

Medical colleges get 250 more seats

ALPHA ARZU

The government has increased 50 more seats at a public medical college from 2010-2011 academic sessions to provide meritorious students a scope to study medicine.

"A total of 50 seats have been added at Jessore Medical College. Another 200 seats will be added at private medical colleges from the same session," said Khandaker Md Shefayet Ullah, director of Medical Education and Health Manpower Development under the health ministry.

Now, the total number of seats at all 18 public medical colleges has increased to 2,227 and to 3,550 at 43 private medical colleges, said the director.

Despite the increase, around 24,000 qualified students will not get scope to study at both private and public medical colleges due to seat limitation.

The form distribution and submission for MBBS admission course of the session ended yesterday. The examination is due to be held on October 22. Number of candidates for the year increased to 43,644 from last year's 35,000.

The government has increased the seats

to fulfil the growing demand of doctors at home and abroad, he said.

In 2008, the government increased 100 seats at four medical colleges.

Set as quota, 20 seats are reserved for indigenous community students, 80 for foreigners and two percent of the total seats for children of freedom fighters.

The government is also planning to allow an increase in the number of seats at private medical colleges.

In this regard, the ministry formed a private medical education scrutinising committee headed by Dr Shefayet.

Yesterday the committee visited three private medical colleges and sent recommendations to the ministry to allow an increase of 200 seats at these institutions.

The colleges are Addin Women's Medical College, Community Medical College and Shahid Monsur Ali Medical College.

Two new private medical colleges, Shamorita Medical College and Square Medical College, got primary approval to start academic activities from January 2011.

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Hasina to meet grassroots leaders next month

ALCWC meet tomorrow

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will exchange views with her grassroots level leaders to bring coordination among the rank and file of the party and diminish the existing gap between the government and the party.

Hasina will start the view-exchange meeting with her party's organisational district and upazila unit leaders next month. A meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at her political office in Dhanmondi tomorrow to finalise date of the meeting, said party insiders.

At the meeting, she will give the leaders important guidelines to strengthen the party's organisational capacity across the country in an effort to thwart any bid by the opposition parties to foil the trial of war crimes.

According to the sources, the premier would listen to the leaders to get first hand information on various matters, including organisational matters and performance of the government and its ministers in their respective constituencies.

A statement in the activities of the party has been witnessed across the country since it assumed power as lawmakers and their close associates in almost every

constituency are controlling party matters, said leaders of different district units of the party.

AL insiders said she will issue tough warnings against the unruly activities, including illegal involvement in the government's recruitment, tender manipulation and extortion, by the party men and ask them to stay away from these unlawful acts.

"A gap has been created between the party and the government, central and the grassroots, and grassroots level leaders and lawmakers and workers across the country. The prime minister will address these problems and give necessary guidelines to the grassroots level leaders to establish coordination at all levels of the party and the government," AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the view-exchange meeting is very much important at this time. She will also give directives to the grassroots leaders about mobilising people in favour of the trial of war criminals, said the AL policymaker.

"The prime minister will give necessary guidelines to the district and upazila leaders to strengthen the party activities across the country and make it more vibrant," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif,

also a special assistant to the premier, told The Daily Star.

The grassroots level leaders will urge Hasina to take tough action against those party men who are tarnishing the image of the government through their unruly activities. Talking to The Daily Star they also said they will urge the premier to implement party's electoral pledges as early as possible.

ALCWC MEETING TOMORROW

Asked about the agenda of the ALCWC meeting to be started at 11:00am tomorrow, Mahbul Alam Hanif said latest socio-economic and political situation and organisational matters are likely to be discussed.

Dates would be finalised to hold rallies and grand rallies in district and division levels to gain public support in favour of the trial of war criminals, he said adding that holding of union parishad and municipal elections and process of candidate selection will come to discussion at the meeting.

Contacted, some other AL central leaders said issues like price hike of essentials, persisting power, gas and water crises, opposition BNP's anti-government agitation and performance of ministers and lawmakers would also be discussed at the meeting.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks to intending Hajj pilgrims after inaugurating the National Hajj Programme-2010 at the Hajj camp at Ashkona in the city yesterday.

Negligence in Hajj management won't be tolerated: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would not tolerate any negligence in Hajj management.

"You're taking care of Almighty Allah's guests (pilgrims)...be conscious that no negligence takes place," she told the officials while inaugurating the National Hajj Programme-2010 at a function at the Hajj camp in city's Ashkona.

