

Keep new generation at focal point of dev: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said Bangladesh should keep the new generation at the focal point of all its endeavours.

"The development and progress of a nation depend on the education of the young generation. So, the new generation should be at the focal point of all of our efforts," he said.

The president was addressing the 4th convocation of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) at Mirpur Cantonment yesterday.

He said Bangladesh is a country of huge potential, but it needs skilled and competent human resources to unlock it.

The 21st century has thrown various challenges to us in the national and international arenas... so we've no alternative to building our young generation skilled with knowledge of science and information technology for surviving in the global competition," he said.

Noting that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had dreamt of building Bangladesh as a happy, prosperous and self-dignified country, he hoped that the new graduates will contribute towards materialising his dream.

Later, the president inaugurated the Bangabandhu Chair at the university, aimed at conducting research on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Vice Chancellor of the university Maj Gen Salahuddin Miaji were, among others, spoke at the function.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof Abdul Mannan was present as the convocation speaker at the programme.



Most of the sidewalks in Chittagong's Andarkilla area, where the city corporation office is located, are now under the grip of all sorts of street vendors. From grocery items to rubber stamps -- everything is available there. As the sidewalks are not available to its rightful users, they are forced to get down on the streets, risking their lives. The photo was taken near Andarkilla Shahi Jame Masjid yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

First-ever RMG factory opens in N'ganj jail

UNB, N'ganj

Country's first-ever garment factory, set up inside a jail to facilitate income for prisoners, opens today.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan will inaugurate the factory at the Narayanganj district jail.

Some 300-400 prisoners received training from Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) to run the factory in two shifts, said Narayanganj Jail Superintendent Subhas Kumar Ghosh.

Their earnings will be credited to their respective accounts. They

can either send the money to their families or withdraw the entire amount after serving their term in the prison, he said.

The garment factory was built on 5,000 square feet of area with the help of the district administration and the Department of Social Services. A total of 57 imported machines were installed at the factory, he added.

While inaugurating a display and selling centre at the jail gate, the Deputy Commissioner Rabbi Miah laid the foundation stone of a training and rehabilitation centre inside the jail.

The jail authorities have also

taken initiatives for creating income opportunities for the prisoners.

They have installed six looms inside the jail where 12 prisoners will be working for producing Jamdani fabrics.

DC Rabbi Miah said the factory will be a milestone as the prisoners will get a means to better pass their time and earn at the same time.

"Although various handicraft projects were taken at different jails, setting up of a garment factory to transform the prisoners into a workforce is the first in the country's history," he said.

Trade licence of six coaching centres revoked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has cancelled trade licence of six coaching centres for not bringing down unauthorised advertising elements including signboards and posters from different areas in the capital.

The coaching centres are UCC, Uniaid, Icon, Icon Plus, Omega and Paragon -- located in Farmgate, said a DNCC press release.

Earlier, the six branches were given warning messages in this regard, it added. Apart from this, under the Writing on Walls and Poster (Control) Act, 2012, a mobile court has carried out a drive in the area to remove the illegal elements. Talking to The Daily Star, DNCC Chief Executive Officer Mesbahul Islam said they have cancelled the licence of the coaching centres a few days back. He said they would continue their drives.

WAR CRIMES IN KHULNA

Probe agency finds evidence against eleven men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday claimed to have found evidence of involvement of 11 Khulna men in crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The accused were "involved" with Razakar Bahini and killed 22 people, while they torched and looted 56 to 57 houses in six incidents in Dumuria upazila of Khulna, said ICT Coordinator Abdul Hannan Khan at a press conference at its Dhanmondi office in the capital.

The accused are Sheikh Abdur Rahim, Samsur Rahman Gazi alias Mejho Vai, Omar Ali Fakir, Jahan Ali Biswas Akkas Sardar, Najer Ali Fakir, Shahjahan Sardar, Abdul Karim Sheikh, Abu Bakkar Sardar, Raoshan Gazi and Sohrab Hossain Sardar alias Abdul Hamid -- all between 60 and 82 years of age.

All of them are from Dumuria upazila and committed the crimes between May 20 and July 27 in 1971, Hannan said.

Of them, Akkas and Omar are on the run while the rest are in jail. All the 11 were involved with Jamaat-e-Islami during the war.

At present, only Abdur and Samsur have affiliation with the anti-liberation party while the rest are not involved with any political party.

In many cases, the Razakars were seen working under the guidance of Pakistani army during the Liberation War but those accused Razakars had worked independently, he said.

The accused Razakars took training in Khulna, said Helal Uddin, investigation officer of the case, adding that he had collected a list of Razakars containing their names.

It was a haat (weekly market) day on May 27, 1971, when the Razakars abducted one Mansur Ali, a pro-liberation man, and took him to Kharnia Union Parishad office, which was turned into a Razakar camp.

