

6 arrested for cheating in JU admission test

JU CORRESPONDENT

Six people, including four admission seekers, were arrested yesterday for cheating in the written admission tests of Jahangirnagar University (JU).

Of them, Ashrafuzzaman Nayan, Mahmudur Rashid Sowrav, Naimur Rahman, and Nishad Ahmed were caught as their handwritings and signatures did not match with the ones that they gave during the written tests, meaning that someone else had taken the tests for them, said JU Proctor Prof Tapan Kumar Saha.

The other two are Naimur Sarkar, elder brother of Nishad, and his friend Md Rizwan. All the six were handed over to Ashulia police.

Of the arrestees, only Rizwan claimed that he was not involved in any sort of cheating in the test and he was just accompanying Naimur outside the verbal exam centre yesterday.

The two brothers admitted that they made a deal of Tk 3 lakh with one who arranged the proxy for Nishad. But, they did not reveal the name, the proctor added.

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Most people frequenting Indira Road near Farmgate were delighted when the road and its sidewalk were cleared during the annual conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in the capital, left. However, not too many of them could say that they believed it would stay this way for long. The photo, right, taken only a week later, proves their anticipation was right.



PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

GRAFT CASE HC clears way for Comilla mayor's trial in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a Dhaka court to continue the trial proceedings of a corruption case against Comilla City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Monirul Hoque Shakoo.

The HC rejected a petition filed by Shakoo seeking its directive to transfer the case to a Comilla court from the Special Judge's Court-8 of Dhaka.

The trial of the case will run at the Special Judge's Court-8 of Dhaka following the HC order, Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The ACC filed the case against the CCC mayor and his wife with Ramna Police Station on January 7 in 2008, for their alleged involvement in amassing Tk 4.57 crore illegally and concealing wealth statement of Tk 1.12 crore.

Wetlands must for flood control

WDB engineers tell consultation on revision of Dhaka detailed area plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conservation of the available water retention areas and creation of more such areas are critical to resolving urban flooding in the capital, engineers of the Water Development Board (WDB) said yesterday.

Destroying low-lying retention areas on any pretext would be counter-productive, they told a public consultation on revision of Dhaka's detailed area plan (DAP) that Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripkha (Rajuk) organised at its Dilkusha head office.

They said despite their reservation, higher authorities took away 40 out of 676 acres of water retention areas earmarked in the city's Goranchatbari, where they run a pump station to pump out accumulated storm water to keep the city free of flooding.

The land was taken for rehabilitation of those displaced for construction of Dhaka Elevated Expressway -- from the airport to Banani to Moghbazar to Kutubkhali.

In Goranchatbari, there were extensive low-lying wetlands and natural retention ponds, which Rajuk has filled up to develop the third phase of Uttara Model Town, they said.

Meanwhile, WDB owns 93km of canals in the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) project for flood control, drainage and irrigation, commis-

sioned in 1968, but many points of the canals have fallen prey to encroachment, grabbing and blockage.

In his speech, DAP project director Md Ashraf Islam called upon the WDB authorities to give them a complete inventory of all the water bodies under their ownership and management so that those can be clearly earmarked in DAP for conservation.

"In the revised DAP, we will propose provisions for conservation of designated wetlands and water bodies owned by individuals, either by acquisition or transfer of development right," he said.

Chairing the consultation meeting, Rajuk board member for planning Ziaul Hasan said it was not acceptable that they would have to endorse any "adverse use" of the land of designated wetlands and water bodies just because those were filled up by some quarters.

He also said that at least the filed-level officials should register their reservation against destruction of conservable wetlands even if the higher authorities endorsed it, as there was a prime ministerial instruction for conservation of wetlands and natural water bodies.

At a similar consultation meeting on November 1, influential realtors said there was no need for wetlands and water retention areas around the capital city for storm drainage and environmental conservation.

WDB executive engineers Md Abdul Awal Mia, Dewan Ainul Huq and Bijoy Indra Shankar Chakrabarty, among other officials, spoke yesterday, while Rajuk chief town planner Sirajul Islam was present.

Both DAP and the Structure Plan of Dhaka's master plan for a 1,528 square kilometre area strictly prohibit development of housing projects in water bodies, rural homesteads and flood flow zones that facilitate passage of water during monsoon, according to urban planners.

The current DAP suggested reclaiming over 2,500 acres of flood flow zones and agricultural land from the grip of illegal property developers, relocation of 3,000 industrial units and scrapping of 16 development projects.

But, according to leading urban planners, an estimated 83 percent of the conservable flood flow zones and wetlands have already been destroyed and grabbed by influential realtors and businessmen.

With the vital recommendations on wetland and flood flow zone conservation in the present DAP remaining unimplemented in the face of opposition from influential realtors, the government is drawing up yet another 20-year plan at a cost of Tk 33 crore for the period from 2016 to 2035 for a "planned Dhaka city".

11 KHULNA MEN War crimes tribunal extends probe time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit the investigation report, if any, on December 28, in a case filed against 11 Khulna men for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

Yesterday, Prosecutor Sheikh Mosfeq Kabir submitted a progress report on the investigation and sought three more months, but the three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam extended the time for investigation by one and a half months.

Of the accused, nine are in jail. They are Abdul Rahman Sheikh, Shamsur Rahman Gazi alias Maiza Dai, Janan Ali Biswas, Nazer Ali Fakir, Shahjahan Sarder, Abdul Karim Sheikh alias Abdul Member, Abu Bakkar Sarder, Rawshan Gazi, and Shohrab Hossain Sarder.

