

Four public universities struggling

FROM PAGE 12
Many countries including China, the US, and the UK, have adopted the semester system to provide focused and quality education through intense student-teacher engagement.

Four public universities -- Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Chattogram and Rajshahi -- currently have 83 departments and institutes under the semester system.

Of these, 75 departments have failed to publish their last semester results within the scheduled time, The Daily Star found after going through the exam controller offices' result publishing dates.

Most of the departments took 18-22 weeks to publish the results.

According to the DU semester system guidelines, results must be published within eight weeks of a course examination. Rajshahi University rules say results of semester finals must be published within three weeks, and Jahangirnagar University rules say 10 weeks. Chattogram University has no rules about this.

DU has the highest number of departments and institutes under the semester system, 49. RU has 17, CU has 10, and JU has seven.

"I got my final MBA examination results after 33 weeks," said a DU postgraduate student.

A ninth-batch student of the department, he added that he could not prepare accordingly for the final exams due to delayed in-course results.

"Most of the time we had to appear in the final exams without knowing the in-course results," said the student, preferring not to be named.

Many public university students said they appeared in the running semester examinations without knowing whether they have passed in the previous semester.

A third-year student of accounting and information systems at Jahangirnagar University said his department published the fourth semester results four days before the fifth semester final on January 26.

He said he could not appear in the exam despite preparing for them, since he failed in two subjects in the fourth semester examination.

"The fourth semester final examination was held at least seven months ago. Had it been published on time, I could have prepared differently. Now, I will have to start again from scratch," said the disgruntled student.

He also alleged two teachers were yet to announce in-course results and such delays are a common picture in other departments too.

In-course results constitute 25-50 percent marks of the total grade, varying from department to department.

CU and RU students face similar problems, The Daily Star found.

Several JU students alleged their teachers remain indifferent for the first two to three months and only become active in the last half of a semester -- hurriedly taking classes and in-course examinations, putting undue pressure on the students.

Due to this, they are deprived of quality lessons, the students said.

Some academics also acknowledged the problems, adding that the semester

system was introduced without proper planning and the necessary logistics.

The system is not functioning well here as university authorities have introduced the concept without fulfilling certain prerequisites like TA appointments and building new classrooms, said Syed Manzoorul Islam, a retired professor of DU's English department.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said the numbers of students in almost all departments in the university are very high.

"This is one of the reasons that teachers remain busy with evaluating assignments and answer papers instead of conducting classes," he added. Teaching assistants shoulder some of this burden in universities worldwide.

Tanzimuddin Khan, a professor of DU's international relations department, said the entire semester system is ambiguous here.

"The university authorities enroll students once a year here, something you will not find in any other university in the world where the semester system is in place," he said.

According to a number of US and UK university websites, one of the features of the semester system is to enroll students each semester -- a session of six months or half of an academic year.

In a semester system, students have to complete a total of eight semesters in their four-year bachelor's degree and two semesters in a year-long master's degree.

If one does not finish the entire semester or one subject at a specific

time, he or she may end up with the next batch and thus a student is less likely to waste six months of their education.

According to article 11.2 of the DU semester system guidelines, a student is allowed to improve grades either through a supplementary examination within 45 days under the same examination committee or with the following batch. In reality, not a single department has taken supplementary examinations so far and the "following batch" comes once each year, not every six months.

The other three universities have no rules on supplementary examinations.

A lack of adequate classrooms is a common situation in these universities, said students, who often have to stake out empty classrooms in order for classes to even be held.

"We have to look for empty classrooms before attending the class as most of the departments want to take classes in the first half of the day," said a DU mass communication and journalism department student.

"There are many classes where 150 to 250 students learn at a time," said Prof Tanzimuddin Khan.

In a six-month semester, 15 weeks have been kept for classes, a week's vacation for exam preparations, and three weeks for final examinations -- according to the Course Curriculum and Rules of DU's semester system.

Besides scheduled classes, group discussions, presentations, class tests, assignments, term paper submissions and mid-term exams have to be taken

on the remaining days.

DU was the first among public universities to have introduced the semester system in the country with a view to reducing session jams, improving the quality of education, and publishing exam results by the grade or credit method.

According to the DU website, the Faculty of Business Studies introduced it in the 1977-78 session followed by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, which launched it in 2006-07.

Jahangirnagar University's economics is the lone department that has returned to the conventional yearly examination system four years after joining the semester bandwagon in 2001-02.

"We had to cancel the semester system as we didn't get enough time to finish our syllabus in due time," Mohammad Amzad Hossain, chairman of the department, told The Daily Star.

DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Md. Akhtaruzzaman said, "We accept any proposal that can serve the benefits of the university students. The semester system is running very well here; we will introduce such a system in some other departments consequently."

"We are trying to publish the results faster," he added.

DU's VC told this correspondent that demands for appointing TAs from recent graduates among the departments are longstanding and will be met soon after completing all the procedures in this regard.

[Our DU, RU, CU and JU correspondents contributed to this report.]

Two doctors

FROM PAGE 12
The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, another doctor Razia Sultana, 60, was undergoing treatment at a private hospital after she was tested positive and passed away around 7:30am yesterday.

Bangladesh Medical Association expressed condolences over the deaths of the two doctors.

With them, at least 22 doctors died with from Covid-19 while four died showing symptoms of the deadly disease. Besides, around 1,100 doctors were so far infected with the virus, according to Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation.

Many of the infected doctors have recovered and some of them have also returned to their jobs, it added.

Nasim's brain

FROM PAGE 12
coma with life support since June 6 as his condition deteriorated.

A 13-member medical board led by Kanak Kanti Barua, a renowned neurosurgeon and vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, on Sunday said Nasim's condition is very critical and he remains in a totally unconscious situation.

He added that Nasim's blood pressure is also unstable.

Nasim's son Tanvir Shakil Joy, also a former AL lawmaker, told the media on June 5 that his father had undergone a successful surgery after suffering a stroke.

On June 1, Nasim was admitted to the Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in the capital's Shyamoli as he was feeling unwell. Later, he tested positive for coronavirus.

They paved

FROM PAGE 12
"Beyond that he was a person with great creativity whose name is associated with the development and construction of Bangladesh's infrastructure," he added.

Recalling Niloufer Manzur's contribution, Prof Rehman said to build a school of international standard in Bangladesh, where institution building is a challenging task, was a very significant contribution.

The trio left significant contributions in the country's education sector not only as teachers but also by establishing or supporting different educational institutions, said eminent rights activist Hameeda Hossain.

Sharing his memories of Prof Anisuzzaman, eminent artist Mostafa Monwar said his patriotism and affection for the culture was unparalleled.

Recalling his fond memories, Bengal Group of Industries Chairman Abul Khair Litu said although he was not a direct student of Prof Anisuzzaman, he learnt many lessons in from the scholar which helped him to be a good human being.

Besides his scholarly mind, Prof Anisuzzaman was a great connoisseur of art, he said.

Prof Jamilur led almost all the advisory committees of the country's mega projects, said noted economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud.

Prof Jamilur's contribution in Bangladesh's development is undeniable, said Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said it was heart-aching that well-wishers, including her, could not pay their due tribute and respect to the departed souls in a regular way because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury said the legacy of the three departed souls needed to be spread among the future generation.

Bereaved family members of the three departed eminent personalities also joined the commemorative event and shared their memories with the three great figures.

Ananda Zaman, son of Prof Anisuzzaman, said he and two of his siblings hardly used to have their father's affection as he mostly remained busy working for the greater good of the society.

"He believed in the collective wellbeing of people," said Ananda.

CPD Distinguished Fellow and convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya moderated the programme.

Peaceful protests

FROM PAGE 12
who marched in Washington on Sunday. "But I do think that reform has got to happen."

The prospect that Minneapolis could abolish its police force altogether would have seemed unthinkable just two weeks ago. Nine members of the 13-person city council pledged on Sunday to do away with the police department in favour of a community-led safety model, though they provided little detail.

"A veto-proof majority of the MPLS City Council just publicly agreed that the Minneapolis Police Department is not reformable and that we're going to end the current policing system," Alondra Cano, a member of the Minneapolis council, said on Twitter.

Poets and litterateurs

FROM PAGE 12
at Gonobhaban. Addressing the gathering of poets, litterateurs and students the prime minister expresses his deep condolences to the bereaved family of the deceased poet. He also assures the poet's family of all kinds of support from the government. Bangabandhu further says that his government will do everything to improve the situation of the poets and litterateurs of the country and bring them to the forefront of society.

TAJUDDIN CALLS ON INDIRA
Bangladesh Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmad today calls on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at her office in New Delhi. It is reported that the two leaders discuss various political and economic issues in the hourlong meeting.

Earlier, members of the planning commissions of the two countries held a detailed discussion to formulate short-term and long-term economic cooperation programmes based on the bilateral treaty signed by Bangabandhu and Indira Gandhi.

