

**RU admission test delayed for sudden change in seat plan**

**RU CORRESPONDENT**

The test for admission in first year law and justice department of Rajshahi University (RU) under 2003-04 academic session was delayed by half-an-hour yesterday due to sudden change in seat plan.

Several thousand admission seekers were subjected to unnecessary harassment when they failed to find their seats as per the plan announced earlier on April 7.

The authorities of the department changed their seat plan on Thursday night without any announcement.

Many guardians and admission seekers expressed their concern at the sudden change of seat plan to a group of new persons.

When contacted, law and justice department Chairman Dr. Begum Asma Siddika said there were some errors in previous seat plan and as such a new one was prepared for the welfare of the admissions seekers.

**Indigenous Cultural Fair begins**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

The 7th Indigenous Cultural Fair began at Rangamati yesterday amid much enthusiasm.

Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Moniswapan Dewan inaugurated the three-day fair at the local Tribal Cultural Institute premises at around 5:30pm.

The inaugural session was attended, among others, by Chakma Chief Raja Devashish Roy, Chakma Oshym Roy and poet Nironjon Chakma of India as special guests.

Moniswapan wished a happy new year for the ethnic people and urged the officials of law enforcing agencies to remain vigilant.

The inaugural session was marked by dance and patriotic songs by indigenous girls.

A discussion was held following the inauguration of the fair.

A cultural team from neighbouring Tripura and Mizoram provinces of India is taking part in the fair.



Ola Ree, managing director of GrameenPhone, and Professor Humayun Murshed, general secretary of FBAA, hand over a cheque for Tk five lakh to Prof. SMA Faiz, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, for a scholarship fund at the first Finance and Banking Alumni Convention in the city yesterday.

**UNITY FOR POLITICAL REFORMS LAUNCHED**  
**Reforms of political parties, govt system suggested**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Unity for Political Reforms (UPR), a non-political organisation, yesterday called for reforms of government system, political parties, judiciary, administration, local government system, economy, election commission and education system.

The organisation, a platform for professionals, politicians and civil society members, placed a seven-point recommendation to this end at its launching ceremony and called on all to come forward to help implement these.

Coordinators of the organisation -- former minister and JSD leader ASM Abdur Rob and former minister Shafiqul Gani Swapan -- were present at the launching ceremony held at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The recommendations include introduction of federal system of the government and bicameral parliament, creation of seven provinces and four-tier local government system.

The UPR also called for independence of the judiciary and a pro-

people administration.

It also suggested giving priority to private sector, increasing employment opportunities and introducing a coordinated education system.

Abdur Rob said the members of the UPR would approach the ruling party as well as the opposition party for implementation of the reform proposals.

The present situation does not reflect the aspirations of the people who fought for independence, he said, adding that reforms in all sectors can lead the country to prosperity.

Dr Khaleque, a prominent scientist, has been made chairman of the reform committee of the organisation. Dr Zafarullah of Ganas-wasthya, Dr Kazi Firoza Islam, MD Iqbal, Abdul Matin, journalist ABM Musa, Advocate Akhtar Rahman and Nahid Roksana attended the launching ceremony.

**Rape victim commits suicide in Bagerhat**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A teenage girl committed suicide by taking insecticides at her house at Lokpur village in Fakirhat thana, Bagerhat, on Wednesday night a day after she was raped.

Mamtaz Khatoon, 15, took her life as she could not tolerate insult-

ing remarks by the neighbours, said her father Mohammad Morol.

Police said one Mizan Morol raped the girl at her house on Tuesday night when there were no other family members at the house.

An unnatural death case was filed but the rapist went into hiding.



Children stage an anti-hartal demonstration in front of the High Court in the city yesterday. The Jatiyatabadi Shishu Parishad organised the human chain.

**Finance and Banking Alumni Assoc sets up scholarship fund**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Finance and Banking Alumni Association (FBAA) instituted a scholarship fund for the students of the Finance and Banking Department of Dhaka University yesterday with the support of GrameenPhone Ltd.

This was announced at the first Finance and Banking Alumni Convention held at the BDR Darbar Hall in the city.

