

Independent judiciary must for democracy: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday said an independent and competent judiciary was a must for democracy, the rule of law and the development desired.

"Ours is a modern judiciary, which greatly enjoys people's confidence. We cannot conceive of democracy, the rule of law and the desired development of the country unless there is an independent and competent judiciary," he told the inaugural programme of a national inception workshop of the Judicial Strengthening (JUST) project at a hotel in the capital.

The chief justice said the rapid increase in the number of cases caused a huge backlog, which was obstructing people's access to justice. "The huge backlog of cases is slowly overwhelming the justice delivery system, causing further delay in the disposal of cases and undermining [people's] access to justice."

He pointed out population growth and abnormal rise in the prices of immovable properties as the reasons behind the increase in the number of cases.

More than 21 lakh cases were found

pending on January 1 in all courts and tribunals, including the Supreme Court, of the country, the chief justice had said earlier.

Emphasising arbitration in civil cases, Justice Muzammel said, "It's neither feasible nor desirable that all cases shall go through the trial process and be ended with a judicial verdict."

He laid importance also on change in the work culture of judges, lawyers and court staff for the reformation.

The project "JUST" has been implemented jointly by the government, the Supreme Court and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since July 2012 to support reforms in the country's judiciary system. The project will end in December 2014.

UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner said a well-functioning justice sector was a precondition for social peace and harmony to expedite human development and economic growth.

Two of the High Court judges, Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque, suggested modernising the existing laws and increasing use of modern technology for proper case management.



Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, left, presents a certificate to Ashok Mitra yesterday during the diamond jubilee celebrations of Dhaka University Alumni Association at the DU Central Playground. Ashok Mitra got his honours degree in economics with first class in 1948 but had to flee to India for his involvement in left-leaning politics. PHOTO: STAR

DU Alumni Association celebrates diamond jubilee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Alumni Association celebrated its diamond jubilee yesterday with several thousand alumni arriving to meet and catch up with old friends and teachers.

The daylong celebrations started with the release of pigeons at DU Central Playground around 10:00am while the alumni took photographs, sang and danced to the festive atmosphere.

Addressing the ceremony as chief guest, President Zillur Rahman, a student of history department of 1947-1948, urged the former and present students to uphold DU's

traditions.

"I am an alumni and also the country's president. But I gave importance to my alumni identity today. It is because I always become very emotional to be here. Thousands of memories flash before my eyes," he said.

Misbahul Bahar, the association's oldest member completing his MA in 1940, said he felt like going back to his student life again.

On DU's present condition, he said, "I think the university's infrastructure and education and chances of acquiring knowledge here have been immensely upgraded."

He urged all not to label DU as Oxford of the East anymore. "The

university is unique and has its own global importance."

Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said DU led every movement in the country, including the Language Movement and 1971 Liberation War, and would continue to do so for the nation's needs.

Chancellor Zillur Rahman presented a certificate to Ashok Mitra, who got his honours degree in economics with first class in 1948 but had to flee to India for his involvement in left-leaning politics.

Prof Rehman Sobhan, who joined DU as a teacher in 1957, and the association President Syed Manzur Elahi also spoke.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Sirajul Islam, a retired teacher of a primary school at Panchgachi village in Sundergnj upazila, died of cardiac arrest at his residence yesterday. He was 68.

He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza.



Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

The Qulkhwani of Anjuman Ara Jamil, a former MP and wife of late Brig Gen Jamil Uddin Ahmad (Bir Uttam), will be held at Mohakhali New DOHS Jame Mosque after Maghrib prayers today, reports UNB.

All of her relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

Anjuman Ara, also a social worker, died in the capital's Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on Thursday night at the age of 74.

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