



President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor of Rajshahi University, hands over the Doctor of Letters (DLitt) degree to litterateur Selina Hossain at the 10th convocation of the university yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Lack of freethinking gives rise to intolerance

President says at 10th convocation of RU; Selina Hossain, Hasan Azizul Huq receive DLitt

STAR REPORT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday expressed his disappointment at what he called "negative activities" in higher educational institutions.

"The nation is witnessing negative activities such as intolerance, extremism, militancy and fundamentalism at various higher educational institutions. I think this situation has emerged due to lack of freethinking and cultural activities," he said, speaking at the 10th convocation of Rajshahi University yesterday, reports UNB.

"Anti-liberation forces carried out evil activities at the educational institutions, especially at the higher education level, to destroy communal harmony by instigating fundamentalism and militancy after the assassination of the Father of the Nation," he said.

The president said there is no alternative to political leadership for the development of the country. "Leadership will be developed through student politics. In this case there will be no place for individual or group interests. The control of student politics will be in the hands of students, and there will be no place for any party influence. The student community has to play a leading role in this regard."

Meanwhile, centring on the convocation, the university wore a festive look yesterday, with the revelry of thousands of fresh and former graduates punctuating the usual calm of the campus, reports our RU correspondent.

For many, the ceremony was an end to a long wait, while many former students took the opportunity to see old friends and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Lakhmina Jasmin Soma, a graduate of mass communication and journalism, said, "It was a long-cherished dream. We are happy to see the president at the convocation."

Anthropology graduate Arnika Akhtar said, "We are back on the campus after a long time. We met friends and chatted a lot. It felt like old days on the campus."

Festivity apart, it was also the time for bidding farewell to their beloved campus.

Chemistry graduate Al Amin, who was taking selfies with his classmates, said, "I will never forget these memories. I will miss my campus."

Around 6,014 students who earned their masters, MBBS, BDS, MPhil and PhD

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DURGA PUJA Coordinating body gives directives on security arrangements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad yesterday issued 12 directives upon its city and district units to ensure necessary security arrangements centring the upcoming Durga Puja.

The Parishad gave the directives following an extended meeting at Dhakeshwari National Temple, which was attended by Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary as chief guest, said a press release.

Durga Puja, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Hindus, will be celebrated from October 15 to 19. More than 30,000 puja mandaps will be set up across the country, the press release added.

At the meeting, the police chief assured the community of taking all necessary steps to ensure security during the festival.

The Parishad asked city and district committees to install CCTV cameras at the mandaps and preserve footage, ensure security of the mandaps from the time of preparing the idols to the completion of the puja, assign volunteers with identity cards for round the clock watch, set up separate exits and entries for male and female visitors, complete emersion of the idols within 10:00pm on Bijoy Dashami, stop exploding crackers and keep close contact with the administration and law enforcers.

The organisation demanded a three-day holiday and decoration of important government buildings on this occasion.

The Parishad's President Milan Kanti Dutt chaired the meeting, where Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Director General Benazir Ahmed, among others, was present.

DU Alumni Association celebrates 70th anniversary Three eminent alumni honoured

DU CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating its 70th founding anniversary [on September 24], Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) yesterday honoured three eminent alumni of the university for their contributions to economic, political and social sectors of the country.

The three awardees -- Finance Minister AMA Muhith, media personality Shykh Seraj, noted Tagore singer Fahim Hossain Chowdhury -- are lifetime members of DUAA.

Earlier, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman inaugurated the anniversary programme by hoisting the national and university flags in front of the senate building, releasing balloons and cutting cake.

Speaking on the occasion, the VC said alumni association is one of the strongest components of any university and can play a vital role in shaping the future of the institution.

"We would soon open a desk for the graduates, from where we would send them to different job sectors. We need help of our alumni, who are currently working in different sectors, in this regard," he added.

Students of music and dance departments of the university performed at the programme.

Attending the programme as chief guest, Prof Emeritus Dr Rafiqul Islam

said, "I have been teaching at this university for 60 years. I do not know how much it has contributed to disseminating knowledge, but this university had presented us an independent country. The history of this university and independent Bangladesh are interconnected. I do not know whether any other university has such a proud history."

Echoing him, AMA Muhith, also former president of the association, said the contributions of the university in liberating the country and developing it are most significant.

