

CU celebrates golden jubilee with much enthusiasm

CU CORRESPONDENT

The golden jubilee celebration of Chittagong University (CU) concluded amid great enthusiasm and festivity yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the second day of the programme around 10:30am through a videoconference from her official residence Gono Bhawan in the capital.

Later, a discussion was held with CU Vice-Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury in the chair while Speaker of the parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was present as the chief guest.

The Speaker urged the students to enrich themselves with all good qualities so that they could lead the future.

Addressing the event, Prof Emeritus at Dhaka University Anisuzzaman, a former faculty member of CU, stressed the need for holding Chittagong University Central

Students' Union election, which can help raise awareness among students about their social and political responsibilities, and for increasing the allocation in research and academic sectors.

Water resource minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, member of Moulvibazar-4 constituency Md Abdus Shahid and Chittagong Chamber Of Commerce and Industry President Mahbubul Alam spoke among others.

A rally and a discussion were held on Friday. The celebration ended yesterday with a colourful cultural programme participated by its current and former students, eminent singers Dinat Jahan Munni and Tapan Chowdhury, and bands Artcell, Warfaze and Lalon.



Teachers, students and alumni of Chittagong University bring out a colourful procession on the campus when celebrating the university's golden jubilee yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Wild bird sale rampant in Sylhet city

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Bondorbazar

Tk 300! Only Tk 300 each!

Screams Shuhag Mia while showing his catch to the passersby.

Sometimes he also shakes the birds, hanging upside down, with their legs tied together.

"It's a profitable business," says the 39-year-old, "I catch them from the haors, then sell in different areas."

"But there are risks too. The law enforcers might catch us. So, I mostly sell to the people I know," smiles the bird trader from Sylhet city's Bondorbazar area.

Shuhag is not the only bird seller in the area. Illegal poaching and selling of birds are going on unabated in Sylhet city despite numerous drives by the law enforcers.

The traders start selling the wild birds after 4:00pm, said the locals.

While visiting many areas including Zindabazar, Kumargaon, Boteswar and Haripur, this correspondent saw many traders were busy selling herons, martins and doves out in the open.

"I came here to buy a bird for my son but the traders are charging too much," complained Mohorom Mia, a resident of Bondorbazar. When asked why he was supporting this illegal act he did not answer.

"I don't need much investment to sell birds, as



A trader carrying birds for sale in Haripur bazar area of Sylhet on Friday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

I catch them by myself," said a trader, seeking anonymity.

The forest department has been trying to stop the illegal bird selling, but the traders continue to sell them openly, alleged locals, adding that their numbers were also increasing.

"We have recovered 10 migratory birds from two traders in Virobanj of Moulvibazar last

month," said Mihir Kumar Doe, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department.

Twenty martins (shalik), 23 doves (ghughu) and 11 herons (bok) were released by a mobile court and the forest department last month in Sylhet city, said Md Mostafizur Rahman, executive magistrate, who led the court. He said they would continue their drives.

"The traders sell birds in front of the law enforcers. But they are not being arrested," alleged Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Sylhet chapter. Strict measures need to be taken to stop this, he said.

As per the Wildlife (Conservation) Act-2012, killing, poaching, selling and possessing of any wildlife is a punishable offence, he stressed.

When asked, RFM Monirul Islam, DFO of the Sylhet Forest Division, said, "We're continuing our efforts, but we also want residents' help. They should inform us about the traders."

"All of us have to be aware in this regard. Birds are important for the environment and ecology. If we stop buying from the traders, they will be forced to stop," said Sharif Jamil, joint secretary of Bapa.

He recommended that the authorities concerned launch awareness campaigns against poaching and selling of birds.



Eminent citizens addressing a press conference at the capital's Reporters' Unity yesterday after visiting Gaibandha, where the ethnic minority Santals have recently fallen victim to repression and eviction.

PHOTO: STAR

Suggestions basis

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Tagging the tweet in a statement, her press secretary, Maruf Kamal Khan, quoted her as saying, "BNP's proposal could be the basis of talks on how to hold a competitive and inclusive national election with the participation of all."

Khaleda on Friday presented a 13-point proposal over the formation of a new, stronger EC to hold credible elections, saying it must be constituted based on consensus of all political parties ahead of the 11th general election, to be held in 2019.

