

NEWS IN *brief*

DU admission tests begin Oct 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for honours programmes in Dhaka University (DU) under 2012-2013 academic session will begin on October 12.

The decision came at a deans' committee meeting headed by Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday.

The admission tests under the five units for five faculties--Science, Humanities, Business Studies, Social Science (Unit Change) and Fine Arts--will be held on October 12, 19, November 2, 9 and 16 respectively.

The VC said applicants have to apply online like the previous year. Application forms would be available on the university website from August 26 till September 15, he added.

Requirements for the admission tests will remain the same like previous year. Students have to pay a total of Tk 330 for the registration, which includes Tk 30 for online application charge.

Applicants have been asked to visit the university website-- www.admission.univdhaka.edu--for their

9 business organisations fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), in anti-adulteration drives, fined nine business organisations Tk 8.10 lakh in the capital yesterday.

A team of BSTI fined ABM Food and Consumer Products Tk 2 lakh at Pir Hazirbagh for producing and selling soft drinks, powder and noodles without having BSTI licence, said a press release.

The team also fined Ready Multi Products Tk 50,000 at Chamelighat for preserving products without taking the licence.

Meanwhile, the team fined Mohanchan Grand Sons at Patuati, Jaygopal Dahi and Mishtanno Bhandar, Amulla Mishtanno Bhandar, and Joy Mishtanno Bhandar in Kotwali area Tk 1 lakh each for selling curds and ghee in unhygienic atmosphere and not having the licence.

In another drive, the team fined Café Mawla Sweetmeat and Hotel Barnali at Matijheel Tk 25,000 each; Hotel Al Razzak at Bangshal Tk 10,000 for sell-

Two murdered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed by unidentified miscreants in separate incidents in Dhaka Zoo Road area of Mirpur and Mohakhali Sattola slum in the capital on Monday and yesterday.

In an incident, Shahidul Islam Shahid, 28, was shot dead by some miscreants in Mirpur area yesterday.

Police said they recovered the body of Shahid from Dhaka Zoo Road area around 6:30 am.

In another incident, Mohammad Alal, 20, was stabbed by miscreants in front of his house at Sattola slum in Mohakhali around 11:00pm on Monday.

Critically injured Alal was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared

Three held with Yaba tablets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) arrested three alleged Yaba smugglers and seized 750 pieces of Yaba tablets from their possession in Khatungonj of Chittagong city yesterday.

The arrestees are Mohammad Ali, 31, his brother Showkat Ali, 26, both residents of Asadgonj in the city, and Mohammad Afsar, 32, from Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from Rab-7 conducted a drive at a shop named Aziz's Shop in Haji Sona Mia Market of Khatungonj and arrested the trio with the



Hundreds of people throng Nuhash Palli in Gazipur to pay their last respects to legendary writer and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ecneec okays Tk 660cr for urban healthcare

BSS, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved primary healthcare project for the urban poor especially for women and children involving Tk 660 crore.

The approval came at the first Ecneec meeting of the current financial year with Ecneec Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was in the chair at the NEC Conference room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Apart from the primary healthcare project, the Ecneec also approved seven other development projects, involving Tk 2,323 crore all together.

"Of the total project cost, Tk 1,739 crore will come from the national exchequer while Tk 584 crore will come as project assistance," acting Planning Division Secretary Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam told reporters after the meeting.

Under the project titled "Urban primary healthcare services delivery", all the city corporations, including Rangpur, and four selected Pourashavas of the country will come under primary healthcare services.

Under supervision of the city corporation and pourashava authorities, selected partner non-government organizations (NGOs) will provide the service delivery.

Local Government Division will implement the project. ADB, SIDA and UNFPA will provide Tk 584 crore for the 5-year project.

The Ecneec meeting approved another project called "construction of small bridges/culverts on rural roads (3rd phase) project." Under the project, more than 30,000 metre culverts will be constructed on rural roads of 459 upazillas of the country.

Replying to a query on an alleged corruption report on construction of a colony for the sweepers submitted by Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) before the Ecneec, the acting planning secretary said the authorities of the then Dhaka City Corporation did not take any measure regarding the corruption.

He said that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) would take necessary measures to this end after proper inquiry.

Other projects approved in the meeting are: Infrastructure facility development of Khulna Engineering and Technology University project (Tk 52 crore); procurement of modern equipment and facilities for Border Guard Bangladesh (Revised) project (Tk. 46 crore); establishment of Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Medical College and Hospital, Kishoreganj project' (Tk. 545 crore); construction of two bridges over Brahmaputra River of Islampur Upazilla under Jamalpur district project (Tk 143 crore); new Dakatia and old Dakatia - small Feni river extraction (3rd revised) project (Tk 148 crore) and development of water supply system in Rajshahi city project (Tk 34 crore).

OLYMPIC GAMES OPENING PM leaves for UK today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Bangladesh for UK today for a five-day visit to attend the opening ceremony of London Olympic Games 2012.

She will lead a 38-member delegation, which includes Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin, officials of Prime Minister's Office and foreign ministry, and media teams.

She is scheduled to reach London Heathrow Airport at 3:30pm (London time).

During her stay in London, Hasina is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with the British government high-ups and opposition leaders, Commonwealth secretary general, British lawmakers and other participating head of governments at the Olympic games.

On the first day of her visit, she will attend an Iftar party and exchange views with Bangla print and electronic media based in UK at Hotel St. Pancras Renaissance, where she will be staying.

On Thursday, Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma will call on Hasina at the hotel.

