



UGC BULLETIN

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Notes from the Chairman



The education sector in Bangladesh has achieved significant progress during 2010. University education can also claim impressive development. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, M.P. deserve congratulations for such achievements. The approval of the National Education Policy 2010 was perhaps a landmark achievement. The Education Minister was the driving force behind the adoption of the Education Policy. He has also steered ideas and actions in proposing uniform curriculum in the primary level, in making new text books available to school students on time and in introducing the public examinations at the end of Class V and Class VIII. These will have far-reaching positive impacts. In our higher education sector, one very important development has been the passing of the Private University Act, 2010 by the National Parliament on July 13, 2010. It replaced the original 1992 Act (amended in 1998). The passing of the 2010 Act took a long time and involved elaborate consultations with various stakeholders,

particularly the Association of Private Universities. We believe that the Private Universities Act, 2010 will play a very significant role in promoting university education in Bangladesh with quality. The Education Minister in a press conference on 12 December 2010, declared some guidelines and directives to implement the Act in good earnest. The response from most of the well meaning private universities has been very encouraging. It will help improve the quality of governance of private universities. The 2010 Act will also encourage serious education promoters to come forward with proposals of establishing new private universities of quality, particularly in locations outside Dhaka.

The University Grants Commission with the Ministry of Education has been implementing the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) with a World Bank loan since 15 May 2009. The 681 crore taka project hopefully will be able to bring in some significant qualitative change in higher education with its support to improving teaching-learning and in creating congenial environment for advanced research. Already grants have been announced for 91 projects to be implemented by 27 universities, the total grant amount being Tk. 182 cr. A second round of project proposals on teaching and research support will begin in March 2011. In addition, HEQEP will provide assistance in internet connectivity for all universities and for modernization of their libraries.

UGC is also collaborating with the British Council in the International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education (INSPIRE) to support curriculum development, undertaking collaborative research and leadership development. UGC is also implementing research and academic projects support with Japan. UGC continues to promote academic collaboration under SAARC, particularly in the exchange of scholars, between Bangladesh and other member countries.

UGC is also supporting foundation training of young teachers of public universities through the Graduate Training Institute of Bangladesh Agricultural University at Mymensingh. So far, six trainings, each of 56 days duration and 25 participants have been conducted. The feedbacks from the participants have been very encouraging. The Commission has also been organizing seminars and dialogues at its own premises or elsewhere in the city with participation of university academics and educational thinkers.

As for UGC itself, its roles and responsibilities have been evolving with the dynamic process of university education in Bangladesh in the context of national and global demands. The Commission is being restructured with proposals for new Divisions, Units and overall strengthening. Both quantitative and qualitative improvements are expected through the restructuring.

Professor Nazrul Islam

Note from the Editor



We have been publishing the UGC bulletin since January, 2000. This is a quarterly newsletter providing information, in brief, regarding the country's higher education, the important activities of both Public and Private universities of the country. We seek these information from all the universities about their academic, co-curriculum and extra-curricular activities during the period of three months. The present bulletin covers the months of October-December, 2010. Since it is a small publication, we cannot, however, include all the news of all the universities. Nevertheless, we try our best to publish important news and various activities undertaken by the different universities.

The contents of the bulletin are categorized into three parts – news about public universities, news about private universities and also news about the internal activities of the UGC.

We believe that this bulletin will definitely help public and private universities to get themselves acquainted with their different activities.

We are indeed grateful to all the university authorities for providing us with the information needed for publishing this bulletin. We alone are responsible for fault or mistake, if any, in this publication.

Professor Dr. Atful Hye Shibly
Member
University Grants Commission of
Bangladesh

AIF Sub-Project Contract Signing Ceremony held at UGC

A Contract Signing Ceremony of Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) Sub-Projects under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) was held between the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) and 27 universities on December 29, 2010 at UGC Auditorium. The contracts were signed for finally selected 91 AIF sub-projects amounting Tk.182.89 crore under the 1st round Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) proposal call.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP and Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury encouraged the overall initiative by attending as Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively, while Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, UGC presided over the function.

Hon'ble Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, MP said students should be given proper education to make them competent citizens of the country. The teaching community could play an important role in imparting quality education to the students, he added.

The Minister said such project has been taken for the first time in the country for research in higher education. The government will give due importance to the field of research for ensuring quality education in the country.



Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid MP along with UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam, Education Secretary Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Tajul Islam and HEQEP Project Director Ms. Kaniz Fatema, ndc at the AIF Sub-Project Contract Signing Ceremony of HEQEP.

He said students should be built with the spirit of patriotism to lead the country to the right direction. A great number of educational institutions are run by private initiatives, he added 'We do not want any disparity between government and non-government institutions.'

Education Secretary Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury stressed the need of proper implementation of AIF sub-projects in order to ensure the government's initiative for quality education in universities.

UGC Chairman, Professor Nazrul Islam said that the UGC, with the help of veteran educationists, selected the sub-projects following transparent and impartial procedure. 'We did not hire any consultant from lender or abroad and our native resource persons reviewed all the proposals submitted for AIF grants', he added.

Among others Professor Dr. Md. Tajul Islam, Member of UGC, Professor Emeritus Dr. ABM Husain and Kaniz Fatema, ndc, Project Director, HEQEP



UGC Secretary Mr. Md. Khaled on behalf of UGC signing contracts with the AIF Sub-Project Managers at the AIF Contract Signing Ceremony of HEQEP

also addressed the ceremony. Vice-Chancellors of different universities, awarded Sub-Project Managers of respective universities and high officials of ministries, UGC, HEQEP and World Bank attended the ceremony.

Education Minister urges private universities to move to their own campuses by September 2011

The private universities, majority of which failed to start educational activities at their permanent campuses as yet, will not be allowed to enrol new students from September 2011. Once the period is over, they will not be permitted to publish advertisement for enrolling students, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid MP said announcing the government decision at a press conference on December 12, 2010. Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Nazrul Islam and two members of the Commission were present at the press conference.

Students pursuing education in these institutions and those to be enrolled before next September, however, will be allowed to complete their ongoing courses, he added.