Professor SMA Faiz, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University (DU), was present as chief guest and Ola Ree, managing director of GrameenPhone, was the convention speaker.

GrameenPhone has provided Tk five lakh for the 'GrameenPhone -- Finance and Banking Alumni Scholarship Fund. Poor but meritorious students of the finance and banking department of DU will receive scholarship from the fund.

Ola Ree of GrameenPhone and Professor Humayun Murshed, general secretary of FBAA, handed over the cheque to the vice-chancellor of DU at the convention.

Professor Faiz lauded the role of GrameenPhone in supporting the finance and banking education and in the process of contributing to human resources development.

**Online programme of Dr Kamal**

**UNB, Dhaka**

Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain will answer the queries of expatriate Bangladeshi over Internet at 10.00am on April 18.

Popular web sites -- www.Kobitaogaan.com and www.banglasociety.com -- have arranged the programme in which he will reply to questions live from his Motijheel MCCI building chamber.

Aman ud-Dowla, an expatriate journalist in New York, will present the programme.

**DHAKA TODAY**

- Drama festival**  
As part of the weeklong drama festival of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Sundaram Natyamancha of Patuakhali will stage a drama titled 'Kajol Latar Pala'. Venue: Theatre hall of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.
- Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Zoolander' (2001). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.
- Publication ceremony**  
The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Chalchitridiya' by Anupam Hayat will be held. Venue: Stamford University auditorium, Siddheswari Road. Time: 4.30pm.
- Workshop**  
The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh organises a workshop on 'Application of Central Depository System'. Venue: BSRB Bhaban, Karwan Bazar. Time: 5.00pm.
- Discussion**  
A discussion on 'Ensuring of educational institutions as silent zone: Role of the students', organised by Sunder Jiban and Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, will be held. Venue: School premises, New Bailey Road. Time: 1.00pm.
- DCC meeting**  
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will hold an opinion sharing meeting on the demolition of illegal structures to save the river Buriganga with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Nagar Bhaban auditorium. Time: 11.30am.
- Rotary Dhaka Central**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1.30pm.
- Rotary North West**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.
- BIMP conference**  
The Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Party organises a conference with BJP Chairman Md Nazur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Sobhanbagh Community Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm.
- Meeting**  
A meeting of the national committee of Vested (Enemy) Property Act Resistance Movement will be held. Venue: Shaheed Asad auditorium, 31/F Tophkana Road. Time: 5.00pm.
- Human chain**  
Bangladesh Awami Sangskritik Forum will form a human chain demanding immediate resignation of the government. Venue: In front of 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 11.30am.
- DHAKA TOMORROW**
- Andrzej Wajda retrospective**  
Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films in a retrospective to Andrzej Wajda, the world renowned filmmaker of Poland. The films are 'Landscape After the Battle' (1970) and 'The Birch-Wood' (1970). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.
- Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Anger Management' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.
- Drama festival**  
As part of the weeklong drama festival of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Natyabangla of Laxmipur will stage a drama titled 'Shesh Prahar'. Venue: Theatre hall of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding construction of more hygienic public toilets.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Thundershowers likely**

**UNB, Dhaka**

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the next 12 hours today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 18.5 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6.18pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.**

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.8	24.2	64	73
Chittagong	31.5	22.8	67	71
Rajshahi	33.0	23.4	60	67
Khulna	32.0	21.7	74	79
Barisal	31.5	22.4	86	-
Sylhet	24.0	18.8	96	80
Cox's Bazar	31.5	21.4	65	77

**More hygienic toilets in public places demanded**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded construction of adequate number of hygienic toilets in educational institutions, hospitals, government offices, markets, bus terminals and multi-storied buildings.

It is a matter of shame that there are no hygienic toilets in most government offices and hospitals, said Abu Naser Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa).

He said the policy-makers prepare budgets of thousands of crores of taka every year, but Dhaka City Corporation, Public Works Department and education and health ministries do not give enough attention to this issue.

He also criticised the authorities for not providing separate toilets for women in offices, schools and public places.

Coordinator of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra Golam Kibria and Ruhin Hossain Prince of the Osmani Uddan Rakha Andolon (a movement to save Osmani Park) also spoke.