

CU 1st yr (Hons) admission tests begin today

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 21: The admission tests for the first year honours classes of Chittagong University for '98-99 session will begin tomorrow.

On the first day, the admission test under Departments of Fine Arts and Arabic will be held.

The other schedules are: Ka unit (Science Faculty) on April 26, Kha unit (Arts Faculty) on May 5, Ga unit (Commerce Faculty) on April 24 for Science group and May 3 for the students from Commerce and Arts groups. Gha unit (combined) on May 4, Uma unit (Law Faculty) on May 2, Marine Science on April 25, and Forestry Institute on April 28.

The Chittagong University authorities have resorted to steps to ensure security of the admission seekers and to hold the tests peacefully.

The authorities have imposed a ban on procession, meeting and rallies on the campus during the timing of examinations.

At least 12 students will vie for each seat this year, 28561 students will compete for 2313 seats.

DU student beaten up for refusing to pay toll

By DU Correspondent A third year student of the Dhaka University was beaten up yesterday allegedly by activist of an armed cadre after he refused to pay toll to them.

Khokan, a student of Finance Dept and resident of Jagannath Hall was beaten up at around 2.30 pm in front of the Business Studies Faculty where he sells admission guide books from a temporary stall.

Campus sources said, the group, belonging to the Surya Sen Hall and backed by Babul Talukder, an outsider of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) faction.

The group also collected money from other temporary stalls selling admission guide books in front of the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) before the beating.

Sources preferring anonymity alleged that the group led by Jamal, Tipu and Shahidul was ousted out from the Zahurul Haq Hall by its BCL unit president Babu as they created anarchy on the campus.

The group was related with different anti-social activities on the campus including mugging, kidnapping and harassing female students. They are still creating chaos, they said.

3 panels submit nominations for DU Senate polls

By DU Correspondent Three panels submitted their nomination papers yesterday, the last day of submission of nomination papers for election of the registered graduates of Dhaka University Senate.

The panels are Awami League-backed Blue Panel, opposition BNP-supported White Panel and Progamit Parasad, a platform of the progressive-minded registered graduates of the university.

Nomination papers will be scrutinised on April 25. The last date of withdrawal of nomination papers is May 6.

A total of 31,424 registered graduates will cast their votes to elect 25 representatives to the DU Senate.

The election is scheduled to be held from June 6 to 17.

New envoy to Morocco

The government has appointed Principal Md Quamr-uz-Zaman Ambassador of Bangladesh to Morocco, reports UNB.

Quamr-uz-Zaman, president of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, is the founding president of SAARC Teachers' Association, said an official handout.

Turro makes courtesy call on President

Fredesman Turro, the special envoy to the Cuban President, made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Banghaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The envoy also handed over a letter of the Cuban President to Shahabuddin.

Welcoming Turro, the President recalled with gratitude the strong support extended by Cuba to Bangladesh's war of liberation in 1971. "Cuba was one of the first few countries to recognise Bangladesh," he said.

He mentioned the friendly ties and close rapport between father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and President Fidel Castro Ruz.

He said they met many times and discussed the problems of the third world countries.

CCGE meeting in London Sajeda calls for collective global fund to face natural calamities

Minister for Environment and Forests Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has called for collective global efforts including marshalling funds to face natural calamity and help overcome challenges to development, reports BSS.

"Our entire effort should be designed to face a single challenge: attaining development despite difficulties and drawbacks" Sajeda said in a statement at the 6th meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment (CCGE) Tuesday at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Stressing the need for taking unified steps against natural calamities, she said the response of the international community to natural disaster, environmental emergencies and other forms of crises "should be viewed as inseparable components of development".

At the outset of her statement Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury highlighted the negative impact on the economies of small states caused due to repeated natural disasters. Describing the economies of small states "inherently vulnerable" to any adverse situation, Minister Chowdhury suggested that the experts of the UN and international financial institutions who deal these issues "should" take full account of the vulnerable factor.

