

**Youths will have to play role in tackling nation's future challenges**

*Rehman Sobhan tells golden jubilee celebration of CU economics dept*  
CU CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist Prof Dr Rehman Sobhan in a programme yesterday said the country has overcome many challenges including reduction of poverty to a great extent but more obstacles are ahead and youths will have to play a vital role in this regard. Prof Rehman made the comment while addressing the golden jubilee celebration of the department of Economics of Chittagong University (CU). He said primary education must be ensured and standards of secondary and higher secondary education have to improve, adding that educational institutions should be established in every district to decentralize the facilities of standard education.

Referring to Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, he said the students should be proud that he was a teacher of their department. "Dr Yunus started his microcredit programme from here... He and his institution later won the Nobel Prize," he added. Anisul Huq, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor, also a former student of the department urged the youths to work for the country's welfare. University Grants Commission Prof Moinal Hossain encouraged the youths to work for the working class and the underprivileged as well. CU Vice-Chancellor Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury inaugurated the day-long programme. Managing Director of United Commercial Bank Mohammad Ali, Comilla University VC Ali Asraf, and Chittagong Independent University Pro-VC Ishrad Kamal Khan also spoke.



Survivors of acid violence with another participant at the inaugural ceremony of Acid Survivors National Conference at the capital's Shishu Academy, organised by Acid Survivors Foundation with the slogan "We will rise, we will win, no more acid violence". PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**DIGITAL BANGLADESH CAMPAIGN**

**Success more than expected**

*Muith tells concluding ceremony of Bangladesh ICT Expo 2016*

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muith yesterday said the government's success in its campaign to build a digital Bangladesh had surpassed expectations. The minister was addressing the concluding ceremony of a three-day Bangladesh ICT Expo 2016 at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC). "There's no better weapon than ICT to curb corruption," Muith said, adding the earning of Madanmohan College of Sylhet had increased eightfold after the college introduced the online admission system. The 75-year-old college used to earn Tk 8-10 lakh only, which was very low compared to the huge number of students as student leaders from different political parties would influence the admission process, he said. "The earning from admission has gone up to Tk 82 lakh after introduction of the online admission system," he said. "We're halfway through in fully making a digital country." Bangladesh Computer Samiti (BCS) and the ICT division jointly organised the expo.

**ACID VIOLENCE**

**No death penalty of perpetrators executed**

*Says ASF at conference*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

None of the death sentences given to the 14 perpetrators of acid violence have been executed so far, said Selina Ahmed, executive director of Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) at a national conference on acid survivors yesterday. The delay in handing out justice may demoralise the victims, she observed. Expressing disappointment at the revelation, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki promised to see that the verdicts are executed soon. She said that acid violence persists because of patriarchy, lack of education and equality and underlined the importance of fighting those to stop such violence.

The conference organised by ASF was held at the capital's Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Selina said when the Acid Control Act and Acid Crime Control Act were enacted in 2002, about 500 women used to fall victim to acid violence in a year. "But in the last couple of years the number of acid attacks has been about 70," she added. While the progress has been significant, there is no scope to feel less concerned until the number of victims comes down to zero, she said. Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation urged the survivors to be self-reliant through learning skills and stressed that the crimes committed against them should not shape their life, rather they should always move forward.

**UK parliamentary group lauds progress of Bangladesh**

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH

Bangladesh received a high appreciation from the UK All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for its commendable successes in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty reduction, women empowerment, and transformation of its economy in the recent years. APPG met on February 29, 2016 at the UK Houses of Parliament. Chair of APPG, Anne Main MP, presided over the meeting, which was attended by Desmond Swayne, Minister of State for International Development, Baroness Shreela Flather and Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Paul Scully MP, Rupa Huq MP and Bangladesh High Commissioner in London Md Abdul Hannan among others. Claiming his visit as highly productive for the opportunity of engagements with top leadership, ministers, senior officials, CSOs and NGOs, Minister Swayne expressed his deep satisfaction on the success of the visit. Other parliamentarians, who recently visited Bangladesh, also expressed their appreciations. Desmond Swayne admired Bangladesh garment sectors' remarkable transformation from low to high-value end products. Baroness Flather praised the Bangladesh Government for creating jobs for millions of women in these sectors, which impacted positively on addressing other social challenges like child marriage. Bangladesh High Commissioner briefed the meeting on the socio-economic developments of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

**NEWS IN brief**

**Sust student missing for three days**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A student of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) in Sylhet has been missing for three days. Shamim Yasin Radil, 22, son of Maj Dr Din Md Anwarul Kabir, is a student of the chemistry department, said police. On March 3, Shamim went missing while he was going to Sylhet central city from Surma Residential Area where he lived, said Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Suhel Ahmed. Anwarul Kabir filed a general diary with the police station yesterday as the family failed to trace him for two days. OC Suhel Ahmed told The Daily Star that he was trying his best to find out Shamim.

**Asif's solo art exhibition begins**

UNB, Dhaka

An eight-day solo art exhibition of noted artist Asif Bahauddin Sikder began in the capital on Friday. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu inaugurated the exhibition titled "Really Don't Mind A Little Bit of Lonesome" at Gallery Cosmos-2 in the city's new DOHS area. A total of 31 innovative paintings that reflect mixture of oriental and occidental concepts have been put on display at the show. The exhibition will remain open from 12:00pm to 8:00pm every day till March 11.

