

## ADMISSION Reputed colleges may increase seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry has started primary work on the admission process in colleges across the country.

The ministry officials will hold a meeting today with some heads of city colleges and officials of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) to this end.

The meeting might decide to increase the number of seats in the reputed colleges to ensure admission of the meritorious students, sources at DSHE said.

A total of 62,134 students got GPA-5 (grade point average) in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under eight general education boards this year. Over three lakh students scored in between GPA 4 and 5.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday told reporters that there would be no seat crisis but the reputed educational institutions will have to feel a pressure.

He said some 7.13 lakh students passed this year's SSC examination under eight boards while there are around 11 lakh seats in the government and non-government colleges across the country.

Sources said there might be no change in the admission policy this year and the students will be admitted on the basis their results.

The number of seats in 135 city colleges is 39,000, say officials at the education ministry.

## Resolve judge issue in three days

### JS body asks law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked Law Minister Shafique Ahmed to meet President Zillur Rahman within three days to resolve the crisis arising out of the Chief Justice's decision not to administer oath to newly appointed two judges of the High Court.

At a meeting, the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry also said the chief justice can ask the president to cancel appointment of the two judges.

In an unprecedented move, Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim administered oath to 15 newly appointed

judges, out of 17, on April 18.

"The parliamentary committee expressed deep concern over this issue for which a constitutional crisis has been created. The committee asked the law minister to take up the issue with the president and resolve it," AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, who attended the meeting on invitation, however, declined to make any comments to reporters.

Suranjit Sengupta also said that as per the constitution, the chief justice should administer oath to all appointed judges. "The chief justice approved all those

17 judges for appointment. The list was also placed before him for his consultation. He could have raised the issue if he had any objection to anyone," he added.

About recent comments of former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Choudhury who on April 24 compared the judiciary with a "glasshouse" and said it could crumble at any moment if steps are not taken right now, Sengupta said the former chief justice spoke in political language.

"We have built the judiciary like a concrete house. Politicians have not turned this concrete house into a glasshouse. It is the army rulers who are responsible for the sorry state of judiciary," Sengupta added.



Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (Bap), Bangladesh Institute of Architects (BIA) and Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) jointly organised the press conference.

## Bangladesh pursues secular policies Azad tells Beijing dialogue

BSS, Beijing

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday said Bangladesh could take pride for its policies in promoting an environment where religious tolerance has been acting as the key to shape the nation as a secular and progressive one.

"Although we are a Muslim majority country the festivals of the Hindus, Christians and Buddhists are also celebrated in communities like the Islamic ones," he told a dialogue here.

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (APIBD) organised the dialogue on "Improving media understanding on religions".

Azad said the importance of media in shaping culture and influencing perception was undeniable, but insisted that the power of media should come with greater responsibilities. The media, he said, was sometimes accused of misusing its power in portraying religion which is undesirable.

## Hawker beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hawker was beaten to death by a gang of criminals at Paltan in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Humayun Kabir, 48, a hawker selling toys in front of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city.

