

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Season's Fruity Bonanza

by A S M Nurunnabi

Now is the season of mangoes. This season, breaking many years record, offers a bonanza to the city consumers, as elsewhere, in the shape of plentiful supply of this summer delicacy at a very low price. This has enabled the fruit to come within the reach of common man. In this season various other summer fruits like litchis, watermelons, black berries, pine apples, etc also appear in the market, but mango tops the list because of its wider appeal.

In spite of widespread drought in northern districts, there has been a bumper production of this fruit in greater Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabganj, Dinajpur, Rangpur and greater Kushtia district areas.

As a result, the succulent seasonal fruit has flooded the city's markets and footpaths. There is, however, one characteristic feature: summer fruits like water melon pineapple are sold in cart pieces by street vendors but never a ripe mango, even when it sells dear.

It is well known that in the range and variety, flavour and sweetness, mango is incomparable. Bangladesh and some other tropical countries have the good fortune of being producers of this fruit. Its select varieties such as Langra, Khirsapoti, Himsagar, Fazli Dudsagar, etc have unique taste and gastronomic appeal.

We all have a peculiar weakness for this fruit and in the summer, a good part of our daily diet, unless deterred by high prices, may consist of this fruit. By and large, it is ubiquitous as an item of offering to guests in our homes during this season.

There are many ways of eating a mango. The socially sophisticated people will cut it into small pieces after peeling off its skin and then proceed to consume it with forks. But the general run of consumers do not have the patience to go into such procedure. They will simply peel off the skin by hand or with a knife and hasten to dig their teeth into its succulent flesh. It was reported in the past that India's

drive to export this item to western countries somewhat suffered as the western people were not quite acquainted with the procedure of consuming mangoes.

The happy thing in that since this fruit is selling at a comparatively low price this season, a larger number of people are able to buy it. In the last few years, the fruit was relatively costly and as such it was regarded as a gastronomic luxury and out of reach of many.

There are great export potentials for this item. It is learnt that in the seventies, Bangla-

des was the fourth largest mango producing country in the world. But it came down to the 10th position last year. According to experts, our country can regain its previous position if production of this fruit is boosted by application of modern technology. Countries like India, Pakistan, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Mexico which also produce this fruit, get increased output by adopting modern technology which enables them to augment their export earnings on this account.

To speak in a lighter vein, it may be said that the fruit plays a part in winning friends and influencing people. A gift of a basket of mangoes may go a long way in paving good inter-personal relations. It sometimes acquired a vital significance in state affairs. In the recent past, it was alleged to have been used as an instrument of assassination when a time-bomb hidden in a basket of mangoes on board an aircraft was the cause of explosion that killed the president of a country. It may thus turn out to be a potentially hazardous weapon of terrorism which we will all abhor.

We have also heard of mango diplomacy as a means of easing tensions between some nations. This aspect needs all encouragement in the interest of international peace. It is, therefore, no less important than its role in satisfying the delicate taste of mango connoisseurs.



Mango ghat.

— Star photo



The visiting German Christian Democratic Party MP Willy Wimmer (R) called on Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

### German MPs call on Speaker

A 3-member German parliamentary delegation led by Willy Wimmer MP and vice-president of the parliamentary assembly of the organisation for security and cooperation in Europe yesterday called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at his office in Sangsad Bhaban in the city, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on bilateral and parliamentary issues. Shaikh Razzak Ali briefed the delegation about the function of the present parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh. The other members of the delegation were Ronald Prilla and Walter Kolbow.

### Maulana Hasan's death condoled

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed his profound shock and sorrow at the sad demise of Hazrat Maulana Mohammad Enamul Hasan (RA), Ameer of World Tabligh Jamaat.

In a condolence message yesterday, President Biswas paid deep respect to the memory of late Maulana Enamul Hasan and said he was a distinguished Islamic scholar.

Maulana Enamul Hasan died on Friday night in the Indian capital New Delhi.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam has expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the sudden demise of Hazrat Maulana Mohammad Enamul Hasan.

### Kamal opens centre for rheumatic heart diseases

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf has opened a regional centre for controlling rheumatic heart diseases in Faridpur Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

The opening ceremony held on Sunday was attended, among others, by director of national centre for controlling rheumatism and heart disease, Prof KMHS Sirajul Haq and deputy director Dr M A Reza.