The education ministry arranged the conference in its conference room to inform its decision regarding implementation of the recently passed Private University Act-2010.

The minister alleged most institutions are operating like commercial organizations in residential areas. They are enrolling huge number of students and using limited space on markets, shopping centers and CNG refueling stations.

He said some people turned the universities into family organization while absolute supremacy of the owners is prevailing in some universities.

The ministry has listed the private universities under three categories.

The universities which failed to establish necessary infrastructures on their permanent campuses will get additional five years from now to go to their permanent campuses, the minister mentioned. These universities will not be allowed to run extended or additional campuses and institutes and launch any new faculty or programme.

After the passage of the bill in parliament, the ministry officials sat with the owners of the private universities on August 18, 2010 and gave them three-week time to inform about the approximate time required for the shifting. The owners did not respond to the ministry's directives and instead on November 22 came up with the demand for allowing them another 15 years. They also sought land from the government.

Private universities, under the Act of 1992 got temporary approval on condition that they will have to move to their permanent campuses within five years, said the Minister. "But we are observing with grave concern that so far only eight out of 51 private universities have shifted to their permanent campuses," he added.

Of the total, five universities bought lands and constructed infrastructure while nine others bought land but did not start construction. Nine universities have their own campuses of limited land, falling short of the size fixed by the Act, while 22 others have not yet taken any initiative in this regard, said the minister.

Replying to a question, University Grants Commission Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam said that the government and UGC will take a tough stand about these 22 universities.

The UGC Chairman also said there are 56 branches, or study centres or tutorial centres or offshore campuses of some overseas universities which have been declared illegal earlier and the UGC would publish a fresh list of those.

There are 42 applications submitted to the government seeking approval for new private universities and the government will give priority to such institutions outside Dhaka, he added.

Policy to protect and promote child rights drafted

Women and Children Affairs State Minister Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said the government has already drafted a child policy to protect and promote child rights.

She said the country's infant mortality rate has recently reduced to a large extent but tendency of engaging children in labour is rising and people should immediately refrain from this malpractice.



Women and Children Affairs State Minister Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury and other distinguished guests at the seminar on 'Child Rights in Higher Academia', held at UGC

She was speaking at a day-long national seminar on "Child rights in higher academia", jointly organised by University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) and Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) at the UGC auditorium on November 23, 2010.

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr. Nazma Chowdhury, SCSD Country Director Ms. Birgit Lundbak and Professor Dr. Amena Begum, Member, UGC were present as Special Guests, while UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam presided over the programme.



UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam handing over books to the Chief Guest of the Seminar Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, State Minister, Women and Children Affairs Ministry

Inaugurating the seminar as the Chief Guest, Dr. Sharmin said the government, for the first time, is taking on a national education policy to reach cent percent literacy by 2014 and ensure schooling for all children.

Professor Nazrul Islam said, half the country's population is children. But they are not getting the proper support they deserve. Laws and acts should be initiated to ensure their rights to education, health and shelter, he added.

He urged the government to ensure proper education for children throughout the country.

SCSD Country Director Birgit stressed the importance of discussion between academicians and practitioners to develop child rights. Speakers said according to a report of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in 2003, a total of 7.4 million children were engaged in child labour.

She said academia provides new ideas, knowledge and solutions to problems and provides a clear idea to the new generation on child rights.

They pointed out two causes – child labour and sexual harassment – as the vital challenges.

The speakers on the occasion also urged the government to implement section numbers 24, 28, 31, 32, 34 and 35 of the Constitution which ensure economic, health, cultural, education and social rights of children.

They said, women and gender studies department at the University of Dhaka was initiated from the ideology of feminism. Similarly, an independent academic study centre and institution should also be formed on child rights.

Workshop on Campus Management Solution held at UGC

A Presentation and Workshop on Campus Management solution, organized by IBCS-PRIMAX Software (BD) Ltd. in association with Oracle Corporation and Techlogix was held on October 27, 2010 at University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Auditorium. UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam attended the workshop as Chief Guest.

The workshop focused on the changed landscape in higher education institutions and universities across the globe. It also highlighted factors such as globalization, funding concerns, changing expectation of students and new technologies.

The programme was also attended by UGC Members-Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Hakim, Professor Dr. Md. Tajul Islam, Professor Dr. Amena Begum, Professor Dr. Atful Hye Shibly and Professor Dr. M. Muhibur Rahman. Ms. Kaniz Fatema, ndc, Project Director, Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), UGC Secretary Md. Khaled were also present on the occasion.

Cooperation from Muslim Ummah sought for quality education

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid MP sought cooperation from the Muslim Ummah for improving the quality of higher as well as technical education of Bangladesh.

He made the call while addressing the 5th Islamic Conference of Education Ministers at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia on October 19, 2010.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin inaugurated the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (ICMHESR). Dr. Peter Adok Niyabe, Director General of the Islamic Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (IESCO), Dr. Abdul Aziz Othman Altwijri and OIC Assistant Secretary General Abdul Moiz Bokhari, among others, addressed the session.

Addressing on the occasion, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid MP, Minister for Education, Bangladesh said the government of Bangladesh has given topmost priority to improve its education sector.

He said that the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already announced the National Education Policy emphasizing on science and technology and madrasah education.

Highlighting country's public and private universities, the Education Minister said Bachelor (Honours) courses have already been introduced in Fazil and Kamil madrasahs to improve the quality of madrasah education.

Nahid urged the Muslim countries to come forward to restore the lost glory of the Muslim in the fields of science, mathematics and medical science.

The theme of the conference was 'Enculturation of Quality Academia, Research and innovation towards Prosperity of Ummah'.

World Urban Planning Day 2010 observed

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), UNDP-Bangladesh and GTZ-Bangladesh jointly organized a day-long programme on November 8, 2010 to mark the World Urban Planning Day 2010. The programme included rally, roundtable discussion, publication launching, art and essay writing competition and cultural event.

The rally was led by Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, State Minister, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, as Chief Guest, while the Secretary of Housing and Public Works, Dr. Khandakar Shawkat Hossain joined it as Special Guest.

