

COLLEGE ADMISSION

SSC marks, not admission tests

Orders SC, excludes Notre Dame College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the country's institutions, except Notre Dame College, to admit students in class XI for the current academic year based on their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam marks.

The SC's Appellate Division modified a June 2 High Court order which stayed for six months a government decision to admit students into colleges for 2013-2014 academic year based on the marks instead of holding admission tests.

The Ministry of Education had issued a circular on May 16 to this effect.

The HC, following a writ petition filed by Notre Dame College, had also

issued a rule asking the government to explain why the circular should not be declared illegal.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said the institutions, except Notre Dame College, were not required to hold admission tests.

The SC passed the order after disposing of an appeal moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam on behalf of the government against the HC order.

Within hours of the order, Dhaka Education Board published a list of students selected for admission to Class-XI in colleges under the board.

"We've sent the lists to the colleges which have gone for online admis-

sion," Dhaka Education Board Chairman Taslima Begum told The Daily Star, adding that colleges enrolling students manually had posted the list on their respective noticeboards.

Of the 950 colleges under Dhaka Education Board, 222 colleges are enrolling students online while the rest manually.

The bench also ordered the lawyers for the writ petitioner and government to take steps so that the rule is heard and disposed of at the HC in four weeks.

Notre Dame College authorities have already completed admission process after holding examinations, said Barrister Tamim Hussain Shawon, representing the college. Dr M Zahir also appeared for the college.

SCHOOLS CHARGING EXTRA ADMISSION FEES

HC seeks report on govt's punitive measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit a report before it by July 13 on action taken against 47 private schools which are charging extra fees for admission from students.

The HC order came following hearing of a rule over legality of the extra fees and charges in the form of donations in violation of government guidelines.

On January 9, 2012, the HC ordered the authorities concerned to investigate allegations of imposition of extra fees and charges and submit to it a report on steps taken to stop this practice and punish violators.

It came following a writ petition jointly filed by Campaign for Popular Education and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust over news reports that private schools were charging admission fees ranging from Tk 8,000 to Tk 32,000.

The government recently submitted a report to the HC saying that it found the 47 schools of violating the guidelines but issued show-cause notice against only two.

Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed fixed July 13 for hearing the rule, said Barrister Ashraf Hadi, representing the petitioners.

School teacher held over attempted rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of a Laxmi Bazar school in the capital was arrested yesterday following an attempted rape case filed against him by a girl student of the school who passed SSC exams this year.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rafiqul Islam of Sutrapur Police Station said Basudev Kumar Roy, 38, a resident of Kazi Abdur Rauf Road in Sutrapur who has a wife and a child, was arrested from the school.

As per the case statement, Basudev, finding the girl, in class ten at that time, alone, had tried to rape her on May 27, 2012 when she went to his residence for private tuition.

The girl's family, fearing social stigma, remained silent. But a relative of hers verbally informed the school of the incident a few days ago, said the girl's mother.

The school authorities summoned Basudev yesterday noon. Basudev, in the morning, threatened the family and coerced the girl to write a statement that the allegation was not true, said the OC.

The girl's parents informed the matter to the school, which in turn informed police. Basudev, however, denied the allegation.

Amended anti-terror act to gag freedom of expression

Say Int'l Federation for Human Rights, Odhikar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organisation in Bangladesh, Odhikar, have expressed deep concern about the recently passed Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2013, saying it would limit the freedom of expression.

In a joint statement published on the FIDH website on June 14, the organisations said the amendments which would allow the courts to accept videos, still photographs and audio clips used in Facebook, twitter, Skype, and other social media for trial cases widened the scope of sanctions provided in the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009.

"Experiences in several countries show that the criminalisation of opinions, expressed

online through social media or blogs, is not only a violation of freedom of expression and the right to privacy; it also represents a new pattern of persecution of any voice of dissent as well as human rights defenders," said FIDH President Karim Lahidji.

FIDH and Odhikar also criticised the definition of "terrorism" and retention of "death penalty" as the maximum punishment for financing "terrorist" activities. By retaining a vague definition and reducing terrorism to merely a crime punishable by death, the amendment bill makes the act even more vulnerable to the worst kind of abuses, they said.

Adilur Rahman Khan, secretary of Odhikar, said the amended bill, passed on June 11, would be more repressive.

Unicef, Save the Children hail passage of child bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and Save the Children have welcomed the passing of the Child Bill 2013 by Bangladesh's parliament, and said the new law was based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The passing of the bill is a great milestone for children in Bangladesh, Unicef Representative in Dhaka Pascal Villeneuve said in a statement. "The law now recognises that a child is defined as any person below the age of 18 years old, providing a universal and internationally recognised definition for a child."

The CRC is the first legally binding international instrument, which spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere have, according to the Unicef website.

Villeneuve said, "For the first time, the law has a provision for child victims and witnesses cementing legal instruments for their protection, including compensation for victims...the law reinforces the importance of the juvenile justice system meaning that children accused of petty crime...will no longer be unnecessarily detained."

"The confirmation that everyone under the age of 18 years is legally a child must stimulate action to ensure that existing laws on child labour and child marriage are strictly adhered to," said Save the Children Country Director Michael McGrath.

The bill was passed on Sunday.

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Today is the eighth death anniversary of advocate Gour Chandra Bala, a former provincial minister of erstwhile Pakistan.

He died on this day in 2005 at the age of 82.

Recitation from the holy Gita and pujas will be held at Bala Bhaban in Jhiltuli of Faridpur town on the occasion.

RIVER POLLUTION

DoE puts Karnaphuli Paper Mills on notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE), Chittagong yesterday asked Karnaphuli Paper Mills to explain why, despite previous notices, the mill did not take steps to stop untreated effluent from being discharged into the adjoining Karnaphuli River.

The DoE, in a show-cause notice to the country's largest and state-run paper mill's managing director, also asked him to appear before the DoE on June 23 and explain why Effluent Treatment Plants were not set up to prevent the pollution.

"We ordered the mill authorities to remove some solid toxic wastes containing calcium oxide dumped along the riverbank

and mixing with the river water," said DoE, Chittagong Director Zafar Alam.

"We will take action based on the explanation," he added after leading a DoE team on a visit to the mill area in Rangamati's Kaptai in the morning.

Though some units were closed, effluent was flowing into the river incessantly, said Zafar, adding that the quality of the river water in the area was lower than the "acceptable level".

A team member, Md Jamir Uddin, also a senior chemist at DoE, Chittagong, said they conducted the drive based on a June 9 The Daily Star report, "Karnaphuli Paper Mills polluting Ctg lifeline".

Heartiest Congratulations



The IBAIS University family congratulates Member, IBAIS University Trust and Chairman, Partex Group **Mr. M. A. Hashem** on being elected as the new Chairman of United Commercial Bank Ltd.



IBAIS University
ইবাইস ইউনিভার্সিটি
UGC & Govt. Approved

House # 21/A, Road # 16 (Old 27), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209



কিছু করার ইচ্ছে নিয়ে

আমরা
রেডি সবাই

ছোট্ট একটা ভালো কাজই হতে পারে হাজারো ভালো কাজের অনুপ্রেরণা।
আর তা ছড়িয়ে দিতে দেশজুড়ে ক্রিয়ার নেটওয়ার্ক এবং সেবা সব সুবিধা নিয়ে
রাবি রেডি আছে সবসময়, সবখানে।

an axiata company



জুড়ে উঠুন আপন শক্তিতে