



A partial view of the DMCH Neurosurgery Ward shows patients lodged under a staircase, languishing on the filthy and slimy floor in an unhygienic condition for want of beds. Some often go without food or medicine as they are not even registered.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

For whose fault they suffer?

DU CORRESPONDENT

Despite having admit cards, over 150 students were not allowed to sit for first year Honours admission tests under 'Kha' unit of Dhaka University for 2001-2002 session yesterday.

The students have HSC-equivalent degree from the Technical Education Board (TEB).

Talking to this correspondent some of the students said the DU authorities in a notice issued shortly before commencement of the test at 10 am said they were not eligible for the test.

They claimed that the DU advertisement for admission test had said that students having HSC-equivalent degrees would be eligible for admission test in Kha unit.

Admission seeker Shaiful Islam Bhuiyan said he was issued admit card (Roll No. 36399) by the Dean of the Arts Faculty. "Like other unfortunate students I came to know about the matter when I was looking for my seat just before commencement of the admission test".

The students said they took five months' preparation for the test. They could look for other options if they knew it beforehand. They might be losing one academic year, they said.

When contacted last night Prof. Kazi Shahidullah, Dean of the Arts Faculty, said students having HSC degree from TEB were not eligible for appearing at test in 'Kha' unit.

Asked about issuance of admit cards, he said, anybody can collect application forms and get admit card. Admit cards are issued to thousands of admission seekers without proper verification due to heavy rush. Those are scrutinised later and applicants who do not satisfy the required criteria are dropped during the scrutiny, he said.



An octogenarian, helped by two young men, crossing a make-shift bridge on the Turag river to offer Juma prayers at the venue of Biswa Ijtema yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Biswa Ijtema begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of Muslims after Hajj, formally begins at Tongi today.

Though the three-day Ijtema is due for a formal start today, sermons by religious scholars already started after yesterday's Juma prayers with thousands of devotees gathering at the Ijtema venue for the last three days.

Sources said thousands of devotees from all over the country as well as overseas have already assembled on the bank of river Turag, the traditional venue of the Ijtema while thousands more are on their way there on the outskirts of the capital city. Like previous years, Tablig Jamaat has organised the 37th version of the annual congregation.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

'Privatise telecom sector for growth of ICT'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Communication Technology (ICT) experts from home and abroad yesterday reiterated the need for privatisation of telecommunication sector, an effective policy and an independent regulatory body for growth of ICT in the country.

The inability of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) to provide adequate telecommunication infrastructure is a big impediment to growth of ICT in the country, they said at a conven-

tion on 'TechTransfer 2002', a gathering of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) working in the ICT sector.

Many of the NRBs expressed their eagerness to invest in the ICT sector but lamented "lack of congenial investment climate and policy".

There are lots of NRBs with talent, capital and capability. The government should come forward to create scope for them to invest in the country's ICT sector, said Dr. Abdullah one of the initiators of TechBangla, an annual convention of NRBs held in the capital to promote the ICT sector.

Some of the experts criticised the government for what they said giving little attention to the ICT sector, which could be the prime foreign currency earner after the fall of revenue from readymade garments sector (RMG).

Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, who chaired a session on 'Economic Development and National Information Infrastructure: Policy Issues', said the ICT sector did not grow in the country as expected due to lack of initiative and appropriate

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

66th anniversary of Ziaur Rahman's birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 66th birth anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman will be observed today.

BNP has drawn up programmes to observe the birth anniversary of its founder.

The day's programme will begin with the hoisting of party flag atop all BNP offices across the country in the morning.

Leaders and activists of the party and its front organisations will place wreaths at the mazar of Ziaur Rahman in the city at 10 am.

Different socio-cultural bodies will organise voluntary blood dona-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Bullet-riddled body found on DU campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ramna police recovered body of an unidentified middle-aged man from in front of Udayan School on the Dhaka University campus yesterday morning.

The body had at least four bullet wounds.

After finding the body early in the morning, local people informed Ramna police who recovered it at about 10am yesterday and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Bus ticket of Shohag Paribahan was found inside the pocket of the black trouser the man was wearing. He also had a black jacket on.

The man was shot in the head, chest, and back. There were no bloodstains at the spot and police suspected that the man might have been killed elsewhere and his body dumped at the spot.

A murder case was filed with Ramna police station in this regard.

Hasina to chair Tuesday's AL meeting Infringement on political rights on the agenda

REAZ AHMAD

The Awami League policy-makers will meet on Tuesday to determine the party's next course of action amidst 'increasing infringement' on political rights of the people, party sources said yesterday.

Issues like anti-government movement, overhauling the party and joining the coming session of parliament would also feature prominently at the crucial meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC).

This would be the first such meeting to be chaired by AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina after her return home on January 12 from a private tour abroad for over a month.

Police had prevented party workers and supporters from going to Zia International Airport to welcome

Hasina. She then wondered if the country was under martial law.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, senior president member of AL Abdus Samad Azad said the latest socio-political and economic situation would come up for discussion at Tuesday's meet.

With 'growing repression' on political opponents by the BNP-led ruling alliance and 'lack of sincere efforts' by the government side to bring the main opposition party to parliament, Samad Azad said, there is very little possibility of the party taking any decision for joining the coming session of the House due to begin on January 31.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and other leaders of the ruling alliance had said that initiative would be taken to bring the main opposition party to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Deranged mother kills 3 children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A deranged young mother killed her three children at her house at Khocher Chara area in the Bandar thana yesterday.

The three dead were identified as Mohammad Hanif, 12, Sumaiya, 8, and a one-month old baby girl Suraiya.

Neighbours described the mother Hawa Begum, 30, wife of Mohammad Ibrahim as having been suffering from insanity since her

marriage. As her condition deteriorated in the last couple of weeks, she was put under the treatment of a local Kabiraj (quack) Joyal Uddin of Ispahani dockyard area.

On Thursday night, Hawa started acting violently, damaging valuables inside the house but none went to help her thinking it to be nothing unusual. At about 5 in the morning, she started crying, saying that "they" have killed her three children. Her husband Ibrahim was not home

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Hawa Begum

INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

Breaking the ice?

Column: Between the Lines
Kuldip Nayar

Literature 9

Camilo José Cela: Literary witness to Spain's time of war and dictatorship

Another innings defeat

HASAN MASOOD, from Chittagong

Bangladesh slumped to yet another old-fashioned Test defeat to hand Pakistan a 2-0 sweep of the Coca-Cola Series on Friday.

The downfall was just the continuity of Bangladesh's dismal performances in the five-day game as they have been losing matches inside three days and that too by innings margins. It was for the seventh time that the Test newcomers lost a match by an innings in their 11 outings.

The predictable outcome at the MA Aziz Stadium here was stamped just fifteen minutes after the tea break when Pakistan captain Waqar Younis clean bowled number eleven batsman Mohammad Sharif to inflict an innings and 169-run defeat.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7