

NEWS IN *brief*

DU Ka unit seat plan published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seat plan for Ka unit first year honours admission test at Dhaka University (DU) under academic session 2011-2012 has been published, says a press release. Admission test for Ka unit (faculty of science) will be held on October 14 from 10:00 am to 11:45 am in 65 exam centres on and outside the campus. Seat plan for the admission test is available at <http://kaunit.univdhaka.edu> or candidates can learn it through sending Short Message Service (SMS) at 16321.

New Korean volunteers in city

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A six-member team of Korean Overseas Volunteers (KOVs), expert in computer and livestock science, arrived in Dhaka recently to provide various training to Bangladesh citizens. The KOV team will be staying in Bangladesh for the next one year and undergo local adaptation training in which they are expected to gain knowledge on local language, culture and customs. The six KOVs will be dispatched to respective host organisations, working on computing and livestock research, says a press release of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Domestic help commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage female domestic help allegedly committed suicide at Baitul Aman Housing in city's Adabor area yesterday. The deceased, Tania Akhter, 16, daughter of Nasir Miah, hailed from Brahmanbaria. Police recovered her hanging body from her employer Kabir Ahmed's house. According to the driver of the household Imam Hossain, Tania was left alone in the house as Kabir's wife went to school with her children and locked the house from outside. After returning home around 1pm, she found the body hanging from the bedroom ceiling fan and informed the police.

BEHEADING OF BANGLADESHIS Impose moratorium on death penalty

Caram Asia urges S Arabia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Caram Asia, a regional migrants' rights body, in a statement yesterday demanded the Saudi authorities to impose a moratorium on all death penalties and review the cases of all prisoners currently awaiting capital punishment. The Malaysia-based non-government organisation having extensive networks across Asia also requested the Kingdom to improve the rights of all migrant workers to seek legal support, access-to-complaint mechanism and care services. It should also address the issue of trafficking and fraudulence by unscrupulous agencies to reduce vulnerability and propensity of the migrant workers to commit any crime. The statement was sent to the Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud and Minister of the Interior Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud over the execution of eight Bangladeshi migrant workers in Riyadh on October 7. The Daily Star received a copy of the statement. Most migrant workers residing in foreign countries often do not have proper education while many are victims of corrupt recruitment systems. Hence, it is a heavier duty for Saudi Arabia to provide full and independent legal representation and interpreter services, it said. Meanwhile, Students-Teachers-Professionals Janata led by columnist Syed Abul Maksud yesterday staged a sit-in programme in the city's Gulshan 2 intersection, protesting the beheadings. While such execution in public is barbaric, the Bangladesh government was not sincere enough to protect the lives, said Maksud at the sit-in held from 11:00am to 1:00pm. He demanded the government to take every measure to protect the lives of five more Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia awaiting execution. The protesters refrained from an earlier decision to go to the Saudi embassy following police restriction, said Supriti Dhar, a journalist and participant of the sit-in.



Rise in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country. Light rain may occur at one or two places over Chittagong division in 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm today and rises at 5:55am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 35.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 22.5 degrees Celsius at Mymensingh. 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	33.6	24.7	61	60
Chittagong	33.4	26.6	84	69
Rajshahi	33.6	25.1	83	76
Rangpur	33.6	23.8	83	76
Khulna	33.8	26.5	69	75
Barisal	34.4	27.2	77	87
Sylhet	35.3	25.0	76	65



Guests with winners of quiz competitions in English pose for photograph at English Language Fair held on St Joseph Higher Secondary School premises in the city yesterday. Under English in Schools programme, The Daily Star and Robi jointly organised the event. PHOTO: STAR

English language fair generates enthusiasm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The premises of St Joseph Higher Secondary School echoed with loud cheers and much jubilation with the participation of around 700 students in an English Language Fair that kicked off in the city yesterday. Under English in Schools (EIS) programme, The Daily Star and Robi jointly organised the fair in coordination with the education ministry to improve secondary school students' proficiency in English. Adcomm Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fair. Prof Noman-ur-Rashid, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), inaugurated the daylong fair. Similar fairs will gradually be organised in 300 schools, involving students from altogether 700 more schools, under the ambit of the EIS programme. Students of St Joseph School, Mohammadpur Preparatory Higher Secondary School, and Tejgaon Govt Girls High School took part in several interesting activities, including quiz competitions in English. Amid a presence of teachers and students' families at the fair, the students burst into cheers and

