

DU 'Ga' unit fresh test Dec 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fresh admission test of Dhaka University 'Ga' unit for 2011-2012 academic sessions will be held on December 20.

The DU authorities took the decision yesterday hours after the Supreme Court directed them to hold the test by December 21.

The decision came from an emergency syndicate meeting called in the afternoon, presided over by DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Only the candidates who took the admission test on October 28 can reappear for the fresh test without paying any additional fees, the VC said.

If the admit card has been damaged or lost, the candidates can download it from the internet. The seating arrangement would be made available through the DU website and the media, he added.

The one-hour-long test will begin at 3:00pm.

In yesterday's verdict, the SC also stayed the High Court's December 1 verdict which directed the DU authorities to re-evaluate the answer sheets.

It issued an order barring Prof Jamal Uddin, the dean of Faculty of Business Studies, from being involved in the admission test process.

However, the apex court upheld the HC order that directed the DU authorities to investigate into the anomalies in the question paper of the earlier tests and ordered to identify the people responsible for the anomalies.

An eight-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Mozammel Hossain passed the order acting upon the DU authorities' petition on December 4 challenging the HC verdict.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam appeared for DU while Advocate Manzil Murshid moved for the petitioners.

TEESTA WATER ISSUE

Rudra Commission report by month end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kalyan Rudra Commission, which was set up by the Paschimbanga chief minister to work out an acceptable solution to the Teesta water issue, will submit its report to the state government by the end of this month, an Indian newspaper reported yesterday.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appointed Kalyan Rudra on November 15 to find a scientific solution on how the Teesta water should be shared between India and Bangladesh, The Indian Express reported.

"I have been appointed by the chief minister to advise her on the issue and I am working on a solution based on science which should be mutually acceptable and I hope it will satisfy both the countries. There is still some research to be made and I hope I can submit the report by the end of this month," the newspaper quoted Rudra as saying.

An expert of international repute, Rudra, however, refused to reveal the contents of his report.

The Paschimbanga chief minister, in the presence of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni who went to the Writers' Building to have a talk with her on various issues including the Teesta water, said she would largely go by the recommendations of the Rudra Commission, according to the report.

"I have not been recruited by the central government and I am going to advise only the Bengal CM," Rudra said.

Agreeing that finding a solution on the river issue will not be easy, he said, "It is a major task because of the nature of the river. You will also have to keep in mind various international laws. But with scientific applications, one can find out a way."

In September, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Bangladesh and, among other things, an agreement on the sharing of Teesta water was supposed to be signed. However, owing to Mamata's strong reservations, the signing of the agreement was cancelled.

BNP terms war crimes trial 'farcical'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will not accept this 'farcical trial' of war crimes designed to suppress the opponent by protecting war criminals belonging to the ruling party, said its standing committee member MK Anwar yesterday.

"The government is conspiring to eliminate the opposition in the name of trial of crimes against humanity. Fair trial is not possible under the present law," he said at a roundtable discussion at Dhaka Reporters' Unity organised by Sushil Forum, a pro-BNP body.

The BNP leader claimed his party is not against the trial of war criminals but said no farcical trial will be allowed to take place.

"The US Ambassador-at-Large Stephen Rapp made six recommendations and we support him," he added.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and the adjoining areas of Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions and light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:29am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.1 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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 | 28.8 | 17.5 | 72 | 60 |
| Chittagong | 28.0 | 18.2 | 75 | 73 |
| Rajshahi | 28.0 | 15.8 | 94 | 81 |
| Rangpur | 27.6 | 15.6 | 82 | 79 |
| Khulna | 29.3 | 17.6 | 95 | 86 |
| Barisal | 29.5 | 16.4 | 86 | 91 |



PHOTO: STAR

Muslims bring out a 'Tajia' procession from Hosni Dalan in the city on Tuesday in observance of the Holy Ashura marking the 10th day of Muharram, the first month in the Hijri calendar.

9 hurt as cops charge baton on indigenous students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Tuesday charged baton on a demonstration by indigenous students, protesting UNDP's cultural diversity festival, injuring at least nine students including two girls.

They also picked up nine students from in front of Jatiya Press Club.

Agitating students claimed, they were peacefully protesting the cultural diversity festival when police suddenly charged baton on them.

However, refuting the claim, Rezaul Karim, OC of Shahbagh Police Station, said they didn't charge baton but only picked up some students to avoid any untoward situation and freed them later on.

The festival, which started on December 4, was organised jointly by UNDP-Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility and Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. The organisers in a concept note used terms such as 'ethnic minorities', 'small ethnic group' and 'tribal' instead of the term 'indigenous peoples'.

Indigenous student leaders protested against these terms saying they undermine rights of indigenous people.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL 11-party protests BNP's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11-party alliance of left-leaning parties said BNP's audacious remarks against the spirit of the Liberation War have unmasked the party's link with anti-liberation forces.

