

Education not for making money: Hamid

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday called upon private university authorities to use education as a means of the nation's development and progress instead of a money-making tool.

"Universities are the best centres of higher education. So, every university should make an effort to build patriotic and educated human resources by ensuring standards of education," he said.

The president was addressing the 16th convocation of East West University on its campus in the capital.

Stressing the need for linking education with works, Hamid said acquiring knowledge is the main objective of education, but education which is not work-oriented cannot encourage people at all.

He said higher education helps a person flourish his inner potentials, personality and thoughts.

"Delivering lectures in classrooms

as per curricula is not the only responsibility of a university, but as a higher education institution it should educate students with social values, humanity, social responsibilities and tolerance."

Expressing concern over the emergence of terrorism worldwide, he said a few students of some renowned universities and members of some affluent families got involved in militancy which was a matter of concern for the country and the nation.

University authorities, families and the society cannot avoid the responsibility of such terrorist activities of the young generation, said the president.

He urged teachers, students and civil society members to mount a united resistance to terrorism and militancy.

About the country's education



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Silence drowns cries

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Initially, the child cried a lot for his parents. With time, as he grew up, he became silent about his parents.

Just a couple of days ago, Megh became excited as he heard that one of the photographs captured at his early age had been found. But with the picture in hand, his face turned pale.

He was with his parents in the photograph, Roman said.

Immediately after the incident, the then home minister Sahara Khatun assured that killers would be arrested in 48 hours.

The Rapid Action Battalion, which is probing the case for four and a half years after the failure of the Detective Branch, hasn't made any visible progress in finding out the perpetrators.

"Everybody has become silent. It seems the investigators don't bother probing the murders," Roman said.

Yesterday, a Dhaka court directed Rab to inform it by March 21 about the progress in the probe as the investigation officer failed to submit any probe report.

With this time, law enforcement agencies, mainly Rab, have got the time extended for 48 times for the submission of the progress report.

Different courts have expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress of the investigation.

Frustrated, Roman said, "It is very clear that the case has been covered up

in a planned way.

"When the law enforcement agencies are capable of dealing with militancy and other sensational incidents, why are they failing in this case?"

"We know not much progress has been made.... Yet we will be demanding justice until we get it," Roman said.

Contacted, Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of the Rab's legal and media wing, said the special force was sincere in carrying out the probe, to unearth the mystery of the sensational murders.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan Magistrate Mazharul Islam yesterday set the new date for submitting the progress report as Rab Assistant Director Wares Ali Miah, investigation officer, failed to submit any probe report.

Earlier on December 9 last year, the IO was asked to submit the progress report.

The special force has repeatedly come up with a version that they might get clues about the killers after receiving the test reports of DNA samples sent to two labs in the USA.

Rab received the results in March 2014 of the samples that include evidence collected from the crime scene and DNAs of 21 people.

The reports confirm presence of two unknown men during the murder. But the force could not make any progress even in identifying them.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

VICTORIA PARK

A great place for morning walkers

HELEMUL ALAM

It was 7:30am Sunday. The early morning sun flickered through the green leaves of trees of various shades, colours and sizes. The city was waking up from deep slumber.

I dropped my daughter to school and waited outside for her exam to finish. As I needed to spend two hours from then on, I decided to take a stroll in nearby Bahadur Shah Park, formerly known as Victoria Park, in the capital.

As I entered the park, I was surprised to see the park already buzzing with morning walkers, joggers and even body builders of different age. Some of them were walking with long steps while others were stretching and swinging their arms.

The trees around the park seemed to protect them from the sun that was getting warmer with every passing minute.

Walkers say more than 2,000 people, including women, children and the elderly, come to the park in the morning and in the afternoon every day. Most of them are between the age of 30 and 60.

Two trained health workers

sit at the two entrances and provide primary health check-ups, including blood pressure and blood sugar. They said many of those who come for walk are diabetic.

According to International Diabetes Federation, there were 7.1 million cases of diabetes in Bangladesh in 2015. And, exercise is necessary for a diabetic to

with the people who visit the park. Now it has 250 members, said Anwar Hossain, president of Suprovat Sangha.

As I was strolling along, I stumbled upon a nurse, Din Mohammad Rumon, sitting beside one of the entrances to the park.

Rumon and another nurse sit at the park for a few hours twice



control blood sugar.

The park serves as an ideal place for people to come and make the best use of it.

Sadly, parks in the city are disappearing fast.

There are five voluntary organisations centring the park. Suprovat Sangha is one of them.

The club was formed in 2002

every day. About 100 people come to them to check blood sugar, blood pressure and to measure weight. They charge Tk 30 for the check-ups.

