

Celebration in the air

DU campus abuzz with graduates at 52nd convocation



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Graduates throw their caps in the air in jubilation, in front of the Raju Memorial Sculpture on campus.

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

It was a day of mixed feelings for graduating students of Dhaka University yesterday, as they celebrated successful completion of their studies and bade farewell to the university they called home for the last four years.

Wearing convocation gowns and caps with tassels hanging from them, thousands of graduates participated in their convocation in an effervescent atmosphere.

The cloudy December morning could put no damper on the DU campus, buzzing with an air of excitement not only from students but also from family members arriving to watch their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews receive their degrees.

"Graduation is one hurdle of life that we all need to cross, and when you cross it and look behind, all you see is a journey that has made a place in your heart. I will cherish the memory for the rest of my life," said Nahida Islam, a graduate of theatre and performance studies department.

Like her, 20,796 graduates were conferred their degrees at the 52nd convocation held at the university's central playground.

The most common of the sights and sounds following the ceremony was of fresh graduates embracing their parents, as their teachers looked on with pride, maybe recalling fondly the first time they had met these students.

As the convocation ceremony drew to its end, graduates came out of the convocation ground in a stream.

There were smiling faces all over the campus, as cameras flashed endlessly to capture the celebrations; it was hard to take a step without photobombing someone.

All popular gathering spots on campus, including Hakim Chattar, Curzon Hall, Mall Chattar, Shaheed Minar, Fine Arts Faculty and TSC, were abuzz with youths taking a final stroll on the campus as students.

Groups of graduating friends cheered and threw hats in the air for the photos, while some shared the moment with their parents.

At the programme, 98 students received gold medals for their outstanding results in different disciplines, while 57 researchers were conferred with Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees, and 14 got Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degrees.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to my teachers, and classmates for helping me throughout the journey to obtain good results," said Ragib Rahman, who won Kazi Mohammad Idris memorial Gold Medal.

President Abdul Hamid, who is the Chancellor of the University, presided over the Convocation ceremony.

Prof Dr Takaaki Kajita, Director of Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, University of Tokyo, was the convocation speaker.

He was also conferred with Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) at the ceremony.

There were two extended venues of the convocation at Eden Mohila College and Dhaka College, where graduates of seven affiliated colleges of DU were connected with the main venue through videoconference.

ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

Govt only arresting 'small fry': Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday urged people of the country to initiate a strong resistance against the government -- in the face of "severe social and political bankruptcy".

"Corruption in Bangladesh has become all-pervasive. The economy is devastated due to it. Not only the economy but socio-political corruption in the country has also turned worse," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, said.

He was speaking to reporters after placing wreaths at party founder Ziaur Rahman's grave along with new committee members of Jatiyatabadi

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CHAOS AT SUPREME COURT

Attorney general misled the court: Khandker Mahbub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice Chairman Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday blamed Attorney General Mahbubey Alam for misleading the Supreme Court over hearing a bail petition of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a corruption case, and not placing her medical report before the apex court.

"Khaleda Zia's medical report reached the attorney general's office on time following the Supreme Court order, but he has not submitted the report to the court -- claiming that it did not reach him. We feel this is a contempt of court," said the veteran lawyer.

He was speaking at a meeting organised by Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF), a body of pro-BNP lawyers, at the Supreme Court Bar Association premises, demanding release of Khaleda Zia from jail.

Khandker Mahbub, also convener of JAF and a counsel for Khaleda, told the meeting, "We feel that the attorney general has misled the highest court of the country. If he (AG) would have taken the right steps on that day (December 5), such a situation

would not have arisen," he said.

On December 5, a group of pro-BNP lawyers created chaos at the SC during the hearing of Khaleda Zia's bail appeal in Zia Charitable Trust corruption case -- forcing the chief justice and five other judges to leave the courtroom.

The lawyers shouted at the apex court judges, "shame, shame", "we want justice", "Khaleda Zia has the right to get bail". The pandemonium hampered judicial proceedings for more than an hour.

Yesterday, Advocate Khandker Mahbub said their gathering was a protest against the conspiracy of attorney general, not to create any pressure on the court.

BNP leaders Advocate Zainul Abedin and Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, among others, spoke at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam refuted the allegation, saying Khandker Mahbub Hossain was lying.

"The vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) told me they need time to prepare the

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PANTHAPATH HOTEL BLAST

Charge sheet filed against 14 accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against 14 activists of the banned militant outfit Neo-JMB in a case filed in connection with the hotel blast in the capital's Panthapath area on August 15, 2017.

Raju Ahmed, inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit and investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday.

Four members of a family -- Abu Toab Khan (56), his wife Sadia Hosna Ali (46), son Akram Hosain Niloy (24) and daughter Tazrin Khanam Shuvo (29) -- were among the accused in the case.

Tanvir Yasin Karim (32), Humaira Zakir Nabila (30), Nazmul Hassan (21), Abul Kashem Fakir (22), Abdullah Karim (41), Lulu Sardar (30), Tareq Md Adnan (22), Kamrul Islam Shakil (25), Abdullah Rony (32), and Tajul Islam Choton (17) are the other accused.

Of them, Shuvo, Sadia, Nabila, Tajul and Abdullah were earlier granted bail by different courts while the others are currently in jail.

During the investigation, all accused gave confessional statements before magistrates, admitting their involvement with the incidents.

Meanwhile, the case was transferred yesterday to Dhaka Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal for future proceedings.

On August 15, 2017, a suspected suicide bomber of Neo-JMB was killed during an anti-militancy operation at a Dhaka hotel. Counter-terrorism officials claimed he had planned to carry out an attack on the crowd paying homage to Bangabandhu on National Mourning Day at Dhanmondi 32.

Circular bus route in Old Dhaka from this month: DSCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A circular BRTC bus service will begin operation in Old Dhaka from the last week of this month, said Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday.

Addressing a press briefing at Nagar Bhaban after a meeting of Bus Route Rationalisation steering committee, the mayor said the route will be from Sadarghat to Rampura via Staff Quarter and Dholaikhal.

He said they have taken the decision to ensure smooth vehicular movement in Old Dhaka.

"This route will be inaugurated on an experimental basis, and if the result is good, it will be continued," said Khokon.

Responding to a question on bus route rationalisation and bringing all bus companies under six companies, Khokon said piloting of the service will start by next year.

"The progress was slowed down due to

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