



President Zillur Rahman gives away gold medal to a successful graduate at the 4th convocation of University of Asia Pacific (UAP) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

## 'Shun destructive activities'

**UNB, Dhaka**  
President Zillur Rahman yesterday called on the country's student organisations working at various universities to give up their destructive activities for greater interests of the nation. "The entire nation becomes sad and heartbroken seeing what happens at some universities in the name of student politics," he said while addressing the 4th convocation of University of Asia Pacific (UAP) at Bangabandhu

International Conference Centre in the city. Although there would remain different opinions in the democratic system -- and it is normal also -- but all should be united on issues of national interest, Zillur added. The president said as citizens of an independent and sovereign country, the thoughts of the people should be production-oriented and tuned to the welfare of the people.

Congratulating the new graduates, he asked them to keep their pursuit of knowledge open beyond just seeking jobs. "Remember that the convocation cannot declare an end to formal education, rather it opens the door into the kingdom of knowledge." Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Justin Lee was the convocation speaker where UAP Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Matin Patwari also spoke.

## Adolescent girls most vulnerable to sexual harassment

### Speakers tell symposium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adolescent girls are most vulnerable to sexual harassment, human and women rights activists said at a symposium yesterday.

Brac's Social Development Programme (SDP), Gender Justice and Diversity (GJD), Human Rights and Legal Services (HRLS) and Research and Evaluation Division (RED) jointly organised the symposium titled 'Celebrating development Celebrating women' at the city's Brac Centre Inn to commemorate 100 years of International Women's Day and 25 years of ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Brac also revealed the findings of a research at the symposium. The research was carried out based on 3000 incidents of human rights (HR) violation in 61 districts from 2006 to 2009.

The study found that rape was the most frequent crime, which accounts for 31 percent of incidents of human rights violation, followed by murder (25 percent), acid throwing (15 percent), suicide (12 percent),

physical torture (eight percent) and attempt to rape (seven percent).

It added that 50 percent of the rape victims were aged below 15 and 59 percent of the girls under 15 years have become victims of attempt to rape.

Dr Mahabub Hossain, executive director of Brac, moderated the symposium while Salma Khan, president of Women for Women, Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Faustina Pereira, director of HRLS, and Anna Minj, director of SDP, also spoke at the symposium.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, lauded Brac's contribution to different sectors and suggested going for a massive campaign to ensure that women's contribution to the country's economy get due recognition.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, echoed the same and suggested campaigning for stopping violence against women and child marriage.

Ayesha Khanam stressed the need for finding out the root causes of increased human rights violations.

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