"The party is trying to protect people who oppose Bangladesh's independence earned through the ultimate sacrifice of 30 lakh martyrs," said a press release signed by Mahmudur Rahman Babu, convener of the 11-party alliance.

While the United States has supported the trials of war criminals in other countries, it would not do the same here in Bangladesh as the US had assisted in the war crimes during 1971, the alliance said.

Now, Bangladeshi people would reject the US like they did in 1971, it added.

Planned urbanisation a must for poverty alleviation

Experts tell Urban Forum discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planned urbanisation with housing and civic amenities is imperative for poverty alleviation and development, ministers and experts said yesterday at the concluding ceremony of Bangladesh Urban Forum.

The urban poor, migrating to cities in search of livelihood, should be made integral part of a healthy urban growth and development, they said making a fifteen-point declaration at the ceremony held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhit called to delegate power to local government for urban poverty reduction and developing slums with housing and civic facilities.

"Government has to ensure zoning

and land use plan to achieve the goal of planned urbanisation," he said.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha has to play the role of a planning organisation and stop to function only as a development programme implementing agency, he added.

Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for housing and public works, said future of planned urbanisation of Dhaka city is bleak if mindless occupation of rivers and wetlands by real estate developers is not stopped.

The declaration, which came out of 22 sessions on the themes of urbanisation and growth, urban poverty reduction and good governance during the forum, focused on climate-resilient and participatory urban growth with good governance and decentralisation of power.

Anti-corruption Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 2500 participants including about 200 municipality mayors, several hundred urban poor, NGO and civil society activists, high officials, noted academicians and researchers from home and abroad took part in the forum.

The government along with development partners, research NGOs and civic bodies organised the three-day forum, first of its kind in the country for dialogue and action on the challenges of rapid urbanisation.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, state minister for local government, Prof Nazrul Islam, noted urban researcher, Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan, secretary to local government division, Md Azmat Ullah Khan, president of Municipal Association of Bangladesh and Stefan Priesner, country director of UNDP, also spoke at the ceremony.



PHOTO: BNP

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena speaks to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia during a courtesy call at the party's Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

US hopes for free, fair polls: Mozena

UNB, Dhaka

The US hopes that the people of Bangladesh and the political parties will devise the mechanisms to hold a free, fair and credible election acceptable to all.

The newly-appointed US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena made the remark when asked whether the US is pondering a solution to the present standoff between the opposition BNP and ruling Awami League over the caretaker government issue.

Mozena was talking to newsmen after a courtesy call on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office yesterday evening.

Replying to another question, he said the US administration supports democracy and the democratic process.

It is not the US to propose what type of democracy Bangladesh should have. But it is for Bangladeshis and Bangladesh's leaders to devise the mechanisms, enabling the country to hold a free, fair and credible election acceptable to all parties, he said.

Terming his meeting with Khaleda "wonderful, fruitful and constructive", Mozena said he shared with her the US administration's strong will to deepen and strengthen relations between the two countries.

He said Bangladesh is important for stability in the region as the country reaches out to cement ties with Nepal, Myanmar, China, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, which is conducive to peace and stability in the region.

Another change in cabinet likely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to again reorganise her cabinet shortly after her return from Myanmar, party sources said.

Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, herself gestured last week that she was thinking of incorporating some more proven leaders in her ruling alliance to the cabinet.

She expanded the cabinet and changed the portfolio of some ministers on Tuesday to recognise her time-tested party leaders and to infuse more dynamism in the government's functioning, said party sources.

To accommodate the new cabinet members, the government is likely to split the ministries of post and telecommunications, information and cultural affairs, and food

and disaster management, secretariat sources said.

They pointed out that the PM delayed in accommodating senior leaders like Suranjit Sengupta and Obaidul Quader, who were currently appointed the railways minister and communications minister respectively, in the cabinet due to frequent speculations in the media.

She felt the need to accommodate the left out senior leaders with proven record because these leaders were getting frustrated and becoming critical of the government's performance, emphasising that they could have done a better job.

Regarding appointment of the new ministers, Agricultural Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday said, "More or less all the members of the cabinet are doing a good job. But induction of these two leaders would

surely bring more dynamism in the cabinet."

"The PM has recognised them and it is now their turn to deliver," she told The Daily Star at her Secretariat office.

Meanwhile, sources added that Jatiya Party (JP) leader GM Quader, who was the civil aviation minister, has been made the commerce minister to accommodate the request of his brother HM Ershad, also JP chief.

Cabinet sources said former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain was not happy with his new portfolio of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). He is now lobbying for important portfolio.

This has triggered a new speculation that the government might split the post and telecommunications ministry and incorporate the telecoms with the ICT.