

NEWS IN

brief

DU 'Ga' unit admission test results published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of 'Ga' unit (Business Studies faculty) fresh admission test of Dhaka University (DU) for 2011-2012 academic session were published yesterday.

A total 3,396 students out of 25,748 passed the test for 1,075 seats.

The test was held on Tuesday.

Hawker dies in boat capsized

UNB, Keraniganj

A teenage hawker died as a boat carrying him cap-sized in the river Buriganga after being hit by a motor launch at Sadarghat on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Kawsar, son of Ashraf of Jhalakathi district.

Witnesses said the small boat capsized when hit by a passenger launch named MV Red Sun-2 near the terminal around 11:30pm. Later, his body was recovered from the river.

A case was filed in this connection.

US embassy closed Dec 25, Jan 1, British HC Dec 25, 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The American embassy, including the consular section and the American centre with the Archer K Blood American centre library and the student advising centre, will be closed on December 25 on the occasion of Christmas Day.

Those who will also remain closed on January 1, on the occasion of New Year's Day, says a press release.

Both days are American holidays.

Emergency services for American citizens will be available. They have been asked to call 885-5500 for the duty officer.

The British High Commission in Dhaka, its office in Sylhet, and DFID Bangladesh will remain closed to the public on December 25-26 for Christmas Day and Boxing Day, says another press release.

Training for 16 members of Palestine Armed Force ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-week long training course for 16 members of the Palestine Armed Force under the supervision of Special Security Force (SSF) of Bangladesh ended in the city yesterday.

The SSF conducted the course VIPPC-2 (Very Important Person Protection Course-2) following an initiative taken by the Palestine embassy in Dhaka, said a press release.

Cleaning drive at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Cadet Core (BNCC) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) launched a drive to clean the JU campus yesterday.

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shariff Enamul Kabir inaugurated the programme at 7:00am at the main gate of the university welcoming BNCC's effort.

Drawing competition held

METRO DESK

A drawing competition was held at Summerfield International School and Tiny Tots at its Mohammadpur campus in the city on Monday to celebrate Victory Day.

The topic of the competition was the War of Liberation to commemorate the sacrifices of the freedom fighters.

Around 300 participants were divided into four categories -- Group A, B, C and D -- according to the age group and class.

The winners are Sporsho Bhattacharjee from nursery (Group A), Syed Sarim Rizvi from KG II (Group B), Kifayat Qayyum from Class I (Group C) and Magdaline Chelsi Gomes from Class IV (Group D).



Mild cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during mid night till noon, Met Officesaid.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:17 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

Country's highest temperature 25.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 08.0 degrees at Jessore.

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	18.4	12.5	87	88
Chittagong	19.0	12.6	93	87
Rajshahi	20.4	09.2	100	85
Rangpur	16.3	10.2	99	88
Khulna	19.5	10.5	94	85
Barisal	22.2	12.4	88	89



The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power, and Ports brings out a protest march from the Jatiya Press Club in support of the committee's December 29 programme of besieging the energy ministry over a seven-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Iskandar Miah, father of Ekushey Television (ETV) planning editor Harun Ur Rashid, died of old age complications at his residence at Mathbaria in Pirojpur on Wednesday. He was 78.

He was buried at his family graveyard yesterday.

In a message, President and General Ssecretary of Dhaka Reporters Unity Shakhawat Hossain Badsha and Sazzad Alam Khan Tapu yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Iskandar.

They also expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh also condoled the death of Iskandar.

Rawshan Ara Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rawshan Ara Hossain, wife of Professor of English department of Dhaka University Dr Khandokar Ashraf Hossain, died of cardiac arrest at Samorita Hospital yesterday at the age of 56.

She left behind one son, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held on the premises of her residence, said a press release.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed deep condolence at her death.

THE DHAKA TODAY

Fair

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will organise a SME fair. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

Muktachinta Forum will hold a roundtable. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh National Awami Party will hold a discussion. Venue: 20/21, Dhanmndi Hawkers Market, Time: 4:00pm.

Reception

Ibrahimpur School Alumni Association will hold a reception programme. Venue: IDEB auditorium, Kakrail, Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Communist Union will hold a discussion. Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan, Time: 3:00pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will form a human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Cultural programme

Bangladesh Awami Shishu-Jubo Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion and cultural programme. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Time: 3:00pm.

Rally

Gonosanghati Andolon will hold a

12 river routes suffer non-navigability

BSS, Dhaka

The ferry movement on 12 river routes, mostly in southern Bangladesh, has been facing serious difficulties due to non-navigability in different channels in winter.

Inadequate dredging and poor maintenance on the water routes and lack of beacon lamps and markers cause problems to ferry and passenger launch movement, especially during night when they run aground on shoals frequently, according to launch operators.

