

Promising malta cultivation in plain land

Sixty-two-year-old Mansur Ahmed also planted intercrops like brinjal, radish, papaya, sweet gourd and lady's finger in his orchard

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Rows of trees, six to seven feet tall, heavy with green malta fruit is a rare sight to behold at Satoti village in Mymensingh.

For the first time in Gouripur upazila, Abul Mansur Ahmed, an award winning agriculturist, has been able to successfully grow an orchard of the citrus fruit on 33 decimals of his ancestral land.

Mansur, who retired as assistant agriculture extension officer from the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Mymensingh in 2017, said he wanted to experiment with large scale farming of malta in the plain land of Gouripur although the fruit usually grows in mountainous areas.

"I collected some 90 malta saplings of BARI-1 variety from Gouripur Upazila Agriculture Office in 2017 and started the orchard using my previous agricultural experiences," Mansur said.

Two years later, he earned a profit of about Tk 1 lakh by selling malta at Tk 4,400 per maund, he informed.

"Around 60 trees bore fruits this year and there are about 60 fruits in each tree," he said, adding that the estimated yield of his orchard was sold for Tk 1,60,000 and he has spent about Tk 60,000 behind his venture.

Orchard owners usually sell out their estimated yield when the trees bear fruits and take care of the fruit-bearing plants until harvest and collection by traders.

Mansur, who received the Bangabandhu National Award in 1999 for his contribution in the agricultural expansion of mukhi kachu (arum) and challisha potato (a local variety of potato), hoped that the rest of the malta trees will also bear fruit next year and the total production will increase as the trees attain maturity.

"The cost will lessen too in coming years thus increasing profit as no additional investment in sapling purchase will be



Abul Mansur Ahmed, second from right, with some agriculture officials at his malta orchard at Satoti village in Mymensingh's Gouripur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

needed. The trees will bear fruit for another 20 to 30 years," he predicted.

Mansur claimed that his cost of orchard maintenance was low because he used natural compost instead of chemical fertilisers and sprayed the trees with detergent mixed water to keep insects away.

The 62-year-old veteran, also planted intercrops such as brinjal, radish, papaya, sweet gourd and lady's finger in his orchard in 2017 and 2018 and sold the vegetables for a total of about Tk 1 lakh.

"Initially, many were sceptical of my endeavour because the fruit mainly grows in hilly areas but, now, they admire me seeing the success of malta cultivation and

anticipating its bright future," Mansur said.

He said, farmers of the locality are contacting him for malta saplings and he plans to supply around 1,500 malta saplings to the local farmers by the end this year for at least Tk 200 each.

Farmer Manik Mia of Satoti village said he has become interested in malta cultivation as it is both profitable and sustainable with little scope of incurring loss.

Firoza Begum, a sub-assistant agriculture officer in Gouripur, said malta trees start to bear fruits within a year and a five-year-old malta tree can bear around 400 malta fruits in a year.

Gouripur Upazila Agriculture Officer Lutfunnahar said malta, enriched with Vitamin-C, is a cash crop and it can become a good source of income for small farmers.

However, malta cultivation needs proper care so that the field is not affected by virus and bacteria, added the official.

After visiting Mansur's orchard, Farhana Karim, Gouripur upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), hoped that Mansur's success will inspire other farmers of the upazila.

Praising Mansur's success, Mymensingh DAE Deputy Director Mohammad Abdul Mazed said farmers should go for different types of fruit farming to meet the demands of the country's fruit markets.

Protests against use of expired saline

Nilphamari DC forms 5-member inquiry committee, medicine store sealed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The deputy commissioner (DC) of Nilphamari yesterday formed a five-member inquiry committee, following Sunday's public agitation in front of the district's civil surgeon's (CS) office in protest against using expired intravenous saline for patients in Nilphamari 250-bed Modern Hospital.

The committee headed by ADC (General) Azaharul Islam sealed the medicine store of district health department attached to the CS office and started quizzing persons concerned in connection with the incident.

Locals formed a human chain at Chowrangi intersection in the district town yesterday protesting various irregularities and corruption in the 250-bed hospital.

On Saturday night, hospital staff pushed expired intravenous saline to several patients in female ward, worsening their condition.