STRONG TIES WITH MALAYSIA

AND SINGAPORE

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today holds a press briefing session on his recent visit to Malaysia and Singapore. He informs that both countries are eager to help Bangladesh develop its economic infrastructure. The issue of Bangalees stranded in Pakistan was brought before the prime minister of Malaysia and he assured all sorts

of cooperation from his good office to resolve it as soon as possible, adds Abdus Samad Azad. He further says that Bangladesh is located at an important strategic location to work as a bridge between South Asian and South-East Asian countries.

SOURCES: June 10, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.

Man held for planning attack on Muslims in Germany

AFP, Berlin

Police in Germany have detained a man on suspicion of planning to kill Muslims in an attack inspired by the 2019 mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, prosecutors said yesterday.

The 21-year-old from the northern city of Hildesheim had announced his attack plans "in an anonymous internet chat", the state prosecutor's office in the town of Celle said.

Initial investigations show the suspect "has for some time been considering the idea of committing an attack in which he wanted to kill numerous people in order to attract worldwide media attention," prosecutors said.

Nine cohorts of abductors held in Dhaka

FROM PAGE 12

the victims were detained in various camps and subjected to "inhumane" torture.

The perpetrators used to record appalling videos of torturing the victims and send those to their relatives in Bangladesh with a ransom demand, he said, adding that thus they have extorted millions from the victims' families.

The DB teams arrested the suspects based on information provided by victims' relatives.

Of the arrestees, Akbar sent seven among the 26 victims to Libya, Baten said.

Thousands in need of aid

FROM PAGE 12

More than 350,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed, alongside more than 176,000 hectares of farmland including standing crops, vegetable and fruit, thousands of trees have been uprooted and fish farms worth approximately 36 million US dollars have been damaged. Tidal surges caused the collapse of embankments and inundations of salt water, causing a scarcity of safe drinking water and putting the lives of thousands at risk of waterborne diseases, the press release added.

IFRC Head of Bangladesh Country Office Azmat Ulla said, "Our early actions have saved many lives before the cyclone and now we are speeding up our response efforts so that these

people can have access to basic needs and stay healthy.

"With this emergency appeal, our aim is not only to provide emergency relief but also to improve the physical, social, environmental and economic conditions to create a more resilient community in an effective and efficient way."

The funding will support Bangladesh Red Crescent in providing food, safe drinking water, shelter and hygiene items, cash grants, as well as help renovate damaged health clinics to benefit some of the most vulnerable people, including those living in temporary or makeshift shelters.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is also making the situation more

Meanwhile, a CID team arrested three people after conducting a drive in the capital's Gulistan on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Sohag Hossain, Khalid Chowdhury and Mst Sanjida, said Syeda Jannat Ara, special superintendent of CID, while addressing a briefing yesterday.

Jannat Ara without disclosing further details said that they were in the middle of their investigation and hopeful to arrest all the offenders shortly.

CID is investigating 12 out of the 22 cases filed with different police stations across the country regarding the killing of 26 Bangladeshis.

complex as people who have been displaced by the cyclone have limited access to handwashing and other hygiene facilities, increasing the risk of spreading the virus further.

As part of their response, Bangladesh Red Crescent teams have taken preventive measures to help contain the spread of Covid-19 including distributing hygiene information and advice, wearing personal protective equipment, and providing appropriate hygiene materials such as masks and hand sanitisers to people in shelters, the press release added.

The IFRC Cyclone Amphan emergency appeal will support Bangladesh Red Crescent response for the next 12 months.

Bangladesh asks Kuwait

FROM PAGE 1

the minister told this correspondent.

According to a report run by the Gulf News yesterday, Kuwaiti public prosecution ordered remanding Shahid, pending investigation, after being referred by the residence investigation department, which arrested him in Musharraf area on Saturday.

The prosecution charged him with human trafficking, money laundering, and exploiting his compatriot workers after hearing testimonies of five Bangladeshis, who confirmed that they had paid amounts of up to 3,000 dinars in exchange for coming to Kuwait, and that they were also paying annual sums for renewing their residency visas.

Among the complaints submitted against the Bangladeshi MP is that he is believed to have provided five luxury cars as bribes to government officials in Kuwait, so that he could obtain contracts for the company he runs there.

In response to a complaint filed on February 16, Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission opened an enquiry into the allegation that Shahid amassed Tk 1,400 crore by trafficking

people to Kuwait and siphoned off the amount abroad.

Earlier in February, the Kuwaiti media reported that three Bangladeshis were operating a human trafficking racket in the Middle Eastern country. On February 12, a report of the Arab Times, an English language daily, said one of the three was a "member of parliament in Bangladesh".

The report said the trio "occupied sensitive positions" in three major companies that brought more than 20,000 Bangladeshi workers to Kuwait in exchange for an amount believed to be more than Tk 1,391 crore.