A scientific conference on heart disease from rheumatism was also held in the lecture gallery of Faridpur medical college on Sunday.

### RU JCD demands VC's resignation

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, June 12: Rajshahi University unit of the Jayyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Sunday demanded immediate cancellation of all appointments of pro-Jamaat officers and employees, including the Vice Chancellor, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference JCD joint convener Yusuf Ali demanded immediate resignation of the Vice Chancellor Prof Yusuf Ali, Suhrawardy Hall Provost Azizul Islam and newly appointed Proctor Nazrul Islam.

He blamed the VC for politicising the university administration and patronising the Jamaat activists for campus violence.

He urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures to prevent recurrence of violence.

The JCD activists will bring out procession in the city on June 12, stage sit-in in front of the DC office on June 13 and enforce a day-long strike at the university on June 14 to realise their 9-point demand.

### Shamsul tells visiting German MPs Atmosphere for investment promising

Minister for Information and Commerce M Shamsul Islam yesterday said that a very congenial atmosphere for foreign investment is now prevailing in the country, reports BSS.

He said Bangladesh welcomes any foreign investor to take advantage of the multifarious facilities available in this sector.

The minister was talking to a three-member German parliamentary delegation at his chamber in the secretariat. German Christian Democratic Party MP Willy Wimmer is leading the delegation. The other members are Ronald Prilla of the CDP and Social Democratic partyman Walter Kolbow.

The commerce minister stressed the importance of

visits by business delegations and meetings at chamber level to expand Bangladesh-German bilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of trade. He expressed the hope that the existing relations would be further strengthened through joint venture investments.

Leader of the German delegation Wimmer, while lauding the recent achievements of the country in political and economic fields, said that as a development partner, the German government would extend all-out cooperation to implement the reform programmes. They assured the minister of considering the possibility of increased investment in Bangladesh.

Commerce Secretary Mohammad Asafuddinwah was present during the meet.

### Study on diets says

### BIRDEM tops, IPGMR trails

The Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre (BIRDEM) is at the top in a ranking of the major hospitals in the city in supplying quality food to the patients, while the IPGMR is at the bottom, reports BSS.

This was revealed in a study on diets served in five hospitals of the city. The study was recently published in the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) bulletin.

The hospitals included were the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH), Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR), National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and the Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre (BIRDEM).

The IPGMR and BIRDEM are incidentally situated opposite each other at the Shahbagh crossing on the VIP Road.

The study found that every hospital except the BIRDEM supplied food with the energy content about 50 per cent less than what is mentioned in their menus.

The foods supplied by DMCH, SSMCH, IPGMR, NICVD and BIRDEM contained 1012, 1032, 994, 1116 and 1200 kilocalories respectively.

as against their prescribed 2325, 2104, 1929, 1963 and 1868 kilocalories shown in the menus.

The five hospitals have menus serving eight kinds of diets, namely full-diet, diabetic diet, diarrhoeal diet, milk-bread for new patients, liquid diet and fat-free diet, for different categories of patients.

Conducted jointly by Monirun Nessa Begum, Monowara Begum, Salamattullah Quazi and SM Keramat Ali of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science of Dhaka University, the study also found that on an average 50 per cent of the energy requirement of the patients were met from food supplied from sources outside the hospital.

The patients also develop senses of dissatisfaction to hospital diets due to monotony, environmental conditions, and low quality, the study added.

It further revealed that in most of the hospitals there was no trained dietician to plan the menu as per requirement of different types of diseases. Budget per patient per day is minimal and the amount of food served is not even upto the what is mentioned in the menu.

### Weather

### Rainfall likely

Moderate to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions with heavy shells at places over Barisal division and the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla and Khulna during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree over the country. In its outlook of tomorrow weathermen says that wether may improve at the end of the period. Giving extended outlook for another four days Met Office forecast a little change.

