



10th founding day of KU today

Khulna Bureau

KHULNA, November 23:—Unlike other public universities of Bangladesh, Science and Technological Education oriented Khulna University is famous for its politics and session jam free campus. And with this reputation KU is going to celebrate completion of a decade of its foundation on Sunday (November 24), declared as 'University Day' with colourful programmes. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to attend the programme as chief guest who by the way 10 years ago on November 25 in 1991 inaugurated the academic programmes of KU as PM.

This correspondent recently visited KU campus to evaluate the success or failure of the first decade of KU and talked to teachers, students and other concerned persons as local people of Khulna won the university as an outcome of their long movement and they feel proud at any success of it.

Maksuda Yasmin, a fresh masters from agronomy discipline of KU described all her years at KU

as very nice and comfortable as the campus situated on the road side of Khulna-Satkhira Highway, four kilometres off Khulna city centre, is a green, calm and trouble free spot. Poor number of students on 145 acres of campus gave her a sense of high school days where teachers are caring for students and students do respect

their mentors. Infrastructure facilities were very poor when we entered this campus five years ago but it is better today, she opined. She did not notice any form of open politics at the campus by any party but suffered session jam for a shorter period due to students' movement against the few former Vice Chancellors over few legitimate issues.

Mofizur Rahaman, a scholar of Environmental Science discipline was critical of authority for its recent appointment of teachers and other employees from a political outlook. He said, every where a hidden politics is going on at KU if you look cautiously.

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Persons whom we saw doing politics openly with poor academic background were made teacher of KU in the latest appointment. A person with the First Class First was rejected while a back benches was made teacher

for foreign students. He also pointed out erratic power supply as a major problem for the campus.

Dr. M. Abdul Kadir Bhuiyan is the fifth VC of KU. Earlier Dr. Golam Rahaman, Dr. Muammad Golam Ali Fakir, S M Nazrul Islam and Zafar Reza Khan (in charge) administered KU for the last 10 years.

KU started running with four disciplines and only 40 students on November 25 in 1991 while erstwhile President Hossain Md Ershad laid its foundation stone on January 4 in 1987 and the KU project began to run in August in 1989.

At present KU has 3173 students including 47 foreign nationals in 16 disciplines, six with masters courses under the five academic schools manned by 238 teachers on a campus of 145 acres of land with two academic buildings, three dormitories- two for male and a single for female students, a cafeteria, a central mosque, a shaheed minar, a green house, administrative buildings, resident of the VC now turned KU club, a huge playground and only five vehicles for transportation. These are not sufficient for an expanding public university growing with new disciplines and more students, opined all concerned.

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SRINAGAR (India), Nov 23:—A civilian bus, hired by the army to transport a convoy of soldiers and twelve people, including six soldiers, were killed and 23 injured when their bus ran over a landmine in Indian-ruled Kashmir on Saturday. The bus ran over the landmine near Qazigund town, 70 km south of Srinagar.

The total injured are 23, of which at least 12 are in serious condition," the spokesman said.

Two pro-Pakistan militant groups, Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen and the Larkar-e-Jehad (Larkar), claimed responsibility for the attack, a local news agency said.

"The bus rolled down into a 100-foot gorge under the impact of the blast," Gulam Hassan Bhat, a senior police officer in south Kashmir, told Reuters.

"The blast also damaged a private truck. Further details are awaited," he said, adding the injured had been airlifted to a military hospital in Srinagar.

In a separate incident, police in Srinagar said militants fired grenades at a two-paramilitary posts in the city. The grenades exploded but caused no casualties.

Six troops killed in mine blast in Kashmir