The product had expired in May 2019, said the patients' relatives, referring to the imprint on the packet.

Of the affected patients, Mollika Begum, 45, of Natun Bazar area was under treatment with chest pain and Prinka Rani, 14, of Baroipara area with stomach pain.

"After my mother was taken to hospital, the on-duty doctor asked me to get her ECG done at a diagnostic centre outside although the hospital is equipped with the facility," Mollika's son Sanwar Hossain alleged at yesterday's human chain.

"After nurses pushed saline, my mother's condition deteriorated. Checking the imprinted information, I found that the product had expired," he said.

"A syndicate controls different matters of the hospital. A particular food contractor, using different names, has continued supplying diet for patients at the hospital for long 32 years while a selected group have been supplying medicines and surgical instruments for 20 years," Parvez Hossain, a leading member of Nilphamari blood bank, a voluntary organization, said at the programme.

In most cases, substandard diet and medicines are provided, he added.

Speakers alleged that the hospital storekeeper with the consent of his higher authorities receive expired saline and medicines from drug companies through bribery although there is a committee comprising doctors and administrative officials to check the supplied medicines.

They warned of tougher programmes if the culprits behind the use of expired saline and medicines and other irregularities are not brought to book.



Two to die, six get life term for murders

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were sentenced to death while six others got life term imprisonment for murders in three districts yesterday.

A Sunamganj court sentenced a man to death and three others to life term imprisonment for killing a rickshaw-van puller, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The death sentence awardee is Abdur Noor of Shimultola village in Tahirpur upazila while the lifers are Shahnur Mia, Idris Ali and Habibur Rahman of the area.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court also fined the lifers Tk 20,000 each. In default, they are to suffer another three months in prison.

According to the prosecution, there was longstanding conflict between victim Tabirullah and his neighbor Abdur Noor over a piece of land.

As a sequel to the conflict, Abdur Noor along with his men attacked Tabirullah with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured on April 21 in 2016. He later died on way to a hospital in Sylhet.

Later, a case was filed in this connection. After examining witnesses and evidences, the judge found the four guilty and pronounced the verdict.

Meanwhile, three men were sentenced to life term imprisonment in a case for killing a journalist of Nabiganj upazila

in Habiganj.

The lifers are Badsha Mia, Rahul Mia and Farid Uddin of Sataihal village in the upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Nasim Reza also fined the three Tk 10,000 each, in default, they are to suffer another two years in jail.

According to the prosecution, on July 5 in 2012, Junaid Ahmed, reporter of local newspaper 'The Daily Bibiana', was killed in Habiganj town.

Later, the victim's brother Mozahid Ahmed filed a case with the court against four people.

In 2018, Abdul Hamid, another accused in the case, died during the trial.

According to our Pirojpur correspondent, a court here sentenced a youth to death for killing a schoolboy in 2014.

The convict is Idris Jomadder alias Soyeby, 24, son of Ashraf Ali Jomadder of Goshor Tikikata village in Mathbaria upazila.

According to the prosecution, Faisal Mahmud Tuhin, 8, son of Badal Jomadder of the village, and a Class II student of a local government primary school in the upazila, went missing on December 2 in 2014.

On December 9, the body of Tuhin, also the neighbour of the convict, was found in a canal at the village.

Later, a case was filed with Mathbaria Police Station against some unidentified people.



Missing Shirin Akhter Selina's reunion with her parents took place at the district commissioner's office in Noakhali town on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

An emotional reunion after 9yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A 19-year-old girl, who went missing around nine years ago, got reunited with her family on Saturday.

An emotional reunion with her parents took place at the conference room of the deputy commissioner's office in Noakhali.

Her foster parents, Didarul Alam and Sanwara Begum, husband and DC Tonmoy Das, among others, were present at the time.

The reunion has become possible because of a noble effort by Didarul and his wife Sanwara of Chattogram, who not only gave Shirin Akhter Selina shelter, but also brought her up with great care and arranged her marriage, said local journalists.

Selina is the daughter of fisherman Md Abul Kashem of Surjomukhi Ashka Bazar area in Noakhali's Hatia upazila.

Nine years ago, Selina went to Noakhali General Hospital with her ailing maternal grandmother and went missing from there.