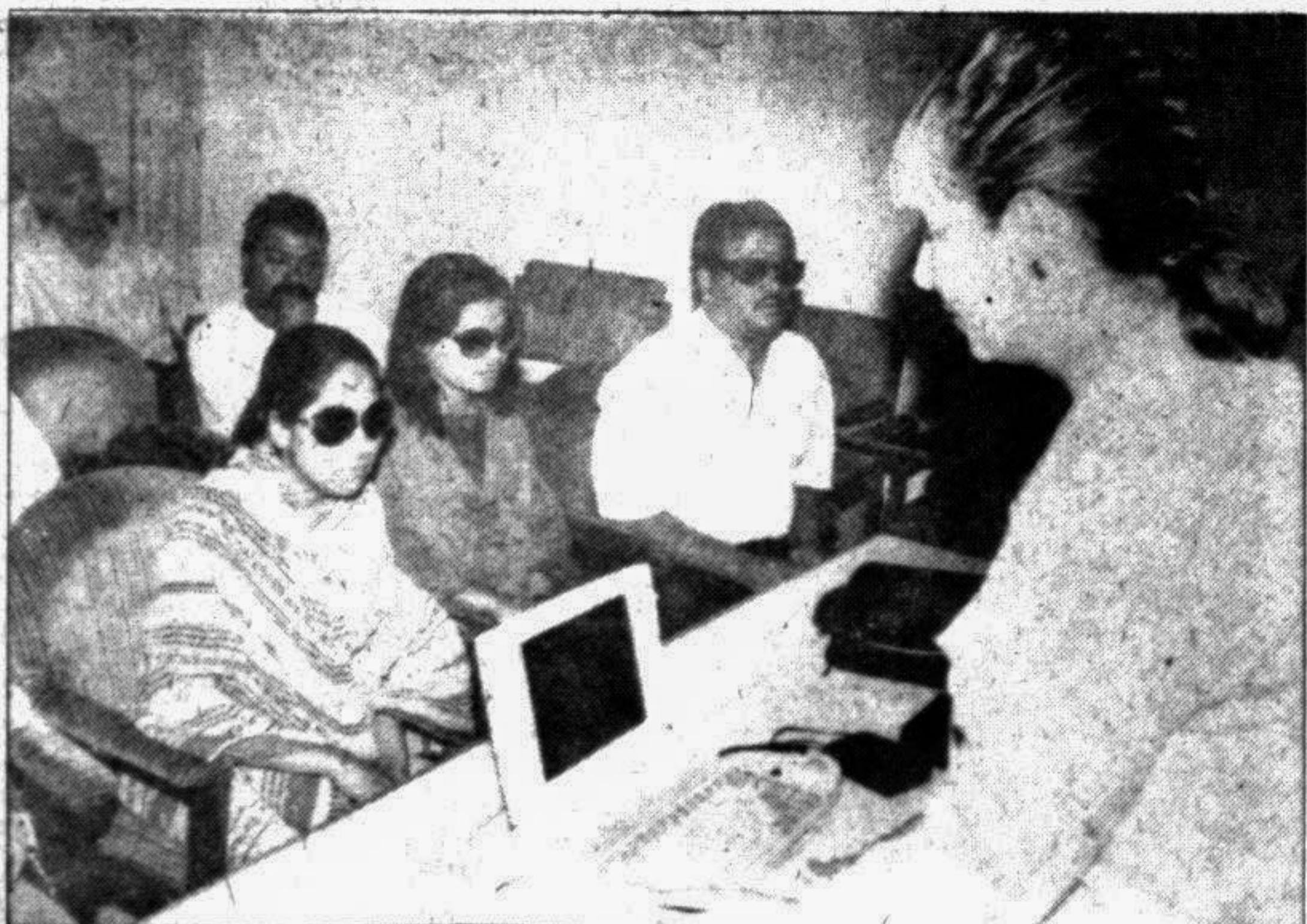
Meantime, Patuakhali experienced 165 mm rain, Teknaf 41, Cox's Bazar 25, Chittagong 23, Matjdee Court 48, Barisal 89, Bhola 81 and Khulna 24 during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

The country's highest temperature 33.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Satkhira.

The sun sets today at 6:45 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	30.0	25.1	84	80
Chittagong	26.0	24.0	97	97
Rajshahi	32.6	25.9	82	80
Khulna	29.2	25.0	100	92
Barisal	26.4	24.8	100	100
Sylhet	33.6	26.0	79	82
Cox's Bazar	25.2	24.0	95	91
Mymensingh	33.0	26.6	77	77



Gayle Yarnall (R) of Advanced Technology Consulting, USA, demonstrating a talking computer for blind people yesterday at the Bangladesh Computer Council in the city.

— Star photo

### Talking computer for blind displayed

By Staff Correspondent

The advantages of modern computer technology, specially adapted for blind people, were demonstrated yesterday at a talk given by an American consultant in the city.

