

## Find out reasons for fall in ranking of universities

President urges education ministry, UGC

UNB, Savar

Worried by the fall in ranking of the universities, President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the education ministry and the University Grants Commission (UGC) to take proper steps to find out why the universities are falling behind the international standard.

"Our universities are lagging behind in the international ranking...my question is, are we failing to maintain the education standard of the past or to keep pace with the gradual advancement of knowledge and science in the world?" he asked.

The president came up with the concern while presiding over the 4th convocation of the Jahangirnagar University. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid also attended the function.

Chief Justice Tafazzul Islam delivered the convocation speech. Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir also spoke on the occasion.

Zillur in his speech urged the UGC and education ministry to take measures to ensure quality education in the universities. "There is no alternative to quality education in facing the global challenges."

He laid emphasis on increasing seats for the students at the university level with a view to



President Zillur Rahman gives away gold medal to a successful graduate at the fourth convocation of Jahangirnagar University at Savar yesterday.

creating skilled manpower in the country.

"Many students fail to get admitted to their desired universities despite having good results due to limited opportunities and scopes for higher education compared to the population," he said.

Describing the universities as the centres for research and

higher education, he said the integrated efforts would have to be continued to uphold the quality education at the university level.

He mentioned that the government has taken massive initiatives, including the UGC's programme titled 'Higher education quality enhancement', for creating more opportunities for

higher education as well as improving the quality of education in the country.

"With other initiatives, the Private University Act 1992 has been updated," the president said expressing his hope that the above activities would be able to contribute to ensuring greater welfare of the nation.

Congratulating the graduates,

he urged them to work for the greater welfare of humanity with their talents, deeds and creativity during their professional life.

Mentioning that social corrosion is hampering the values, he requested the graduates never to compromise with injustice and untruth, and always to give priority to the interest of the country instead of individual concerns.

"We brought the independence through the Great War of Liberation... you have to take the responsibility to reach the fruits of independence to all households," he said.

In his convocation speech, Chief Justice Tafazzul Islam urged the new graduates to acquire proper knowledge about the glorious history which will make them confident in their professional life.

Nahid said the new generation must be brought up with quality and time-suiting education for building a developed, wealthy and prosperous Bangladesh.

He said the government is working relentlessly in this regard to ensure quality education for all.

A total of 3874 students were conferred upon PhD, M Phil, and postgraduate and graduate degrees in the convocation. Sixteen gold medals were awarded to the students for their outstanding academic results.

## One million suffer from cancer, say experts

BSS, Dhaka

Experts at a symposium said about one million people are now suffering from cancer in country while about 1,50,000 people die of cancer every year in the fatal disease.

They estimated, over 26 percent of women in Bangladesh suffer from the cancer of the uterus. Lack of health awareness is the main reason why cancer at the mouth of the uterus is so common in Bangladesh.

They were addressing at a three-day international symposium on Cancer and Development Biology began here on Thursday at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University (DU) under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BSBMB) and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of DU.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the symposium as the chief guest while dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences Dr MA Bashar attended the function as guest of honor.

President of BSBMB Prof Dr Syed Saleheen Qadri presided over the inaugural session. Prof Ishtiaq Mahmud and Prof Haseena Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Arefin in his speech said Cancer is on the steep rise in all countries of the world, including Bangladesh. We have lost a number of our esteemed colleagues to cancer including the president of Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Prof Harun Kader Mohammad Yusuf.

He added that about one

1.5 lakh people die of cancer every year while over 26 percent of women suffer from cancer of the uterus

million people are now suffering from cancer in Bangladesh. The total number of newly diagnosed cancer cases is about 2,00,000 and about 1,50,000 people die of cancer every year in Bangladesh. It is a fatal disease in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world.

Prof Arefin said cancer of the

uterus is common among Bangladeshi women. According to one estimate, as many as 26 percent of women in Bangladesh suffer from the cancer of the uterus. Lack of health awareness is the main reason why cancer at the mouth of the uterus is so common in Bangladesh.

Approximately 30,000 women develop breast cancer annually and the majority of these women, about 90 percent of them, die of this disease in Bangladesh due to lack of awareness and timely proper treatment, he said.

Dr Arefin expressed his happiness that the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is contributing tremendously in diverse research areas, including agriculture, nutrition and human health.

This department has served as a very strong platform in training the students who after graduation are highly sought after in different research institutions inside and outside the country.

Dr MA Bashar said developmental Biology is a vast field of investigation that includes the study of all changes associated with an organism as it progresses through the life cycle.

We witnessed phenomenal progress in contemporary developmental biology when molecular biology was integrated with genetic analysis, he said.

## India, Bangladesh to work together for regional peace

Hopes Indian envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter yesterday expressed his hope that the two neighbouring countries, India and Bangladesh, will work hand in hand to establish peace and congenial atmosphere in this region, saying that India is sincere in its commitment.

"We should follow the ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi to fight terrorism worldwide," the newly appointed envoy said at the 'Fourth Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture' on the Dhaka University (DU) campus.

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of Dhaka University in association with the Indian High Commission

organised the lecture at the conference room of the Faculty of Business Studies.

Other speakers at the function called on all to follow Mahatma Gandhi's ideology and principles to rid the nation of terrorism and communalism.

Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to ensuring communal harmony in the sub-continent, they said.

Speaking as the chief guest, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "The ideology, philosophy, socio-political thoughts and works of Gandhi are assets to us. He always worked towards eliminating social and religious stigma and superstitions from

the mind of people and society."

Delivering the lecture titled 'Social and Political Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi', columnist Syed Abul Maksud said political leaders of Bangladesh should take lessons from Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent ideologies.

"He [Gandhi] was a pure political leader. He played a great role in establishing the rights of oppressed people. He is the leader of all of us," Maksud said.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of DU Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid, and Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed attended the programme as the special guests.



Participants at a roundtable on the 'Prevention and cure of heart diseases' organised by the Prothom Alo at its office in the city yesterday.

## Trade fair car vandalism: None held yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even after 24 hours, police did not arrest any cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League, outsiders and students of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University who vandalised more than 100 vehicles and looted valuables of the visitors to International Trade Fair on

Friday night.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Sub-Inspector Kazi Shahan Haque of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station said a case was filed against some 500 unidentified students of the university and outsiders yesterday.

Police arrested three people, including Mostafa Kamal

and Zahir Uddin, students of the university, and Azim, an outsider who hailed from Brahmanbaria, during the looting, he added.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Chowdhury Monzurul Kabir of Tejgaon DMP zone said police were investigating the incident but they are yet to identify the attackers.

## Binod an inspiration to fight evils, odds

Speakers tell reception ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury is a source of inspiration for the new generation to fight against all evils and odds.

Recalling the role of the living legend, they said he has made 100 years of his living a success through his great deeds and struggle.

"If necessary, we have to sacrifice our lives to establish truth," said Binod Bihari, who attended a reception accorded to him at Shilpakala Academy.

He asked the people not to be malice to anyone irrespective of religion, caste and creed.

Justice Habibur Rahman, language movement veteran

Abdul Matin, Jasim Uddin Mondal, Prof Hasan Azizul Haque, former British parliamentarian who was against colonialism Prof Alan Lee

Williams, poet Abdul Momen, theatre personalities Ramendu Majumder and Nasiruddin Yusuf also spoke.

Prof Anisuzzaman chaired the function which was organised jointly by Revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury Birth Centenary Celebration National Council and Shilpakala Academy to mark his 100th birth anniversary.

The programme began following lighting up 100 candles and a musical soiree.

Binod Bihari, a co-fighter of Masterda Surya Sen, steps into 100 years on January 11. He was one of the youngest fighters in Chittagong Jubo Bidroho and waged a movement against the British Raj in 1930 led by Masterda Surya Sen.

Different organisations paid respects to the legend with bouquets of flowers and crests.

## Locals, drug peddlers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least five people were injured in a series of clashes between local people and drug peddlers sale of drug in Langolbandh area in Bandar upazila of Narayanganj.

Later, local people caught the drug peddler Abu Taher and handed him over to police.

Abu Taher, brother of criminal Khokan who was killed in crossfire with members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), built den of drug trade at

Langolbandh.

Local people alleged that the police at Kamtal police outpost did not take any action against the gang of Abu Taher though they sold drugs in broad daylight.

The miscreants attacked the local people on Friday when they tried to resist the drug peddling in the area.

Five people, including a child identified as Shuvo, were injured during a series of clashes with the drug peddlers.

## PINKY'S SUICIDE Trial of culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists of National Girl Child Advocacy Forum formed a human chain in the city yesterday, demanding trial of the culprits responsible for Pinky's suicide.

Pinky, a student of class IX of West Agargaon, committed suicide at her residence on January 19 after she was slapped by a local driver.

Pinky left a suicide note mentioning the humiliation she suffered of being slapped in public.

Around 100 activists formed the human chain in the front of the National Press Club in the city. They chanted the slogan 'Eve teasers' punishment is the freedom of girl children'.

They also held a rally after the programme.

Speakers at the rally said culprits escape punishment through the loopholes of law. So, the government should make the recent high court verdict regarding eve teasing a law soon.

Eve teasers led many girls like Simi, Trisha and Fahima to take their own lives but the

culprits remained unpunished in most cases, they added.

They further said that though the existing law has provision of punishment to eve teasers, the instances of enforcing the law on them are very rare.

Bidhan Chandra Pal, an activist of the advocacy forum, said they observed that the accused in Pinky suicide case also started fabricating stories regarding the suicide to evade punishment.

"We want police to unearth the fact behind the suicidal incident ensuring trial of the culprits."

Several rights organisations expressed their solidarity with the forum and joined the human chain and attended the rally.

Mili Zakaria, president of Esho Mile Kari, KM Rakibul Islam Ripon, executive director of PSS, and Jahangir Alam, secretary of Mohanagar committee of Sujon, were present at the programmes.

Sher-e-Bangla police arrested both the accused in Pinky suicide case and they are now in jail.

## Woman found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A young woman was found dead in a drain near a garments factory in a residential area in Narayanganj town yesterday.

The identity of the dead aged about 25 years could not be known immediately. The woman was wearing salwar and kameez. Police however could not ascertain whether she was raped before the killing.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy. Fatulla Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jibon Kanti Sarker said police were trying to know the identity of the woman.

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