When she started screaming, a fraud woman came to her and offered her to take to her residence. But she took Selina to Chattogram's Halihsahar and sold her off to a resident of the area as a domestic help.

Selina was tortured in many ways at the residence. In 2013, she fled from the house and took shelter to an unknown woman named Swapna Begum in the same area.

After hearing the girl's sufferings, Swapna took her to the local police station. Police then requested her to give Selina shelter.

Few days later, Swapna's elder sister Sanwara Begum, 45, took the girl to her residence and started bringing her up with great care. In the meantime, Sanwara and her husband started searching for Selina's family in different ways.

The couple married Selina off to a man in June this year.

In August, the couple were able to communicate with her family through journalists Md Shafiqul Islam Khan and AKM Mostofa.

Selina finally got reunited with her family on Saturday.

Woman calls police after killing husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

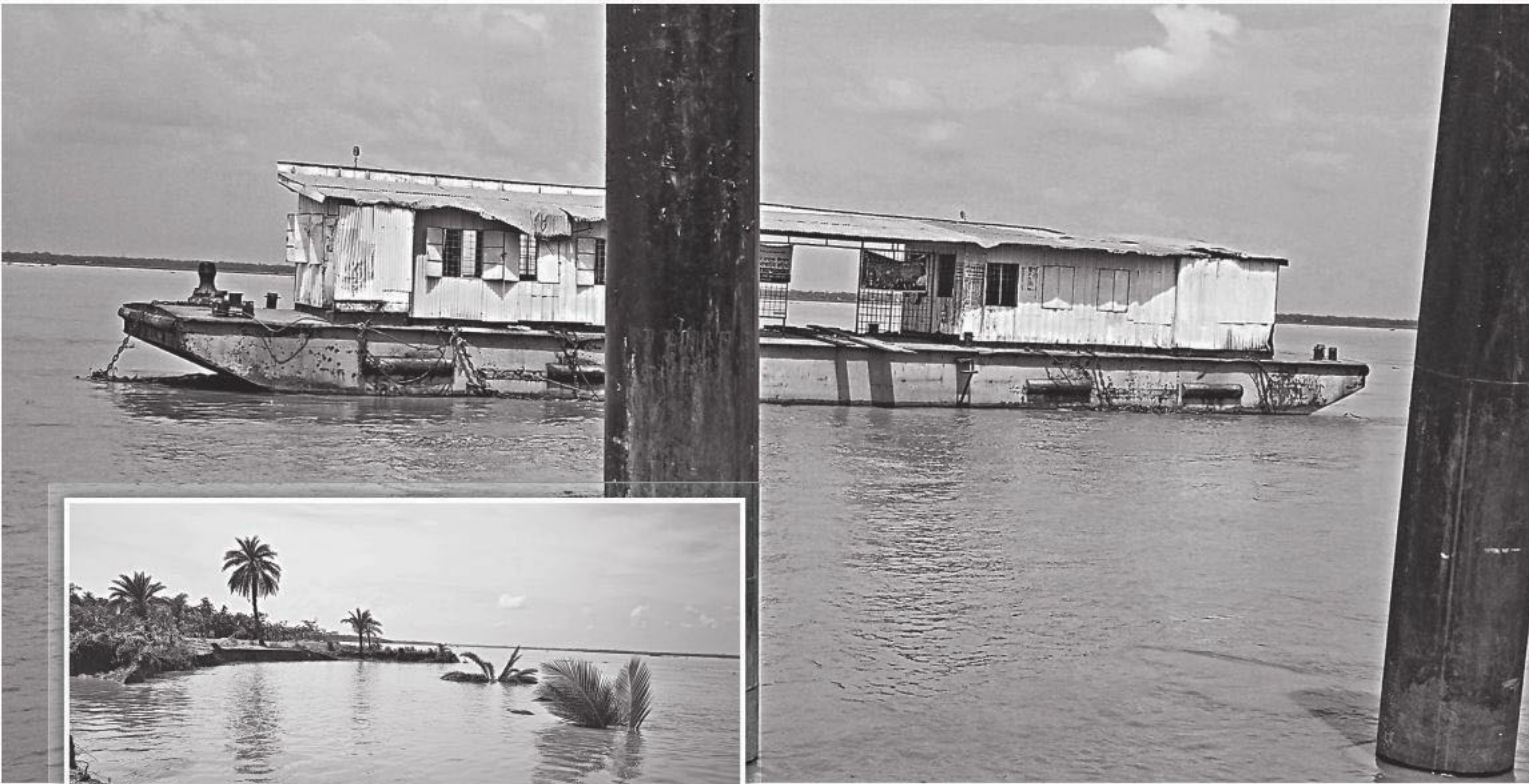
Police arrested a woman at her home in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila after she informed them of killing her husband early yesterday morning.