"If we find someone in bad health, we advise them to go to the National Hospital, just a few metres from here," he added.

A lot goes on around us. In this new news project, we started running feature contents based on personal experience. We also invite our readers to send similar write-ups for publishing, subject to editing and verification. Please send your pieces and also comments and feedback to reporting@thedailystar.net.

Illegal structures on Kuakata beach knocked down



Pulled down structures lie scattered at the Kuakata Beach after authorities demolished 112 illegal shops and restaurants yesterday. The unauthorised shops and illegal sand removal from the beach were ruining the beauty of the popular seaside tourist destination.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Water Development Board (WDB) knocked down around 112 illegal structures on Kuakata beach in Patuakhali's Kalapara yesterday.

Over 65 other illegal structures would be demolished very soon, said Abul Khayer, executive engineer of WDB in Kalapara.

ABM Sadiqur Rahman, Kalapara upazila nirbahi officer and also executive magistrate, led the drive with the help of police.

On the first day of the eviction drive, 112 illegal structures were knocked down on both sides of Kuakata Zero Point (Chowrasta) area.

Of the structures, there were roadside restaurants, tea stalls, grocery shops and shops selling showpieces.

They started the drive to make both sides of Kuakata flood control dam area free from illegal structures, Khayer said.

On January 8 this year, Patuakhali

district administration demolished at least 60 illegal structures near Narikel Bagan (coconut orchard) on Kuakata beach.

The action was taken following a newspaper report that illegal structures are springing up along the Kuakata beach ignoring a High Court directive.

On January 18, 2012, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim declared the construction of private structures on sea beaches and shores illegal and directed the government to draw up a master plan to turn Kuakata sea beach into an ideal tourist destination.

In its verdict on the writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on June 2, 2011, the court ordered the government to immediately remove all the structures built by any individual or company within the demarcated area of Kuakata beach.

Novel way to up fish yield

FROM PAGE 1

Shamsul told The Daily Star yesterday.

Against a production cost of Tk 200 a kg, Agro3 Fishery sold *pabda* for Tk 600 a kg in the market, showing a sign that his indoor fish farm would turn out to be a profitable venture.

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), the leading state-run scientific research body, comes second to Agro3 Fishery in installing a RAS at its headquarters compound recently.

"It's innovative. It's promising. We've installed the indoor fishery unit in November for research and demonstration purposes. Once entrepreneurs start taking interest in RAS, this will further revolutionise the fish sector in Bangladesh," said Rezaul Karim, who heads the Centre for Technology Transfer and Innovation (CTTI) at BCSIR.

He said BCSIR sold the first batch of RAS fish (100kg of tilapia) to superstore Shwapno yesterday.

With an annual production of nearly 1.8 million tonnes of cultured fish, Bangladesh is the world's fifth largest producer of inland aquaculture after China, Indonesia, India and Vietnam, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) stated in its State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture-2016 report.

Rezaul Karim, also a principal scientific officer of BCSIR, said they installed 11 fish tanks with a maximum production capacity of 15 tonnes, and 33,000 litres of water is being reused over and over again to produce fish like tilapia, catfish and *pabda*.

"We've already sold our first batch of fish. We'll also cultivate *bhetki* (Barramundi) in the next production cycle in this indoor fish farming facility," he said. Along with Shamsul, so far the country's first and only RAS practitioner, the BCSIR would go for training, promoting, demonstrating and encouraging indoor fish farming, he added.

"Some 23 entrepreneurs have already shown interest in knowing about the RAS technology, how to source the required machineries and the cost involved," Rezaul added.

Both Shamsul and Rezaul said given the resource limitation in horizontal expansions of aquaculture in Bangladesh, RAS comes as a wonderful solution to vertical expansion and augments production of quality fish.

They said RAS requires comparatively a lot less land. Six to eight fish-growing tanks per unit, water purification and recirculation system with oxygen enrichment, water biofiltration system, aeration system and a standby power generator are needed for the facility.

RAS' main advantage is its high stock density. Compared to one to two kgs of fish being produced per cubic metre of water in an open pond, RAS has the stock density of 20 to 60kgs per cubic metre depending on fish species.

Agro3 proprietor Shamsul said while he got 35kg of *pabda* per cubic metre of water in his fish tanks, he got 60kg of hybrid catfish and up to 80kg of *pangas*.

Both Shamsul and Rezaul said RAS requires less manpower to maintain and run compared to large fish farms.

Rezaul explained how an ideal RAS functions. He said water is purified and recirculated in the fish tanks, certain kinds of nitrifying bacteria are produced from the waste. The bacteria convert the toxic ammonia produced by the fish waste into nitrite. Since nitrite is toxic to fish, this again is converted to nitrate by the beneficial bacteria.

