

WORLD education NEWS & REVIEW

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Africa

COMOROS

The Saudi-based Al-Haramain Relief establishment is planning to build an Islamic college in the Comoros, the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) reported from Moroni.

The college is meant to upgrade the education system in the three islands of the Indian Ocean archipelago with a population of 590,000.

Due to lack of funding, the highest educational level a student can attain in the Comoros is secondary education.

The Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros is currently threatened with disintegration following the decision by one of the islands, Andjouan, to split from Grand Comoro and Moheli.

The fourth island, Mayotte, voted to remain under French rule while the three others opted for independence in a Dec. 22, 1974, referendum.

The three islands proclaimed their independence from France on July 6, 1975.

- *Panafrican News Agency*
April 19, 1998

ETHIOPIA

Colleges in four regions of Ethiopia — Amhara, Oromiya, the Southern Peoples Region and Tigray — will be upgraded to university level, according to Ethiopia's Ministry of Education.

Teshome Yiznanaw, acting head of higher education and aca-

demical research in the Ministry of Education, said the ministry has been working on a plan for more than a year "aimed at elevating to university level other colleges in different parts of the country on the merit of their academic efficiencies."

Amhara University at Bahr Dar, 330 miles northwest of Addis Ababa, will incorporate the Bahr Dar Polytechnique Institute and a teachers' college already operating in the region.

The new Oromiya University at Jimma will incorporate the Jimma Health Science Institute, which has been offering degrees in medicine for more than a decade.

In the Southern Peoples Region, the Southern Ethiopia University will be established in Awassa by incorporating the Dilla Teachers' College, the Wondo Forestry College and the Agricultural College of Awassa.

Tigray will have a university, called Tigray University, which will be formed through the merger of the Mekele University College and the Business College.

The university will be located in Mekele, about 465 miles north of Addis Ababa.

The Ministry of Education reports the four new universities are scheduled to open in September at the start of the 1998-1999 academic year.

Upon completion of preparations for the upgrading, Ethiopia will have six universities.

The Addis Ababa University, in the Addis Ababa region, and Alemmama University, in the Somali

region, are the two universities currently operating in the country.

- *Panafrican News Agency*
April 17, 1998
and *The Addis Tribune*
April 24, 1998

KENYA

Students at Kenyatta University went on a rampage after discovering that blank degree certificates were on sale on campus.

The certificates, with the university seal and signatures of Vice-Chancellor George Eshiwani and Registrar John Shiundu, were available for between 20,000 and 60,000 Kenya shillings (approximately \$325-\$975). All buyers had to do was fill in their name.

Scores of certificates are feared to have ended up in the hands of dropouts and students who did not

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Regional News

make their grades.

Despite denials by Shiundu that there was no way blank certificates could end up in the wrong hands, police moved swiftly to arrest several senior examinations officials.

The university conducted an administrative reshuffling involving the three deputy vice-chancellors and 45 other senior officials.

Shiundu was transferred to the administration department amid calls for his dismissal. This incited rioting by students, who set fire to the university cultural center and pelted Shiundu's house with stones.

The University Council has directed the Senate to cooperate with the police to carry out investigations and prosecute the culprits.

Council Chairman Enesmo Moi Yoi also launched an inquiry and endorsed the invitation to police to investigate and take legal action against those involved in stealing, selling, forging and printing certificates and transcripts bearing the emblem of the university.

- *Times Higher Education Supplement*
 May 15, 1998

ZAMBIA

More than 65 private colleges face closure for failing to register with the Department of Technical Education and Vocational Training (DTEVT) as required by law. DTEVT Director Sandford Mupangu disclosed this in an interview April 29.

He said out of more than 150 private colleges in Zambia, only 85 were registered.

At least 15 colleges in Lusaka applied for registration in the week following the department's decision to close all institutions that had been operating illegally.

Mupangu said many of the college proprietors who had been flocking to the department claimed not to have clues about the system of registration.

As to what will happen to students whose institutions would face closure, Mupangu said: "Our intention is not to punish people. We have to take into account the interest of the proprietors and the students. However, those who will take advantage of this will have to be dealt with accordingly."

He urged owners of unregistered institutions that were located in hidden places to come out into the open for the interest of the students who were spending a lot of money to be enrolled.

Colleges were given until the end of May to register.

Mupangu added that, although the DTEVT demanded 130,000 kwacha from college proprietors as an initial registration fee and an additional 175,000 kwacha per year, the department was not interested in money.

"Our main concern is whether these colleges offer the right education, have well qualified lecturers and the right equipment, and follow the right syllabus," Mupangu said.

The money, he said, was to be used for stationery materials like certificates of registration and application forms.

Mupangu blamed college owners who started up 'college businesses' for the sake of making profit without considering the fact that students should be offered adequate and correct services.

Mupangu accused some institutions of offering low quality courses that were below higher institutions' standards.

All college owners should display certificates of registration in their offices in order for people to know about their existence, he said.

Mupangu urged students seeking enrolment in private institutions to ask for certificates of registration signed by the DTEVT, with the approval of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training. Otherwise, they would end up enrolling in illegal institutions.