The prime minister will attend a royal reception in Buckingham Palace at 4:00pm on Friday. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will host the reception.

Hasina will then leave for Olympic Stadium to witness the opening ceremony of London Olympics.

Later on July 28, British Secretary of State William Hague will call on Hasina.

The premier is expected to return home on July 30. Meanwhile, Awami League Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and its Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif will act as president and general secretary of the ruling party in absence of party chief Sheikh Hasina and its General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam.

Ashraf, also LGRD and Cooperatives minister, has already gone to London to meet his family there.

SWECHHASEBAK LEAGUE Names of top 50 leaders announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami Swechhasebak League announced names of top 50 leaders of its 151-member central committee yesterday, with many of them being fresh and former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The long due council of the AL's associated body held on July 11 retained Mollah Md Abu Kawser and Pankaj Debnath president and general secretary respectively to the frustration of the leaders and workers.

Kawser and Pankaj announced the names yesterday.

Former top BCL leaders Afzalur Rahman Babu and Marufa Akhter Popy have been made vice presidents, while all the organising secretaries--Subrata Pura Kaistho, Abdul Alaim, AKM Azim, Delwar Hossain, Khairul Hasan Jewel, Sheikh Sohail Rana Tipu, and Sazzad Sakib Badsha--are new faces.

Among other office bearers are Saleh Ahmed Tutul, office secretary; Kazi Moazzem Hossain, mass communication and journalism affairs secretary; Nafiul Karim Nafa, social welfare secretary; and Azizul Haque Aziz, assistant office secretary.



Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, left, with his Indian counterpart Ranjan Mathai at the Foreign Office Consultation at South Block in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

4 buses vandalised over fare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some young people vandalised four buses at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Farmgate in the capital following an altercation over bus fare yesterday.

Kazi Shahan, a sub-inspector at Tejgaon Police Station, said two students of Dhaka University locked into an altercation with the staffs of Alike Paribahan on their way to Farmgate from Shahbagh area around 9:30am.

The students got off the bus at Farmgate after they had a scuffle with the bus staffs.

Later, the two angry students along with a group of about 20 people vandalised two buses of Alike Paribahan and two other buses.

The traffic was disrupted for about half an hour in the area.

Bus drivers and staffs were injured in the incident.

MC COLLEGE ARSON Probe body gets 15 more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The probe committee, investigating the hostel arson at Government MC College of Sylhet, has been given 15 working days more for completing their job.

The committee, formed on July 9, was first asked to file report in 10 working days.

At least 42 rooms of the college hostel were gutted as those were set afire on July 8 following a clash between ruling Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists and Jamaat-e-Islami backed Islami Chhatra Shibir men.

Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Khan Mohammad Bilal told this correspondent yesterday that the committee had been given 15 working days more for submitting the report as the committee had sought the extension.

The report was finalised for submission on Monday but at the last moment it was suspended due to intervention by some influential quarters, as the names of a number of the ruling party backed students and youth bodies came up in the report, said a local Awami League leader requesting anonymity.

The college remained closed for indefinite period.

London-based think tank urges protection for Rohingyas

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, London

London-based anti-extremist think tank, Quilliam, has called for urgent action by the international community to end violence and discrimination against the Rohingya and other ethnic and religious minorities in Myanmar.

In a statement issued yesterday, it said the current communal violence and ongoing state-sponsored systematic discrimination against the Rohingya minority in Burma required a strong response by the international community and by democracy and human rights activists worldwide.

For decades, the Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic group primarily based in Arakan State and one of the world's most persecuted minorities, have faced severe restrictions, harassment and intimidation. Rohingya activists have been routinely subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, and even extrajudicial killings perpetrated by the security forces and Rakhine Buddhists.

The Rohingya have effectively been declared stateless in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the 1982 Citizenship Act, which removed their citizenship granted in 1948, even if they have lived in Myanmar for generations.

Since a state of emergency was declared in June 2012, targeted attacks by the security forces against the Rohingya have increased and anti-Muslim communal violence has continued unchecked.

Hundreds are thought to have died in the recent violence. In addition, UN agencies say that at least 90,000 people have been displaced and are in desperate need of humanitarian aid.

In the meantime, Myanmar President Thein Sein's suggestion to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) last week that it should take responsibility for the entire Rohingya population of almost a million until they can be resettled to third countries is appalling and may amount to a policy of ethnic cleansing.

Quilliam has called on the international community to demand that the Myanmar government immediately repeal the 1982 Citizenship Law, which removed basic rights from the Rohingya.

"We call on the UK, US & EU governments to urgently press the Government of Burma to end all systematic discrimination and human rights violations against the Rohingya and other ethnic and religious minorities," said Usama Hasan, a senior researcher at Quilliam. "In addition, the perpetrators of communal violence must be held accountable and swift steps must be taken to resolve the conflict justly."

DHAKA TODAY

Condolence meeting
Jatiya Ganotantrik League will hold a condolence meeting on popular writer Humayun Ahmed; Venue: Bir Uttam Khaja Nizamuddin Auditorium, Dhaka Reporters' Unity (third floor); Time: 11:00am.

Meeting
Swadhinata Forum will arrange a meeting to mourn novelist Humayun Ahmed's death; Venue: Jatiya Press

Rally

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely
UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:45pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am.

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	28.2	79	69
Chittagong	29.0	25.4	96	92
Rajshahi	35.0	27.0	87	86
Rangpur	29.0	26.0	88	83
Khulna	32.4	28.0	88	86
Barisal	32.8	27.4	88	92