New DU pro-VCs, treasurer take over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed provice chancellors and treasurer of Dhaka University (DU) formally took their charges yesterday.

Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, the vice chancellor, greeted his new colleagues with flowers.

On June 6, President Zillur Rahman, also chancellor of DU, appointed Dr Shahid Akhtar Hussain, a professor at the Department of Soil Science and Dean of the Faculty of Biological Science, and Prof Dr Nasreen Ahmed of the Department of Geography and Environment and Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Science as pro-VCs.

Prof Dr Md Kamaluddin of the Department of International Business was given the office of the treasurer.



FERRY YOURSELF: The boat does not have a boatman but ferries people across the canal of Ichhamoti regularly and every passenger is charged Tk 2 for each trip. In this self-help ferry service, boat riders are required to pull on a rope fastened to either bank to propel the boat towards the other side. The photo was taken at Rangunia of Chittagong recently. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

'Increase allocation for physically challenged'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday called upon the government to involve different ministries in implementing projects on physically challenged people instead of channelling those through the social welfare ministry.

They also expressed frustration over the allocation for physically challenged people in the recently announced budget, alleging that the government put emphasis on the social security measures for these people but their other issues like education, employment and sports were denied focus.

They were speaking at a press conference organised by the National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital.

Terming disability a cross-cutting issue, the speakers stressed on the need for coordinated efforts of the ministries of social welfare, health, education, culture, youth and sports, finance, and information and communications for carrying out the different projects on disability.

They also demanded that an additional allotment of Tk 561 crore be added to the recent budgetary allocation of Tk 171.77 crore for physically challenged people in the next fiscal.

They said there is no special project mentioned in the recent national budget for training teachers in dealing with physically challenged students.

NFOWD Chairman Md Rajab Ali Khan Sajib, its Director Dr Nasifur Rahman and General Seretary

Mizanur Rahman also addressed the conference.

Dhaka protests Economist reports The government had made constitutional

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday protested against the two reports published in the London-based The Economist on May 26, insisting that Dhaka saw a gradual deterioration of quality and objectivity in the articles of the magazine over the past few years, particularly with respect to Bangladesh.

In a rejoinder, the foreign ministry said the two articles not only reflected the high level of ignorance of the reporter(s) about today's Bangladesh but also made Dhaka suspicious of the weekly's intention behind writing such malicious articles.

The magazine published the articles under the headlines, "Politics in Bangladesh: Banged about: The prime minister sets the country on a dangerous path" and "Bangladesh's toxic politics: Hello, Delhi: It is up to India to try to stop Sheikh Hasina ruining Bangladesh".

The articles, it said, were full of misinformation and inaccurate conclusions apparently based on hearsay against the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina -- a government with the strongestever mandate in the history of the country. "The Economist, in these articles, also showed

utter disrespect towards the people of Bangladesh as far as their capability and ingenuity to address national issues is concerned, and nakedly invites foreign intervention!" The rejoinder said the biased articles that

accused Hasina of "setting" Bangladesh on a "dangerous path", totally ignored Bangladesh's achievements in the last three years. "It will be impossible to list all those successes here, but Dhaka would recommend that your reporters do some study and research before writing their articles, particularly on Bangladesh."

For a start, they may wish to be informed that the population of Bangladesh does not constitute "170 million poor Muslims". "We urge your reporters to study the demographics of Bangladesh for future reporting," it said.

"We feel very sad to see a gradual deterioration of quality and objectivity in the articles appearing in your well-reputed magazine over the past few years, particularly with respect to Bangladesh -- a country of 160 million people struggling to march forward towards inclusive development, democracy and the rule of law," reminded the rejoinder.

The statement put forward some quotations of world leaders such as UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon, who during his Bangladesh visit in 2011, said, ...As the rest of the world struggles with the economic crisis, you keep growing... In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that Bangladesh has become a

model for the world... You are in the vanguard in liftingpeople from poverty."

"More and more children are attending school -boys and girls alike. You are improving public services, including sanitation and fresh water. I am particularly impressed by your country's pioneering achievements in women's and children's health," Moon added.

President Barack Obama eloquently summarised Bangladesh's progress in women's empowerment and in fighting the menace of terrorism when he told Hasina last year in New York: "You and your government are doing an excellent job in empoweringwomen and in countering terrorism."