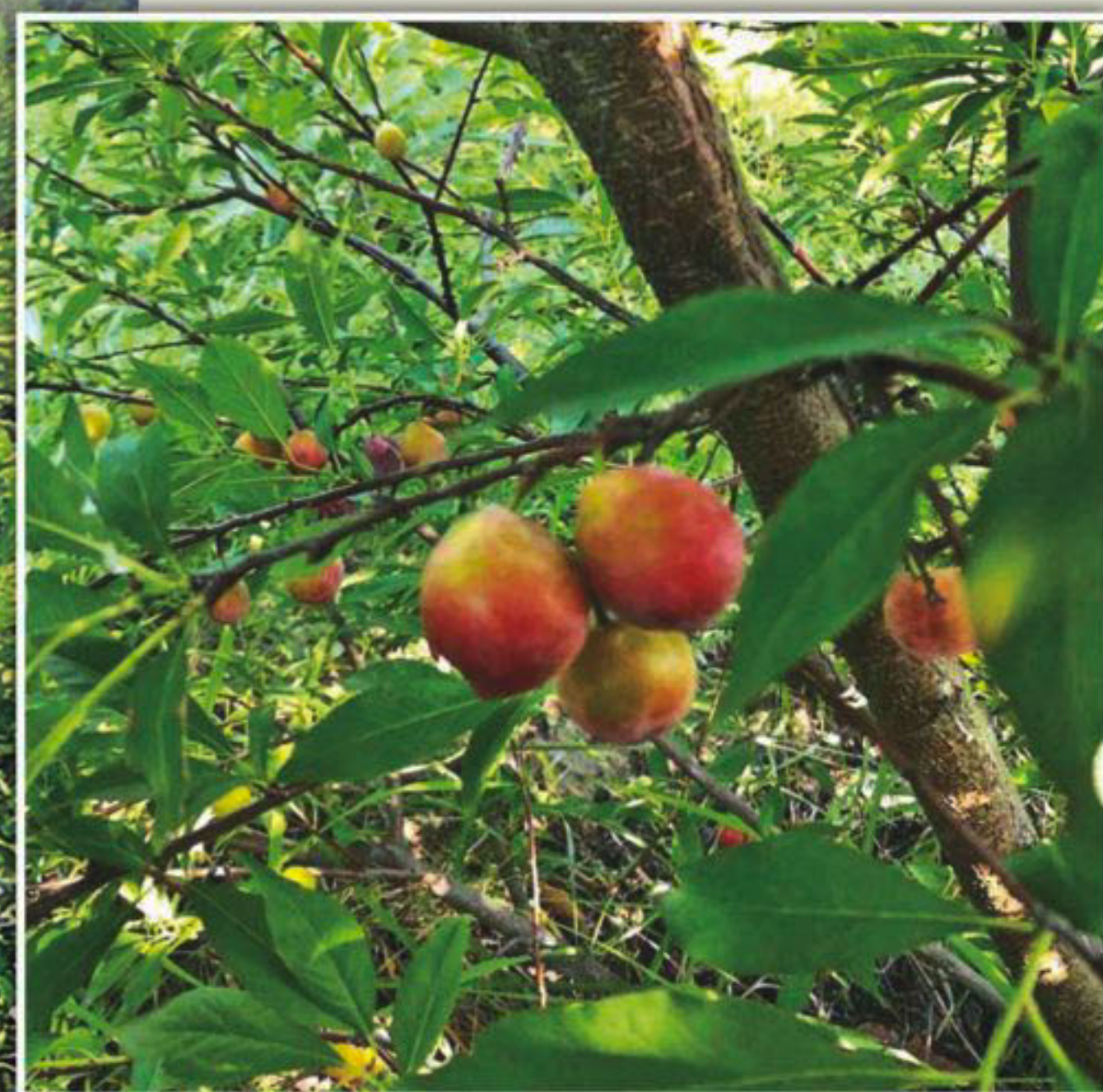
"I feel proud to receive such honour from the alumni association of this university and hope it will continue honouring former students of this institution," he said.

Media personality and agriculture development activist Shykh Seraj emphasised involving farmers with modern technology and increasing the participation of youths in the agriculture sector.

Another awardee, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, expressed his gratitude to the association and sought good wishes from everyone so that he can continue his journey in the cultural sector.

DUAA President AK Azad presided over the programme.

With the objective of promoting interests of the university and its students, the alumni association was formed in 1949.



A part of the orchard beside Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail. Inset, An "alu bukhara" tree in the orchard.

PHOTO: STAR

Oasis in the sand Tangail farmer turns riverside wasteland green

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Four short years ago, on the Jamuna river's eastern bank beside the Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila, there was a large patch of ground overrun with river sand. Most people would have dismissed it as a wasteland. But when Ibrahim Ali Mondol passed by while sitting aboard a Dhaka-bound train from his native Natore, through the window he saw something else: the potential for a grand orchard.

"It was a huge amount of land, around 27 acres, not being put to use," Ibrahim recalls. "I decided to lease it." He did just that, at first sub-leasing the land from Jamuna Resort Limited and two years later switching to a lease from the Bangabandhu Bridge Authority.