The premier said the government is sincere about accomplishing all the Hajj related tasks without any flaw, and efforts to this end would continue. "We've formulated a five-year Hajj Policy for the first time for better Hajj management."

On the increase of pilgrims' number this year, she said, "It's our good fortune...but some problems appeared initially due to abrupt increase in the number of pilgrims. However, we've resolved the problems."

The number of physicians has also been increased this year for ensuring better

healthcare services to the Hajj pilgrims, she informed. "A total of 94 doctors are going this year whereas the number was 60 last year," she said.

The PM said ten airlines would carry the Hajj passengers to Saudi Arabia.

The government would provide IT services to the pilgrims so that they can communicate with their relatives in Bangladesh through short message service (SMS), she added.

Meanwhile, 150 Saudi nationals have been appointed as local volunteers to look after the Bangladeshi pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

Later, the PM went round the Hajj camp and talked to the Hajj pilgrims.

Religious Affairs Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal presided over the function while Home Minister Sahara Khatun, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader and State Minister for Religious Affairs Shahjahan Mia were, among others, present.

Legal notice to cancel BNP lawmaker Mozahar's membership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal notice was served yesterday on the authorities concerned for the cancellation of parliamentary membership of BNP lawmaker Mozahar Ali Prohan for providing false information to the Election Commission (EC).

Abu Syed Md Khairuzaman, a voter of Jyppurhat-1 constituency, sent the legal notice to the speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, chief election commissioner, secretaries to the ministry of law, Jatiya Sangsad and EC secretariat to cancel the parliamentary membership of Mozahar Ali within three days.

The notice said Mozahar Ali gave false statement to the EC that he has only one residence in Jyppurhat town while having four. According to the law, his parliamentary membership should be cancelled for providing false statement and concealing information, the petition added.

Advocate Manzil Murshid issued the legal notice on behalf of Khairuzaman.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Md Aminul Alam, a BRAC governing body member and executive director of international programme, will be held at the BRAC centre at Mohakhali in the city around 5:00pm.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered at BRAC offices throughout the country and abroad tomorrow.

Aminul passed away on Saturday from a cardiac arrest at the age of 61. He left behind his wife and two sons.

Fake DU student handed over to cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities identified a fake student in the department of mathematics and handed him over to police yesterday.

Sahriar Arefin, a second semester student, appeared to take admission by illegal means when he failed to produce authentic documents.

He went to the department office yesterday for collecting

main documents of his SSC and HSC examinations.

DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam handed him over to Shahbagh Police Station after BNP lawmaker admitted that one of his friends sit the admission test by proxy; he just replaced his friends' photograph on the admit card and took admission.

Shahriar's admission will be cancelled if irregularities are proved in his admission process, said DU officials.

PM's support for Azam Khan's treatment

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her welfare fund donated Tk 5 lakh in aid of 'Pop Guru' and valiant freedom fighter Azam Khan, who has been suffering from oral cancer.

PM's deputy press secretary Md Nazrul Islam and assignment officer Manjo Kanti Boral handed over the cheque to Azam Khan at his Kamalapur residence in the city yesterday afternoon.

The Prime Minister previously donated Tk 2 lakh for the treatment of the ailing pop singer.

Birth certificates of girls mandatory for marriage registration: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) in a verdict yesterday directed the kazis (marriage registrars) to examine birth certificates of girls before registering their marriages, so that child marriage cannot take place in the country.

An HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Gobinda Chandar Tagore came up with the verdict following a writ petition filed by Abul Hossain, a kazi of Choudhagram in Comilla.

Abul filed the petition in June this year challenging a government action cancelling his (petitioner) licence (for marriage registration) for

registering marriage of two girls under 14 and 16 years.

The girls under 18 years are considered children as per provisions of the existing law of the country.

The petitioner stated that he did not commit any misconduct, as it seemed to him that the girls were adult during registration of their marriage.

The HC bench yesterday upheld the government decision cancelling the licence of the petitioner after rejecting his writ petition.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star that the HC verdict would assist the government to take steps in preventing child marriage in the country.

CUJ sit-in Oct 13

BSS, Chittagong

Journalists in the port city will observe the programmes of roadblock and sit-in on October 13 at Jakir Hossain road crossing to press home their demand for implementation of the 7th Wage Board Award in the Daily Purbokone.

The programmes were announced by Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) at a rally held in front of the Daily Purbokone office.

The journalist leaders expressed their concern over non-implementation of the wage board award in the newspaper.

