

DU DAY CELEBRATED AMID FESTIVITY

Pledge to build digital Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Day was celebrated yesterday amid much enthusiasm and festivity on the campus. Dhaka University started its journey on this day in 1921. Since then, teachers and students of the university have been a beacon of hope for the nation. The theme of this year's celebration was "Higher Education to build digital Bangladesh". To mark the day, the university authority chalked out a number of programmes including discussion meeting, commemorative meeting, debate competition, friendly soccer matches and cultural programme. Hundreds of students and teachers of the university brought out a colourful procession from the administrative building around 10:00am. Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique led the procession that paraded the different streets on the campus and ended at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC). Flags of DU and other residential halls were hoisted atop the buildings while Prof Arefin cut the DU Day cake. The central library of the university

also put rare manuscripts on display. A discussion was held at the TSC auditorium on this year's theme where Prof Arefin was present as the chief guest. Registrar Syed Rezaur Rahman moderated the function while Prof Ahmed Shafi presented the keynote papers. Former VC Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah and pro-VC Prof Shad Ali, DU Teachers' Association President Prof Khandaker Bazul Haque, among others, spoke at the discussion. DU senate and syndicate members, deans of different faculties, chairmen and directors of different departments and institutions and hall provosts were also present at the discussion presided over by Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman. Speaking at the function, Prof Arefin said, Dhaka University would have to take the leadership in building digital Bangladesh. The university led different democratic and education movements including language movement and liberation war in 1971. He also urged all teachers and students to continue their research and academic activities for the welfare of country.



Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurates the Dhaka University Day-2010 cutting a cake on the campus yesterday. On his right are workers of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and Pro-vice Chancellor Prof Harun ur Rashid. PHOTO: STAR

Subrata, Mangol Puja Parishad president secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and Mangol Chandra Ghosh were elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad at its national convention recently, says a press release. Other office-bearers are Vice Presidents: Kajol Debnath, Jayanto Sen Dipu, Sabitri Bhattacharjee, Manju Dhar, Milon Kanti Dutta, Hirendranath Samajdar Hiru, Priyo Ranjan Dutta, Kanak Kanti Das, Gonesh Chandra Ghosh, Banamali Paul, Joint General Secretaries: Monindra Kumar Nath, Jointa Kumar Dev and Advocate Tapash Kumar Paul, Treasurer: Gopal Debnath and Organising Secretary Nirmol Kumar Chatterjee.

Nur Uz Zaman made envoy to Libya

UNB, Dhaka

The Government has decided to appoint former secretary ABM Nur Uz Zaman as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Libya. ABM Nur Uz Zaman belongs to the 1981 batch of BCS (Information) Cadre. He has served in different ministries in various capacities, said a press release. He was counsellor (Political), Bangladesh Embassy, Berlin from 1999 to 2003 and held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on deputation from 1995 to 1999. He holds a post-graduate degree in Economics from the University of Dhaka.

ADB extends loan for food security

BSS, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) extended financial assistance to Bangladesh to grow high-value crops including vegetables, spices and fruits that will boost income for the poor farmers and support the nation's food security. Concessional Asian Development Fund of the ADB sanctioned a loan of 40 million US dollars to support the development of high-value crops in 27 districts in the southwest and northwest of the country, said a press release yesterday. The focus of the project will be on crops with proven market demand, high profitability, and potential for commercialisation, including fruits, vegetables, pulses, spices, cut flowers, potted plants and value-added agro-products. With Bangladesh highly susceptible to extreme weather events due to its low-

lying position along the Bay of Bengal, the project will also pilot test climate-resilient varieties of crops in drought and flood-prone areas. Under the project, training in production and post-harvest processing and marketing of high-value crops will be provided to reduce post-harvest losses and improve produce quality. The loan, which will finance 87 percent of the total project cost of 45.8 million US dollar, has a 32-year term with an eight-year grace period. Interest during the grace period is set at 1 percent per annum, rising to 1.5 percent for the rest of the term. The government is extending 5.42 million US dollar, with farm communities extending around \$390,000. The Department of Agricultural Extension and Bangladesh Bank are the executing agencies for the project, which is expected to be completed by June 2016.

WEATHER

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at 6:00pm today. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Rangpur. 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	34.0	27.8	78	71
Chittagong	33.4	26.5	75	78
Rajshahi	35.2	26.9	78	79
Khulna	33.4	27.0	80	74
Barisal	32.6	27.0	80	81
Sylhet	32.4	25.2	85	69
Cox's Bazar	33.4	26.5	73	76

23 HC benches reconstituted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim reconstituted 23 benches of the High Court yesterday as both the Appellate and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court will reopen on July 4 after the end of a three-week vacation.