applause with the announcement of the name of each winner. Lion King, a globally reputed movie, was screened at the beginning of the event. After the movie came to a close, the students took part in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one word question, and quick questions based on the movie. Some selected students participated in a writing competition which involved writing to the president on the topic, "How do you want to contribute for the betterment of Bangladesh?" Besides, the students took part in two-minute long extempore speeches on different topics and role-play. "It is a wonderful event which has created scope for us to learn English in a different way," said Amanat, a student of St Joseph School who won a prize in spot quiz. "This is really interesting," he added. Inaugurating the fair, Prof Noman-ur-Rashid lauded the initiative. In his view, it was a wonderful programme based on a variety of activities. "We have to spread ourselves across the world and for that we need to know different languages, especially English," he said, adding

that being present at the fair was a part of learning English. "When we started the EIS programme, we launched a special page of The Daily Star in the classrooms... now you [students] have to use whatever you have learnt from those special lessons," he said. The three-year EIS programme, initiated two years ago to promote the learning of English in secondary schools, covers seven lakh students in a thousand schools, including 317 public and 683 non-government schools across the country. Three complimentary copies of The Daily Star, with a special page of English lessons prepared by the Centre for Languages of Brac University and coordinated by the education ministry, are given to a thousand schools five days a week under the EIS initiative. Elaborating on the initiative, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said that it had been undertaken to make the learning of English easy for students. "Bangla is our mother tongue and we are proud of our language. But the world speaks in another language and that is English," he said. "If we want to represent ourselves

boldly before the world we all have to learn English alongside Bangla." He urged the students to read English more as well as read the special page and other newspapers to develop their English skills. Mahmudur Rahman, executive vice president of Robi, in his remarks, said, "You [students] are the future of the country and the country will light up if you light up with your own strength." This initiative was for students living in the capital. It was also for those who, living in the rural areas, are not privileged like students in the city, said Rahman. "I am really amazed," said Dr B Harold Rodriguez, principal of St Joseph School. He noted that it was a big initiative taken for teaching English in educational institutions. He also said that a plan was in the works to set up English for School clubs in different schools where such programmes are initiated. Geetiara Safiya Choudhury, chairperson of Adcomm Ltd, Prof Shafiqur Rahman, director of DSHE, Segufta Y Samad, vice president of Robi, and Mahtab Uddin Ahmad, chief financing officer of Robi, were present at the fair.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



long.

She is studying in class four at Kamrunnesa Government Primary High School and daughter of Likhon Bhuyian, residing in the city's KM Das lane. Likhon sought financial assistance from the well-off of society for Fabiha's treatment, says a press release. Donations can be sent to Likhon Bhuyian, Uttara Bank Limited (Hathkola branch), A/C no: 3474 or donors can contact over cellphone number 01713173331.

Saarc agri ministers' Dhaka meet postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to Pakistani agriculture minister's domestic preoccupation, the Saarc agriculture ministers' meeting in Dhaka billed for yesterday was postponed at the last moment, officials at the agriculture ministry told The Daily Star yesterday. The Maldives, host of the 17th Saarc Summit scheduled for next month, also requested for postponement of the meeting, they said.

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

Khaleda's remarks draw flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War heroes and ruling party leaders yesterday slammed BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her comment on trial of war criminals. Khaleda, also leader of the opposition, told a rally in Sylhet on Tuesday that the government must try former personnel of Rakkhi Bahini for their crimes, if it wants to hold trial of war criminals. War heroes said the crimes committed by war criminals and Jatiya Rakkhi Bahini are not similar. Khaleda can file a case under the existing law, if she has evidence the special force had committed any crimes. They said Khaleda's comment proves that she does not want war crimes trial to be held. The Jatiya Rakkhi Bahini was formed after the Liberation War aimed to maintain law and order situation of the war-ravaged Bangladesh. After assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, the then ruler disbanded the special force. Political rivals of Awami League often criticised Rakkhi Bahini for its 'controversial' role during its operational period. "What she had said before in support of the war crimes tribunal was nothing but a lie. Her latest comment on the tribunal and Rakkhi Bahini indicates that she [the BNP chief] belongs to the anti-liberation group," said Sector Commander KM Safiullah. Freedom fighter and noted writer Shahriar Kabir, War Crimes Fact Finding Committee Chairman MA Hasan and Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta also came down hard on Khaleda for her comment. However, BNP standing committee mem-

