

‘Public univs can hold final exams’

UGC at meeting with VCs says decision lies with respective academic councils

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public universities of the country can hold their honours and masters’ final year examinations as per decisions taken by their respective academic councils, following proper health safety measures.

The University Grants Commission after a virtual meeting with vice chancellors of 39 public universities yesterday took the decision.

UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah at the meeting said academic council and dean’s committee will have the final say regarding exams at the public university, according to an UGC statement yesterday.

He also urged all to keep an eye so that no question could be raised about the quality of exams.

The meeting also decided to keep other coronavirus pandemic restrictions in place.

“No public universities will be able to keep the residential halls open,” acting UGC Secretary Ferdous Zaman told The Daily Star. He said students will have to arrange their own residential facilities for the duration of the exams.

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Two workers precariously position themselves on the beams of a footbridge to finish construction. With no protective gear -- not even helmets, they are risking their lives while building this public structure at Darus Salam in Mirpur Road.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Saluting the selfless

MJF awards 10 ‘Heroes of Pandemic’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Musa of Barguna mobilised locals in his area amid the pandemic and created a 10-member team for burial of people who died from coronavirus.

The team arranged burial of 20 bodies in the southern district. Musa arranged food, masks, and hand sanitisers and distributed those among the destitute, and ran awareness campaigns on the virus and distributed relief materials among unemployed and poor families with support from local businesspersons and in coordination of government organisations.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday acknowledged Musa’s contribution, awarding him among 10 “Heroes of the Pandemic”. The awardees had all come forward voluntarily in providing food, cash, livelihood and health support, stood up against stigmatisation of vested groups, stopped or prevented child marriages, and prevented violence against women and girls during the pandemic.

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, observed globally on December 10, MJF organised a webinar titled “Recognising Heroes of Pandemic”.

The other recipients of “Manusher Jonno Heroes of Pandemic Awards-2020” are: Saifur Rahman Shakil, Rina Akhter, Kazi Taif Sadat, Tahiyatul Jannat, Sandha Rani Roy, Joyeeta Poly, Tasnuva Anan, Shotej Chakma, and Babita Khatun.

“The recognition will inspire me to work more for people,” said Shakil, who arranged 150 packages of cooked food every day and distributed those among starving people living on Dhaka city’s footpaths earlier this year. He distributed food among about 8,500 people, spending about Tk 4.5 lakh from his wife’s and his own savings. Besides, he mobilised philanthropists and organisations to arrange food and financial support for the poor.

Shakil said whatever he did was solely on the humanitarian grounds and he did not expect anything in return.

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Mini fire station at each DNCC ward soon: Tajul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Considering the narrow roads and distances, mini fire service stations will be built at all the wards of Dhaka North City Corporation, said LGRD Minister Md Tajul Islam yesterday.

The minister said this while talking to reporters after Danish Ambassador Winnie Estrup Petersen paid a courtesy call on him at his secretariat office.

The local government minister said large fire service vehicles can’t pass through many roads in the capital due to their narrowness.

Moreover, the minister said the fire stations are far away and it takes a long time for them to reach the spot. Therefore, it’s not possible to extinguish fire and avoid damage within a quick time.

“That’s why, the government is taking action plan to set up mini fire station as an alternative,” the minister said.

Initially, the work will start at 36 wards of DNCC, he said.

Tajul said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the LGRD ministry and Denmark to set up mini fire stations.

The Denmark government will finance 85 percent of the total construction cost and provide free training to the manpower, he said.

Tajul Islam said the Danish government was interested in investing in green energy and waste management when the issue of power generation from waste was discussed at the meeting.

The minister told reporters that the cabinet committee on procurement has already approved a project to generate electricity from waste at the DNCC.

Of unsung martyred intellectuals

Kaminikumar Ghosh and Abani Dutta faded from public memory

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

As Bangladesh completes its 49th year of being a sovereign country, there still remains a gap in preserving the memories of many who were martyred during the war. Two such unsung martyred intellectuals from the port city are Kaminikumar Ghosh and Abani Mohan Dutta. To this day, no initiatives have been taken in the port city to preserve the memories of these remarkable, brave individuals.