**Cops probing if mother's**

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Station told The Daily Star that they would also interrogate the siblings' father Amanullah Aman and, if necessary, other relatives. Police is investigating whether some other person besides Jasmine was involved in the crime. Rampura police have been probing into incoherent behaviour of the siblings' father following his children's death. Different quarters have been raising questions as to why the parents went to their Jamalpur village home instead of going to the Dhaka Medical College morgue. Police said Mahfuza, in primary interrogation, admitted that she killed the kids being worried about their study. She, however, kept mum when she was asked how did she actually strangle them and why.

The primary confession is not enough to know who the beneficiaries of the murders are, they said. Nusrat Aman Aroni, 14, and her brother Alvi Aman, 6, were found unconscious at their apartment and declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Monday. Three days later, Rapid Action Battalion told the press that they were killed by their mother out of her "concerns about their future." And Mahfuza made up a food-poisoning story to cover it up.



Despite Hilsa fry catching prevention campaign going on in full swing along the coasts, a group of unscrupulous fishermen with the help of field level government employees are catching and selling the fry unimpeded, alleged locals. The photo was taken on Friday morning at Laharhat Bazar in Barisal Sadar upazila. PHOTO: ARTIFUR RAHMAN

**DSCC mayor, MP hear**

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blamed representatives for failing to address their problems. In some cases, they assured the residents of improving the roads and taking effective measures in controlling rabies and reducing the dog population. But in some cases, the mayor blamed the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for water-logging and called for bringing Wasa and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) under the jurisdiction of the city corporations to get rid of the problem. He also pointed out lack of coordination among different service-providing agencies of the city as a barrier in providing better services to people. Khokon urged people to pitch in to keep the city clean while Saber Hossain sought help to control drug problems and help law enforcers nab drug peddlers. About widening narrow lanes and roads, Saber urged owners of the roadside houses to sacrifice some space for roads. Responding to a query about the shortage of street lights, the mayor assured that all the lights would be installed within 72 hours and 50 percent of the water-logging problem would be gone by the coming monsoon. The lawmaker pointed out corruption in buying larvicide to kill mosquitoes and blamed the syndicate of construction firms for delaying construction works.

**Construction worker hacked**

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Hospital from where Madan, who was hacked in the head, was shifted to a private clinic and he died there, said Tapan. Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, said they heard about the mugging and were investigating the incident. None was arrested till yesterday in this connection, said the OC.

**Barrage of death threats puts RU teachers at unease**

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tarnish his image, but he did not know they would do that. Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Muhammad Shamsuddin said they did not find the professor's involvement in any such activity. About Ansar Al Islam, he said they suspected that terrorist outfits like Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Hijab-ut Tahir were running the organisation, which had no link to Al-Qaeda. Besides death threats, unidentified callers demanded money from several other teachers including acting registrar Prof Entazul Hauque and RU central library administrator Prof Safiqunnabi Samadi. Proctor Tarikul Hasan told The Daily Star that the death threats were coming continuously due to inaction of the law enforcers. RMP Deputy Commissioner Nahidul Islam, however, denied the allegation, saying they were giving "highest importance" to the issue. Preferring anonymity, a senior professor of RU said, "We didn't find any consistency between police's claim and action." "Police should at least find out how many terrorist outfits are operating in Rajshahi," said economics professor Elias Hossain, who was threatened by an unknown caller on February 1 this year. "We are always scared of attacks." A man, identifying himself as a member

of "Jonojuddha Commander", demanded Tk 5 lakh from Prof Safiqunnabi over the phone on July 10. Two professors received death threats by phone on March 6 last year. A day later, a caller, identifying himself as a "Chorompanthi Group" member, threatened to kill Prof Sharmin Hamid of psychology and Prof AKM Golam Malek. On March 1 last year, Prof Entazul and Prof Azizul received threats from people claiming to be members of Purbo Banglar Communist Party. "I think police did not investigate any of the threats," said Prof Safiqunnabi. "Even they haven't taken any security measures for us yet." Officer-in-Charge of Motihar Police Station Humayun Kabir, however, said they had "strengthened security" for the teachers and remained vigilant for their protection. The callers are yet to be traced as they are using "satellite phones", he said, adding police would work with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on the issue. Seeking anonymity, a high official of RMP said they had investigated only two or three cases, including that of the VC. RMP Deputy Commissioner Nahidul Islam said they had primarily found three RU teachers' link to two threats but he did not disclose their names for the sake of the investigation.

**Politicians**

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were now speaking against it for gaining political mileage. "Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman had been arrested as part of a move of the 1/11 administration to suppress the nationalist politics. They have arrested many others who believe in nationalism. Their target was depoliticisation," Fakhrul said. He said the plot was still on to eliminate BNP and its leadership. "The country's democracy, the rule of law and freedom of speech are now at stake," he added.

**Civil society**

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development NGOs and international organisations participated in the launch event at a hotel in the capital and charted out programmes marking the GFMD. Prof Abrar chaired the sessions while Syed Saiful Haque of WARBE Development Foundation co-chaired. William Gois of the Migrants' Rights International and Tatcee Macabuag of Migrant Forum of Asia were also present.



Dhaka City Three-wheeler CNG Auto-rickshaw Workers Union demonstrates in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding that instant imprisonment of the drivers by the BRTA mobile courts over "minor" offences be stopped. PHOTO: STAR