While focusing on the second substantive agenda, the "Review of International Mechanism for Disaster Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction" Sajeda explained Bangladesh's position in respect of repeated disasters and high degree of vulnerability among the 54 member states of Commonwealth. In this connection she

said last year's flood which was the worst in Bangladesh's history caused "untold miseries" to the people, damaged infrastructure. It also challenged Bangladesh's ability to manage the situation.

Referring to Bangladesh's call for establishment of a Commonwealth Disaster Relief Fund earlier in London, Sajeda Chowdhury urged international coordination for speedy disaster management to be increased to face the such unforeseen emergencies. She assured Bangladesh's support in finding out the way for better management of this kind of disasters.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury also suggested that "adequate funding should be made available for emergency situation and post disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction activities".

Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Smiti was present on the occasion.

Students demand resignation of Warden of Rokeya Hall extn

By DU Correspondent

Several hundred female students of Dhaka University staged a demonstration demanding resignation of the Warden of Rokeya Hall extension building on Tuesday night.

Residents said some five hundred students of Rokeya Hall and its extension building Faizunnesa came out from their rooms at midnight to protest a decision by the Warden.

Razia Begum, Warden of the hall extension building had found out a former student of Political Science of DU at room number 506 during her daily round at about 10.30 pm yesterday night. The warden compelled Bilkis Begum, the former student, to leave the hall at about 11 pm.

She repeatedly requested the warden to let her stay at the hall for the night as she had no other place to go. The resident students of the hall also pleaded with the Warden to permit her to stay on humanitarian grounds.

But the Warden refused, inmates said.

The students of Rokeya Hall and its extension building then organised themselves and

brought out a procession at the hall. The agitated students also locked the residence of Razia Begum and kept her confined for about two hours.

The warden then informed the Proctor and Assistant Proctor of the university to take steps to bring the students under control.

Assistant Proctor Fatema Begum tried to control the situation. She later informed Proctor Dr AKM Noor-un-Nabi failing to do so.

The Proctor too failed to badge the students from their rigid stand. He then contacted the Vice-chancellor and requested the students to go to the VC's residence.

The students of the Rokeya Hall and its extension building submitted two memoranda to the VC demanding resignation of the Warden. Students made various complaints against the Warden including non-cooperation and misbehaviour with them.

The students ended their agitation after the Warden promised to resign and went back to their hall.



Members of armed forces seen distributing water among the residents of Khilgaon in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Anti-smoking drive at East-West University

East-West University, a private institute has undertaken a campaign to educate students of the University about the dangers of smoking, reports BSS.

As part of the process, Adhunik, the pioneer anti-smoking organisation of the country, will hold a motivational session in the University today, a press release of the university said.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Hinguli Union under Mirsarai thana in Chittagong will be held at his village home after Zohr prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives and well wishers of Hossainuzzaman Bhuiyan have been requested to attend the programme.

Hossainuzzaman was the founder of Karerhat High School, Azamnagar Primary School (Chinkirhat), Karerhat Jaama Mosque and Taltali Jaama Mosque.

First class first in DU Biochemistry

By Staff Correspondent Md Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury stood first class first in the "Ka Group" of M.Sc examination 1998 (held in 1998) from the Biochemistry Department of Dhaka University, says a press release.

He also secured first class second position in the B.Sc (Hons) examination from the same department and successfully passed HSC examination from Comilla Cadet College in 1992.

Saleh intends to do Ph.D in Biochemistry.

He is the eldest son of Engineer Mohammad Jaan-e-Alam Chowdhury and Quamrunnabha Chowdhury of village Laxminarayapur of Begumganj thana in Noakhali.

Prize giving ceremony of Kumudini College held

TANGAIL Apr 21: The prize giving ceremony of Kumudini Government College was held on Saturday in its auditorium, reports BSS.

DRU condemns attack on newspaper office

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) has strongly condemned terrorist attack on office of The Daily Matribhumi, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, President of the unity Shahjahan Sarder and its General Secretary Mofidul Islam Razu also demanded legal actions against those responsible for the attack.