Later on a roundtable discussion was held, which was moderated by Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and an eminent urbanist.

UGC Chairman Participates in Conference on Higher Education in Thailand

A five-member Bangladeshi delegation led by the Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Nazrul Islam participated in the conference on 'Governance and Financing in Higher Education in ASIA' held in Phuket, Thailand during



UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam at the conference on Higher Education held in Phuket, Thailand

October 18-20, 2010. The conference was organized by the World Bank. Other members of the Bangladesh delegation were Professor Dr. Md. Saleh Uddin, Vice-Chancellor, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet, Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka, Md. Munirul Haque, Joint Chief, Ministry of Education and Jibon Kumar Chowdhury, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education.

100th Birth Anniversary of Mother Teresa observed

Miktijuddho o Swadhinatar Itihas Gobeshona Foundation (Liberation War and History of Liberation Research Foundation) organized a discussion on 'Bhasha Andolan Theke Swadhinata' (From Language Movement to Independence) and Mother Teresa Padak 2010 handing over ceremony on 24 October 2010 at NAEM Auditorium on the occasion of the 100th Birth Anniversary of Mother Teresa.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad MP graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Advisor of the organization and Director General of NAEM Professor Shamsur Rahman presided over it.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Cap. (Rtd.) AB Tajul Islam MP, State Minister for Home Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku MP, Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP, Eng. Md. Enamul Haque MP, UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam, Former Chairman of Red Crescent Society Sheikh Kabir Hossain and Chairman of the Editorial Panel of the Weekly *Porikrama*, Wing Commander (Rtd.) A K M Golam Mostafa were present as Special Guests.

UGC Chairman attends International Seminar on Contemporary Asian Art

A two day-long 'International Seminar on Contemporary Asian Art: New realities, new space', organized by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as part

of the 14th Asian Art Biennial Bangladesh 2010, was held during October 9-10, 2010 at the National Music and Dance Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The seminar included a number of working sessions. The inaugural session was chaired by Kamal Lohani, Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh chaired the 1st academic session of the seminar, while Professor Naheed Akhter presented the keynote paper. The concluding session was chaired by Professor Abul Mansur of Chittagong University.

UGC Chairman attends Seminar on Sanitation

A Seminar on 'Sanitation for All: Success and Duty', organized by the Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IDEB) on the occasion of its 40th Founding Anniversary and Mass Engineering Day 2010, was held on November 10, 2010 at IDEB Auditorium.

Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, UGC graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Syed Mahbub Hasan, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Development, Md. Nuruzzaman, Chief Engineer, Department of Public Health Engineering and Engineer Taksim A Khan, Managing Director, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) were present as Special Guests. Professor Dr. Delwar Hossain, Department of Civil Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) presented the keynote paper.

Art Exhibition of Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hasan and S.M. Sultan held

A month-long exhibition of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Patua Quamrul Hasan and S.M. Sultan from the collection of Bangladesh National Museum was held at the Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery of Bangladesh National Museum on the occasion of 14th Asian Art Biennial Bangladesh 2010.

Distinguished Artist Qayyum Chowdhury inaugurated the Art Exhibition on October 8, 2010 as Chief Guest. Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Nazrul Islam was present as Special Guest. M. Azijur Rahman, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bangladesh National Museum chaired the occasion.

Stipend Giving Ceremony of Shariatpur Zila Shiksha Trust held

Shariatpur Zila *Shiksha Trust*, Dhaka organized a Stipend Giving Ceremony of the brilliant students of Shariatpur District on December 30, 2010 at BIAM Auditorium. Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament Col. (Rtd.) Shawkat Ali MP graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Mr. BM Mozammel Haque MP, Organizing Secretary, Central Executive Committee of Bangladesh Awami League and Professor Dr. Hedayetul Islam, Founder Chairman of the Shariatpur Zila *Shiksha Trust* were present as Special Guests. Present Chairman of the Trust and Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Nazrul Islam presided over the programme. Some 45 students of the district who obtained GPA 5 in SSC and HSC Examinations of 2010 were awarded the stipend.

Canadian High Commissioner calls on UGC Chairman

Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh His Excellency Mr. Robert McDougall called on UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam on December 5, 2010 at the latter's office. The First Secretary (Development) of the High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh Ms. Jane Beninger was also with him at that time.

Welcoming them at his office UGC Chairman briefed them about the activities of UGC. They discussed about various issues regarding the problems and prospects of higher education in Bangladesh and Canada.



Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh H. E. Mr. Robert McDougall at the office of UGC Chairman

UGC Chairman appreciated the support of the High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh in the academic exchange programmes between universities in Bangladesh and Canada. UGC Members – Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Hakim and Professor Dr. Atful Hye Shibly were also present at the meeting.

UGC Chairman inaugurates group art exhibition at Bengal Gallery

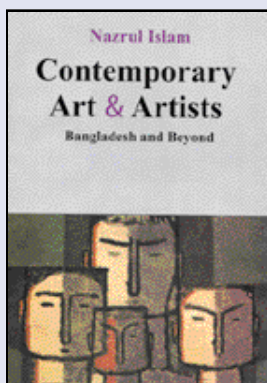
A group art exhibition, titled "Rooted Creativity-5" was organized at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts during 15-26 October 2010. Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh inaugurated the exhibition as Chief Guest, while noted poet and critic Rabiul Hussain was present as Special Guest. Muhammad Mamdudur Rashid, Deputy

Managing Director of BRAC Bank Ltd. was present as Guest of Honour.

The exhibition featured about 40 artworks of painters. Some of them are: Syed Abdullah Khalid, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Biren Shome, Rezaul Karim, Hashi Chakraborty, Tarun Kumar Ghosh, Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed, Ahmed Nazir, Rafi Haque and Tasadduk Hossain Dulu.

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts planned a year-long programme to celebrate its 10th anniversary, including a series of 10 group art exhibitions. "Rooted Creativity-5" was the fifth exhibition of this series.