Ibrahim rented a home in

nearby Pathaikhanda and settled in along with his wife and son. His dream of creating an orchard in the sand hadn't come from nowhere. Ibrahim worked in Saudi Arabia for several years. He'd seen it done before.

"It isn't easy to grow plants in sand," he says, "but with modern, scientific methodology and hard labour it's possible. Saudi farmers grow all sorts of fruit and vegetables in the desert."

For as long as Ibrahim remembers, he has been passionate about plants, especially fruit trees. The orchardist was born in a small trader's family in Sonapatil village of Natore's Naldanga upazila, passing his Secondary School Certificate exam in 1987. Ibrahim then completed a two-year diploma in air-conditioning technology before leaving for the Middle East.



Ibrahim Ali Mondol

Upon his return eight years later he thought to start a broadband internet business in Dhaka, which along with some friends he did. Though business was good, Ibrahim longed for nothing more than to find himself in nature's midst, surrounded by trees.

So he set to work, preparing the soil. He invested all his savings

earned at home and abroad in the process. His wife sold her gold jewellery. "The trick is to first dig the hole and add cow dung," Ibrahim says. "I plant each sapling on top of dung, with a little sand added again. It's important to water them generously as soon as they're planted."

"Even then," he continues, "only about 85 percent of the saplings will survive the sandy soil, but it's easy enough to replace any that have died."

Once established, Ibrahim keeps the trees healthy with mostly organic and some chemical fertiliser, and regular water.

Four years on and the results are astounding. Ibrahim's mixed orchard features around 3,000 mango trees of at least seven varieties. He has 6,000 guava, 500 jujube and 2,000 lemon trees.

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A ripple of laughter runs through a gathering of former students as they celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of Dhaka University Alumni Association yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

e-Tender Notice

Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, Dinajpur

Memo No: মাউশিবোদি/প্রশাঃ/ই-জিপি/১৪৫/২০১৭/৪৬১০(২), তারিখ: ২৭/০৯/২০১৮ e-Tender Notice No. ইজিপি-০৫/২০১৮

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurement:

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | Description | Online tender notice publication date and time | Online tender closing date and time |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 226559 | G2/2019/SSC/EXAM/M AS.AAS.PAS.OTOMR | Procurement of Main Answer Scripts (MAS) with OMR and Objective type OMR (OTOMR) for SSC and HSC exam 2019 | 30-Sep-2018 10:00 | 29-Oct-2018 14:00 |

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Prof. Md. Aminul Haque Sarker
Secretary, Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, Dinajpur
e-mail: secretary@dinajpureducationboard.gov.bd

GD-2283

JU admission tests begin today

JU CORRESPONDENT

The entry test for first year honours programmes under 2018-19 academic session of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will begin today and continue till October 10.

A total of 3,06,274 students will appear in the tests under six faculties and three institutes and compete for 1,889 seats, 97 seats less than last year's. This year, as many as 162 students will compete for each seat.

According to the schedule, the test for A unit (Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences) will be held today and tomorrow, while H unit (Institute of Information and Technology) test will take place on Monday.

All admission tests, except for C unit (Faculty of Arts and Humanities), will start at 9:00am and continue till 4:30pm.

Vacancy Announcement

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) requires **qualified and competent:**

Director: Public Relations

Overview/ Job Brief
American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is an accredited and renowned private university located at Kuratoli Road, Kuril in Dhaka, Bangladesh. AIUB is seeking an energetic team player with deep experience in public relation for a highly visible role in PR (Public Relation) department as PR Director. He/ She also serves as one of the key media (print, digital or social) contact to represent AIUB.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Drive strategic communication and media strategy aligned with achieving AIUB's objectives.
- Provide strategic communication counsel to major internal and external stakeholders.
- Own the communication strategy of major announcements, PR programs and events.
- Work with the social media, brand, content marketing and other Marketing teams to drive integrated campaigns.

Minimum Qualifications:

- MA/MS degree or equivalent in related field preferred journalism, marketing or public relation.
- 10+ years' experience in Communications or Public Relations ideally in successful organization of similar or larger size or in similar field.
- Experience leading PR teams and working closely with senior executive leaders in a cross functional environment.
- Excellent media relations background.

Salary:
Negotiable with fringe benefits including house rent, medical allowance, provident fund, group insurance, gratuity and yearly two festival bonuses as per university policy.

Applicants are requested to apply with full CV, a signed application letter, attested photocopies of all academic records and 2 (two) copies of recent passport sized photographs within **15th October 2018; to Vice President**, Human Resources. Only Short listed applicants will be contacted for interview. Confidentiality of the applicants shall strictly be maintained.

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