

## ADMISSION AT HSC LEVEL 2.69 lakh students did not apply in first phase

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

More than 2.69 lakh students who passed SSC and dakhil examinations this year are yet to apply for getting enrolled in HSC level, until nine hours before closing the first phase of admission process yesterday.

The first phase online form collection for admission began on August 9 and ended at 11:59pm yesterday.

College inspector at Dhaka Education Board Harun-or-Rashid said till 3pm yesterday a total of 13,25,313 students applied for admission to colleges and madrasahs.

This year total 15,94,628 students --13,66,218 from schools and 2,28,418 from madrasahs -- passed the SSC and dakhil exams, according to education boards.

Among them, 2.69 lakh students did not apply for admission till 3pm yesterday.

In another calculations, about 11.74 seats at colleges and madrasahs will remain vacant this year. There were about 25 lakh seats for class XI at about 8,500 colleges and madrasahs, according to Harun.

Many board officials sharing their past experience said most students who don't apply for admission in the first phase, usually drop out from education. Only a handful number of them apply for admission in the second and third phases.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Prof Ziaul Haque, said the candidates have to keep in mind that they have more chances. "There are two more phases, in which they can apply," said Ziaul, who is also head of the inter-board coordination committee.

For several years, based on the results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam, students have been admitted centrally at class XI in government- and private-owned colleges and madrasahs in the country through online.

The students can apply to minimum five and maximum 10 colleges. Respective boards then place a student to a college on the basis of their results and choices.

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Sporadic rain continued to trouble residents of Dhaka over the last week, as a result of a depression at the Bay of Bengal. Some of the worst sufferers of the downpour were street hawkers, many of whom have resumed their business after months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The photo was taken earlier this week from the capital's Mirpur-1.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## India taking back citizens stranded in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian authorities have finally taken initiatives to take back more than 2,500 of their citizens who got stranded in Bangladesh due to the Covid-19 situation.

The stranded Indians would be allowed to enter India through Benapole-Petrapole border on Saturday and Sunday, an official of Indian High Commission in Dhaka, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The official said the stranded people will have to show the token they received after getting registered with the high commission through online only to cross the border.

"The border will be opened for temporary basis on humanitarian grounds as they got stranded in Bangladesh for a long time. Decision about opening the borders permanently will be taken later," the officials said wishing anonymity.

However, some stranded Indians have already crossed the border on Wednesday, one of the stranded Indians told this correspondent from India. "At least 70 people were with us," the Indian said

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## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY UN recognises four Bangladeshis as real life heroes



Shaikat

Rizvi

Akhi

Sifat

DU CORRESPONDENT

Marking World Humanitarian Day (WHD), which falls on August 19 annually, the United Nations has recognised four Bangladeshi youths as "real life heroes" to acknowledge their contribution in humanitarian services.

They are Dhaka University (DU) student Tanbir Hasan Shaikat; Brac Architect Rizvi Hassan; translator Sifat Noor, and Akhi.

Architect Rizvi Hassan is the driving force behind the construction of a safe space for Rohingya women and girls, in Cox's Bazar. The community centre caters to a marginalised, vulnerable group at risk of gender-based violence.

According to the World Humanitarian Day website, Tanbir took responsibility to provide food to 500-1,000 poor and homeless people at Dhaka University and surrounding areas for consecutive 116 days amid the pandemic.

Afterwards he rushed to assist flood-affected people in various areas, with financial support from many including his peers and teachers.

Sifat was recognised as humanitarian hero because he translates critical, potentially life-saving information into Bengali, so more people have the information they need to lead safe, healthy, and informed lives. Since getting his start with Translators without Borders in March 2020, Sifat has translated over 115,000 words into Bengali for organisations such as IFRC and UNHCR Bangladesh. Recently, his work translating Covid-19-related information helps more people keep themselves and their families safe from the virus, said the WHD website.

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## HEALTHCARE IN CHT

### Train women on primary healthcare and midwifery

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over poor health coverage in Chattogram Hill Tracts, speakers yesterday underscored the need for providing training to women in CHT areas on primary health care and midwifery as a solution.

They also called for ensuring availability of essential drugs, surgical equipment and increasing the number of ambulance in hill areas.