UGC Chairman authors new book on contemporary art



A new book, titled *Contemporary Art & Artists: Bangladesh and Beyond*, by UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam has been published recently. The book includes the contemporary trends of the paintings and sculptures in Bangladesh and the attitudes of the Bangladeshi artists in expressing themselves in their works. The book was published by Academic Press

and Publishers Library.

Professor Islam is a former Professor of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka. He is an eminent geographer, environmentalist and urbanist. He has also been writing on art and artists regularly, since the early sixties. His books on art include *Zainul Abedin*, *Abdur Razzaque*, *Samokaleen Shilpo o Shilpi*, etc.

Mr. Khaled, UGC Secretary attends Training package Workshop in Malaysia



Mr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC attended a three day-long international workshop titled "APQN Training Package Workshop" held during November 7-9, 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop was organized by the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC) sponsored by the

World Bank/UNESCO with an objective to pilot test the Training Package prepared by the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN). Now the package of general but comprehensive guidelines is being finalized based on the inputs and recommendations that came out from the workshop, by the APQN for enhancement of quality assurance capacity of the member countries through Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) and External Quality Assurance (EQA) practices.

Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) News

Complete Proposals (CPs) evaluated

Members of Area Review Panels (ARPs) evaluated the Complete Proposals of AIF 1st round on the basis of evaluation criteria. UGC Board of AIF (UGCBAIF) finally selected 91 sub-projects in terms of merit & score. The list of sub-projects was published in website (www.ugc-heqep.bd) on December 09, 2010.

It should be mentioned that all eligible sub-project proposal submitting entities (Departments, Faculties, Institutes, Centers, Universities & Combination of two or more of the entities) submitted 726 Preliminary Proposals (PP) to respective university's AIF secretariat. After screening at University level 552 Complete Proposals (CPs) were received by HEQEP, UGC.

Kaniz Fatema joins HEQEP as Project Director



Kaniz Fatema, ndc, Additional Secretary, Government of Bangladesh joined as the Project Director of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project .

Before joining this project, she performed her responsibilities in the Ministry of Establishment and

Ministry of Planning as Joint Secretary, in the Department of Films and Publications (DFP) as the Director General and in Anti Corruption Commission as a Director.

She obtained her Masters Degree with Honours in Public Administration from the University of Dhaka. She also achieved advance MA degree in Development, Environment and Policy from Sussex University of UK. Moreover, she completed National Defense Course (NDC) in 2008 from National Defense College, Mirpur.

It may be mentioned that Begum Kaniz Fatema joined the position vacated due to Project Director Mr. Ruknud Deen Ahmed's retirement.

Procurement Officer resumes duty after foreign training

Procurement Officer of the project Md. Alamgir Hossain took part in a 3-week training programme on "Procurement Management in the Public Sector" held at the International Training Centre (ILO) in Milan, Italy from October 11 to 29, 2010. He resumed his duty on November 1, 2010.

Senior Procurement Officer joins

Mr. Md. Mohsin, (Deputy Secretary to the Government) joined as the Senior Procurement Officer of the project on August 24, 2010. Before joining the project he had been serving as the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh district.

Public Universities News

University of Dhaka

● The Dramatics Department of Dhaka University organized the Dhaka University Central Drama Festival 2010 during November 4-11, 2010 at the TSC Auditorium of DU. The concluding ceremony of the festival was held on 11 November 2010. UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam was present as Chief Guest on the occasion.

The students of the Dramatics Department of Rajshahi University and Jahangirnagar University also took part at the festival besides the Dhaka University Dramatics students.

● Students, teachers and celebrated singers, recitation artists and dancers of the country on 31 October 2010 performed in the inaugural session of the Dhaka University's year-long programme titled 'Purbachaler Pane Takai' to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

Organised by Music Department of the University at the Teacher-Student Centre, the inaugural programme featured a seminar and a cultural programme based on particularly those works by Tagore that had been written in East Bengal (now Bangladesh).

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the programme by lighting 'mangal pradeep'.

Professor Mridul Kanti Chakraborty of the Music Department presented the keynote paper in the seminar. Professor Emeritus Anisuzaman, Dipu Moni and Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique also spoke on different aspects of the works of Tagore during the latter's stay in this region. The programme was chaired by Ms. Kuheli Islam, Chairperson of the Department of Music.

● A total of 40 first year students of the four different academic years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) of Dhaka University received scholarship of Summitomo Corporation of Japan on 25 October 2010.

The scholarship awarding ceremony was held at the senate building conference hall. Each recipient will get US\$ 300 per year. DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique chaired the ceremony while Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh H.E. Tamotsu Shinotsuka attended the programme as Chief Guest. DU Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid and General Manager of Sumitomo Corporation Bangladesh Masahiko Sugiyama attended the function as Special Guests.

Jahangirnagar University

The inauguration ceremony of the newly built 'Shaheed Rafiq-Jabbar Hall' of Jahangirnagar University (JU) was held on December 4, 2010. Advisor (Education,

Social Development and Political Affairs) to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and former Vice-Chancellor of JU Professor Dr. Alauddin Ahmed was present as Chief Guest on the occasion, while UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam was present as Special Guest. JU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Shariff Enamul Kabir chaired the function.

● Chemists can contribute in promoting and protecting the natural environment of the globe, Minister for Industries Dilip Barua said while addressing the Inaugural Session of Chemical Congress 2010 as Chief Guest at Jahangirnagar University on 10 December 2010. Bangladesh Chemical Society (BCS) and Department of Chemistry of the university jointly organized the three-day '33rd Bangladesh Chemical Congress 2010' at the Zahir Raihan auditorium of JU, held during 10 - 12 December 2010.



Dilip Barua, Minister for Industries handing over crest to JU VC Professor Dr. Shariff Enamul Kabir at the 33rd Bangladesh Chemical Congress 2010. President of BCS and Member of UGC Professor Dr. M. Muhibur Rahman is also seen beside him

Vice-Chancellor of JU Professor Dr. Shariff Enamul Kabir said chemists should be proactive in developing the appropriate strategies to address the issues of industrialization and urbanization. A total of 700 scientists and chemists from the country and abroad including Germany, Korea, Sweden, India, Japan, Pakistan, Brunei, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Australia, Argentina and the USA attended the Congress.