Nitrate is not toxic, and is used by plants or algae.

Prof Wahida Haque, who teaches fisheries at the University of Dhaka, told this correspondent that recirculating aquaculture is a good way of augmenting production of certain species of fish but not suitable for all

kinds.

She emphasised on proper treatment of the sludge to be generated from such indoor fish tanks prior to disposing those.

BCSIR official Rezaul said, "Fish farmers who would go for RAS should preserve the sludge in a dry place for a month and then they can use or sell those as good quality bio-fertiliser."

The RAS facility of BCSIR is established on 1,800 square feet of land while Agro3's indoor fish farm is set up on 3,000 square feet in Mymensingh's BSCIC industrial area.

BCSIR sourced the RAS unit, all logistics and equipment from the Netherlands while Agro3 got those from Canada through a company named JAK International.

JAK International's Chief Executive Officer Jahangir Ali told The Daily Star that after providing RAS equipment to Agro3 in July last year, his company installed one in Haryana, India. Three more units -- one in Sunamganj, Bangladesh, and two in Delhi, India, -- are at the final stages of installation.

He acknowledged that the RAS is a capital-intensive venture, giving an idea that it had cost Agro3 \$62,900 to procure the 8-tank facility.

"But those who can afford the initial investment would definitely get good rate of returns quickly," Jahangir assured.

Rezaul said BCSIR installed the RAS for research and demonstration purposes. "So one of our goals will be cost minimisation. If this technology can be made less costly, many fish farmers in Bangladesh would be able to start indoor fish farming."

He said it costs Tk 60 lakh to import a RAS unit but "if we can design and develop bio-filter here in Bangladesh, cost of a RAS unit would come down to Tk 20 lakh."

He said superstores like Agora and Meena Bazaar also showed interest in marketing the fish to be produced in BCSIR's RAS unit.

Bangladesh now economically stronger defying all odds: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has secured its place in the lower middle-income country club defying all local and international crisis, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament yesterday.

"Defying all local and international obstacles, Bangladesh has made it to the list of lower middle-income countries," she said while replying to lawmakers' queries.

The PM added that the country is now on the "highway of development despite all hurdles."

Mentioning that Bangladesh is now "the role model of development", Hasina, also the leader of the House, said, "The World Bank is now awarding Bangladesh for its success in reducing poverty in a faster way."

In reply to another question, the PM emphasised on a smooth coordination among various UN conventions and agreements on disaster management for a sustainable development of the countries under the UN framework.

In a scripted answer, Hasina said, "Bangladesh would be a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041 if development plans can be taken through coordination of

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MYANMAR BORDER GUARD

Dhaka protests killing of Bangladeshi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has strongly protested the killing of a Bangladeshi fisherman by Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BCGP) and urged Myanmar authorities to stop repeating such acts of aggression.

The Myanmar forces shot unprovoked at a Bangladeshi fishing boat in the Naf river on February 6. One man died while another was seriously injured.

In a Diplomatic note sent to the Embassy of Myanmar in Dhaka, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs protested the act of aggression that took the life of an innocent Bangladeshi fisherman.

Referring to a similar incident of unprovoked firing at a civilian boat on December 27, 2016 near the Saint Martin's island, the Ministry expressed deep concern at the repetition of such acts of aggression that do not contribute towards the building of an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding among neighbours.

The ministry urged the government of Myanmar to ensure that the authorities concerned of Myanmar desist from repeating such acts of aggression, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

Take measures for developing blast-resistant wheat varieties

Experts urge government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of scientists, academics and experts yesterday called for immediate government steps to develop varieties resistant to wheat blast, a deadly fungal disease.

They cautioned the government against slackness in the quarantine system, which would increase the risk of bringing plants, food crops and seeds with alien diseases to the country from abroad.

Though blast in wheat was first seen in South America in 1995, detection of the fungal disease in Bangladesh last year was the first such case in Asia. It recurred again in the country in the current wheat season but in a much smaller scale than last year's.

Yesterday, more than 300 scientists, agriculturalists, academics, students and media professionals took part in a seminar titled "Wheat Blast: Bangladesh Context" at the Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in the capital.

In his keynote paper, Dr Tofazzal Islam, who heads the Biotechnology Department of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University in Gazipur, highlighted the need for an extensive study on the origin and spread of blast in Bangladesh's wheat fields.

There should be scientific collaboration -- both at national and international levels -- to apply the latest agriculture tools to develop wheat varieties that can withstand blast attacks, he said.

Other speakers said the government has to take necessary measures to ensure that no plants, crops or seeds are imported or allowed into the country without an exhaustive quarantine and screening process.

Last year's emergence of wheat blast, first time ever in Bangladesh,

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