Charity concert at Sheraton tomorrow

A charity concert to save the life of Ebon a 15 year old boy suffering from cancer, will be held tomorrow at the Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, says a press release.

Dhaka Sheraton is sponsoring the concert. Popular Bands LRB, Feelings and Souls will perform at the concert to raise funds for Ebon's treatment.

Comilla Victoria College centenary celebration Apr 24

A day-long programme will be held on April 24 to mark the centenary celebration of Comilla Victoria College, says a press release.

Minister Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam (Bir Uttam) will attend the programme as chief guest.

All former and present teachers and students of the college willing to participate in the celebrations have been requested to contact Old Victorians, organisation of ex-students of the college at House No 11, Rd No 4, Dhanmondi or contact over Tel No 9660739, fax No 9660437.

32,318 hectares earmarked for aus cultivation

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 21: A total of 32,318 hectares of land have been earmarked for Aus cultivation in 10 thanas with 43,111 metric tons of production target, reports UNB.

Of the total land, high yielding varieties will be cultivated on 13,136 hectares and local varieties on 19,182 hectares.

An official of local Agriculture Extension Department said target of 24,696 metric tons has been fixed from HYV and 18,415 MTS from local varieties.

Of the total, 5,493 hectares in Hossainpur, 7800 hectares in Sadar, 8,400 hectares in Pakundia, 6,500 hectares in Kotliadi, 6,000 hectares in Karimganj, 75 hectares in Tarail, 150 hectares in Nikli, 600 hectares in Bajitpur, 250 hectares in Kuliarchar and 50 hectares in Blairab thanas will be brought under the cultivation.

Meanwhile, Krishi Bank and other commercial banks have started loan distribution programme while AED began supplying various agri-inputs like seeds, pesticides and fertiliser to make the scheme a success.

Directive to food ministry

The parliamentary standing committee on Food Ministry has directed the ministry to gear up the rice, paddy and wheat procurement drive in the coming season, reports UNB.

The directive came from a meeting of the committee held with its chairman Sayedul Haque in the chair yesterday.

The meeting also formed a 5-member Parliamentary sub-committee headed by Mirza Azam to probe the import of unwholesome rice at Chittagong and Mongla ports.

The sub-committee will also probe the matter how the price of rice has been paid to Ramesh Kumar and Company although it failed to supply the rice as per the agreement with the ministry.

Committee members food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Kader Siddiqui, Mirza Azam, Joydul Abedin Sarker, Prof Shahjahan Mia and Alhaj Shamsuddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

Food Secretary Mahub Kabir and concerned senior officials were present.

Greek ambassador calls on Hasina

Greek Ambassador to Bangladesh Yannis Alexis Zepos, who is based in New Delhi, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

The prime minister told the ambassador that the bilateral relations between the two countries particularly in trade and commerce as well as cultural field should be further expanded.

Sheikh Hasina stressed the need for reactivating the economic cooperation agreement which was signed earlier and remains inoperative for long.

The prime minister thanked the ambassador for donating generously in her Relief and Welfare Fund for the flood victims of the country.

The ambassador expressed the hope that existing relations between the two countries will be further developed in the days to come. He said that Greece could help Bangladesh in training seamen in groups. He also extended a proposal for training of people in the field of medicine and defence.

Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Smiti was present on the occasion.

Discussion on Dr Ahmed Sharif held at TSC

By DU Correspondent A discussion meeting on "Thoughts and Personality of Prof Ahmed Sharif", was held at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University yesterday afternoon.

Bangladesh Bhasa Samity (BBS) organised the programme to commemorate the life of the late professor.

At the programme speakers recollected memories of Dr Sharif.

Presided over by Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, the discussion was also addressed, among others, by Dr Anisuzzaman, Swakat Ali, Dr Aminul Islam, Abul Kashem Fazul Haq, Dr Syed Anwar Hossain and Sultana Rebu.