Renowned environmentalist Professor Dr. Syed Shafiullah presented the keynote paper on 'Chemistry for Friendly Environment', while the inaugural session was presided over by President of the Society and University Grants Commission Member Professor Dr. M. Muhibur Rahman.

Professor Jung-IL Jin of South Korea and former Chairman of the Society Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed were conferred honorary fellowship of the Congress. Chemists from the country and abroad, presented papers on 'Threats and Opportunities of the Environment Pollution'. The programme was also addressed by Society President.

Bangladesh Agricultural University

An International Workshop on Contemporary Changes in Environment and Development was held at the Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Conference Hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Mymensingh on December 13, 2010.

Professor Dr. M. A. Sattar Mandal, Vice-Chancellor, BAU was present at the inaugural session as Chief Guest. Dr. S.M. Altaf Hossain, Consultant, Livelihood Improvement of Farming Community in Haor Area through System Approach (LIFCHASA) Project, and Professor of the Department of Agronomy, BAU presided over the session.

Dr. ANDO Kazuo, Team Leader, International Networking Project, Kyoto University, Japan presented the Keynote paper while Welcome Address was given by Professor Dr. Muhammad Salim, Chief Organizer, Workshop Organizing Committee. The BAU VC in his speech urged the organization to provide quality education and research on various aspects of environmental issues both at undergraduate and post graduate level for combating national hazards.

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology



Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid M.P. inaugurated the Publication Ceremony of a Book titled 'Solid and Hazardous Waste Management' jointly written by Professor Dr. M. Habibur Rahman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, BUET & Dr. Abdullah Al Muyeed Assistant Professor, Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology on 9 October, 2010 at the seminar room of BUET Council Bhaban. Mr. Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury, Representative of Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka & Sheikh Abu Jafar Shamsuddin, P. Ing. Centre Manager, ITN-BUET were also present on the occasion. Professor Dr. S.M. Nazrul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, BUET presided over the function.

- Mr. Dilip Barua, Minister for Industries GoB delivering his inaugural speech as Chief Guest of a 2 day-long (9-10 December, 2010) international short course on fundamentals of process Safety and Risk



Management jointly organized by the department of Chemical Engineering, BUET and BUET Chemical Engineering Forum on December 9, 2010 at the Council Bhaban of BUET. Professor Dr. S.M. Nazrul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, BUET also spoke on the occasion as Special Guest. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, presided over the function.

Bangladesh University of Professionals

Inauguration of e-library and digital archive, orientation of newly enrolled students for the year 2010-2011, handing over of scholarship and students-parents workshop of Bangladesh University of Professionals were held on December 27, 2010 at the Faculty Tower of Multipurpose Hall at Mirpur Cantonment.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid MP inaugurated the programmes as Chief Guest, while Chief of Army Staff General Md. Abdul Mubeen, Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Z U Ahmed, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and Chairman of UGC Professor Nazrul Islam were present as Special Guests. BUP Vice-Chancellor Major General Md. Shafiqul Islam delivered the welcome speech.

Education Minister inaugurated the university e-library where the students can get the library facilities without stepping in the library. He also inaugurated the digital archive there.

Addressing the functions the Minister asked the students to accept the challenges by modernizing and improving the standard of education to keep pace with the developed countries.

This year 56 civil students from BUP, MIST and AFMC received various stipends. Students-parents workshop was arranged for orientation of the students and their parents about the details of academic activities, development plans, etc.

Among others high military and civil officials, students of BUP and their parents were also present on the occasion.

Obituary

Chittagong University



Professor Dr. Abu Yusuf, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, passed away at Chittagong Medical College Hospital on November 28, 2010 at the age of 67.

Professor Yusuf, also a teacher of Islamic History Department of the university, had been suffering from cardiac problem and other complications for the last four months.

Dr. Yusuf, also an organiser of the war of liberation in 1971, took the charge of Vice-Chancellor of CU on February 25, 2009.

UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam expressed deep shock at the death of Professor Dr. Abu Yusuf.

Shahjalala University of Science and Technology

The Department of Anthropology of Shahjalala University of Science and Technology organized a seminar on November 29, 2010, the theme of which was 'Rejection and Incorporation of Contraceptive Methods: A Comparative Analysis.'

Director of the Argentina American Study Centre Professor Dr. Anatild Idovaga Molina was the Chief Guest while south Asian Ethnographer, Professor Dr. Abdul Awal Biswas chaired the event. Assistant Professor AKM Mazharul Islam and Lecturer Sanjay Krishna Biswas of the Anthropology Department were present.

Jagannath University

Jagannath University observed its fifth founding anniversary on October 20, 2010 at the university campus amid festivity and get-together of several thousand former and present students of the university.

The day-long programmes, including procession, discussion and cultural functions, were held on the occasion.

Jagannath University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed and local MP Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin inaugurated the 'University Day' festival hoisting national and the university flags.

A colourful procession was brought out from the university Shaheed Minar. The procession paraded the campus and ended at the science faculty.

Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Deans, Teachers, university staff and several thousand students joined the procession wearing traditional dresses, cap and carrying banner and festoons.



Festive mood of the 5th founding anniversary day of Jagannath University

After the rally, a discussion meeting, presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, was held in the science faculty premises to mark the day.

Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin MP called upon the students to concentrate more on learning and work for the betterment of the society.

Professor Mesbahuddin said, he had been trying to maintain quality education making the university free of session-jam.

He also urged the government to take special care of JnU so that it could turn into a model university of the country.

Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University

The 11th anniversary of founding of Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University (MBSTU), Tangail was observed on October 12, 2010 amid festivity and with various programmes.

The day's programmes began with the hoisting of national and university flags. It was followed by releasing of pigeons and flying of balloons and festoons in the sky, plantation of trees and offering fateha at the shrine of Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and blood donation.

