



Academics, cultural activists and intellectuals join a solidarity rally of the medical college admission candidates at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday, demanding a fresh test and an investigation of the test question leak.

PHOTO: STAR

Probe medical admission test question leak

Solidarity rally urges govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Academics, intellectuals, and cultural activists yesterday joined the cause of medical college hopefuls and called for an investigation into the allegations of the admission test question leak, saying people would accept whatever resulted.

"A transparent and acceptable probe committee has to be formed with experts and medical college teachers to verify the leak. People will accept the committee's report," Prof Anu Muhammad, an economist, told a solidarity rally at the capital's Shahbagh.

The demonstrators will present the evidence of the question leak at the Jatiya Press Club today.

On behalf of the candidates, Khaled Saifullah said, "Former health minister AFM Ruhul Haque advised us to submit the evidence of the leak to the IT cell of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). But the authority did not give us any opportunity to submit those; rather police assaulted us brutally when we marched towards DGHS on Wednesday."

He said they would rally at the Central Shaheed Minar at 10:00am today.

Tanjimuddin Khan, who teaches international relations at Dhaka University, said the country had become a "mafia state" and was destroying the education system by "allowing such leaks".

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DU, JnU entrance tests see mobile courts, body searches

DU CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in the history of admission tests at public universities, mobile courts monitored venues hosting exams of Dhaka University (DU) while examinees taking that of Jagannath University (JnU) had to go through a body search yesterday.

The one-hour DU "B" (Kha) unit multiple choice question-styled exam of 120 marks for honours courses under the 2015-2016 academic session was held at 69 centers in the capital where 31,163 students competed for the 2,296 seats available.

Without elaborating, DU Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique and acting proctor Prof M Amzad Ali told The Daily Star that the exam was held in a fair and peaceful manner and measures to prevent questions paper leaks had proved effective.

The admission test of "Cha" unit (fine arts) will be held today from 10:00am to 10:45am at six centers. A total of 7,319 candidates will compete for the 135 seats, said a DU press release.

Seat plans and further information are available at <http://admission.eis.du.ac.bd>. In JnU, the "B" unit admission test was held from 3:00pm to 4:00pm where 40,634 students contested for 720 seats.

JnU VC Prof Mihjanur Rahman said they had to go for the body search as some examinees failed to comply with "a dress code". Results will be available at <http://www.jnu.ac.bd>.

PHOTO: STAR



Injured Abdul Hakim, 90, and his wife Rahima Begum, 80, at Sreepur Upazila Health Complex after their youngest son Rafiqul Islam, 26, and daughter-in-law Kamrunnahar allegedly beat them over property dispute in Charbahar village of the upazila in Gazipur yesterday.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Picturing Kamalapur

The massive railway station at Kamalapur attracts photographers because of its architecture, lighting, open urban space and, of course, its people. For example, in the early 1990s, the photographer Hasan Chandan published a book of black and white photographs called *The People of Kamalapur Railway Station* which remains a classic of Bangladeshi photography. It includes photographs of people of all strata composed with great beauty and grace, capturing moments that often reveal life's secrets and surprises.

I have been drawn to Kamalapur for many years. I go there to photograph the rail passengers passing through. With its high ceilings and open platforms the station affords a safe, semi-private space. It is a place where I feel I can photograph people from middle and working class backgrounds up close, more so than on the street or other public places.

The station has a daily and weekly rhythm of its own. Mornings and late afternoons are busy times; mid-day is slow. Thursday afternoons see many leaving town for the weekend.

During festival times, particularly the two Eids, the station offers an additional attraction for me and other photographers. Many people - particularly children - dress up in colourful new clothes. Toddlers often wear bright shoes and sunglasses. Many women and girls adorn their hands and arms with henna patterns. Anticipating a fun vacation in their village home, everyone is in a good mood.

Festival times also bring the crowds. On two or three critical days before Eid, the platforms overflow with people eager to get home. When an empty train enters the platform, the crowds rush toward it, taking up the seats and any standing room in the



At Kamalapur before Eid 2015.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR.

lower class cabins. Those holding reserved tickets in the upper classes are more relaxed. Freeloaders take up seats on the train rooftops.

Children are often the liveliest passengers. In this crowded city short of open space, the platforms offer an opportunity to run around. The pillars and benches lend themselves to a game of peek-a-boo. Older passengers are entertained by recently installed TV screens which show songs and dances.