More security for Justice Golam Rasul's family demanded

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Supreme Court Karimachari Sangjukta Parishad (BSCKSP) in a statement yesterday demanded to beef up security of the family of Justice Kazi Golam Rasul who gave the verdict of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman killing case.

"Anti-liberation forces supporting the killers are threatening the judge and his family over telephone and through unsigned letters since the verdict of the Mujib killing case was delivered," said a press release issued by BSCKSP president Anwarul Islam Anwar yesterday.

The entire family is in distress and the judge's children have been suffering from mental anguish due to the continuous torture they are going through," the release said.

"Killers and the anti-liberation forces could not accept the verdict of the Mujib killings case and they have launched a machination before execution of the order." "In this situation, strengthening of security of the judge and his family is a must," the release said.

BUET term final exams begin May 2

By DU Correspondent The term final examinations under the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Architecture and Planning of BUET will begin on May 2 as per schedule approved by the Academic Council, says a press release.

The time table of the examinations has already been announced.

The examinations of the levels include level-1/term-1 and level-2/term-1 of session 1997-98, level-2/term-2, level-3/term-1 and level-4/term-1 of 1996-97 session, level-4/term-2 of session 1995-96 under the faculty of engineering.

Under the Faculty of Architecture levels include level-1/term-1 and level-2/term-1 of session 1997-98 and level-2/term-2 of session 1996-97.

Studio Owners Assoc executives

By Staff Correspondent A 22-member executive committee of Bangladesh Studio Owners' Association for the year 1999-2000 was unanimously formed at its office in the city recently with Khalidur Rahman Manju and Hamidul Haq Kochi as its president and general secretary respectively.

Other office bearers of the association are: vice presidents Rezaul Karim, Zakir Hossain and Kamal Ahmed, treasurer SNH Humayun and assistant general secretary Hasan Abdul Gofran.

Executive members are MA Kader, MA Rahim, Hasan Abdul Kayum, MA Hamid, SG Jahangir, Mahmud Hasan, Amir Uddin Khokan, Saiful Islam, Ezahar Imran, Monzur Hossain, Zahirul Islam, Ershad Khan, Kaiser, Nasimul Haq, Humayun, Kabir Chowdhury and Ziaul Karim.



Minister for Science and Technology Lt Gen Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan inaugurating Chulakhar Bazar Barachapa Road in Narsingdi yesterday. —PID photo

What's on today . . . .

Discussion meeting and rally: Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will be held. A rally will also be brought out prior to the meeting. Venue: National Press Club. Time: Rally — 8:30 am, meeting — 9:30 am.

Get-together: Inam-Al Haq will speak about his experiences on climbing Keokradong, watch birds at an informal get-together. Keokradong is the 2nd highest peak in Bangladesh. Organiser: Mawla Baksh Sardar Memorial Trust. Venue: Trust auditorium, 28 Mohini Mohan Das Lane, Farashganj. Time: 9:30 am.

Film show: Two European films will be screened as part of the 4th programme of 'Focus on European Films'. Organisers: Chalachitran Film Society in association with Goethe-Institut. Venue: Goethe Institut Dhaka, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: Ulysses' Gaze — 5:00 pm and The Postman 7:00 pm.

NAM meet on World Confce on science held

A day-long Non-aligned Movement (NAM) meeting on World Conference on Science was held in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting focussed on preparing a common stand of the NAM and other developing countries in the coming World Conference on Science.

Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan inaugurated the conference at the CIDRAP auditorium in the morning.

The Ministry of Science and Technology and NAM Centre for Science and Technology, New Delhi jointly organised the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the Minister stressed on equitable distribution of world production and resources, sharing of knowledge and experiences and exchange of views.

He emphasised on human resource development for augmenting economic production and ensuring better socio-economic life for the populace of the developing countries.

Khan also underscored the need for increasing fund for global science and technology development.

Science and Technology Secretary Fazlur Rahman and Director of the NAM centre KN Johry also spoke on the occasion.

BCSIR Chairman Prof Mosihuzzaman and Prof Shamsur Ali of Dhaka University presented their evolved proposals on the cardinal theme of the coming World Conference on Science to be held in Budapest in Hungary in the last week of June.

