

DU distributes admission forms amid protest tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

Distribution of forms for admission in first year honours classes of Dhaka University (DU) begins tomorrow.

Earlier, the sale of forms was scheduled to begin today.

A DU press release yesterday said the change had been made due to unavoidable circumstances.

Meanwhile, different student organisations have continued their protest against the price increase of admission forms by DU authorities.

The price of per admission form has been increased by Tk 50 raising it to Tk 300 this year.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of increased price of admission forms.

Addressing a rally on the campus, pro-Al BCL leaders alleged that the coalition government wants to commercialise higher education in the country.

They threatened to launch tougher programmes if their demand is not met within today.

Presided over by BCL DU unit President Delwar Hossain, the rally was also addressed by BCL leaders Ashraf Azim Rubon,

Baloram Podder, Khan Moinul Islam Mostak, Morsheuzzaman Selim, Gaffari Rasel and Abu

Australian film festival begins December 11

BSS, Dhaka

The Australian High Commission in Dhaka is going to organise a two-day film festival from December 11 in Dhaka.

A total of seven Australian feature films will be screened at the British Council auditorium on those days aimed at promoting an exchange of culture between Australia and Bangladesh, said high commissioner Lorraine Barker at a press conference held at Dhaka office yesterday.

The high commissioner said the film festival will strengthen people to people contacts between the two countries.

The seven films are Hotel Sorrento, Thank God He Met Lizzie, The Man Who Sued God, The Wog Boy, Bootmen, The Bank and Kiss or kill.

Sayeed.

They also brought out a procession on the campus in support of their demand.

Left-leaning BCL yesterday submitted a memorandum to DU Vice-Chancellor Prof S M A Faiz demanding immediate withdrawal of the increased price of admission forms.

They will also demonstrate today in favour of their demand and lay siege to the banks from where the admission forms will be sold.

Proyatishil Chhatra Jote, combined left-leaning student organisations, also held a rally on the campus yesterday demanding immediate withdrawal of increased price of admission forms.

The rally was addressed by Sabbah Ali Khan Collins, Khalequzzaman Lipon, Luna Noor, Taslima Akhter, Masum Uddin, Mohin Uddin Liton and Habibur Rahman Jhony.

The jote also took out a procession to press their demand.

Meanwhile, President Khalequzzaman Lipon and General Secretary Mosharrif Hossain Rasel of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, in a statement yesterday, demanded immediate withdrawal of increased price of admission forms.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting of the party's presidium at its Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Establish clinical centres of diarrhoea in rural areas

President tells 10th Asian Conference on "Diarrhoeal Diseases and Nutrition"

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed suggested establishing "clinical centres of diarrhoea" in rural areas for providing quick treatment to children affected with the mortal disease.

"Clinical centres of diarrhoea should be established in rural areas so that the affected children may be provided with quick service before it is too late," President Iajuddin said this while he was inaugurating a conference here yesterday.

The three-day 10th Asian Conference on "Diarrhoeal Diseases and Nutrition" is being held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Iajuddin said rural people should be given proper education particularly in clinical aspect so that they themselves can take care of the affected children.

He said the conference theme 'Improving Child Health and Nutrition' has a great significance

and is likely to have a far reaching impact especially on the life of over one billion people living in South Asia.

He appreciated that there had been some remarkable progress in the areas of health in South Asia over the past decade. For example, significant reductions in child mortality and much longer life spans in many countries of this region have been achieved.

He, however, noted with disappointment that diarrhoea still continued to be a major killer disease in this region, contributing to thousands of deaths amongst under-five population every year.

But, he said, looking back at what has contributed to improvement in child health in last 10 years or so, one can easily conclude that the risk of death among children under 5 years of age has been reduced through evidence-based interventions such as immunization and oral rehydration treatment.

Iajuddin hoped that the confer-

ence might provide an opportunity to health scientists and public health experts to participate in an informed debate looking into the possible solutions to the major health and nutrition problems still affecting the children in Asia, particularly in South Asia.

Evidence from child-health research over the past 10 years has provided guidance to decision-makers, he said, adding that the burden of childhood morbidity and mortality could be further reduced through the reduction of gaps in research resources and capacity.