Gayle Yarnall, of Adaptive Technology Consulting, in her presentation illustrated the benefits to blind people of products such as talking com-

puters and dictionaries, computers with Braille keyboards and screens, and Braille printers and scanners that can 'read' or enlarge printed materials.

The visually impaired can now avail themselves of the modern technology that most of us take for granted," said Yarnall, herself blind. "Thus,

they can lead more independent lives," she said, referring to the modified computers, with the aid of which blind people can write and read for themselves.

Some of the products, marketed by Yarnall's firm, were also displayed and a video outlining their uses was shown during the talk, held at the conference room of the Bangladesh Computer Council at Dhanmondi.

Yarnall, based in Massachusetts, is currently on a ten-day visit to Dhaka at the invitation of Helen Keller International (HKI), for whom she has already converted a normal computer into a talking one with the help of a voice synthesizer and special software.

When asked about the prices involved, she said: "Prices range from 400 US dollars to 5000 dollars. The more expensive equipment could be acquired by organisations such as HKI to benefit all blind people — who account for a large percentage of the population in this country."



ADCOMM/NES/3/95

## JU admission tests begin tomorrow

By JU Correspondent

The written tests for admission to the first year (honours) classes of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) for the 1994-95 session begin tomorrow.

The tests under three faculties and one institute of the university will continue till June 25.

A total of 43,716 students have applied this year for some 700 seats.

In the 'Ka' unit (Science Faculty), 9869 students have applied this year while 5900 and 7226 students had applied in the 1993-94 and 1992-93 sessions respectively.

About 14,167 students have submitted their applications to the 'Kha' unit (Social Science Faculty) compared to 9200 students in the 1993-94 session and 9500 students in the 1992-93 session.

In the 'Ga' unit (Arts Faculty) some 9600 students are

competing this year while around 7000 and 6500 students had vied in the last two sessions.

Some 10,080 students have applied to the 'Gha' unit (Institute of Life Sciences) while 6880 and 5589 students competed in this unit in the 1993-94 and 1992-93 sessions respectively.

A record number of students are trying for admission this year.

A total of 28,288 students had applied in the 1993-94 session for 643 seats while 27,743 students had applied for the 893 seats in the 1992-93 session.

According to the statistics, about 26,000 students had applied for the then-available 1007 seats in 1991-92.

All classes of the university will remain suspended till June 25 because of the admission test.

### Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

(Approved by the Government of Bangladesh and Sponsored by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission)

### ADMISSION NOTICE

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology announces the admission of students for the session 1995-96 in the following Programmes :

	Department	Programme	Seats	Duration	Entry Qualifications
1.	Deptt. of Architecture	B. Arch.	40	5 years	H.S.C (Sc.) with Math /A-level/or its equivalent.
2.	Deptt. of Urban and Regional Planning	BURP	40	4 years	Do
3.	Deptt. of Civil Engineering	B.Sc. Engg. (Civil)	40	4 years	H.S.C (Sc.) with Math /A-level/Dip. in Engg. or its equivalent.
4.	Deptt. of Electrical and Electronic Engineering	B.Sc. Engg. (Electrical & Electronic)	40	4 years	Do
5.	Deptt. of Computer Science and Engineering	B.C.S.E.	40	4 years	Do
6.	Deptt. of Business Administration	B.B.A.	50	4 years	H.S.C /A-level or its equivalent.
7.	Deptt. of Economics	B.S.S. (Econ.)	50	4 years	Do
8.	Institute of Technical and Vocational Education (ITVE)	B.Sc. Voc. Education.	7 X 40	3 years	Dip. in Engg./Certificate in Voc. Ed. or its equivalent.

\* B.Sc. in Vocational Education will be offered in 7 different fields of specialization. The graduates of these courses will have prospect of employment as a teacher in the S.S.C. (Voc.) and H.S.C. (Voc.) Programmes now being implemented by the Govt. of Bangladesh throughout the country. The students may also opt for DVE (Diploma in Vocational Education) after completion of one year course and passing out of examination conducted by the Technical Education Board.

Details are available in the Prospectus of the University. Candidates willing to get admission are required to collect the admission form together with the Prospectus from the office of the Registrar of the University on all working days between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on payment of Tk. 200/-. Application form duly filled in, will be received in this office upto 13-07-1995.

Admission test will be held on 21-07-95. The session will start in September, 1995.

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