They were addressing a discussion titled "Reproductive Health Safety of Women and Teenagers of CHT in Light with COVID-19 Reality", organised jointly by Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network and Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha to mark International Indigenous Day.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on August 9 each year to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

While presenting the keynote speech, member secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network Chanchana Chakma said people of CHT are deprived of health service in want of health and family welfare centres and community clinics at union and ward levels.

Mahbuba Haque Kumkum, programme manager, Simavi Bangladesh, said coronavirus created a crisis in availability of sanitary napkins and other essential items required for woman during menstruation. In want of these amenities,

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## FAKE COVID-19 CERTIFICATES

### Charges framed against JKG's Sabrina, Ariful

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against eight people including JKG Health Care Chairman Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

The other accused are: Sabrina's husband JKG Chief Executive Officer Ariful Chowdhury, Executive Officer Shafiqul Islam, graphic designer Humayun Kabir Himu and four other employees -- Himu's wife Tanzina Patwary, Jebunnesa Rima, Sayeed Chowdhury and Biplob Das.

All the accused, now in jail, claimed themselves innocent and demanded justice after Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzzman Ansary read out the charges to them.

Before that, the magistrate rejected the discharge petitions submitted on behalf of the accused.

The court fixed August 27 to start the trial of the case. During yesterday's hearing, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu represented the state in the court.

Yesterday, another Dhaka court allowed the Anti-Corruption Commission to interrogate Sabrina and five others at jail gate for three working days to know about their wealth acquired illegally. The other accused are: Ariful, Himu, Tanzina, Rima and her husband ASM Sayeed Chowdhury.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Selina Akhter Moni, a deputy director of the ACC and also the team leader of the enquiry committee, submitted an application. On August 5, Md Liakot Ali, an inspector of Detective Branch of police and also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

In the charge sheet, the IO said, as per direction of Sabrina and Ariful, the other accused collected samples from the patients, prepared fake Covid-19 certificates and supplied those to the patients.

Thirty-one people have been made prosecution witnesses. On June 23, Kamal Hossain, who was given a fake Covid-19 certificate from JKG Health Care, filed the case against Humayun, his wife Tanzina and several unknown people with Tejgaon Police Station. The following day, police arrested the couple and three others including Ariful Chowdhury.

All the five including Ariful were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka the same day. Of them, Humayun and his wife Tanzina gave confessional statements before a magistrate narrating their role in issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

Following their confessional statements, police arrested four more accused, including Sabrina on different dates.

## Release 225 returnee migrant workers from jail immediately

Demand 19 organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen organisations working on migration yesterday demanded unconditional and immediate release of 255 migrant workers who were detained and sent to jail upon their return home recently.

In a statement signed by Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants (BCSM) chair Prof CR Abrar and co-chair Syed Saiful Haque, the organisations said families of the migrants have little information other than that their loved ones are in Kashimpur jail.

It has been reported in the media that there are instances of the families being harassed by the investigating officers and even being subjected to extortion, they said. "The families are in all sorts of uncertainty and expressing deep concern in this regard," the statement added.

The organisations said the migrants were charged under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on "apprehension that if they are released and get dispersed they may commit crimes, including murder, robbery, terrorism and sabotage".

Police sources also said they may be charged for committing "anti-government and anti-state" activities, including violent acts.

Police, however, have not clarified the motive of the detainees, they said.

"Moreover, it is completely unlawful to arrest or detain someone for an offence that is yet to be committed," they added.

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Unless told, it is practically impossible for anyone to guess that this relic of a bamboo bridge is within the bounds of our capital city. At an area called Trimohoni in Khilgaon, dozens -- if not hundreds -- of people still use it to cross over the waterbody, an act that can seem like a daredevil stunt for the uninitiated. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Doctor imposter sent to jail over rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A fake doctor and owner of an illegally operating clinic was sent to jail yesterday for molesting a woman attendee of a patient at Satla area under Ujirpur Upazila of Barishal.

The accused Rezaul Karim, owner of Mayer Doa Clinic, attempted to rape the 25-year-old attendee of a patient, said Ziaul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Ujirpur police station.

According to the case statement, the plaintiff said that her sister was admitted at the clinic on August 11 with infection in her throat and mouth and since then she had been accompanying her sister at almost all hours of the day. Rezaul attempted to harass the attendee with repeated phone calls and said she should "go to his room at night."

In the early hours of August 16, he molested her and attempted to rape. After the girl started screaming for help, he fled.

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