

JU again considering relaxing admission criteria for ward of staff

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University are yet again thinking about relaxing the admission requirements for students under the ward quota for the 2014-15 academic session.

As 96 out of 139 people seeking admission under the ward quota failed to obtain the pass mark (35 percent) this year, some teachers and staff of the university started putting pressure on the administration to give a 10 mark grace.

Some staff even demanded admission of the students only if they appear at the test, administration sources claimed.

They made the demand at a meeting with the university administration on Sunday. The Central Admission Committee also held a meeting regarding the matter.

"No decision has yet been taken about the ward quota," said Prof Abul Hossain, pro-vice-chancellor of JU and a member of the admission committee.

Meanwhile, at a meet-the-press on the campus on Sunday, some teachers demanded a common policy for all candidates.

They said it is already a shame that students are being admitted under the ward quota with 35 percent of the mark, while a general applicant has to obtain 70 to 80 percent of the mark to qualify for admission.

Under the 2011-12 academic session, 78 disqualified students were admitted after they were given one mark as grace.



Unwilling to wait till the lights turn green, rickshaws follow a trend set by motorcyclists, taking to the footpaths by Ramna Park in the capital on Saturday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Another implicates Forkan Mallik in Patuakhali physician, wife murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another prosecution witness yesterday narrated before International Crimes Tribunal-2 how war crimes accused Forkan Mallik and the Pakistani occupation army killed a physician, Debendra Nath, and his wife Biva Rani in Patuakhali on August 12 during the 1971 Liberation War.

The sixth witness, Habibur Rahman Mridha, 60, said he saw Forkan, other Razakars and the Pakistani army with a tied up man, Kader Jamader, go to Debendra's house around 2:30pm.

Habibur was collecting dues at one Gangacharan's sweet shop at Subidkhali Bazar, situated west of Debendra's pharmacy. He and his father used to provide milk to the shop.

Forkan and another Razakar commander, Shahjahan Sikdar, identified Debendra for the Pakistani army. One

army man then brought out a paper, read it and kicked Debendra, he said.



Forkan Mallik

"I saw Deben's wife Biva Rani plead to the Razakars and the Pakistani army not to kill her husband when Forkan knocked down Biva Rani," he said, adding that a Pakistani army man then shot dead Debendra and Forkan bayoneted Biva Rani.

The next day, Habibur said, he heard gunshots near Subidkhali Bazar and later came to know that the Pakistani army and Razakars killed Kader and one Hafez Khalifa and dumped the bodies in the Payra river.

Forkan and other Razakars forced three Hindus to convert to Islam on August 15, 1971, he added, before the defence counsel started cross-examining him and proceedings were adjourned until today.

Forkan, 63, denies the five charges including murders.

Nahid again promises punishment for errant private universities

Speaks at Eastern University convocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not let those private universities continue which have not complied with the minimum pre-requisites to become universities, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

Speaking at the fourth convocation of Eastern University in the capital, Nahid once again promised to take legal actions against such universities soon.

According to University Grants Commission's website, the government has so far approved 80 private universities since 1992.

Convocation speaker Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said mere production-oriented skill development is not enough, but rather higher education must involve knowledge in combination with the values of age-old teaching to address political and social problems.

A total of 5,000 students have so far graduated from the university including 2,000 this year.

Dr Abdur Rab, vice-chancellor of Eastern University, and its Trustee Board Chairman Enayet Ullah also spoke.

Overflowing sewage floods Mayakanon

Wasa has been oblivious for over a year while residents keep suffering in capital

HELEMUL ALAM

Residents of Mayakanon and Ahmedbagh in Mugda of the capital have been suffering for the last one year as sewerage lines of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority overflow submerging the area on a regular basis.

The situation is worse during the rainy season as parts of Mayakanon and Ahmedbagh go under ankle to knee-deep sewage water due to poor drainage system making it very difficult for commuters to go about their everyday lives.

Residents blame the authorities concerned for not taking proper

initiatives to establish a proper drainage system, and for unplanned urbanisation.

