

Universities need to be research-oriented

Says Nahid at int'l conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Universities will have to be a place where students and faculty jointly create new knowledge and conduct world-class innovative research for social and economic progress of the country, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

"Our universities must change and become the centre of excellence," he said at the inaugural ceremony of an international conference on Social Sciences and Humanities.

The three-day conference, first of its kind in the country, was organised by the Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) at IUB campus in the capital's Bashundhara.

The theme of the conference is "Identity in the globalised world: Dimensions, transformations and challenges".

Academics and social scientists from different universities at home and abroad attended the conference supported by Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project of University Grants Commission. Mutual Trust Bank Ltd and Transcom Group are the co-sponsors of the event.

Speaking as the chief guest, the education minister said the idea of university has been changed as universities do not mean that students receive only teachers' lectures in the classrooms.

"All the universities will have to be involved in research work to create new knowledge. The universities must be research-oriented, not just institutions that give away certificates," Nahid said.

The main challenge before the government is to improve the quality of education, he added.

Prof M Omar Rahman, vice chancellor of IUB, stressed the need for more research work, saying research is not a luxury, it is essential.

Higher education is crucial for economic progress and therefore much more investment should go to education, particularly higher education, he added.

Zakir Hossain Raju, director of CSSR, and Towhid Samad, former chairman of IUB board of trustees, also spoke.

Willem van Schendel, a professor of Modern Asian History at University of Amsterdam, will give the keynote speech on the second day of the conference today.

Prof Aminul Islam

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incident and also lodged a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station.

Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station, said they were working to identify the persons.



Workers of Helicon Factory, who have been jobless since its "unlawful" shutdown on August 9, and National Garment Workers Federation, carrying red flags, rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding the prime minister's intervention in either reopening of the factory or compensating them. The closure of the garment factory in Dhaka EPZ has put the lives of 700 workers in uncertainty.

PHOTO: STAR

Student-Teacher

FROM PAGE 5

Dhaka University (DU) students and insulted a teacher on the DU gymnasium playground during a football match. The incident sparked protests and clashes between police and students, spreading from DU to the rest of the country's educational institutions.

During the clashes at RU, a rickshaw-puller was killed, around 200 people were injured, vehicles were torched and properties, including the vice-chancellor's residence, were damaged.

Meanwhile, regarding violence on the campus on February 2 this year, the alliance urged the authorities to withdraw the cases filed against 700 general students of the university. They also pressed the authorities to lift a ban on gatherings and marches on the campus which was imposed following the incident.

That day, RU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League men backed by police swooped on the students who were demonstrating on the campus protesting against fee hikes and evening masters programme.

Chhatra Front, RU unit president Sohraab Hossain, general secretary Alamgir Hossain Sujon, and Chhatra Federation president Faruk Emon, among others, addressed the rally.

Slain Nazrul's widow

FROM PAGE 3

rivals -- joint secretary of BNP, Siddhirganj unit Ikbal Hossain and AL activist Masud Rana got 1,958 votes and 627 votes respectively, according to results announced by returning officer Tarifuzzaman.

The ward has 16,729 voters and eight polling stations, said Tarifuzzaman, also Narayanganj district election officer, adding that only 47.5 percent of the voters participated in the by-election.

The election concluded peacefully amid Boarder Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion personnel who were deployed to maintain law and order.

The voting concluded amid peaceful manner while police, Boarder Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion were deployed to maintain law and order.

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Ershad urges BNP to unite with JP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Former military dictator HM Ershad yesterday called upon the BNP to unite with his Jatiya Party, the opposition in parliament, as a nationalist force leaving the Jamaat-e-Islami, which is "accused of war crimes".

Referring to BNP chief Khaleda Zia, he said, "You announced to wage a tough anti-government movement and talked a lot about this. But you are off the street as you don't have the strength to do so."

Ershad, also a special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was addressing a rally at Mizan Maidan in Feni town on the occasion of the party's district council. He criticised Khaleda, saying she was in power twice but did not do any development of the country.

Turning to the recent criminal activities, the JP boss said there was no security for people and their properties. "Now murder, abduction have become regular events. Now anyone can be killed."

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Amend domestic

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Addressing the function as chief guest, Tariq-ul-Islam, secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, suggested that all women, who face domestic violence, contact the government's helpline: 10921 from any mobile operator.

He also assured the participants of taking necessary steps for arranging workshops at district levels to train up the officers concerned and make people aware of the violence.

Representatives of different women organizations, civil society and rights bodies, among others, attended the function.

Open day held

FROM PAGE 5

programmes at the university at present.

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