Passenger launch operators on Dhaka-Barisal route told the news agency on Wednesday that they had written a letter to the ministry concerned in September this year requesting it to carry out dredging in the important channels to maintain smooth ferry services. But, little had been done so far in this regard, they said.

"Following our demand, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has been carrying out small scale dredging on different river routes to maintain navigability".

But, this is not sufficient as we are still facing tremendous problem in operating our passenger vessels due to deposition of silt in various channels", said Saidur Rahman Rintu, owner of Sundarban Navigation Co.

According to the BIWTA, siltation at Alubazar, Moidherchar, Bannirchar, Duimukh, Charbhoirab, Jalalpur, Baushia to Lata and Barisal river port has been hampering ferry services on Dhaka-Barisal route.

Besides, deposition of silt on over 30 points on the routes of Dhaka-Hularhat, Dhaka-Patuakhali, Dhaka-Rangabali-Kalaiya-Charmontaj and Lalmoohan, Dhaka-Shariatpur-Bhedorganj, Dhaka-Bhola, Dhaka-Hizla-Muladi, Dhaka-Borhanuddin, Dhaka-Damudda-Haturia, Dhaka-Madaripur, Narsingdi-Gorkonghat, Dhaka-Hatia, Dhaka-Daulatkha and Barisal-Luxmipur has created obstacle frequently to ferry movement.

Talking to the news agency, Rintu said, "As a result of siltation, sometimes masters (captains of vessels) have to depend on high and low tides in operating vessels.

"Due to navigability problem on waterways, especially during winter, we have to struggle to maintain schedule of ferry services".

Apart from siltation, vessel operators have been facing another problem due to lack of adequate beacon lamps and route identification markers.

Contacted, BIWTA Chairman Dr Md Shamsuddoha Khondakar said that despite inadequate facilities, they have been carrying out dredging on different river routes to maintain navigability.

"We have conducted large-scale dredging this year in Mawa-Char Janajat and Paturia-Doulatdia channel to maintain ferry services as siltation sometimes disrupts ferry movement there".

According to statistics, the country's river channels have now reduced to 3,500 kilometres from 30,000 kilometres and the number of river routes to 12 from 30 during the last few years.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a meeting of the party's standing committee at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

Ruhal fears stop to HIV funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhal Haque yesterday expressed concern that the existing activities to prevent HIV/AIDS might be hampered in future if global funding stops coming.

He said funding might stop, as donors now give more attention to the severely HIV-hit countries and leave less affected countries like Bangladesh out of their focus.

Addressing a seminar titled "Capacity Building of Local NGOs: Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh" in the capital's Institution of Diploma Engineers, Ruhal Haque stressed the need for partnership between state-run organisations and NGOs to tackle the probable crisis.

Bangladesh now only has a single source of funding from Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, an international fund that began in 2002; but it may stop in the middle of next year, said Prof Dr ASM Amanullah of Dhaka University in the keynote speech at the seminar organised by STI/AIDS Network of Bangladesh (SANB).

The country currently has a total of 2,533 who are HIV positive and another 1,101 persons who are already suffering from AIDS.

Dr Capt (Retd) Muzibur Rahman Fakir, state minister for health; Dr AMR Chowdhury, senior adviser and acting managing director of Rockefeller Foundation, Bangkok; AKM Maksud, secretary general of SANB; and Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; also spoke at the seminar.

Bus set afire in city as it kills helper

Four killed in other districts

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and two others injured in road accidents in Dhaka, Chittagong and Dinajpur yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports: A helper of a bus driver died instantly as another bus ran over him while he was making way for his vehicle in the city's Jatrabari last night.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Baset, 52.

The agitating locals instantly set fire to the bus as it killed the transport worker. The bus was burnt down before the fire fighters rushed to the scene.

Fire fighters doused the flame at around 11:00pm.

Police seized the burnt bus of Bilash Paribahan.

Our staff correspondent from Ctg reports: Three people were killed and another two injured as a bus rammed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Bagichar Hat in Chandanaish upazila yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified as Abdul Alim, 27, Naser Uddin, 45. The injured were taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: A man succumbed to his injuries in Dinajpur Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Md Azad, 55, of Joypurhat Sadar upazila was injured as a bus hit a three-wheeler carrying him from behind at Atapara in Hakimpur upazil Wednesday night.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Dr Syed Kamal Uddin Ahmed, professor of Psychiatry at Holy Family Medical College and Hospital, will be held today after Maghrib prayers, says a press release.

His family members have requested all to attend the occasion at his residence.

He died of stomach cancer on Wednesday at the age of 58.

Prof Garib Newaz Khan

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Prof Garib Newaz Khan, former head of the Bangla department of Notre Dame College, Dhaka, will be held at his residence after Asr prayers today.

He passed away on Monday, says a press release.

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Course fees include tuition fee, food, accommodation and certificate. This fee includes VAT and tax. For details and registration please visit www.manusherjonno.org/alok or contact:

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