



Rokeya Hall, a female dormitory of Dhaka University, brings out a colourful procession, led by DU vice-chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, on the campus on Friday, marking Rokeya Day. — New Age photo

# Rokeya Day observed with call for ensuring women's equity

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha · Dhaka

ROKEYA Day was observed on Friday amid different programmes across the country with the call for ensuring equity of women in every sector.

Bangladesh marks December 9 as Rokeya Day commemorating the birth and the death anniversary of Begum Rokeya Sakhawát Hossain on the same day.

Begum Rokeya, considered as a pioneer of women renaissance in the subcontinent, was a Bengali writer, thinker, educationist, social activist, and advocate of women's rights.

Different social and cultural organisations, universities and other educational institutions observed the day paying rich tributes to the celebrated personality of this soil who was born on December 9, 1880 in the village of Pairabondh, Mithapukur in the northern district of Rangpur.

Marking the day, Ministry of Children and Women Affairs organised a programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka in the morning.

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Begum Rokeya Day and distributed Begum Rokeya Padak-2016 at the auditorium.

scholarship giving ceremony were organised at the Rokeya Hall auditorium.

Professor Arefin Siddique joined it as chief guest while Rabindra Chair of DU dance department Dr Mahua Mukhopadhyay delivered the Rokeya Memorial Foundation Lecture on the occasion.

Rangpur district administration is organising a three-day programme marking the Begum Rokeya Day-2016 at her birth-place Pairaband under Mithapukur upazila in the district.

Divisional commissioner Kazi Hassan Ahmed inaugurated it by placing wreaths at Begum Rokeya Smritistambha in village Pairaband.

Later, Awami League, Begum Rokeya Smriti Sangshad, Sheikh Russell Smriti Sangshad, Begum Rokeya Degree College, Begum Rokeya Memorial Academy, RDRS Bangladesh, Begum Rokeya Memorial Gils' High School, Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Sangskritik Gosthi and other organisations paid rich tribute to Rokeya placing wreaths there.

A milad mahfil was arranged at Pairaband Jame-Mosque, seeking divine blessings for departed soul of Rokeya.

Traditional 'Rokeya

Aroma Dutta and Nurjahan Begum were given the award this year for their outstanding contribution to socioeconomic development of the country's women.

The government introduced the award in 1995 after the name of Begum Rokeya, a pioneer of women's liberation movement in the undivided Bengal who was a leading feminist writer and social worker during the early 20th century and mostly famous for her efforts for gender equality and female education.

Dhaka University observed the Rokeya Day with due respect. Vice-chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique paid rich tributes to Begum Rokeya by placing wreaths at the sculpture of Rokeya inside the Rokeya Hall of the university in the morning.

Later, a colourful rally was brought out on the campus led by the vice-chancellor from Rokeya Hall. Pro-vice-chancellor Professor Akhtaruzzaman and Rokeya Hall provost Professor Nazma Shaheen joined the rally along with hundreds of students of the female dormitory.

In the evening, Rokeya Memorial Foundation Lecture, gold medal and

Fair,' screening of documentary films, cultural function and blood donation programme were organised on the occasion.

In Faridpur, district administration and women affairs directorate jointly organised a colourful rally and discussion meeting. The discussion meeting held at DC's conference room was chaired by women affairs officer Daulatana Khondor.

Our Barguna correspondent reports: Begum Rokeya Day, a national programme to ensure rights of women, was observed by Barguna district administration and Department of Women Affairs of the district on Friday.

Marking the day, a colourful procession was brought out in front of deputy commissioner's office which paraded different streets of the town.

Barguna deputy commissioner Md Nuruzzaman addressed a discussion as the chief guest at Shilpakala Academy with district Mohila Awami League president Madhobi Debnath in the chair. Additional police superintendent Tofael Ahmed, NGO activist Hosne Ara Hashi and women leader Hosne Ara Champa also spoke, among others, on the occasion.