ber Mahbubur Rahman said, "She [Khaleda] actually did not speak against war crimes trial. She wanted to mean that international standard should be maintained in trying war criminals." Asked about the crimes committed by war criminals and Rakkhi Bahini, the former army chief said, "War crimes certainly are more heinous. She [Khaleda] wanted to mean that Rakkhi Bahini committed many crimes during the tenure of the government led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She stressed the need for trying those involved in those crimes." Shahriar Kabir said Khaleda had been elected prime minister thrice but she did not take any initiative to try Rakkhi Bahini personnel allegedly involved in crimes after the country's independence. "She still can file a case in a court to seek justice. But why she is not going to court," said the freedom fighter. "The trial of war criminals and that of the Rakkhi Bahini personnel cannot be equated. Her speech indicates that she actually wants to save the war criminals." "Khaleda does not believe in the country's Liberation War. She was the only one among the wives of 14 sector commanders, who preferred to stay in the then East Pakistan cantonment in Dhaka." Suranjit Sengupta said Rakkhi Bahini was formed through the promulgation of a law that had been passed in parliament. But the next government disbanded the elite force. The crimes committed by war criminals and Rakkhi Bahini personnel cannot be considered similar, he said. MA Hasan said Khaleda should be tried for making "provocative" comments on trial of crimes against humanity.



Celebration inaugural

Bangladesh Children Theatre Federation will organise the inaugural of a celebration; Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy; Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Department of Geography and Environment will hold a seminar; Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Coalition for the Urban Poor will organise a seminar; Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Mukta Chinta Forum will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will organise a workshop; Venue: Council Bhaban, Buet; Time: 9:00am.

Procession

National Garment Workers Federation will hold a procession; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Dialogue

Centre for Police Dialogue will hold a dialogue; Venue: Brac Centre Inn;

Viqarunnisa principal resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Viqarunnisa Noon School and College Principal Husne Ara Begum, who went on a three-month leave following a students' agitation over a sexual assault scandal, resigned from her post yesterday, two days before completion of her leave. She submitted her resignation letter at noon to the school's governing body president Mohibul Haque who is the deputy commissioner of Dhaka. "I have submitted my resignation letter on personal ground," Husne Ara told The Daily Star. She said, "I am a victim of politics. A quarter with ill interest linked me to the incident to get me out of the school." She claimed that she took necessary steps of the incident. She, however, claimed that she is successful as a principal as she has taken some big initiatives like introducing lottery system in admission during her time. Although she mentioned "personal reasons" behind her resignation, sources said there might be a recurrence of another crisis in the school with students going on agitation once again if she comes back at the position. Manju Ara Begum, an assistant professor of the institution, has been in charge of the school since Husne Ara went on leave. On July 14, Husne Ara went on a leave following around a weeklong agitation of the students on the school campuses demanding her dismissal for her handling of a sexual assault scandal that rocked the prestigious institution. A female student of class ten at the school's Bashundhara branch accused a Bangla teacher Porimol Joydhor of sexually abusing her. The incident, she alleged occurred on May 28, at a coaching centre Porimol ran at Badda in the city. Porimol later confessed to the offence before a magistrate in Dhaka. The agitation against Porimol turned against the principal with a faction of the now-dissolved governing body of the institution and some teachers supporting the agitating students and their guardians. Even, the students with the support of the teachers had said that they would not accept Husne Ara and anyone outside of their institutions. The situation went such a level that the government had to keep her out of the institution and finally she went on the leave.

Special BCS exam soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination under Public Service Commission (PSC) will be held soon only for freedom fighters' dependents, women and indigenous people. Circular of the special 32nd BCS examination will be issued in a few days, says a PSC statement, adding that the draft of the circular was approved in a meeting of the commission. The professional and technical cadre posts left vacant during the 28th and 29th BCS examinations will be filled through this examination. As many as 1,483 posts were left vacant in the 28th and 29th BCS examinations due to a lack of suitable candidates in freedom fighters' dependents, women, indigenous and professional categories, said sources.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajeda Begum, wife of Shariat Mokbul Hossain and mother of Comrade Sayed Mossadeq Hossain Labu, passed away at her residence at Balubari in Dinajpur yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 84, says a press release.