Strengthening national research capacities to respond to local health needs is fundamental for the implementation and sustainability of research findings at a population level.

President Iajuddin hoped that there would be more success stories to offer from Bangladesh in the days to come that are aimed at improving child health and nutrition.

Bangladeshis freed in Bolivia

Dhaka monitoring situation

BSS, Dhaka

The government has been closely monitoring the situation in the Bolivian capital La Paz following an AFP report that several Bangladeshis were detained at the airport Viru Viru Santa Cruz La Paz while awaiting to board an Argentine Airlines aircraft on December 4.

The Bolivian government verified that the Bangladeshis con-

cerned were released the following day as the authority did not find any evidence linking them to any crime, including terrorism, a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The Bangladeshis who were detained, were in Bolivia with temporary residence work permits contract for one year duration.

The government, the release said, continues to monitor the situation.

Qualification@UK Fair begins today

DU CORRESPONDENT

British Council organises a four-day 'Qualification@UK Fair' to provide an opportunity for Bangladeshi students, parents and educationists to obtain information on British qualifications.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque will inaugurate the fair at the British Council office in the city at 10.00am today.

British Council is working in collaboration with local and UK institutions to offer these educational opportunities to the students who are intended to achieve international standards in their education.

A total of 18 educational institutions are taking part in the fair which includes Asian Centre for

Management and Information Technology, Bangladesh Institute of Art and Design and Technology, SRGB Centre for Continuing Professional Development, School of Accounting and Finance, Edexcel International UK, NCC Education UK, Neural Systems Ltd, IBCS-PRIMAX Software Bangladesh Ltd, Daffodil Institute of IT, Bhuiyan Institute of Technology, British School of Law, Bhuiyan Academy, Newcastle Law Academy, Dhaka Centre for Law and Economics, Institute of Business and IT and Soft Ad Ltd.

It will remain open in the city for two days.

Then the fair will be held at the British Council offices in Chittagong on December 10 and Sylhet on December 12.



The STI Aids Network Bangladesh hold a candlelight vigil at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday to mark the World Aids Day-2003.

Saarc Charter Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) will be observed in the country as elsewhere in six other south Asian nations today.

The Saarc charter was signed in Dhaka on December 8 in 1985. The charter turn the Saarc into a regional body, Saarc Agricultural Information Centre (Saic) sources said yesterday.

The Day is being observed in all the seven Saarc member states since the regional forum formed 18 years back in Dhaka, where the first meeting of forum was held. Saarc groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave separate messages to commemorate the day.

"It is indeed a welcome step towards deepening the Saarc consciousness among the people of the region through the observance of Saarc Charter Day," Iajuddin said in his message.

Khaleda Zia reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to the principles and objectives of the Saarc charter signed in Dhaka on December 8, 1985.

She also pledged support to the promotion of effective regional cooperation in South Asia in a message on the occasion of the Saarc Charter Day.

Former president Ziaur Rahman was confident of the immense potential of the region's collective strength when he first envisioned Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), she said.

The premier said the Saarc states can attain neighbourly relations and cooperation through adherence to the principles and purposes of the Saarc Charter.

Since its seventh summit at Dhaka in 1993, the association has been focusing on economic cooperation mainly concerning poverty alleviation and intra-regional trade, she said.

"Under the flag of Saarc, we have addressed ourselves to the concerns of human security and problems of women, children, disabled and deprived," the prime minister observed. "We have also strengthened ties with other international bodies to act together," she added.

On various problems of the region, Khaleda said, "We must strive to harness the positive forces of the region to fulfil our shared aspirations."

"I believe that the day is an auspicious occasion to dedicate

ourselves to achieve our goals. I am confident that the next summit at Islamabad will give new impetus to Saarc," she added.

The Saic, first regional institute established under the aegis of the Saarc, and the Saarc Diploma Engineers Forum has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes include holding of discussions, book fair, video projection, illuminations and child art competition.

The Saarc charter focus on

cooperation among the member states on issues such as promotion of agriculture, rural development, education, health and population activities, meteorology, postal service, prevention of drug and trafficking, promotion of sports, arts and culture, telecommunications, tourism and women development.

Saarc, however, doesn't deal with the political disputes persist among the member states.