German President Christian Wulff termed

Bangladesh a "stabilising factor in South Asia" duringhis Dhakavisitlast year. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during her

recent Dhaka visit, congratulated the Bangladesh foreign minister "... on the impressive progress that Bangladesh is making on a number of important issues. Bangladesh is on track to meet many

Millennium Development Goals by 2015 with particular emphasis on saving the lives of mothers andchildren.

She added: "The rates of maternal and child mortality have dropped; the rate of poverty has dropped, and that is a great tribute to the commitmentthat Bangladesh and the people of this country have made to improving the lives of all of your citizens.' Regarding Bangladesh's achievements in

addressing the climate change issues, Hillary said, "The people of Bangladesh are setting an example for people everywhere in how to meet similar challenges.

The rejoinder said, "Your reporters are apparently blind to all of these."

It also came up with more specific evidence and noted that about Hasina's leadership in taking Bangladesh forward, the UNSG observed: "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership and her commitment made Bangladesh a development model.' "These statements should provide your reporters

enough lead to do some research on Bangladesh as it stands out today at the national, regional and global levels, instead of writing fictitious and ill-motivated articles on an imaginary decline of Bangladesh," suggested the foreign ministry rejoinder.

Conferring the UN MDG Award to Hasina is just one of the many testimonies of global appreciation of her leadership in making Bangladesh a prosperous and just society where democracy and the rule of lawwould reign supreme. Hasina's firm conviction in democracy is also

well-demonstrated in her statement made at the 16th Saarc Summit in Thimphu in April 2010 where she first mooted the idea of a "Saarc Charter of Democracy". The Bangladesh government spearheaded the formulation of this Saarc Charter, which was adopted unanimously by the Saarc mechanism lastyear. "Your reporters may also learn that it was during

the term of this present government that we lodged a case against Myanmar for successfully securing our maritime rights, thus paving the way not only for utilising the huge maritime resources for the development of the people of Bangladesh but also for improving relations with Myanmar." The foreign ministry rejoinder further said Dhaka

had adopted a similar strategy to resolve maritime issues with India and added that such pragmatic policies not only helped improve Bangladesh's relations with its neighbours but had also put Bangladesh in the driver's seat in making South Asia a prosperous region.

"The views expressed in the articles on Bangladesh's domestic politics seem to be favouring the return of undemocratic rule in the country,' observed the rejoinder, adding that the people of Bangladesh under Hasina's Awami League were vigilant against such designs -- be it internal or external.

amendments making the unconstitutional usurping of power a punishable offence as well as scrapping the provision of a "caretaker government" after the country's highest court declared it illegal. "Your (Economist) reporters referred to this as

'messing' with the constitution! We condemn such

blatant disrespect for the people of Bangladesh for their aspiration of having a truly democratic country where only the people would elect their representa-The rejoinder said accusing the government of murder and attack on activists and journalists --

without providing a thread of proof -- is a malicious

act and a demonstration of truly poor journalism by

The Economist. It said The Economist reports had commented that the purpose of the International War Crimes Tribunal seemed to be "an attempt to discredit the BNP and its Islamist allies" -- without providing any evidence whatsoever in support of the statement. It showed "your magazine's level of commitment to

see the establishment of the rule of law in

Bangladesh!"

"By doing this, your reporter not only humiliated the sacrifices made by the three million Bangalee martyrs of our Liberation War of 1971, but also insulted their families who have been waiting for justice for four decades in independent Bangladesh.'

The statement said that the government did not interfere in the activities of the tribunal nor did it intervene in the proceedings of other courts in the country.

The government had made it clear repeatedly that the Grameen Bankwas a statutory body where it was also a shareholder. It was the Government of Bangladesh that established the Grameen Bank.

"Its (Grameen Bank) activities would naturally be governed by the relevant laws, rules and regulations of Bangladesh irrespective of different designs of some quarters within and outside the country."

Terming a prime minister of being "increasingly paranoid" was simply unacceptable and reflected on the absence of journalistic ethics at The Economist.

The rejoinder said it was also interesting to see that The Economist, which dedicated so much of its space to ensuring accountability of governments, was against the accountability of NGOs. "This government is a great supporter of the civil society and freedom of expression. A separate NGO Affairs Bureau under the Prime Minister's Office has been working to facilitate the work of NGOs in Bangladesh."

The government firmly believed that NGOs were also partners in its development endeavours. "It is, however, equally important that the government ensures financial and functional accountability of the NGOs which collect fund, particularly from abroad, in the name of the people of Bangladesh."

