



CTG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 1,200 students face uncertainty

BMDC refuses to register the MBBS students including around 600 from Saarc countries over violation of admission rules by university

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Around 1,200 MBBS students of the University of Science and Technology Chittagong face uncertainty, as Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council has refused to register them for the university's violation of admission rules.

The USTC, a private institution, admitted around 400 students each in the 25th, 26th and 27th batches whereas the rules permit it to admit around 100 in each batch, said sources at the USTC and the BMDC.

Without registration with the BMDC, the 1,200 students, including around 600 from

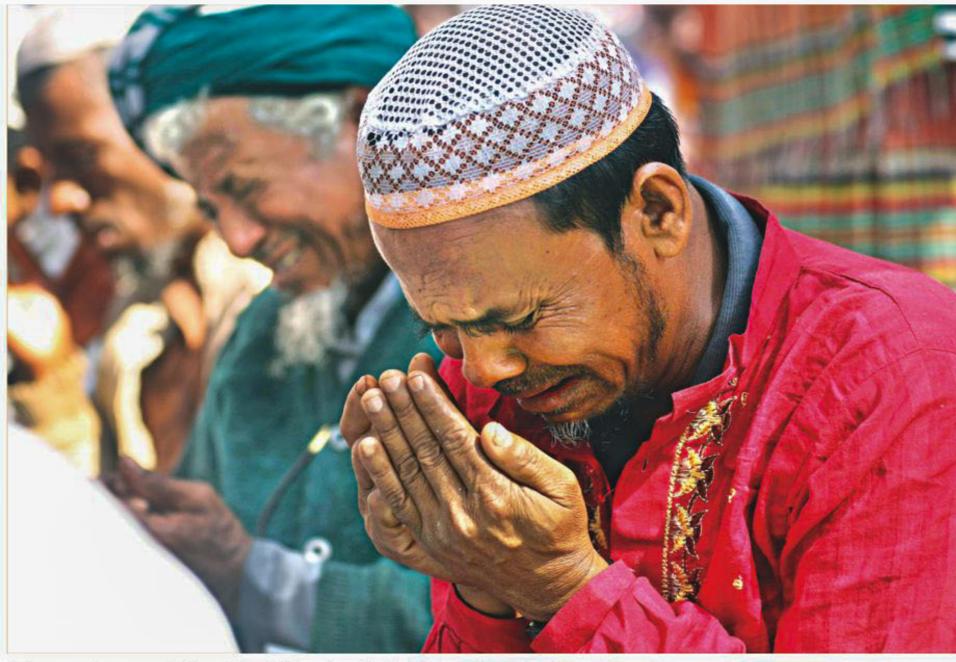
India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives, cannot do internship or become medical practitioner.

The students have been demonstrating in the port city over the last four days, demanding the authorities take steps to resolve the matter. Many of the foreign students have already contacted their embassies concerned in Bangladesh.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammad Nasim said the USTC did not follow the rules and that it was running at its own will.

"They admitted students three times the

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A devotee in tears during Akheri Munajat, the final supplication, of the Biswa Ijtema yesterday. The first phase of this year's Ijtema ended with tens of thousands of devotees seeking forgiveness and blessings for mankind.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BISWA IJTEMA ENDS Lakhs join concluding prayer

HELEMUL ALAM and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUI AKAND

Tens of thousands of Muslims raised their hands seeking forgiveness and blessings for mankind as the first phase of Biswa Ijtema on the Turag banks yesterday concluded with the final supplication -- Akheri Munajat.

Noted Islamic scholar Maulana Muhammad Saad from India led the 35-minute munajat at the Ijtema, the biggest annual Islamic event after the Hajj.

The gathering of devotees of all ages spilled onto the adjacent roads during the munajat that began at 11:00am and continued until 11:35am. A pin-drop silence prevailed in the virtual sea of humanity with

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TOP QUOTE

Such a move, which Trump promised during campaigning, would have extremely serious consequences.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER
JEAN-MARC AYRAULT
SAID IN PARIS ABOUT TRUMP'S PLAN TO RECOGNISE JERUSALEM AS ISRAELI CAPITAL

A long, winding road to justice

Slain councillor Nazrul's wife, others wait anxiously as verdict on Narayanganj 7-murder today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The last two and a half years must have seemed like an eternity to Selina Islam as she has battled against all odds to get justice for her husband Narayanganj City Corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam.