ALAMGIR'S ACQUITTAL

Hearing on ACC appeal Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division is likely to hold hearing on Sunday on an appeal filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against a High Court (HC) verdict that scrapped the 13-year jail sentence against Awami League lawmaker Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in a corruption case. ACC's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the appeal filed by his client has been enlisted as item No-11 for hearing on Sunday's cause list of the apex court.

The HC on July 13 last year in a verdict scrapped the jail sentence to Mohiuddin in this case filed by the ACC, adjudging the conviction against him illegal.

On November 15 last year, the ACC filed a leave to appeal petition with the SC against the HC verdict.

The ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on March 6 in 2007 accusing Mohiuddin of amassing a huge fortune through misuse of power.

The commission also charged the former state minister with concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of Special Court-3 set up at the MP Hostel in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex on July 26 in 2007 sentenced Mohiuddin to 13 years in prison and fined him Tk 10 lakh in the case.

Mohiuddin then filed an appeal with the HC challenging the verdict of the special court.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Hafizur Rahaman, vice-president of Thakurgaon District Sports Association, passed away due to kidney complications at his Hazipara residence in Thakurgaon on Wednesday at the age of 53.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

He was buried at Munshipara Graveyard yesterday.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed shock at his untimely death.

Death anniversary

METRODESK



Today is the ninth death anniversary of Dr Shibtosh Roy, an internationally reputed arsenic specialist and researcher, said a press release.

He was killed in a road accident on his way back from the northern region of the country. He was identifying arsenic affected people for a research programme.

On the occasion, the Dhaka Community hospital will hold a discussion. The doctor's family will hold religious rites for eternal peace of the departed.

Abdur Rahim

METRO DESK



Today is the second death anniversary of Abdur Rahim, former joint secretary and son of late Moulvi Abdul Ghani of Dagonbhuiyan of Feni, says a press release.

On the occasion, a memorial meeting will be held at his village Udrapur of Shahebbari in Feni and special prayers will be offered at his ancestral mosque after Juma prayers today. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute. All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Freedom fighter Ferdousi Priyabhashini, right, gives away a citation (manptra) to Pakistani human rights activist Naseem Akhtar, left, at a reception at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday while Prof Kabir Chowdhury, centre, looks on. Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (Forum for Secular Bangladesh) organised the event. (Story on Page 16) PHOTO: STAR

50 lakh junkies in country

Speakers tell Prothom Alo dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stern punishment to drug lords and the syndicates is a must to root out the drug addiction from personal life, family and society, speakers at an open dialogue said yesterday.

The number of junkies in the country reaches as high as around 50 lakh while over one lakh people are involved with drug peddling, they said.

The speakers stressed the need for strengthening family ties to stop this drug menace.

A war on drug abuse will have to be initiated, they said, urging the government to cut drug supply, arrest the smugglers and enforce the laws.

Bangla daily The Prothom Alo, Prothom Alo Trust and Prothom Alo Bandhusabha organised the dialogue titled "Drug-free healthy society" at the newspaper's office to mark the International Anti-drug Day.

The speakers said addicts would have to be rehabilitated with proper treatment, love and affection instead of punishment.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku said the whole nation is suffering from

drug abuse and it is not possible to develop the country without taking a strong stance against the hazard.

Terrorism originated from international crime gangs involved with the drug business who use Bangladesh as their transit, he said.

He said it is not possible to control drug abuse with the existing laws and the government is mulling to enact special laws against the menace.

National Professor Dr MR Khan said the drug addicts would have to be brought back to normal life with love and affection.

He urged all to play an active role to win the fight against the peril.

Aziz Khan, chairman of Prothom Alo Trust, said a war on drug in cooperation with government and non-government organisations will have to be fought to resist drug addiction.

Only the small peddlers like street vendors and carriers usually get captured but the kingpins remain untouched, he said.

"The kingpins will have to be arrested and punished."

He suggested incorporating the issue in the textbook curriculum at the secondary

and higher secondary levels. Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University suggested the borders to be put on more alert to stop drug trafficking.

Television artiste Bipasha Hayat said the family ties are declining day by day which led the children to choose a wrong path. The parents should consider their children as friends, she said.

Rasheda K Chowdhury suggested spreading the message of building awareness against drug abuse through the state-run television to the general masses in a more communicable way.

"I never took any kind of drug in my lifetime despite getting numerous offers," said Everest conqueror Musa Ibrahim.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman, Joint Editor Abdul Qayum, MA Siddique, chief of Narcotics Control Department, Syed Abul Maksud, Badiul Alam Majumder and Abdun Noor Tushar were present at the dialogue.

Two minor addicts -- Sohel and Durjoy -- narrated their stories.

Three journalists were awarded for their anti-drug reporting in the programme.

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