A huge cake was cut to mark the day. A colourful procession paraded the campus. The day was observed as 'University Day'. A discussion meeting was held at university's auditorium with Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nurul Islam in the chair.

Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiquee MP spoke as Chief Guest. Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Professor Dr. Syed Gias Uddin Ahmed were the Special Guests. Dr. Md. Moniruzzaman, Pro Vice-Chancellor of MBUST, delivered the address of welcome.

Private Universities News

North South University

The ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-ICPC) 2010, hosted by North South University (NSU) was held on November 5, 2010 at NSU campus. Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, UGC was present at the inaugural ceremony of the contest as Chief Guest, while Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Governors, NSU Foundation was present as Special Guest. NSU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Hafiz G A Siddiqi presided over it.

North South University hosted this contest for the ninth year. About 100 teams from different public and private universities and also foreign teams from China and India participated in the first leg of the world contest at NSU.

- The China Studies Centre was inaugurated at the North South University campus on November 24, 2010. Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh H.E. Zang Xian Yi inaugurated the centre.

The programme was also attended by a six-member delegation led by Professor Xiao Xian, Vice-President of Yunan University. Providing statistics, the Chinese Ambassador explained Bangladesh's growing export trade to China in recent years and expressed his high hopes about the future role of the centre in flourishing mutual bond and friendship both at state and individual levels.

Across the globe, there are about 200 China studies centres and North South University has been selected as the ideal place for research and academic activities on China. This centre is going to be the first of its kind in Bangladesh for studying Chinese culture, politics, economy, and foreign relations. There are two similar centres in Pakistan, one in India and another one in Sri Lanka. Professor Hafiz G.A. Siddiqi, Vice-Chancellor of North South University presided over the session, while Director of the Centre Professor Khaliquzzaman Elias, Chairman of the Department of General and Continuing Education (GCE) Professor M. Emdadul Haq and Advisor of the MPPG Programme Professor M. Aminuzzaman, explained various aspects and activities of the Centre.

- The Information Commission, Bangladesh (ICB) and CPDS of North South University jointly organized a seminar on "Role of the Information Commission to Protect our Right to Information" on October 30, 2010. Chief Information Commissioner Ambassador Muhammad Zamir presented the keynote paper as the Chief Guest. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of NSU Foundation, Dr. Hafiz G A Siddiqi, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. SAM Khairul Basar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Hannan Chowdhury, Director, CPDS, NSU delivered speeches.

Muhammad Zamir said that ICB is working as a bridge between information seekers and the government with a view to protecting the right to information. The Information Commission has started functioning independently. The Commission believes in free flow of information. The Commission would offer internship to the students of North South University, he said.

Chair of NSUF Azim Uddin Ahmed welcomed the offer of internship and paid gratitude to the Commission.

BRAC University

The 6th Expert Consultation Meeting on Disaster Management Curriculum was held on November 27, 2010 at BRAC Academy, Rajendrapur. UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam was present on the occasion as Chief Guest, while Major General Md. Shafiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Professionals, Professor Dr. Syed Sakhawat Husain, Vice-Chancellor, Patuakhali Science and Technology University and Professor Dr. Ainun Nishat, Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University were present as Special Guests.

The programme was organized by UNDP and CDMF to develop new curriculum for disaster management course. 70 scholars from 30 universities attended the meeting as resource persons and Dr. Mahmudul Islam presented the keynote paper.

Southern University

A six-day capsule training camp of Bangladesh National Cadet Core (BNCC) was held at the Southern University campus on November 6, 2010. Vice-Chancellor of Southern University Professor Mohammad Ali inaugurated the closing ceremony of the event as Chief Guest while founder of the University Sarwar Jahan was present as Special Guest. Battalion Adjutant Major Nahid Hasan was also present on the occasion, among others.

A total of 96 cadets from Southern University, Commerce College, City College, Enait Bazar Mohila College and M E S College participated in the training camp.

Nova Chakroborty, a student of the M E S College was selected the best cadet of the camp. Later, guests handed over certificates to the participants.

Daffodil International University

The orientation program for the newly enrolled undergraduate students of the Faculty of Science & Information Technology, Faculty of Business and Economics and Faculty of Humanities and Social Science for the Fall 2010 semester of the Daffodil International University was held on October 21, 2010 in the DIU Auditorium. More than one thousand students enrolled in this semester in the DIU.

Mr. Md. Sabur Khan, Chairman, Board of Governors, Daffodil International University was present in the orientation program as Chief Guest. He urged the

newly enrolled students to make the best use of the facilities provided by the university and build them up to fit for facing the challenges of the 21st century.

The function was also addressed by Deans of different faculties, Registrar, Controller, Proctor and the Librarian of the DIU.

United International University

The 1st Convocation of the United International University was held on October 28, 2010 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center. The Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman, presided over the ceremony, while Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad, Former Secretary, Ambassador & Founder Vice Chancellor of North South University (Rtd) was the convocation speaker. Welcome address was delivered by Mr. Hasan Mahmood Raja, Chairman, Board of Trustees, United International University. Professor Dr. M. Rezwana Khan, Vice-Chancellor of the United International University also spoke on the occasion.

The President asked the private universities to ensure permanent infrastructures with adequate open spaces to groom students as enlightened human beings. Sincere endeavors of the private universities are required to attain the desired goal, he said. Congratulating the graduates, the president urged upon them to work for the interest of the common people.

489 students from different disciplines were conferred undergraduate and graduate degrees while four



Hon'ble President Md. Zillur Rahman delivering Chancellor's Gold Medal to a Student at the 1st Convocation of UIU

meritorious students received Gold Medals for their excellent results.

Convocation Speaker Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad congratulated the graduates, who received their degrees in the 1st convocation of this university and wished them every success in the new world they are entering.

UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam, all Deans, Heads of the Departments, teachers, administrative staff, journalists, educationalists and Vice-Chancellors of different universities attended the convocation program.