Looking at my Kamalapur photographs over the years, I notice a subtle but distinct change in my subjects. As affluence has increased among all strata of this country, so has the sophistication of festival dress. This Eid, for example, many women and girls wore elaborate, multi-coloured outfits - as shown in the photograph - vaguely reminiscent of the middle-east or perhaps western India and Pakistan. Head

coverings made from lace were also popular. These items perhaps push the notion of *purdah* to new territory. The sari continues to be the mainstay of the middle-aged and older women, many opting for colourful ones. Even those wearing a plain black burqa often cheer it up with a bright pink or orange orna. Men wear the usual shirts and pants - or madrasah/tabligi outfits - but I noticed several young men wearing knee-length shorts.

Among the hubbub and clamour there are moments of revelation. Like the time when the young father kneels to tie the shoelaces of his toddler son while the mother, sitting on a bench, looks on with loving eyes - a timeless scene that Chandan captured so effectively in his book, and a scene which will repeat as long as there is love and family.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

EU calls on Dhaka to abolish death penalty

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union's heads of missions in Bangladesh have stressed the need for implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution, which calls for complete abolition of death penalty to establish a moratorium on executions.

In a letter to the editors on the occasion of World Day against the Death Penalty today, the EU hopes that Bangladesh, as a member of the UN Human Rights Council, will take all necessary actions to implement the resolution.

"The European Union reaffirms its principled opposition to the use of the death penalty. The

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Govt sincerely considering pay scale demands

Nahid tells public university teachers; assistant govt primary school teachers suspend movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday urged protesting teachers of public universities and government colleges to have faith in the government as it was sincerely thinking over their demands, including that for a separate pay scale.

Meanwhile, assistant teachers of government primary schools suspended their movement following Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman's assurance that a cabinet committee would look into their six-point demand including upgrading their status.

Nahid too hoped that the recently reconstituted committee, headed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, will hear the demands of the university and college teachers once Muhith returns from abroad and there would be a proper solution.

Mostafizur's assurance came at a meeting in his residence on Thursday with a delegation of Primary

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17 landless indigenous families get govt land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon district administration distributed government land among 17 landless indigenous families in different villages of Sadar and Pirganj upazilas on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas handed over documents of 193 decimals of khas land to them at a programme in the conference room of his office.

Of them, documents of 130 decimals of land were given to 13 families of the Sadar upazila while 63 decimals to four families in Pirganj upazila of the district.

The families got the land under HEKS Switzerland-financed "Promotion of

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Psychological wellbeing more important than physical wellbeing

Says DU VC on eve of World Mental Health Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Psychological well-being is much more important than physical wellbeing as people of the 21st century spend days in great stress, said Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday.

While inaugurating a rally organised by Innovation for Wellbeing Foundation (IWF) at the capital's Rabindra Sarobar on the eve of World Mental Health Day, the VC urged everyone to behave well with mentally ill people. "Dignity" is the theme of this year's World Mental Health Day.

The National Mental Health Survey (2005) showed that 16.1 percent of the adult population, aged 18 years and above, and 18 percent of the children of Bangladesh are suffering from some sort of mental disorder.

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4 of family killed in Ctg road crash

Another also dies in the same crash while four more in other accidents

CITY DESK

Nine people, including four of a family, were killed and four others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday and Thursday.

In Chittagong, five people, including the four family members, were killed and four others injured when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them collided head-on with a bus on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway in Manasa Chowmuhan area of Patiya upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Milton Sen, 30, Kakon Sen, 3, Rupna Sen, 25, her son Anik Sen, 05, of Kelishahar village and the auto-rickshaw driver Saiful Islam 25.

In Moulvibazar, three members of a family were killed when a truck ran them over while they were crossing Sylhet-Dhaka Highway in Begumpur Bazar area of Osmaninagar upazila on Thursday night.

The deceased were Arju Mia, 55, and his sons Shaheed, 12, and Kaiyum, 9, of Kunabari village.

In Pirojpur Sadar, Abdul Jalil Howlader, 75, of Shatbektutiya village was killed when a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit him from behind while he was crossing the Pirojpur-Nazirpur road in front of Barabari Government Primary School yesterday morning.

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BRINGS BACK PHOTO CONTEST

in Pixel



Theme: **People at work**

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