As a democratically elected government, Hasina's government would do everything in the interest of the wellbeing and development of the people of Bangladesh, for "that is the mandate it received from the people of Bangladesh in 2008 elections -- dubbed as the freest and fairest in the history of Bangladesh."

Ten killed in road accidents METRO DESK

Ten people were killed and at least 38 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Habiganj, Jhenidah, Feni, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra and Dinajpur yesterday.

Staff correspondent reports, a tablig devotee was killed as a truck ran over him while he was crossing the road at Nabinagar bus stand in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday morning.

The deceased is Suruj Ali, 60, hailing from Burgaon village in Tarail upazila of Kishoreganj. In Habiganj, two people were killed and four others

injured as a truck rammed a bus from behind on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Korora area of Madhabpur upazila early hours of yesterday. The dead are Ferdous Miah, 32, of Gazipur and Nobab

Miah, 25, of Narail. The injured were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

In Jhenidah, two motorcyclists died instantly when a truck hit their motorbike from the opposite direction in Arappur bus stand area in the town yesterday morning. They are Monjurul Alam, 26, and Sohel Rana, 28.

In Chittagong, an unidentified rickshaw-puller died as a bus hit his rickshaw from behind at Fakhirhat intersection under Bandar Police Station in the city yesterday evening.

In Feni, two people were killed as a tractor fell into a ditch beside Feni-Chhagalnaiya road at Banshpara Atmiler Matha in Chhagalnaiya upazila yesterday morning.

The victims are Sayedul Haque, 32, owner of the tractor and Md Sadeq, 28, driver of the vehicle. In Khulna, tourist official Yousuf Sazzad, 48, was killed as a

truck struck a battery-run three-wheeler carrying him at Shibbari in the city yesterday morning.

He was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 12:00 noon.

UNB from Bogra adds, a primary schoolgirl, Sadia, daughter of Abdul Khalek, was crushed under the wheels of a truck while she was crossing Second Bypass Road in front of Ghuniatala High School in Rabibaria of the town yesterday.

Our Dinajpur correspondent says, at least 34 people were injured as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Laxmitolamore in the sadar upazila around 11:30am yesterday.

Of the injured, eleven were admitted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Japan funds training centre in Jhenidah STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan has established a Technical Training and Education Unit (TTEU) in Jhenidah, aiming to provide vocational training to local women and non-formal education to children. Porshi, a local NGO, is

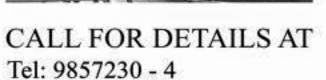
implementing the project with a Japanese grant assistance of Tk 63 lakh, says a press release. The training unit will

educate 80 children and train 586 women annually, and it is expected to contribute to improving the socioeconomic condition of the rural communities of the district through supporting sustainable social practices of selfhelp development.

The project was inaugurated in Jhenidah on June 7. Present at the launching

ceremony were Masayuki Taga, counsellor, Embassy of Japan; Khwaja Abdul Hannan, deputy commissioner (DC), Jhenidah; Rafiqul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (ADC), Jhenidah; Saidul Karim Mintu, mayor of Jhenidah municipality; Moklesur Rahman, district education officer, Jhenidah; Kalachand Singh, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), Jhenidah sadar; Akram Hossain, upazila education officer, Jhenidah sadar; Tobarak Hossain, principal, Jhenidah College; and Shahabuddin, convenor, Porshi.





01714 039847 01714 039843 01711 594855 01713 048556 01714 040457 01714 039844 01713 018405 01714 016887

Hasan ### **Apartments At**

Dhanmondi R/A, Road-5



Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd Corporate HQ Building 91 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka

Fire kills three siblings in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Three siblings were burnt alive early yesterday as a fire broke out at a house in Chhankhola area under Subarnachar upazila of the district.

The victims were identified as 18-month-old Ayesha Begum, Md Samit, 5, and Md Fakir, 7, children of one Giasuddinn, a farmer.

Giasuddin said the fire originated from the earthen oven of his straw-made house around 3:00am and spread soon. He and his wife managed to come out of the house, but

their children were sleeping, the father said, adding that they might have forgot to put out the fire in the oven after cooking. Abul Kalam, officer-in-charge of Subarnachar Police Station, confirmed the incident.

Khairul Anam Selim, chairman of upazila, said district Awami League immediately provided the couple with Tk 10,000.



MTB opens it's 7th Branch at Kapasia, Gazipur

> with the country's First Green (fully solar powered) ATM saves 90% energy compared to conventional ATMs

> > Sunday, June 10, 2012



you can bank on us

www.mutualtrustbank.com