Eastern University



Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs speaking at the Orientation Ceremony of Eastern University

The Orientation Ceremonies of the Fall Semester 2010 for the newly admitted undergraduate students of the Eastern University was held on October 9, 2010 in the University Auditorium. The ceremony for the BBA Programme was held at 10:00 am with Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as Chief Guest and Professor Dr. ABM Shahidul Islam, Chairman, Board of Governors, Eastern University as Special Guest. Another ceremony for the students of Engineering, Law and Arts Faculties was held at 2:00 pm. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BUET & Fellow, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences was Chief Guest while the first Bangladeshi who conquered the Everest, Musa Ibrahim and Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, Eastern University, Md. Enayet Ullah were Special Guests in the ceremony. Professor Dr. A.K.M. Saiful Majid, Vice-Chancellor of the University presided over the programmes. Professor Dr. Abdur Rab, Pro Vice-Chancellor, all respected Deans and the Registrar of the Eastern University also spoke at the programme.

Prime University

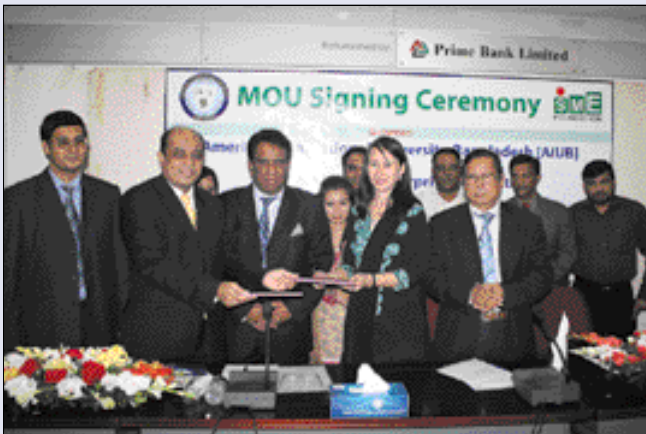
In order to stop eve-teasing and to protest the murder of Mizanur Rahman and Chanpa Rani Sarkar, Prime University arranged a human chain keeping forward the slogan 'No more eve-teasing, no more premature death'. The human chain was inaugurated by the Vice-



Professor Mesbah-us-Saleheen, Pro-Vice Chancellor is seen in the Human Chain among the students

Chancellor (In-charge) Professor Mesbah-us-Saleheen on November 08, 2010. Teachers and students of all departments along with the executives were present in the human chain. Almost three thousand students from the University participated in the human chain. Students carried banners and placards of various slogans which silently merged with the protest of eve-teasing in the whole country.

American International University-Bangladesh



Managing Director and CEO of SME Foundation Syed Rezwanul Kabir and Vice-Chancellor of AIUB Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna at the MoU Signing Ceremony

American International University-Bangladesh and Small & Medium Enterprise Foundation are going to organize a nationwide SME Business Plan Competition (SBPC) jointly in 2011. Students from the public and private universities and university colleges of Bangladesh will be able to participate in this programme. In this regard, AIUB and SME Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding on December 2, 2010 for jointly organizing the competition. The MoU Signing Ceremony was held in the VIP lounge of the National Press Club, Dhaka. Mr. Aftab ul Islam, FCA, presided over the programme. The Managing Director

and CEO of SME Foundation Syed Rezwanul Kabir and Vice-Chancellor of AIUB, Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna signed the MoU for their respective organizations. Chairman of SME Foundation, Mr. Aftab ul Islam FCA, and Pro Vice-Chancellor of AIUB Professor Dr. Anwar Hossain also spoke on the occasion. Md. Mujibur Rahman, DGM, SME Foundation briefed on SME Business Plan Competition (SBPC) 2011. Chairman of SME Foundation, Mr. Aftab ul Islam FCA also answered questions of the members of the press regarding the importance of arranging this kind of competition to encourage new creative idea suitable for small and medium enterprises and also to provide training to entrepreneurs who may have creative ideas but lack the skills of developing a business plan. The competition will be inaugurated in January, 2011. Mr. Lutfar Rahman, Director, Public Relations & Legal Affairs of AIUB, Dr. Ehsanul Huda Chowdhury, Director BBA program, Faculty of Business Administration, faculties, students, high officials of the both organizations and representatives from renowned print and electronic media were also present on the occasion.

Independent University, Bangladesh

Renowned novelist Mani Shankar Mukherji, popularly known as Shankar, spoke on “the making of Chowringhee—a not-so-well known story” on 20 October, 2010 in a talk session at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) campus. The Department of Modern Languages of the university organized the talk session.

Professor Razia Sultana Khan introduced the author to the audience and talked about his early life and profession. Professor Omar Rahman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, IUB said ‘Shankar has a rare distinction of becoming a legend of his own time’. He observed that there is not a single educated family in both Bengal where at least one book of Shankar has not been read. The Vice-Chancellor of the IUB Professor Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury in his short speech welcomed the author and shed light on his life and work and presented him the IUB Shash.

Mr. Shankar started his speech in Bangla and then offered a long speech in English where Shankar depicted the background of the making of Chowringhee and shared many of his experiences of that time with the audience. After the author’s speech the floor was opened for discussion and he answered many questions from the audience.

The programme was also attended by Professor Rafiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, Barrister Rafiqul Haq, Professor B K Jahangir, Mr. Wajid Ali Khan Panni,



Renowned novelist Shankar is addressing at the Independent University, Bangladesh on October 20, 2010

Member of the Governing council, IUB, Dr. Shoaib Ahmed, Treasurer, IUB, Dr. Akimun Rahman of Department of Modern Languages, other Faculty Members, students and employees of the IUB.

Mr. Shankar came to Bangladesh for a six day visit on an invitation of the Independent University, Bangladesh.

Obituary



An eminent educationist and Vice-Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh Professor Dr. Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury died on December 30, 2010. He was 69.

He had been serving the Independent University, Bangladesh since 1994, initially as Pro Vice-Chancellor and

later on as Vice-Chancellor till his death.

UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam expressed deep shock at the death of Professor Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury.