With her fingers crossed, she is waiting for today's judgment to be delivered by a Narayanganj court in connection with the sensational seven murders in April 2014, including Nazrul's.

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'NEO JMB' LEADER JAHANGIR

'He led many killing missions in North'

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHARIFUL ISLAM

"Neo JMB" leader Jahangir Alam, who was one of the masterminds behind the Gulshan café attack, was also the chief of the killing squad with expertise in using sharp weapons and hacking people to death.

The key militant suspect adopted his organisational name Rajib Gandhi to confuse law enforcers. Jahangir became the chief of the squad, which the militant outfit

terms "Ishaba group", counterterrorism officials claimed yesterday.

In 2014, Jahangir was a member of JMB and he had slit the throat of his then "boss" Nazrul Islam, they claimed.

Nazrul, a shura member of mainstream Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), was killed in Gaibandha following a row over the leadership of the banned militant outfit, they said.

Jahangir was executed JMB leader Abdul

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Tigers self-destruct after Imrul injury

AL-AMIN from Wellington

Opener Imrul Kayes was stretched off the ground with pain after scoring 24 in an opening stand of 46 with Tamim Iqbal and his departure sparked a Bangladesh second-innings collapse in the final session on the fourth day of the opening Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve today.

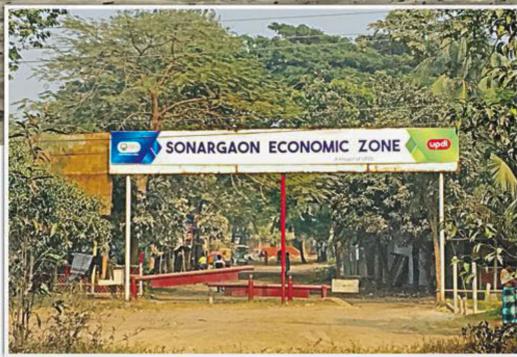
The left-hander, who stood behind the wicket for nearly five sessions in the absence of injured Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim, was taking a sharp single when he injured his left thigh. He was in agony and was taken to

PHOTO ON PAGE 16

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PHOTO: TAWFIQUE ALI



A dredger dumping sand on arable land in Kandargaon village close to the Meghna river in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj despite a High Court order forbidding such activity. The filling goes on day and night. Inset, the sign board Unique Hotel and Resorts Ltd, a concern of Unique Group, has been installed there. The photos were taken last week.

Dumping sand on farmland

Unique Group says it has permission but facts prove otherwise

TAWFIQUE ALI, back from Sonargaon

It was a foggy winter morning in Kandargaon village of Sonargaon. Elderly farmer Hashem Ali, wrapped in a shawl and a woollen cap on, was frantically wandering around his bed of paddy seedlings in the middle of the vast farmland on the Meghna in Narayanganj.

Ali's paddy seedbeds, along with mustard plants, trees, shrubs and grass were all being buried under piles of sand, threatening to turn the farmland barren.

"We have to go hungry this year," a weeping Ali told this correspondent,

"Seedbeds have been ruined as far as you can see ... with nothing to grow, there will be no harvest."

Like every year, many villagers like him have sown paddy seedlings for IRRI rice cultivation, which was to begin a month later. The high-yielding IRRI enables many farmers to feed their families all year round.

On January 3, developer of a proposed private economic zone ignoring a High Court injunction resumed filling up the farmland putting people's livelihoods in peril, said the villagers.

Over a dozen machines roar day and night, devouring acres of farmland every day, they said.

Unique Hotel and Resorts Ltd, a concern of Unique Group, is the developer that is constructing a private economic zone named Sonargaon Economic Zone. They have even put up a signboard "Sonargaon Economic Zone" by the Dhaka-Comilla highway in Pirojpur union.

In March 2014, the High Court banned destruction of the ecologically-sensitive agricultural land, adjoining wetlands and ecology of the river foreshores of six moujas -- Jainpur, Chaihishya, Char Bhabnathpur, Bhatibanda, Pirojpur and Ratanpur.

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Hello Tomorrow