They were shown arrested in the case on April 23.

Two other accused

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Why not separate dept for helpless

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to create a separate department for providing shelter and food for the helpless citizens of the country.

In the rule, the court asked the authorities concerned of the government to show causes why they should not be ordered to protect the life and properties of a woman, Sadat Ara Sobhan, 70, who has been reportedly evicted from her Banani residence by her step son and daughter.

In response to a writ petition, the HC ordered the director general of directorate of social welfare to provide Sadat Ara, who is now living in a mess in Green Road area, with social security support and to submit a report after complying with the directive in seven days.

It also asked the chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripkha and its director (estate) to take steps so that House No-78 at Block-M on Road No-11 of Banani in Dhaka, which was owned by her (Sadat Ara) husband Dr Sheikh Abdus Sobhan, is not handed over.

The bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque passed the rule and order following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) seeking necessary orders.

HRPB's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that Sadat Ara's step son [Dr Sheikh Mahbub Sobhan] and her daughter Shanjida Hossain forced her (Sadat Ara) to leave the residence after her husband died in 2001.

Now, 70-year-old Sadat Ara is reportedly leading deplorable life in a mess in Green Road area in Dhaka, although her husband, who was a renowned doctor, had huge properties, he said.



An auto-rickshaw carries a gas cylinder with its mouth exposed in Chittagong city's Agrabad area yesterday. The unsafe transport of such objects may not only cause minor accidents, in the case of a collision with another vehicle, it may also cause an explosion increasing casualties.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Google Doodle celebrates birthday

UNB, Dhaka

Search engine giant Google has created a new Doodle on its homepage, celebrating the life of prolific Bangla writer Humayun Ahmed on the occasion of his 69th birth anniversary.

Humayun Ahmed's breakthrough was his debut novel Nondito Noroke published in 1972.

He wrote over 200 fiction and non-fiction books, all of which were bestsellers in Bangladesh.

Ahmed's writing style is characterised as magical realism. His books were the top sellers at the Ekushey Book Fair during the 1990s and 2000s.

He won the Bangla Academy Award and the Ekushey Padak award for his contribution to Bengali literature.

In the early 1990s, Humayun emerged as a filmmaker. He went on to make a total of eight films -- each based on his own novels. He received six Bangladesh National Film Awards in different categories for the films -- Daruchini Dwip, Aguner Poroshmoni and Ghetuputra Komola.

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Cancer hospital sought in Humayun's memory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of followers of Humayun Ahmed yesterday urged the government to build a cancer hospital with modern facilities to fulfill the popular writer's dream.

The health development surcharge collected from tobacco products could be used to build such a hospital, they said.

Under the banner of "Amra Himu", they made the call at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, marking Humayun's 69th birthday.

Humayun Ahmed died while undergoing cancer treatment at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan, New York in July, 2012.

One of the most iconic Bangladeshi writers, Humayun authored over 200 books, many of which were made into films. He was also a dramatist, screenwriter, filmmaker, song writer and scholar.

Reading out a statement, Abdur Rahman, joint secretary of Amra Himu, said South Asian country Nepal used surcharge collected from tobacco products for cancer related research and building hospitals.

He said Bangladesh can take a similar initiative.

If there was a world-class cancer hospital in Bangladesh, Humayun



Speakers of "Amra Himu" at the press conference.

PHOTO: STAR

AVIJIT MURDER

Court again asks for probe report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again ordered the Detective Branch of police to submit on December 11 the probe report of the case filed over the killing of writer-blogger Avijit Roy in February 2015.

Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi passed the order after Fazlur Rahman, an assistant superintendent of DB police and also the investigation officer of the case, failed to submit any report by yesterday.

Apart from that, the court had fixed 28 dates for submission of the probe report but the IO failed to complete the probe.

Suspected militants hacked to death Avijit, founder of Mukto-Mona blog, near the Teacher-Student Centre on the Dhaka University campus on February 26, 2015.

His wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya was also injured in the attack.

His father Ajay Roy filed the murder case against unidentified assailants with Shahbagh Police Station.

Dozens of BNP men arrested in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police arrested at least 47 people, mostly BNP leaders and activists, in Savar, outside the capital, in last two days on suspicion of planning subversive activities centering "National Revolution and Solidarity Day".

However, some families alleged that the arrestees did not have any political link.

One Laila Begum alleged that police picked up her nephew Mehedi Hasan, a second-year HSC student of Savar University College, from Aminbazar area where he was returning from Dhaka after shopping.

Waiting in uncertainty before Savar Police Station main entrance, Salma Akter Bristi said, "Police yesterday picked up my brother Abdulah Al Mamun in Savar bazar bus stand area where he was shopping around 7:00pm. He is mere a

sewing machine operator at a garment factory."

Jahangir Alom, assistant publicity secretary of BNP Ashulia thana unit, claimed that police picked up many of their leaders and activists, including Shromik Dal Ashulia thana unit president Kamal Hossen, from Aminbazar area when they were going to Dhaka to join programmes observing "National Revolution and Solidarity Day", marking the "civil-military uprising" on November 7, 1975.

Mohsinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station, said many of the arrestees have cases against them. And others were held for their suspicious movement, he added.

Police sent all the arrestees to a Dhaka court which later sent them to jail.



Family members including two sons Nishad and Ninit, relatives, and admirers pay tributes at the grave of Humayun Ahmed on the 69th birthday of the celebrated writer-filmmaker in Gazipur's Nuhash Palli yesterday.