- *Times of Zambia*
April 30, 1998

Asia-Pacific

BANGLADESH

In late March, the Bangladesh National Legislature passed a bill establishing a new medical university.

The Institute of Postgraduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR), founded in 1966, has been operating as a constituent college of the University of Dhaka.

The bill, which was signed by Bangladesh's president on April 5, upgrades the institute to university status and renames it the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The new university will operate under the authority of the Ministry of Health and Family Planning.

Speaking in favor of the bill, Health and Family Planning Minister Salahuddin Yusuf argued the

upgrade was aimed at meeting the long-standing demand of physicians as well as the academicians in medical science.

"With the upgrade of the IPGMR to a university, doctors in the country will not be required to go abroad for higher degrees," the minister said.

According to the bill, the medical university will have nine faculties: medicine, surgery, "basic" treatment, dentistry, nursing, biotechnology/biomedical engineering, medical technology, medical social science and alternative treatments.

The legislation also stipulates that medical colleges or institutes in the country will gradually be affiliated with the medical university.

- *The Daily Star*
and *the Independent*
March 24, 1998

CHINA

Students taking the national college entrance examinations will have to get used to a new system starting next year.

Under the new "3+X" system, students will have examinations in three compulsory subjects — Chinese, mathematics and English — plus one or more subjects designated by the colleges.

The new system has been de-

signed to help colleges enroll more specialized students, give schools more freedom and flexibility in enrollment and promote quality-oriented education in middle schools.

Zhou Yuanqing, vice-minister of education, announced that the new exam method will be tested in some regions next year and gradually introduced into all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

The "X" for students majoring in arts and literature will be chosen from the subjects of politics, history and geography.

Students specializing in science will be offered a subject selected from physics, chemistry and biology.

In addition to the three compulsory subjects and those designated by colleges, students can choose other exam subjects according to their interests.

Under the current system, students must complete a battery of compulsory subjects.

If they fail these exams, they cannot enter college.

The 3+X exam system, however, offers students more opportunities for enrollment.

For example, students can take the 3+physics exams set by colleges and choose the 3+chemistry or 3+biology exams themselves.

If they fail the college-pre-

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scribed exam but pass the exams they have chosen, other colleges may recruit them for these specific subjects, according to the director of the Department for Students' Affairs under the Ministry of Education.

- *China Daily*
April 7, 1998

INDIA

The University of Madras proposes to introduce a credit-based semester system in all departments starting with the next academic year.

According to P. Manoharan, vice-chancellor of the university, the flexibility afforded by the new credit system will enable students at the graduate level to complete two degree programs concurrently.

He said that under the credit-based system, if a graduate student acquired 72 credits within one or two semesters in a given program, he or she would be allowed to study one more graduate program in a chosen subject even while pursuing the first program.

This means a highly meritorious student could earn two graduate degrees within a two-year period.

- *University News*
April 6, 1998

The Andhra Pradesh government is reported to have signed an agreement with Satyam Computer Services to set up the Satyam School of Applied Information Systems as part of the proposed Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Hyderabad.

With this initiative, Satyam becomes the fifth company and the first Indian company to be associated with IIIT. The other four are multinational firms: IBM, Microsoft, Oracle and Metamor.

The proposed IIIT will house a total of eight schools providing facilities and specific programs in the area of information technology. According to the agreement, the school will commence its operations within 156 days from the date of signing.

The Satyam School of Applied Information Systems, to be set up at a cost of 30,000,000 rupees (about \$740,000 U.S.) will offer programs in three core areas — academic, certificate and executive development — with student intakes of 400, 300 and 120, respectively, in each of the programs.

- *University News*
April 20, 1998

VIETNAM

In 1993 the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology became the first university in Vietnam to adopt the semester-credit system approved by government decree in November of that year.

The university offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering and science. (See related sidebar below about the university's faculties.)

Under the credit system, undergraduate degrees require 150 credits and programs can be completed in a minimum of four and one-half years (with a maximum full-time enrollment limit of six and one-half years).

The university grading scale has

been changed from the 10-point scale, common in Vietnam since 1975, to the four-point scale used in the United States.

To graduate, students must complete their programs with a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

- *Correspondence from*
Ho Chi Minh City
University of Technology
December 29, 1997

Eastern Europe & Newly Independent States

KAZAKHSTAN

The Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP) was founded in 1992 by a resolution of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan to offer graduate-level programs in administrative fields.

Located in the capital city of Almaty, KIMEP is staffed by foreign instructors, and English is the medium of instruction for all programs.

KIMEP currently offers three graduate degree programs leading to: (1) a Master of Business Administration, (2) a Master of Arts in economics or (3) a Master of Public Administration.

Each program is two years in length.

Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam's first university to adopt the semester system, consists of eight faculties:

- ◆ Chemical and food technology
- ◆ Civil engineering
- ◆ Information technology
- ◆ Electrical/electronic engineering
- ◆ Geology and petroleum
- ◆ Industrial management
- ◆ Mechanical engineering
- ◆ Continuing education

