

DU CONFERS HONORARY DEGREE ON GUL

Bangladesh has prospect to be largest economy

Says Turkish president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) yesterday conferred honorary Doctor of Law degree on visiting Turkish President Abdullah Gul.

President Zillur Rahman, chancellor of the university, bestowed the honorary degree on the Turkish president at a special convocation at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban at the university.

In his speech as the Convocation Speaker, President Abdullah Gul said Bangladesh has always been an enthusiastic member in global peace efforts. Turkey and Bangladesh share the vision of a peaceful world.

He urged the students to work towards building a better Bangladesh, saying that the economy of the country has a huge prospect to be one of the largest economy in the 21st century, as the GDP of the country has more than doubled since 1975 and the poverty rate has fallen by 20 percent.

The two countries have been in friendly relations for a long time, President Gul said and mentioned a poem 'Kemal Pasa' written by poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on founder of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as an emblem of friendship.

The Turkish president said the trade volume of the two countries was around 600 million dollars last year. "In-

creasing the trade volume to one billion dollars is our target."

He also emphasised the need for intercultural dialogue and said, "Efforts in the political and economic sphere to bring peace and stability will be incomplete if not supported by steps in the cultural field, especially at a time when we are witnessing a global rise in the tide of extremism, xenophobia and intolerance including Islamophobia."

Terming Gul an ambassador of goodwill, President Zillur Rahman said, "I am confident that this fraternal relation would be further strengthened and deepened through your visit."

He also said, "We the authority of University of

Dhaka are highly honoured for conferring Doctor of Law degree upon you, an eminent statesman of the world."

The president also hoped that the ties between the two countries in the field of religion, culture and education will be deepened.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique read out the citation of the honorary degree.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Chief Whip of Parliament Abus Shahid, Rashed Khan Menon MP, Hayrunnisa Gül, Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman were present at the special convocation.



PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Renowned economist Prof Rehman Sobhan, right, shares a point with Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen at the launching ceremony of the Bangladesh Health Watch Report 2009 at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Call to create awareness to implement HC directives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for raising public awareness to implement the High Court (HC) directives on May 14 last year to prevent any kind of sexual harassment of women, girls and children.

If the HC guidelines are properly followed, women and girls will not be victimised in any manner, they said.

The speakers said this at a seminar on 'Sexual harassment in public and private institutions: Directives of the HC' organised by Eastern University at its auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city. The HC in a verdict issued the guide-

lines defining sexual misdemeanours to prevent any kind of physical, mental or sexual harassment of women, girls and children at their workplaces, educational institutions and other public places, including roads, across the country.

The court directed the authorities concerned to form a five-member harassment complaint committee headed by a woman at every workplace and institution to investigate allegations of harassment of women. Majority of the committee members must be women, it ruled.

An HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui came up with the verdict upon a writ petition filed as

public interest litigation by Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association (BNWLA).

Although only the authorities of Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University have constituted the complainant committees to find out the allegations of sexual harassments, the verdict has made a good impact at home and abroad in preventing such harassments, said BNWLA President Fawzia Karim Firola and Executive Director Salma Ali.

Presided over by Prof Rahim B Talukdar, vice chancellor of Eastern University, the seminar was also addressed by Prof Sumaiya Khaiar.

Chewing tobacco intake double than smoking: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prevalence of consuming chewing tobacco is almost double than smoking tobacco in the country, revealed a study yesterday.

At the dissemination programme of the research findings at the National Press Club in the city, it was also revealed that women are taking more chewing tobacco than men.

The prevalence of non-smoking tobacco chewing is 43.2 percent while the tobacco smoking is 23 percent in the country, the study showed.

It found that 42 percent men and 1.3 percent women are habituated to smoking tobacco. On the other hand, 34 percent men and 41 percent women are taking chewing tobacco that include

jarda, gul and tobacco leaf.

The study titled 'Baseline and Other Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors' was conducted on 5,332 individuals of 3,668 households of Dhamrai area in 2008.

Prof Ridwanur Rahman, head of the department of medicine of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College was the principal investigator of the research.

The programme was organised by Non-Communicable Diseases and Other Public Health Interventions, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in collaboration with the University of New Castle, Australia.

Another study titled 'Risk Factor of Acute Coronary Syndrome' was conducted in April-June 2009 on 400 samples. The study revealed that 70 percent of

those who are suffering from cardiovascular diseases had previous record of smoking, whereas those who are not suffering from heart diseases had previous record of smoking for only 45 percent.

While presenting the research findings, Dr Abul Hasnat Milton, co-investigator and senior lecturer of New Castle University, said 30 percent of all deaths occur from heart diseases worldwide.

"Some 213 per 100,000 individuals aged above 30 years have coronary heart diseases in the world and 80 percent of the people dying from cardiac diseases are from developing countries," he said, adding that those who don't take fruits regularly are four times more vulnerable to heart disease than those who take 80 grams of fruits regularly.



PHOTO: PID & STAR

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, left, and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, right, call on visiting Turkish President Abdullah Gul at his suite at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

'Ban Jamaat-Shibir politics'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Pragatishil Jubo Sangathonsamuha, a platform of left-leaning organisations, called on all democratic and non-communal forces to become united to press home their demand for trying war criminals and banning the Jamaat-Shibir politics.

They made the call at a press conference at Martyred Asad Auditorium in the city yesterday in protest against the heinous

killing of a student by Shibir cadres at Rajshahi University, says a press release.

Bangladesh Jubo Moitri President Sadakat Hossain Khan Babul, General Secretary Mostafa Alamgir Ratan and Bangladesh Jubo Union President Kafi Ratan spoke at the programme.

They demanded payment of compensation for the family of slain Faruk and arrangement for the treatment of the injured.

The leaders also declared to hold a rally at Muktagang on February 16 and march toward the parliament on February 25 and a month-long campaign programme for fulfilment of the demand for the trial of war criminals.

Pragatishil Chhetra Jote will submit a memorandum to the president today demanding a halt to violence and extortion on the campus and banning of communal politics.

Nurses threaten immolation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Bangladesh Diploma Unemployed Nurses Association yesterday threatened to immolate themselves if their demand is not met by tomorrow noon.

The nurses announced this at a hunger strike at Muktagang in the city. They continued the hunger strike for the fourth consecutive day yesterday.

They also announced to bring out a 'bhukha michhil' (hunger bhukha) from Muktagang which will parade different city streets at 11:00am today.

As part of its agitation a coffin procession will be taken out at 11:00am tomorrow and if their demand is not met by tomorrow noon, they will immolate themselves at

2:00pm, says a press release signed by Bangladesh Diploma Unemployed Nurses Association Secretary General Iqbal Hossain Shabuj.

Some 14 of the hunger strikers have become ill so far. Of them, two have been rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and others are receiving treatment at the venue of strike.

On this Valentine's day, We wish you pure love

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