

CEREMONIAL RECEPTION TO HASINA IN NEW DELHI



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1. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspects a guard of honour at a ceremonial reception accorded to her at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday.
2. Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh talk with the media at the ceremonial reception.
3. Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in Delhi yesterday.
4. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on Indian President Pratibha Devisingh Patil in New Delhi. (Story on Page 1)

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Increase research activities

President urges agri varsities

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday emphasised increasing research activities in the country's agriculture universities with a view to boosting agricultural production and meeting people's needs and requirements.

The president made the call when a delegation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University, led by its Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Abdul Mannan Akand,

called on him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, Zillur also urged the delegation to invent such varieties of crops that could easily grow in the salinity-prone areas of the country's southern region.

The delegation told the president that so far they have invented some 30 new varieties of crops, including paddy, vegetables, pulses and fruits.

They said in 1991, the institute evolved two varieties of bean -- 'Baromashi Sada Seem' and 'Baromashi Beguni Seem' -- which

grow round the year.

Among the new varieties of crops, BU rice-1 (2007) has become popular as it grows well in the country's Monga-prone regions of Rangpur, Kurigram and other northern districts, they said.

The delegation said they have been continuing their research works along with their regular curricular activities to increase fertility of lands.

The delegation invited the president to preside over its upcoming

convocation to be held middle of March when 116 PhD, 656 masters and 82 bachelors of science degrees will be conferred on the students of the university.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University, formerly Institute of Post Graduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) began its journey in 1991 and later became a university in 1998.

Secretaries to the president's office were present during the meeting.

SUNNY MURDER Punishment to BCL men demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and workers of Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree yesterday demanded punishment to the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) cadres who had killed Maitree leader Rejanul Islam Chowdhury Sunny.

Sunny, vice president of Chhatra Maitree's Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute unit, was killed in an attack by BCL cadres on January 7.

At a press conference at the DUCSU building at the Dhaka University, the Maitree leaders

also demanded due compensation to Sunny's family.

Maitree President Rafiqul Islam Sujon read out a written statement at the press conference. Chhatra Maitree also announced its agitation programme to press home the demands.

They will form a human chain in front of the National Press Club on January 13, bring out protest processions and rallies across the country on January 16 and submit a memorandum to the home minister, deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers on January 21.

MILLENNIUM UNIVERSITY Mismanagement alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of the Millennium University a press conference yesterday alleged that the university has been running without any vice chancellor (VC), pro-VC, registrar, dean, treasurer and even a full professor since its inception.

At the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, they demanded the university run following the rules set by University Grants Commission (UGC).

Speaking at the press conference, Sharif Mohammad Masum, an honours graduate of the university's computer science and engineering department, in a written statement said they had requested the authorities to address problems like lack of qualified teachers, scarcity of classrooms and substandard laboratory facilities, but no measure has been taken so far.

The 'authorities' assured the

students of realising their demands verbally and even in black and white in May last year, but those were empty words.

The authorities also threatened to expel agitating students or file cases against them, he added.

Sharif said the authorities had shown different people as the VC in the wake of student agitation, which was simply an eyewash.

"The students have boycotted the classes unless the authorities meet the demands," he added.

Ripon Dey, another student of the department, alleged that the university does not even have its own logo. They are using the logo of Khan Foundation, which they claim to be the sponsor of the university.

"We got admitted into the university with a lot of dreams but our dreams have been shattered. Our future looks bleak now," he said.

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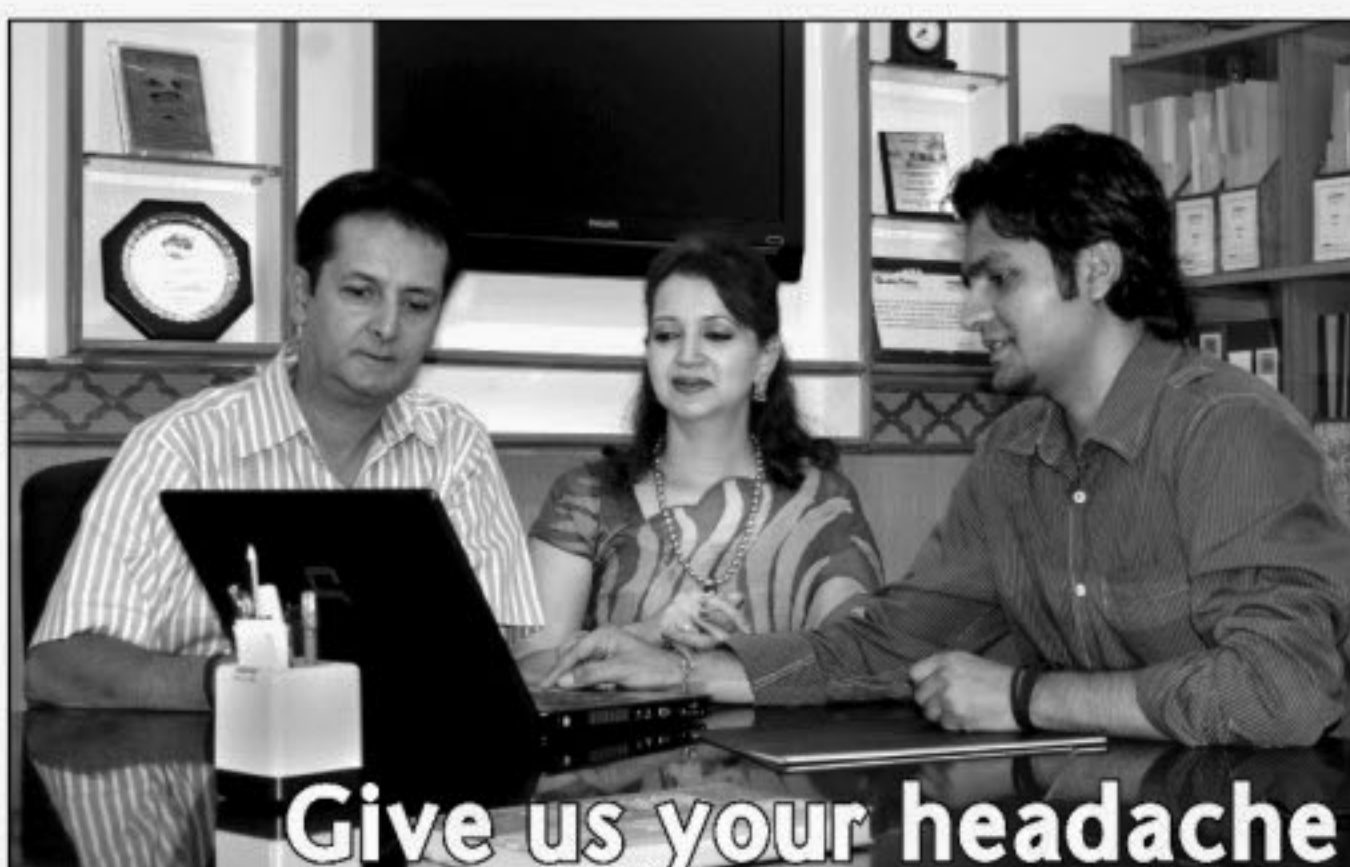
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