Asked, Shahid told The Daily Star at that time that he had been in construction business for 30 years and that about 26,000 people worked for his Marafie Kuwaitia General Contracting Company. Of them, about 20,000 were from Bangladesh and the rest from different other countries, including India and Nepal.

Denying his involvement in any criminal activity, he had said, "I don't have any businesses in Bangladesh. I have never made any illegal transaction and have always used proper banking channels."

Global virus cases top

FROM PAGE 12

out a 14-day quarantine for all travellers entering the country, prompting uproar from the badly hammered aviation industry which is eager to see travel revived.

Pubs and eateries flung their doors open in Belgium, but with social distancing measures in force, while Ireland opened shops and allowed gatherings and travel, also with limits.

New Zealand meanwhile buoyed hopes for the rest of the world as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared that her country had beaten the virus and lifted all restrictions, though strict border controls remain.

The country's measures were lifted after its final coronavirus patient was

declared recovered, prompting the leader to dance around her living room in celebration.

"We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now," Ardern said, adding that Kiwis had "united in unprecedented ways to crush the virus".

New Zealand Rugby also announced its top-flight domestic competition would restart this week, with fans allowed to pack into the stadiums for the first time in months. **BELGIAN BAR 'INVADED'**
Governments around the world are cautiously peeling back punishing lockdown measures to resuscitate economies while trying to avoid a resurgence of infections.

শেখ হাসিনার হাতটি ধরে
পথের শিশু যাবে ঘরে

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র

ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	এজেন্সি	সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
৩.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার নাম	সহকারী পরিচালক, সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
৪.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার জেলা	ময়মনসিংহ।
৫.	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র	২০২০-২১ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য এমপ-’ক’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য, এমপ-’খ’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং এমপ-’ভ’ এর আগতায় বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
৬.	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	নং-৪১.০১.৬১৯৪.০১১.০৭.০০২.১৯-১৯৩, তারিখঃ ০৯ জুন ২০২০
৭.	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	০৯ জুন ২০২০
৮.	সরব্রাহক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম)।
৯.	বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস	রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি.ও.বি।
১০.	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	০১টি।
১১.	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	২০২০-২১ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য এমপ-’ক’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য, এমপ-’খ’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং এমপ-’ভ’ এর আগতায় বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
১২.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৮ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালিন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১৩.	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৯ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪.	দরপত্র ফোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৯ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ সময় বিকাল ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৫.	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা ক. মূল দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয় খ. দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণ	সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ ও উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ এ দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয় করা হবে। (১) কক্ষ নং ৯, ২য় ভদা, এলজি শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ। (২) উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ২৮, কেসি জায় রোড, কামিটুলি, ময়মনসিংহ।
১৬.	দরপত্র দাখিল খোলা	জেলা প্রশাসকের সচিবালয় কক্ষ, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ।
১৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১) বেধ সরকারি কার্যক্রম প্রতিষ্ঠান। ২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেনারী চালান (মূলকপি), দরপত্র দাখিল অনুসারে অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, ব্যাক সাক্ষরিতা সনদ, হালনাগাদ ট্রেন্ড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভাটি প্রদান সনদ) সহ প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য দাখিলসমূহ দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ট্রেনারী চালান-এর মাধ্যমে কেড ১-২৯০১-০০০০-২০৬৯-তে (অফিসকোডের) জমা দিতে হবে।
১৯.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার নাম	মাহমুদুল হাসান।
২০.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার পদবী	সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।)
২১.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
২২.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	০১৭০৮ ৪১৫ ০১২
২৩.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার নাম	মাহমুদুল হাসান।
২৪.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার পদবী	সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।)
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২৬.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	০১৭০৮ ৪১৫ ০১২
২৭.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার নাম	মাহমুদুল হাসান।
২৮.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার পদবী	সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।)
২৯.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
৩০.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	০১৭০৮ ৪১৫ ০১২
৩১.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার নাম	মাহমুদুল হাসান।
৩২.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার পদবী	সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।)
৩৩.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
৩৪.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	০১৭০৮ ৪১৫ ০১২
৩৫.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার নাম	মাহমুদুল হাসান।
৩৬.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার পদবী	সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।)
৩৭.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
৩৮.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	০১৭০৮ ৪১৫ ০১২
৩৯.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার নাম	মাহমুদুল হাসান।
৪০.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার পদবী	সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।)
৪১.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
৪২.	সরব্রাহক সত্তার কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	০১৭০৮ ৪১৫ ০১২

জিডি-৯৬৭

মাহমুদুল হাসান
সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।)
সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