The five-year tenure of the incumbent EC led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad ends in February.

Minutes after Khaleda's briefing at a city hotel, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader at a press conference said, "The so-called reform formulas...are...hollow...a mockery with the nation." Quader also said there was no need to talk with BNP.

Addressing a discussion in the city, Fakhrul said, "She did not say that her proposals would have to be implemented word by word. Let us discuss...work out an acceptable way to hold a fair election. Let's find out what will be acceptable to all."

"Awami League's reaction language...indicates it is predetermined...to implement their blueprint," he told the programme Zia Nagorik Forum organised at Kochi Kachar Mela auditorium.

He said AL knew very well it would not be able to return to power if a stronger EC was formed and a fair election was held.

SNAPS & snippets

Teenager drowns in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The body of a teenage boy, who drowned in Piayin River of Jaflong in Sylhet on Friday afternoon, was recovered yesterday.

The deceased Pavel, 18, son of Abdul Khaled of Mymensingh went to visit Jaflong with his friends on Friday.

Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gowainghat Police Station, said Pavel drowned at the Zero Point of the river around 3:00pm after he went there to take a bath. Fire fighters recovered his body and sent it to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Ctg fire guts warehouse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fire gutted a tin-roofed warehouse of jhut (scrap fabrics from garment industries) and a house in Charpara of Uttar Patenga in Chittagong city early yesterday.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit around 7:25pm on Friday. On information, fire fighters rushed there and extinguished the fire around 2:15am yesterday, said Fire Service sources.

The extent of damage caused by the fire was estimated at Tk10 lakh, they said.

NHRC team visits Gazipur factories

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A four-member team formed by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) yesterday visited three factories in Tongi of Gazipur to monitor what abilities they have to prevent industrial accidents.

They visited Sintex Printing Mills Limited, Akij Packaging and Robin Printing Limited as part of an initiative to raise awareness on preventing such accidents. Md Nazrul Islam, who headed a committee formed by NHRC to probe into the Tampaco Foils factory explosion, was present.

Diabetes awareness marathon held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Epyllion Group organised a marathon to generate awareness on diabetes yesterday, said a press release.

The theme of the marathon was "Run for awareness" and its covered range was three kilometre. It started at Ninakabbo and ended at Police Plaza with 350 participants.

Musa Ibrahim, pioneering Bangladeshi mountaineer; cricketer Mohammad Ashraful and officials of Epyllion Group also participated in the marathon.



Conservancy workers of Sylhet City Corporation cleaning the Sylhet Alia Madrasah ground, a venue where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will deliver a speech at a rally to be held by local Awami League on Wednesday. The photo was taken yesterday.

Dhaka's Patrick turns

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their high office. He also warned against falling victim to a "growing animosity" between people.

Being under 80, 13 of the 17 are eligible to elect or become the head of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

Christians represent 0.03 percent of Bangladesh's population, and 50 percent of those are Catholics.

Khaleda rejected call

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understand that the paths of militancy and terrorism are not the paths of peace, Hasina added.

She urged imams to preach verses from the holy Quran and Hadith where there are statements against the militancy and terrorism, especially during Jumma prayers. She mentioned that the government is working to build the country in such a way where people will keep their heads high as a victorious nation.

Hasina exchanged these views with deputy commissioners, officials and local public representatives of five districts, while the conference was projected at 7,509 points in the division.

Accused 'tries to kills himself' with handcuffs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A robbery accused allegedly attempted to commit suicide with handcuffs when being taken to a Dhaka court yesterday.

Shawpan, 28, was remanded for two days in the case. "We took

Shawpan to the court for a confessional statement under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code. When we reached the court premises, he requested us to let him go to a toilet, where he tried to slit his own throat with the handcuffs," according to Proloy Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Rampura police, adding that they knew nothing about why he "attempted to kill" himself.

Proloy said, "As Shawpan was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, we could not go for further proceedings."

BNP tries to woo Taimur

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body polls, we have seen how the Awami League men had rigged the election, how they altered the polls result in their favour," he added.

Taimur said participating in the polls under the present "subservient" EC means an obvious defeat as the ruling AL would want to win at any cost using the administration and police.