CUJ General Secretary Nazim Uddin Shyamal, journalist leaders Mustak Ahmed, Sultan Ahmed Asharafi, Asif Siraj, Ezaz Yousufi, Mohammad Ali, Ratan Kanti Debashish, Faruk Taher, Mohammad Shanowaz and Golan Mowla Murad spoke at the rally with CUJ President M Shahidul Alam in the chair.

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Dhaka divisions, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:39pm today and rises at 5:53am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 27.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sathkira and lowest 22.1 degrees Celsius at Hatiya.

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	25.2	23.3	94	94
Chittagong	25.1	23.5	98	98
Rajshahi	25.0	22.9	100	96
Khulna	26.8	23.9	97	97
Barisal	25.5	24.2	100	77
Sylhet	26.3	24.2	89	95
Rangpur	27.4	24.8	93	96

TODAY

Human chain
Campaign for Good Governance (SUPRO) will form a human chain. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee will arrange a discussion. Venue: Bilia auditorium, Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council will arrange a regional workshop. Venue: Sheraton hotel, Time: 9:30am.

Human chain
Bangladesh Mobile Phone Recharge Babsaie Association will form a human chain. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Cultural programme
Compensation International will organise a symposium and cultural programme. Venue: Biam hall, Time: 4:00pm.

Rally
Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters' Association will organise a rally. Venue: Tannery more, Hazaribagh, Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Conference
Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela will organise national conference. Venue: BMA auditorium, Time: 9:00am.

DU online admission process successful: VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly introduced online process to enrol students in the admission tests for first year honours courses at Dhaka University is running successfully, said Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday.

Briefing reporters at his office, the VC said over 115,000 forms have already been downloaded from the admission website till now while 71,041 applications have been submitted till Wednesday night.

As many as 120,000 application forms were sold by the manual process, he added.

He said students from different parts of the country are daily downloading, submitting and collecting admit cards successfully.

DU authorities started the online registration process for the admission tests on September 27 and it will end on October 14. The VC said officials who monitor the process received around 200 complaints from the applicants, out of which 100 have already been answered.

that do not match with those that the university officials received from the education boards, he added.

He said top officials of every education board have already been requested to send appropriate information of successful students in the HSC or equivalent examinations to datamin@office.univdhaka.edu.

During the briefing, the VC presented some documents to clarify the transparency of the process and accountability of the university administration to the Madrasa board.

He expressed concern on some newspaper reports claiming that Madrasa students are being deprived in the online process.

"The fourth subjects or optional courses were not clearly mentioned in the mark sheet of madrasa students and so students faced some miss-match in GPA during submission of applications. But we collected the subject code from the Madrasa Board and resolved the problem," Prof Arefin added.

He suggested applicants to use Short Message Service (SMS), typing "du" and sending to 16321 to get information on whether their admit cards are ready to be downloaded. The VC said all out cooperation would be provided to the students facing trouble in completing the application process online.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Barrister Syed Mohammad Ali, son of late Syed Badrudduza, former mayor of Kolkata, passed away in London on Wednesday at the age of 77, says a press release.

Syed Ali served a spell in prison owing to his active part in the 1952 Language Movement. In 1971, he was an assistant editor at The People.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers. Ali will be buried in London today (Friday).

SM Mohiuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



SM Mohiuddin, a freedom fighter and former general secretary of Bangladesh Bodybuilding Association, passed away early hours yesterday at the age of 61, says a press release.

He left behind his one son and two daughters.

Mohiuddin became Mr East Pakistan in bodybuilding competition in 1966-67. He secured 15th place in 'Mr Asia' competition in 1975.

He was buried yesterday at Jurain graveyard with state honour.

Atiqur Rahman

METRO DESK



Atiqur Rahman, a businessman and son of late M Fazlur Rahman, passed away at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in the city early hours yesterday, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two sons to mourn his death.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the third death anniversary of Begum Jahanara Ali, wife of late principal Askar Ali, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.



Milad mahfil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A milad mahfil will be held on the second death anniversary of Dr Shamsul Huda Harun, former chairman of Political Science Department of Dhaka University, and third death anniversary of his wife Shahzadi Harun at their residence at House No. 22, Flat No. 2/A, Road No 108, IV Concord at Gulshan in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Prof Harun was a member of the Awami League advisory council.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum of AR Khandaker, former Inspector General of Police, will be held at his Banani residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Khandaker passed away on August 26 this year.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Begum Zinnatunnesa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Begum Zinnatunnesa, mother of Jatiya Party (JP) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam and elder sister of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, will be held at Tungipara in Gopalganj after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered and foods will be distributed in different mosques.

She passed away on August 30 at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city at the age of 87.