"I have to wade through ankle-deep water that submerges the link road every other day," said Ruma Akhtar, a worker of Miyami Garments at Ahmedbagh.

Ruma, a resident of Mayakanon, said as she earns only Tk 5,000 per month she does not dare take rickshaws and so cannot avoid the dirty water even during the rainy season.

One Tapon Chakraborti mentioned unplanned construction of high rises as one of the main reasons why the drainage system is not effective.

Momin Uddin Ahmed, another

resident of the area, said although the authorities permitted building high rises, they do not seem concerned about providing utility services properly.

He said, "Forget rainy season, even in winter when there is no rain the area becomes submerged under sewerage water."

He added that the sewage spreads a very bad smell in the area.

When contacted, Zaki Mustafa, superintendent engineer of drainage circle of Wasa, said they have not received any complaints that the area's drainage system is poor.

"We will look into the problem and try to come up with a solution," he added.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid addresses Eastern University Convocation-2015 at Bashundhara Convention Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY



It was not only yesterday but for, as per the locals, over one whole year that sewage has been leaking out onto the streets from blocked underground pipes in Ahmedbagh-Mayakanon area of the capital while the stench spreading even further. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Blockade dampens book fair prospects

FROM PAGE 4
February. But because of the fear of petrol bomb attacks they cannot come."

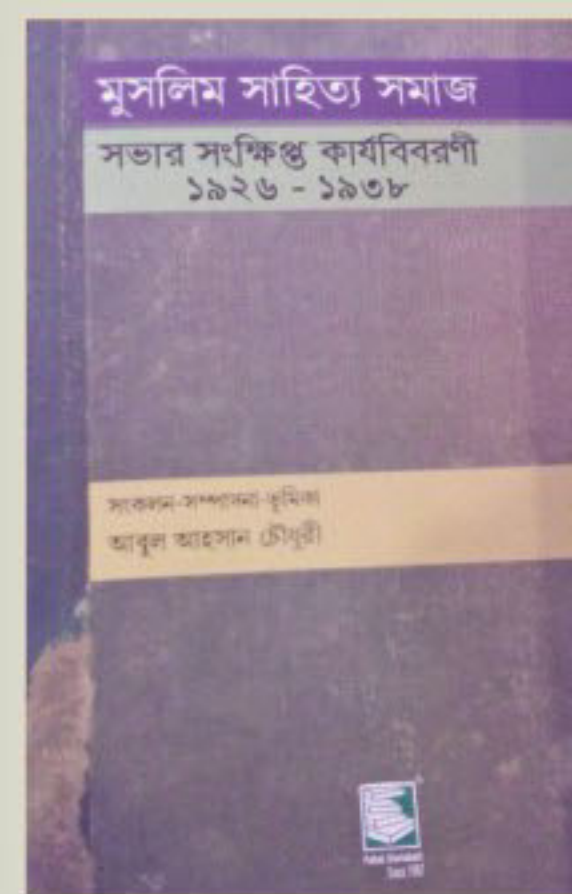
Samiul Alam, a physician of Faridpur Medical College, however, came with his wife, son and daughter defying the ongoing blockade and hartal.

"We came to Dhaka for an official task on Saturday in an ambulance, and I brought them along because the fair takes place only once a year," he said.

Poet Aslam Sunny added, "Ekushey is a fair of our souls which teaches us never to give in or accept defeat. That's why people are visiting, defying the fear of petrol bombs."

Meanwhile, the sales at the five Bangla Academy stalls between February 1 and 7 show a hopeful picture, increasing to Tk 22.61 lakh from Tk 20.81 lakh in 2014. In all, 129 new books arrived yesterday, while seven were launched.

BOOKS TO LOOK FOR



MUSLIM SAHIYA SAMAJ:
SABHAR SANGKHIPTA
KARYA BIBARANI
Editor: Dr Abul Ahsan Choudhury
Publisher: Pathak Samabesh BDT 2,995



KALER SAKKHI
Author: Serajul Islam Choudhury
Publisher: Bengal Publications BDT 425



HIMALAYE RIBIT
Author: Mostaque Ahmed
Publisher: Anindya Prokash BDT 200