Kaminikumar Ghosh and Abani Mohan Dutta were killed by the Pakistan army during in 1971 due to their progressive activities and strong stance supporting the independence of Bangladesh.

Current generations rarely know of these courageous people. There are roads and intersections in Chattogram named after martyred intellectuals, but there is no such remembrance of Kaminikumar and Abani Mohan in the city.



Kaminikumar



Abani Mohan

In the wake of this year’s Martyred Intellectuals Day, the families of these two martyred intellectuals urge the government to take initiatives to preserve their memory and the sacrifices they made for the country.

KAMINIKUMAR GHOSH

Kaminikumar Ghosh was abducted by the Pakistan army from his house on April 25, 1971 and then brutally murdered.

Born in 1888 at Satkania thana under Chattogram district, Kaminikumar’s academic brilliance was apparent throughout his student

life as he passed in all examinations under Calcutta University with scholarships.

He served as a member of Chattogram District Board for 28 years and as its vice president for seven years. He served as the chairman of Kanchana Union Board at Satkania for 25 years. Besides, he served people as a practising lawyer for 50 years. He was known as Roy Sahab Kaminikumar Ghosh in Chattogram.

He was a philanthropist and dedicated his life to spread education and for social welfare in his area. He established Satkania College and served as its founding principal. He formed many cooperatives for the well-being of people in Satkania.

Prof Dr Anupam Sen, a renowned social scientist and vice chancellor of Premier University Chattogram, said, “I knew Kaminikumar Ghosh in person. He was a philanthropist and very good person. He dedicated his

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Nur Hossain Kasemi passes away at 75

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefazat-e Islam Secretary General Nur Hossain Kasemi died yesterday at a hospital in Dhaka, at the age of 75.

Kasemi, also secretary general of political party Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam, was admitted at United Hospital on December 1 with breathing complications.

He was taken to Intensive Care Unit on Thursday as his condition deteriorated, Monir Hossain, a personal aide of the Hefazat leader, told The Daily Star.

Doctors declared him dead at around 12:55pm, he added.

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26,000 health assistants to rejoin work from today

They end work abstention after govt assurance of better pay; halted measles-rubella vaccination campaign to start soon

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

After assurance from the officials of the directorate general of health services about better payment, some 26,000 health assistants will join work from today.

Due to their work abstention since November 26, the measles-rubella vaccination campaign for children scheduled for December 6 had to be pushed to December 12.

Even after that “no assistant under the banner of Bangladesh Health Assistant Association (BHAA) joined the ongoing measles-rubella vaccination campaign” across the country.

“We had a meeting with honourable director general of the DGHS. He assured us that our demand will be met. So, we will join work from tomorrow [today]. After the measles-rubella campaign, however, we will go on strike again if our demand is not met,” Sheikh Rabiul Alam, president of BHAA told The Daily Star yesterday.

He, however, said any programme involving

Covid-19 vaccination will be out of the question if they strike in future.

Shamsul Haque Mridha, director of EPI at the DGHS told this newspaper, “We have held measles-rubella vaccination campaign in city corporation areas in last two days.”

“If they join work from tomorrow [today], we could be able to start it countrywide from next day [tomorrow]. Because, they would need one-day training. In that case, we have the chance to extend the campaign timeline by two or three days,” headed.

According to the DGHS, some 3.4 crore children aged between nine months and ten years will be vaccinated with a dose of the measles-rubella vaccine under the campaign scheduled to be held between December 12-24.

There are three types of staffers under the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) programme of DGHS. They are: health inspector, assistant health inspector, and health assistants.

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2005 BOMB BLASTS IN SYLHET JMB leader gets life-term imprisonment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court in Sylhet yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment in a case filed over a series of bomb blasts in the city’s Kadamtali Bus Terminal on August 17, 2005.

Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Mominunnessa delivered the verdict in presence of the convict, Abdul Aziz alias Hanif, a leader of the banned militant outfit Jama’atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), according to Advocate Jubayer Bakht, assistant public prosecutor of the court.