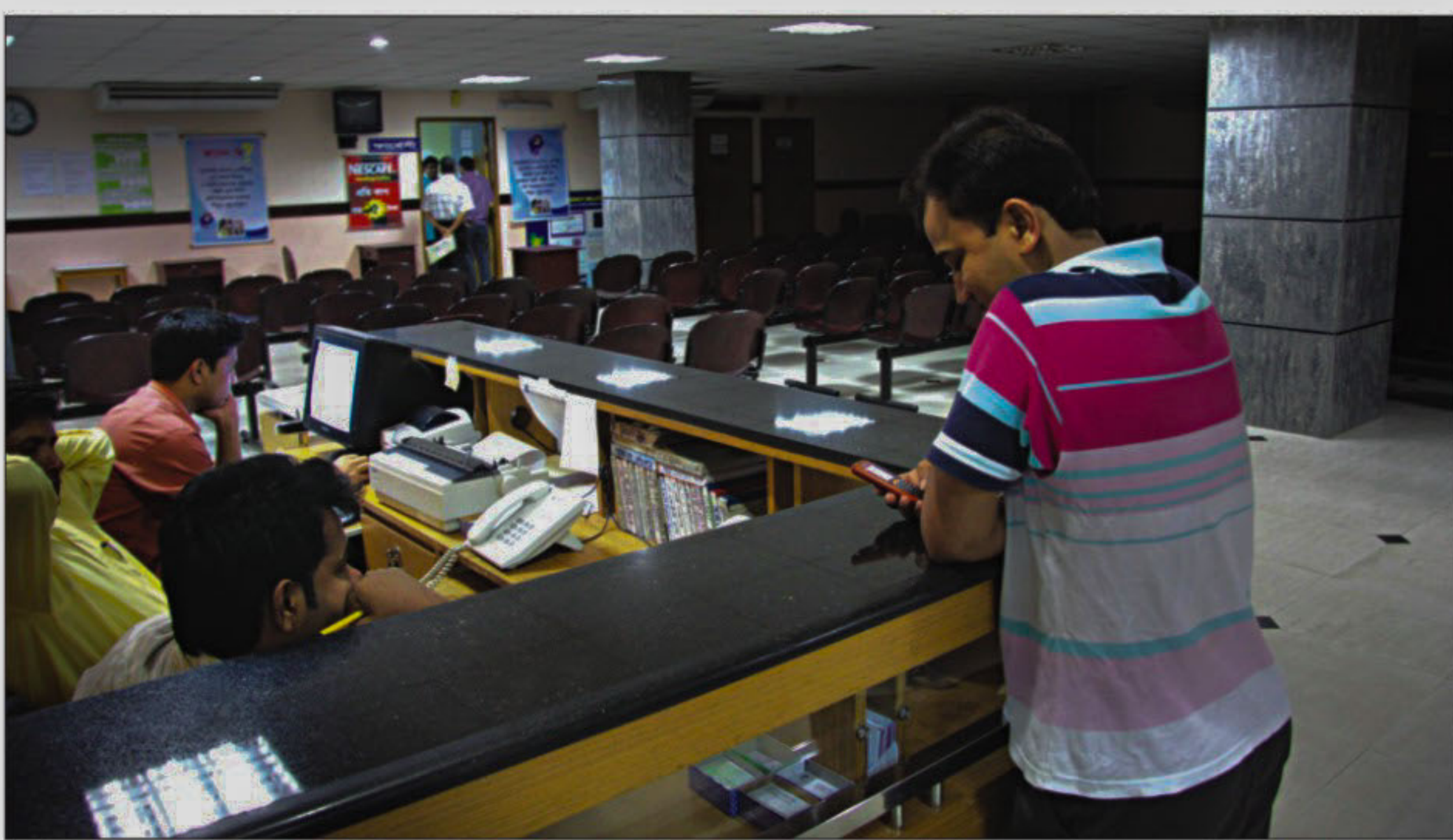
Victim's wife Ranu Kabir told The Daily Star that her husband was killed over previous enmity. "Humayun and his friends were partners in their business. They owed Tk 3.5 lakh to Humayun. When he asked for the money, they swooped on my husband and killed him."

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead at around 3:30pm.

## Death anniversary DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Monwar Hossain Manik, former president of Bangladesh Photographic Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, all have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Specialist doctors in Dhaka city yesterday keep their private chambers closed as part of their protest against the abduction of a former professor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The picture was taken from the Popular Diagnostic Centre in the city. (Story on Page 16)

## SC upholds 75pc quota for admin cadre at deputy secy level

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the existing rules keeping 75 percent quota for the administration cadre of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) reserved for recruitment and promotion to the post of deputy secretary.

The apex court also declared illegal the rules keeping 70 percent quota from the administration cadre for promotion in the posts of joint secretary, additional secretary, and secretary.

An Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim delivered the verdict after disposing of an appeal filed by the government against a High Court (HC) verdict.

The HC in 2002 in a verdict declared illegal the rules keeping 75 percent quota from the administration cadre reserved

for the recruitment and promotion in the post of deputy secretary and the rest 25 percent quota from other cadres of the service for the same post.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star that the existing rules keeping 75 percent quota from the administration cadre for the post of deputy secretary will remain effective.

There will not be any quota system for the posts of joint secretary, additional secretary, and secretary from now on, he added.