They tried to hang him from a big mango tree by hitting nails in his body. But they could not do so as people in the market objected. Later, they took Mansur on the bank of Bhadra river at Kharnia Kheya Chat and slit his throat.

In another incident, the accused abducted and tortured Lalit Mohan Mallik and Ali Box from Bhadrada village, Helal said. They threw the two alive into the river by tying bricks around their body.

When Ali's son Abdul Kashem Sheikh went to find his father's body, the accused also shot him dead.

Their bodies were never found, Helal added.

Sheikh Mosfeq Kabir, the prosecutor who is dealing the case, said they had received the investigation report and other documents and would seek three months from the tribunal to scrutinise the documents.

If the tribunal allows time and are satisfied with the documents, they will press charges against the accused for initiating their trail, he added.

Meanwhile, replying to a query, the investigators said they were also investigating the war crimes allegations against BNP leader and former minister Osman Farooq and would inform when the investigation ends.

PBI starts probe, one 'rapist' held

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Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Al Imran till filing of this report, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (prosecution) Nirmalendu Bikash Chawakrabarty.

A total of five assailants participated in the crime that was plotted by one Abu Sama, said PBI officials, adding that Sama stood guard outside while the rest entered the house around

1:00am.

Mizan took Tk 13,000 as his share out of the total Tk 80,000 they looted from the house, said the officials, adding that they recovered Tk 2,010 and the lungi Mizan was wearing that night.

Meanwhile, a Chittagong court yesterday sent Bappy, one of the three arrested by police so far, to jail after he was produced with a seven-day

remand prayer.

Rejecting his remand prayer, the court also ordered to provide necessary medical treatment to Bappy, they added.

Four women -- three expatriate siblings' wives and their sister-in-law -- were raped by four robbers in Shahmirpur village of Karnaphuli upazila in the early hours of December 13.

CJ to be appointed soon

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has informed the law ministry that the president has accepted the resignation letter of Justice SK Sinha, and the law ministry has nothing to say in this regard.

Replying to a question, he said he feels that there is no need for appointing new judges for the Appellate Division for holding hearing on the petition seeking review of its verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution. The 16th amendment had empowered the parliament to remove its judges on incapacity and misbehaviour.

The seven-member bench of the

Appellate Division headed by justice Sinha on July 3 dismissed a government appeal and upheld a High Court verdict that scrapped the amendment.

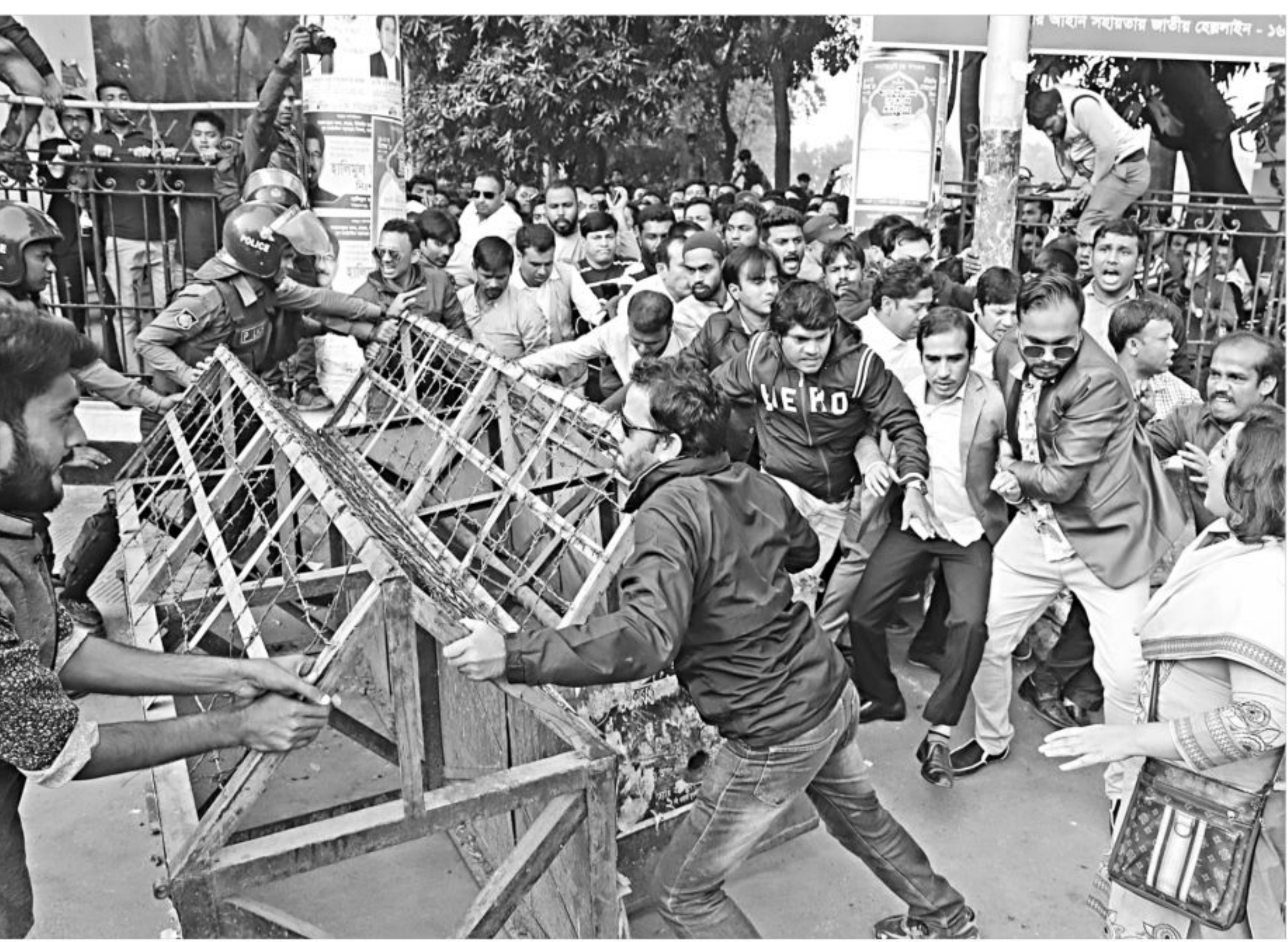
Among the seven SC judges, SK Sinha, who is now abroad, has resigned and Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana retired on July 6. On December 24, the government filed the review petition with the SC against its verdict.