On August 17 in 2005, as part of the countrywide series bomb blasts by JMB, bombs went off in 13 places of Sylhet district including the bus terminal, Sylhet court and other important places.

In the blasts, no one died in Sylhet but 15 people were injured, including a judge of a speedy trial tribunal.

The next day, 13 cases were filed by police.

In the case of Kadamtali Central Bus Terminal blast, Abdul Aziz was the lone accused.

Air Asia fined for carrying Covid-19 positive passenger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday fined Air Asia, a Malaysia-based budget airlines, Tk 1 lakh for carrying an identified Covid-19 positive passenger.

“We were astonished when we identified the passenger, having a Covid-19 positive certificate with him,” Ahmed Zamil, an executive magistrate at the airport, told The Daily Star.

He said the certificate clearly shows in block letters that the passenger was detected with Covid-19. But nobody identified the passenger at any of the check points at Kuala Lumpur Airport before he boarded the aircraft.

Ahmed Zamil also said the airlines – with 98 passengers on board -- landed in Dhaka in the early hours of yesterday.

The Bangladeshi expatriate worker was sent to a hospital, he said, adding that other passengers were sent to home quarantine.

A representative of Air Asia in Dhaka said they have already drawn the attention of their management to take action against those responsible.

Ahmed Zamil said it’s also unexpected on part of the Bangladeshi passenger that he boarded the aircraft despite testing positive.

CTG UP CHAIRMAN MURDER IN 1999

10 to walk gallows, 5 get life-term sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty years after submitting the charge sheet, a court in Chattogram yesterday sentenced 10 persons to death and five to life term imprisonment in connection with the murder of Union Parishad Chairman Amjad Hossain in 1999.

Chattogram Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge AKM Mozammel Haque gave the verdict after the court found the accused guilty beyond doubt -- examining all the witnesses and evidence, said complainant’s lawyer Advocate SUM Nurul Islam.

The court also fined the five life-term convicts Tk 50,000 each.

The death row convicts are Nezam Uddin, Jahed, Abu Md Rashed, Manik, Zullur Rahman, Md Rafiq, Faruk Ahmed, Jasim Uddin, Bashir Ahmed and Tarek while the life-term convicts are Md Idris, Harun, Md Ayub, Morshed Alam, and Idris.

Apart from that, four others -- Taher, Shayeb, Mostak Ahmed and Abdul Malek -- were acquitted from the charges.

Advocate Nurul said among the 20 accused, one died a few years back and nine are on the run.

Amjad Hossain, an Awami League leader and chairman of Ward-17 of Sonakania union in Satkania upazila, was shot dead by criminals in front of a tea stall at Mirzakhil Banglabazar under the upazila while a local religious event was taking place on October 4, 1999, according to the case statement.

His wife filed the murder case accusing 20 persons with Satkania Police Station.

Later, CID submitted a charge sheet implicating 20 persons before a court in Chattogram in 2000. The court framed the charges on October 25, 2004.

Following the verdict, Amjad’s nephew advocate Abdul Alam said, “We are pleased to get the verdict after a long time. The accused were trying to prolong the trial but we finally got justice.”



In a matching coloured shirt, a street food vendor fries his prawn heads to optimum levels of brownish-orange. Winter is a good time not only for his business, but for street food in general. As the temperature is cooler, the tummy can withstand a little more oil and heat than usual, although it is not the healthiest choice. This photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GRAFT CASE

HC questions legality of suspended DIG prisons Bazlur’s bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of a lower court order that granted bail to suspended Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons Bazlur Rashid, in connection with a case filed for amassing Tk 3.08 crore beyond known sources of income.

The court issued a rule asking Bazlur and the state to explain in 10 days why the subordinate court’s order that granted bail to him should not be scrapped.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel also fixed January 18 for hearing the rule.

The bench came up with the order and rule following a revision petition filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) challenging the lower court order.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the HC issued the rule following his arguments that Bazlur has suppressed the information of HC’s refusal to grant him bail for two times in the same case to the lower court in securing bail.

There are specific allegations against Bazlur of committing corruption, he added.

Lawyer Baharul Islam appeared for Bazlur Rashid during the hearing yesterday.