Explaining his past experience working for the BNP-nominated candidates in union parishad and upazila parishad election, Taimur also told Khaleda that the EC took no action even after they placed evidence of polls irregularities before it.

"I cannot jump in a river when I know for sure that I will die. It would take crores of money to contest in the city corporation election. Why will I waste the money when I know the result," said Taimur, also an adviser of the BNP chairperson.

Khaleda informed Taimur about her party's evaluation that the BNP candidate may win the election due to internal conflict in the local AL and anti-government sentiment.

"I remain in the field and I have firsthand experience on how the local body elections were held," responded Taimur.

"Madam, we were not even provided necessary papers by local police and local election office for appealing with the election commission against vote rigging and irregularities," he added.

After the meeting, lasting over one hour, Khaleda insisted that Taimur prepare for contesting in the NCC polls, albeit till the party finds another suitable candidate.

"Madam has asked me to get prepared for the polls. I will have no option but to contest the city corporation election if madam finally chooses me," Taimur added.

In the last NCC polls, BNP-backed Taimur contested for the mayoral post. Sources close to him said he became very upset after being forced to withdraw his candidacy just a day before the election.

Two die falling from trees in Barisal, Jhalakathi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two people died after falling from trees in Barisal and Jhalakathi on Friday.

In Barisal, Asadul Sikder, 20, died after falling from a coconut tree in South Bourgathi of Gournadi upazila on Friday.

Locals said Asadul fell down accidentally after he climbed up the tree to pluck coconuts.

Critically injured he was first taken to Gournadi Upazila Health Complex and later to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where he died at night.

Meanwhile in Jhalakathi, Samsu Howlader, 70, died after he fell from a betel-nut tree, locals said.

State mechanism curbs freedom

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used to express different meanings, said Uzbek journalist and writer Hamid Ismailov. A single piece of writing can be understood differently by the state authorities while fanatics may find another meaning of it, he added.

"I never dreamt to be a dissident writer," said Hamid, who was forced into exile in the United Kingdom, adding that he is a writer of "mild philosophical stuff".

Prabha Yoon, a Thai writer and artist, said although it looks from outside that Thailand is a welcoming country, there are conservative views prevailing there.

Kanak Mani Dixit, founding editor of Kathmandu-based review magazine Himal Southasian that decided to close down, said there is a particular power of ultrapoliticism, from religious fanatics to ultranationalists, which is playing a role...in forcing media to undergo self-censorship in South Asia.

Kanak viewed that the states all over South Asia is increasingly using "other means of control" beyond regulatory mechanism to come down hard on freedom of expression. "They did it to Himal magazine in Kathmandu."

The issue of Himal that focuses on the attacks on freedom of expression in the

region was launched at an event yesterday, moderated by Romana Cacchioli of Pen International.

Abed for Development to Change Culture

Attending the closing ceremony of DLF as the chief guest, Brac Founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said the purpose of development is to change culture.

"...When one educates a girl child, the culture changes in the household," he added.

He further said it is important to do development in a culturally appropriate way.

Praising the initiative of DLF, he hoped it will continue in future with mingling of greater number of literary minds.

The sixth edition of the event saw some 200 talents from various countries sharing their views in about 100 sessions. There were cultural events highlighting folk performances and poetry sessions.

Gemcon Literary Awards

Litterateur Moinul Ahsan Saber and Mostafiz Karigar won Gemcon Sahitya Puroshkar (literary award) 2016 for their works "Abdul Jalil Jekarone Mara Gelo" and "Bastubargo" respectively.

Gemcon Director and DLF Co-director Kazi Anis Ahmed handed over the awards.

Man killed for 'protesting wife's extramarital affair' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was killed in his Halishahar house in Chittagong city yesterday as he protested his wife's extramarital affair, said police.

Abdul Baten alias Khokon, 34, of Baubazar area, was an electrician. Khokon's wife Jesmin Akhter, 30, and her alleged partner Md Alauddin, 30, who were arrested in the house, during primary interrogation admitted to the killing, said police.

Hearing hue and cry at the house at late night, locals informed the matter to police, who later recovered the body and sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Victim's father Abdul Matin lodged a case against the two.