Scientists and technologists from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Zambia and host Bangladesh took part in the deliberations.

'Malnutrition major cause for infant and maternal mortality'

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday described malnutrition as a major public health problem, expressing the hope that the problem would be lessened to a marked level through coordinated efforts of the government and non-government organisations and the participation of the people, reports BSS.

Driefing newsmen here on the occasion of the National Nutrition Week, Yusuf said malnutrition is the major cause for most of the infant and maternal mortality in the country.

The minister said malnutrition leads to low birth weight, anemia, vitamin A deficiency and iodine deficiency disorders.

Yusuf said about 50 per cent of women suffer from prolonged malnutrition, causing pre-natal and even post-natal malnutrition of the infants.

Referring to the formulation of National Food and Nutrition Policy and the National Nutrition Work Plan, the Minister said notable progress had been achieved in the iodine fortification in the salt, distribution of Vitamin-A capsule among the children and encouragement to breast-feeding.

He said the Ministry of Health and Family Planning has been implementing the 'Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Programme' (BINP) for the improvement of nutrition level for the pregnant women and the infants.

At present, this programme is being carried out in 40 thanas across the country, he added.

Referring to the National Nutrition Week, Yusuf said malnutrition is the major cause for most of the infant and maternal mortality in the country.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr Md Shahadat Ali, addressing as chief guest the freshers reception and farewell programme of the students of Institute of Social Welfare and Research, Dhaka university yesterday.

Khaleda to visit Munshiganj tomorrow

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia goes to Sreenagar in Munshiganj district tomorrow, reports UNB.

She will address a public meeting at Sreenagar stadium at 3 pm, party sources said.

12 shops gutted in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Apr 21: A devastating fire at Madhabdi Bazar in sadar thana gutted 12 shops on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Fire service sources said the fire broke out from an electric short circuit at 9.30 pm and soon engulfed the adjoining shops.

Firefighters brought the blaze under control after 2 and half hours.

5 pedestrians hurt as muggers blast crackers in city

By Staff Correspondent At least five pedestrians sustained bomb injuries when a gang of alleged muggers blasted crackers while escaping at city's Dilkusha Commercial area in the afternoon yesterday.

The injured five were identified as Amir Hossain, 35, Abdus Salam, 45, Abdul Mia, 45, Mosaraf Hossain, 50, Anwar Ali, 50. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Quoting the injured hospital sources said the alleged muggers were escaping the scene on board an auto-rickshaw being chased by a group of local people at about 2 pm.

When contacted last night Motijheel police could not confirm the incident.

Solo exhibition of Firdousy Priyabhasini on April 24

The sixth solo exhibition of Firdousy Priyabhasini's sculpture in wood, roots and junk will be opened by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, the Minister for Forest and Environment, at the National Museum auditorium on April 24, reports BSS.

The minister will inaugurate the show at 10.30 am with Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiquee and painter Rafiqunnabi attending as chief guests.

The show, sponsored by British American Tobacco Co., displays about 70 new and some 15 of Priyabhasini's older works.

The 11-day exhibition will be open to all from 10.30 am to 5 pm but will remain closed on April 29, 30, and May 1, the days being national holidays.

Chief executive of Picard group arrives tomorrow

Chief Executive of Picard Lederwarren GmbH & Co. Kg Thomas Picard arrives tomorrow, says a press release.

During his visit he will meet German Ambassador, GTZ and different tanneries of Bangladesh.

"Picard" brand is a world-renowned brand for leather goods and Picard group is one of the major consumers of B deshi leather and leather goods. It is the only joint venture unit in the field of leather goods and articles.

Thomas Picard will leave on April 26.

Talk on 'water based dev' on Sunday

A talk on 'water based integrated development' in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) region will be held at the BISS auditorium at 3 pm on Sunday, reports UNB.

Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad will deliver the talk while BISS Chairman Major General Mustafa Kamaluddin will preside over the talk.