The government on February 10, 1998, issued the rules keeping 75 percent quota from the administration cadre reserved for the post of deputy secretary and the rest 25 percent quota from other cadres of the service for the same post.

Following a writ petition jointly filed

by Rabiul Islam of health cadre and Touhid Uddin Ahmed, the HC on February 13, 2002, delivered the verdict declaring the rules illegal.

In the meantime in June 2002, the government issued another rule keeping 70 percent quota from the administration cadre for the posts of joint secretary, additional secretary, and secretary.

In 2003, the Appellate Division stayed the HC verdict following a government petition and asked it to file a regular appeal with the SC against the HC verdict.

The writ petitioners later brought the latest promotion rules to the notice of the SC.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam appeared for the government, while Barrister Ajmal Hossain, Advocate Abdur Rob Chowdhury and Barrister Qamrul Islam Siddique argued for the writ petitioners.

## Call for action to protect women from effects of tobacco

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a workshop in the city yesterday underscored the need for actions to protect women from the harmful effects of tobacco as smokeless tobacco and Second Hand Smoking (SHS) cause serious health hazards to women and children in Bangladesh.

They said SHS disproportionately harms women and children than men as prevalence of smoking is much higher in men at all spheres of national life.

The workshop titled "Women and

tobacco: World No-Tobacco Day 2010" was organised by Progga, an NGO dealing with anti-tobacco campaign.

Progga Chairman Taifur Rahman made a presentation at the workshop. Executive Director Syed Badrul Karim Ratan was also present. Representatives from social and development organisations attended the workshop.

In his presentation, Taifur said although women smoke less than men, yet non-smoking women and girls are the most sufferers of SHS and are put in the risks of lung cancer and other health

problems due to SHS exposure from male.

Referring to the World No-Tobacco Day 2010 to be observed on May 31, he said this year's theme is "Gender and tobacco with an emphasis on marketing to women."

He referred to the WHO framework convention that recognises "The need for gender-specific tobacco control strategies" as well as for the "Full participation of women at all levels of tobacco control policy-making and implementation of tobacco control measures."

## Finalise DAP to meet growing demands

### Environmental groups urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental groups and urban planners yesterday demanded the government finalise the detailed area plan (DAP) of Dhaka to meet the increasing demands.

The demand came from a press conference jointly organised by the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (Bap), Bangladesh Institute of Architects (BIA) and Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) at the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said assurance of the basic needs including water, electricity and sewerage of the dwellers of Dhaka city are being minimised every day due to the pressure of an increas-

ing population.

"Pressure on Dhaka city should be minimised through balanced development in all the areas of the country. Steps should be taken to increase the facilities for the city dwellers," he said.

Speakers at the press conference said the then Awami League government in 1997 declared two plans under Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan as the master plan. Later delay in government levels halted the quick implementation of the DAP formulated focusing on the earlier plans -- Structure Plan and Urban Area Plan.

Bapa Joint Secretary Iqbal Habib presented the keynote paper while BIA President Mobasser Hossain, Bela's Chief Executive Syeda Rezwana Hasan, among others, spoke at the press conference.

## Woman killed over Tk 300 loan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A housewife was bludgeoned to death during a quarrel over a loan of Tk 300 in Foy's Lake area in Chittagong yesterday.

The victim was identified as Shamsunnahar, 40, wife of Maqbul Ahmed of Siddique Colony.

Sources said her husband Maqbul borrowed Tk 300 from one Selim few days ago. At about 8:00am yesterday, Selim and his wife Mina

assaulted Maqbul's daughter Sathi for the money near their residence.

On hearing the news, Shamsunnahar rushed to the spot and tried to save her daughter but she was locked into quarrel with Selim and his wife. At one stage, Selim hit Shamsunnahar with a brick, leaving her unconscious.

She was rushed to USTC Hospital and later shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the doctors declared her dead, said Sub-Inspector Rafiq of Khulshi Police Station.

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MEMBER REHAB



PHOTO: STAR  
New pharmacy graduates form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding registration according to the Pharmacy Ordinance 1976. Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society (BPS), Pharmacy Graduates' Association (PGA) and Swadhinota Pharmacist Parishad (SPP) organised the programme.

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