherman, illegal crossing of border and other issues of mutual interest.

'Rohingyas creating chaos'

BSS, Cox's Bazar

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday said Rohingyas are hampering the law and order situation in the country.

"The Rohingyas are also involved in militancy and creating various types of law

and order-related problems here," he said at a law and order meeting at the local circuit house.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar Md Giasuddin Ahmed, the meeting was also addressed by Battalion Commander of 17th Rifles Lt Col Sakhawar Hossain and Commanding Officer of

22 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Mozammel Hossain.

Tuku called on the people to be alerted against the militants. More 32,000 police personnel would be recruited within the next three years. Of them, 17,000 would be recruited and 1,500 cars be bought for the police this year.



Sufia Khatun, a retired school teacher from Bagerhat, extreme left, narrates her experiences at an experience-sharing meeting on lifestyle of elderly people at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Law Minister Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique are also seen in the picture. Health and Hope organised the event.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kazi Borhanuddin, former executive vice-president of Premier Bank Limited,

passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Lab Aid Hospital in the city on Friday at the age of 66.

He left behind his wife and a son to mourn his death. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

His qualkhwani will be held at his residence at Sobhanbagh on Friday.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Bangladesh Awami League organises a discussion marking the homecoming day of Bangabandhu. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Time: 3:00pm.

Book launching
The launching ceremony of a book titled 'Nari, Shristi O Biggan' by Purobi Basu will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 6:30pm.

Human chain
Citizens Rights Movement will from a human chain demanding submission of statement of wealth and liabilities of the Supreme Court judges. Venue: Main gate of the Jatiya Eidgah Maidan. Time: 10:00am.

Procession
Bangabandhu Shrikrantik Jote will take out a procession marking the homecoming day of Bangabandhu. Venue: Ramna Park Gate. Time: 11:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Prevailing mild to moderate cold wave over the regions of Srimongal, Comilla and Feni may continue, met office said. Night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 6.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 26.0 | 13.8 | 70 | 53 |
| Chittagong | 27.0 | 15.4 | 57 | 58 |
| Rajshahi | 24.8 | 11.0 | 89 | 59 |
| Khulna | 26.0 | 12.5 | 88 | 61 |
| Barisal | 25.6 | 10.6 | 83 | 72 |
| Sylhet | 27.6 | 11.7 | 73 | 57 |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.7 | 15.5 | 53 | 60 |