

# Spelling contest starts next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The best spellers of the country will soon be competing with one another. Champs21, an initiative of The Daily Star, announced yesterday that it would launch an internationally acclaimed spelling competition for the first time in Bangladesh next year.

Champs21, the first e-learning web portal of Bangladesh, The Daily Star and GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Ltd have agreed to organise the Spelling Bee competition titled "The Daily Star Spelling Bee powered by Horlicks".

This was disclosed at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony at The Daily Star Centre in the city.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, Soumendra S Das, marketing director of GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh and Russell T Ahmed, chief executive officer of Champs21.com, signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations.

Spelling Bee is an international spelling competition where contestants, usually children, are asked to spell out English words. Such competitions are held in many countries, including the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, Pakistan and India.

"The Daily Star Spelling Bee powered by Horlicks" is expected to be officially launched in January next year. Any student from class six to class 10 from both English and Bangla medium schools will be eligible to take part in the contest.

The education-based reality TV show will be held in a total of three rounds, namely, Online, Division and TV Rounds.

Detailed information about the competition such as modalities, terms and conditions, will soon be available on the websites of The Daily Star ([www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)) and Champs21 ([www.champs21.com](http://www.champs21.com)).

Actor Schumon Pathay, GlaxoSmithKline Marketing Manager Nusrat Jahan and The Daily Star's general managers AFM Jamaluddin, Selim SH Chowdhury, Sher Ali and Mizanur Rahman were present during the deal signing ceremony.



Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, sixth from right, Soumendra S Das, marketing director of GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh, fifth from left, and Russell T Ahmed, chief executive officer of Champs21.com, fourth from right, pose with others after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at The Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday. Under the deal, the trio will launch an English spelling competition for school students in Bangladesh in January next year.

PHOTO: STAR

*Spelling Bee is an international spelling competition where contestants, usually children, are asked to spell out English words*

## HC order on DU admission test today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed today for passing an order on a writ petition that challenged the Dhaka University (DU) authorities' decision to cancel its 'Ga' unit admission test results.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain fixed the date after holding hearing on the petition.

During the hearing, Prof Anwar Hossain of DU and Dr Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal Science and Technology University (Sust) opined that the answer sheets of the admission test

can be re-evaluated excluding the questions with errors.

Prof Anwar Hossain, also president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta), said there are two kinds of opinion among Duta members that the answer sheets of Ga unit admission test can be re-evaluated, and also fresh admission test can be held.

But most of the Duta members are in the opinion for re-evaluation of the answer sheets instead of taking re-admission test, he told the court.

Prof Zafar Iqbal opposed the DU authorities' decision of holding a fresh test and suggested re-evaluation of answer sheets.

He said that he has discussed with the DU authorities and he has seen that there are some anomalies in the questions, including spelling mistakes.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman and DU counsel AFM Mesbahuddin said a fresh admission test under the Ga unit should be held so that there remains no stigma on the DU admission process.

They prayed for rejecting the writ petition.

Petitioners' counsel Manzill Murshid said there is no scope to cancel the result of admission test and to hold a fresh admission test for the Ga unit since the DU authorities

have already selected subjects for qualifying candidates.

The DU administration re-assessed the answer sheets and published fresh results on November 2 on account of a number of 'incorrect answers' marked as correct.

The petition was filed after the DU authorities decided to cancel the results and hold a fresh test on December 9.

Twelve candidates, who qualified for admission, filed the petition on November 22 seeking HC directives upon the DU authorities to continue the admission process based on the first results published on October 31.

## No plan to exclude proteins from diet Says ICDDR,B director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ICDDR,B authorities yesterday expressed concern over some recent media reports that the hospital has decided to exclude proteins from patients' diet in a bid to contain costs.

At a press conference, ICDDR,B medical director Dr Mark Pietroni said the hospital never had any intention to exclude proteins from patients' diet. It was a flawed memorandum of the hospital that sent a wrong message in this regard, he said.

Different newspapers and TV channels, based on a memo the ICDDR,B issued on September 6, reported on occasions that the hospital has decided to exclude fish, mutton, chicken, and egg from diets unless a patient is prescribed therapeutic diet.

"It was a mistake. The memo was vaguely written. But our intention was not corrupt", Dr Pietroni said. "We are fed up with the reports published in media", he added.

## Cancel DCC split Demand BNP, CPB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP and left-leaning parties, including Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), yesterday demanded cancellation of The Local Government (City Corporation) Amendment Bill, 2011 by which Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has been split into two.

If the government does not cancel its decision, BNP will wage tougher movement against it, said BNP leaders said.

They made the demand while staging demonstrations, organised by Dhaka Metropolitan unit BNP, before its central office at Naya Paltan in the city.

They also said Awami League-led government violated the constitution dividing DCC for implementing their political motive as the constitution says the capital of the country will be Dhaka.

Abdus Salam, Habibun Nabi Khan Sohel, and Sultan Salauddin Tuku, among others, spoke.

Meanwhile, CPB and Gonotantrik Bam Morcha (democratic left alliance) also demanded cancellation of splitting the DCC, say separate press releases.

The bill was passed in parliament on Wednesday.

## Real estate co staff found dead in office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rampura police recovered the hanging body of a staff from inside his office building at Banasree in the city yesterday.

The deceased, Habibur Rahman, 45, a resident of Bhuiyan para in Khilgaon, was working as a technical assistant of Arma Real Estate Company.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Haque of Rampura Police Station said, breaking open the door, police found the body hanging from the ceiling fan of a room in the sixth floor of the seven-storey office building around 12:30am.

President Zillur Rahman sees off his German counterpart Christian Wulff at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## French Annual Gala 2011

To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore

France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry organizes a cultural evening on

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 at 7:15 pm. at Radisson Water Garden Hotel

with classical composition, recital, songs & dance followed by

Gala dinner with French menu

Entry Ticket : Tk. 4,000 per person (first come first served)

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