About the pro-BNP lawyers' comment that the government filed the petition, as it does not believe in the rule of law and democracy, the law minister yesterday said filing a review petition is a constitutional right of the

government. The apex court will decide whether it would allow the review petition.

Replying to another query about the disciplinary rules for the lower court judges, he said the government has issued a gazette notification in line with article 116 of the constitution.

It has been clearly stated in section 29 (2) of the disciplinary rules that if the proposal of the competent authority (president) and the Supreme Court's advice are not same, the latter (SC advice) will get priority, he said, adding that the executive has no control over the discipline of the lower court judges.



Police scuffle with BNP activists at the High Court gate where the latter gathered to greet BNP chief Khaleda Zia on her way to the court set up at Bakshi Bazar in the capital.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Family awaiting justice

FROM PAGE 4

of the case, could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

Meanwhile, the CU authorities had assured to give a job to a family member of the slain student, but nothing has been done so far.

"They assured our family of arranging a job for me in the university administration, but nothing has happened," Ashish, who works as a salesman at an electronics goods showroom, said that his income was not

enough to make ends meet.

Contacted, CU Registrar Prof Kamrul Huda said Taposh's family members had never contacted with the authorities concerned.

"The administration would have tried their best to help the family, if they had contacted us," he added.

Ashish, on the other hand, claimed that he tried several times, but had failed to reach the authorities concerned.

Expressing dissatisfaction, former

general secretary of CU unit BCL Fazly Rabbi Sujana said the university authorities had assured to arrange a job for Ashish soon after the incident.

Taposh was the second of five sons in his family that lives in Nidhipur village under Jamalganj upazila of Sunamganj.

His farmer father is now incapable of work due to old age complications. His mother is also suffering from various illnesses since her son's death.



A human chain was organised yesterday in Barisal city demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of Abir Robi Das. Bangladesh Dalit Parishad organised the programme in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall. Eighth grader Abir from Phalpatti area in the city died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on December 23, a day after one of his classmates, Miraj, hit him in the head with a cricket bat.

PHOTO: STAR

Much-awaited JU registered

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VC Prof Farzana said, "We hope that the election will be held peacefully... we have been waiting for 19 years for this election."

"After holding the election successfully, we will think about holding Jucus [Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union] polls," she added.

VISITORS NOT ALLOWED AT JU FOR SIX DAYS

Ahead of the election, Jahangirnagar University authorities imposed a ban on the entry of visitors into the campus for six days, said a press release issued by JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique on Monday.

The restriction will remain in force from December 25 to 30.

Some of the roads inside the campus will remain off limits to rickshaws on the election day, said the release.

LATE MAJ. GEN. ABDUL MANNAF PSC

SEPT 1938 - DEC 1997

IN LOVING MEMORY

HASNA

NEETA
OMAR
ZUBAIDA
ZOYA



NEERA
RAFAY
OSAYD
SEHR