State University

To observe the World AIDS Day 2010, Department of Public Health, State University of Bangladesh (SUB) organized a 'Human Chain' on December 1, 2010 at Satmasjid Road followed by a seminar on "Gender and HIV/AIDS" at SUB Auditorium. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the program as Chief Guest while Dr. Khandaker Ezazul Haque, HIV Officer UNFPA attended the seminar as Special Guest. Professor Tahera Ahmed, Former Assistant Representative, UNFPA presented the keynote paper at the seminar. Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, SUB chaired the seminar.

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh



ULAB- Stride team receives a cheque and crest from the Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid MP

ULAB-Stride, a programming team of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), won the 1st Runner Up in Citi Financial IT Case Competition (CFICC) 2010, beating 51 other teams, including teams from BUET, DU, NSU, IUB, EWU, BRAC University, AIUB, etc. The team's entry was 'An innovative, mobile phone-based DIP Micro-Banking Solution'. The winning team this year was from UIU.

The 1st Runner Up Award of USD 2000 was presented in a ceremony held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center on September 29, 2010. The Chief Guest of the program was the Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP.

ULAB Stride team members were Racy Gomes (Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering), Abdullah Md Saad (Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering), Mahbubur Rahman (Business Administration), Shaharia Arafat (Business Administration) and the Team Manager was Amitav Paul, Lecturer, Computer Science and Engineering Department.

- University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and the ULAB Media Club hosted the ULAB Student Photo Exhibition – 'Urban Oasis : Natural Life in the Concrete Jungle' – to showcase the current ULAB student photographic talent as well as encourage new photographers to explore their creative initiatives.

Renowned journalist Mr. Golam Sarwar awarded prizes to the winners of the Contest on November 11, 2010. The Special Judge of the contest was photojournalist Mr. GMB Akash.

Mr. Golam Sarwar explained to the students how technological advancement was making an impact in modern day photography. He emphasized the ethical use of technology in photography.

First place went to Sk. Shafiqul Islam, second place to Ananta Yusuf, and third place to Bayazid Islam Polin. Nine other honorable mentions were awarded to Md. Hasinur Rahman, Seoul Ahmed, Muslima Jahan Setu, Rezwanul Islam, Sk. Shafiqul Islam, Sanjana Rahaman, Humayara Kabir Bipasha. All the winners will be showcased in the ULAB Calendar 2011.

Stamford University Bangladesh

The closing ceremony of the 5th Stamford National Debate Championship took place on October 13, 2010 at Marriott Convention Center, Dhanmondi. Minister of Information and Cultural Affairs, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad was present at the ceremony as Chief Guest. In his speech, he said, "Debate inspires the practice of free thinking. Through the presentation of different subjects, it helps students become self-confident." He also praised the quality of teachers at Stamford and said that he gained a positive impression about private universities after the visit.



Information and Cultural Affairs Minister, GoB Mr. Abul Kalam Azad at the closing Ceremony of the 5th Stamford National Debate Championship

The program was presided over by Professor Dr. M. A. Hannan Feroz, President, Board of Trustees of Stamford University Bangladesh. Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Information, Members of Board of Trustees of Stamford University Bangladesh, Ms. Fatinaaz Feroz, A. K. M. Enamul Haque Shameem, Md. Zakir Hossain and Md. Murshed Hossain were present as Special Guests. As Guest of Honor, Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director of Tung Hai Group attended the program. Professor Dr. M. Majibur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Stamford University Bangladesh presented his welcome address.

Earlier on October 3, 2010, Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor University of Dhaka

inaugurated the 5th Stamford National Debate Championship 2010 at the Siddeswari campus of the Stamford University. 172 teams from different schools, colleges & universities participated for 5 separate championships in English & Bangla debate.

Bangladesh University

The poor quality of higher education in some private universities is much more dangerous than the lethal anthrax, said the Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Nazrul Islam.

"Anthrax can cause harm to some animals and human beings, but poor education in higher studies can kill the prospects of the entire nation," Professor Nazrul Islam said as Chief Guest at a seminar in the city.

Bangladesh University organized the seminar on "Outbreak of Anthrax in Bangladesh: Prevention and Cure" at its Iqbal Road campus in the city.

UGC Chairman said that concept of private university was initiated in the early nineties in order to accommodate more students in higher education and check big flow of local students going abroad for expensive education.

"The dream has yielded both positive and negative results", he said, adding that the pressure on public universities had eased but the quality of higher education had been compromised due to weak education imparted by many private universities.

He said that the quality of education must be enhanced in public universities as well. Otherwise, he said, the future generations would not be able to cope with the tremendous pressure in the competitive world, especially in the arena of well-paid jobs.

Professor Nazrul Islam, however, said the country still required more universities in public and private sectors so that the growing number of students could pursue higher education at minimum cost locally. The number of universities in the United States is over 5,000 as against only 85 in Bangladesh, he said, adding that the population size in America is just twice that of Bangladesh.

The government had enacted new law that would ensure quality education and reduce tendency of doing certificate business by some institutes, he said, adding that the new law would bring private universities under more response position and improve campus environment.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing at the 24th Convocation of Islamic University of Technology

The 24th Convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) at the end of Academic Year 2009-10, was held on November 02, 2010 in the University Campus at Board Bazar, Gazipur. Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Dr. Dipu Moni M.P., Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid M.P., Minister for Education, were the Guests of Honour.

About 350 distinguished guests including Members of the Diplomatic Corps in Bangladesh, Members of Parliament, Members of IUT Governing Board, Members of the General Assembly and High Officials of the Government of Bangladesh attended the convocation ceremony.

In her speech, the Prime Minister said, 'A laudable achievement of collaboration between OIC and Bangladesh is the IUT. Since its inception, it has been contributing to human resource development of the members states of the OIC. It has now grown as a premier institution of science and engineering with students' enrollment from all over the Muslim world. Undoubtedly, the IUT is energizing and assisting socio-economic development of the member states of the OIC'.

Addressing the graduating students, she also said, 'As scientists and technical experts, you will need to find innovative ways for adapting to climate change, the usage of renewable sources of energy, the production of clean energy compatible with economic growth, ensuring abundance of food for all, and keeping our planet alive from the onslaught of pollutions'.

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