Maleka Begum, 28, daughter of Mozibar Rahman from Khochabari village in the same upazila, called Thakurgaon Police Station from her cellphone and said that she had killed her husband Shariful Islam, 40, son of Nabibar Rahman from Kumarpur village in the upazila, with a gardening tool, said police.

After recovering the body from the couple's rented house in Barabalia Bagurapara village, police sent the body to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy and arrested Maleka.

Maleka was Shariful's third wife and the couple's marriage had been troubled over his other marriages, police said, adding that his first wife died in 2008.

Shariful's father filed a case with the police station, accusing Maleka and four others.



The pontoon of Dhulia launch terminal on the Tentulia river in Baufal upazila of Patuakhali now floats around 500 feet away from the land as the river devoured areas on the bank during the last few days.

Inset, agricultural lands and dwellings in the area are also under serious threat due to the erosion.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

২০১৯-২০২০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি অনুষদ অধিভুক্ত কলেজসমূহে ১ম বর্ষ বি.এসসি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-এ

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রযুক্তি ইউনিট, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অফ টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ-নিটার, নয়রহাট, সাভার, ঢাকা।

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি অনুষদের অধিভুক্ত 'ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অফ টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ-নিটার' (www.niter.edu.bd) নয়রহাট, সাভার, ঢাকায় ২০১৯-২০২০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে নিম্নলিখিত কোর্সসমূহে ভর্তির জন্য প্রার্থীদের নিকট থেকে ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ হতে ০৫ নভেম্বর ২০১৯ তারিখের মধ্যে অনলাইনে (http://admission.eis.du.ac.bd) প্রযুক্তি ইউনিটের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা হচ্ছে -

নং	কোর্স সমূহ	আসন সংখ্যা
১.	বি.এসসি. ইন টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	২৭৫
২.	বি.এসসি. ইন ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এন্ড প্রোডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (আইপিই)	১২৫
৩.	বি.এসসি. ইন কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (সিএসই)	৬০
৪.	বি.এসসি. ইন ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (ইইই)	৬০
৫.	বি.এসসি. ইন ফ্যাশন ডিজাইন এন্ড অ্যাপারেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (এফডিএই)	৭৫

আবেদন ফি ৬৫০/- টাকা এবং আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ০৬ নভেম্বর ২০১৯।

২০১৪ সাল থেকে ২০১৭ সাল পর্যন্ত মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান এবং ২০১৯ সালে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন শিক্ষা বোর্ডের/উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিজ্ঞান শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক অথবা এইচএসসি/A-Level পাশ বা সমমানের ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে। সমতা নিরূপণের মাধ্যমে SSC ও HSC সমমানের ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ প্রাপ্ত জিপিএ-৯য়ের যোগফল ন্যূনতম ৬.০০ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীর উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় পদার্থ, রসায়ন ও গণিত বিষয় থাকতে হবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৯ নভেম্বর ২০১৯ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষা MCQ পদ্ধতিতে হবে, পরীক্ষার সময় ১ ঘন্টা ৩০ মিনিট, নম্বর ১২০ (পদার্থ-৩৫, রসায়ন-৩৫, গণিত-৩৫ এবং ইংরেজী-১৫)। ভর্তির সাধারণ নিয়মাবলী ও ভর্তি নির্দেশিকা ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (http://admission.eis.du.ac.bd) এবং নিটার এর ওয়েবসাইটে (www.niter.edu.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

অধ্যাপক ড. মো. হাসানুজ্জামান
ডিন, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি অনুষদ এবং সমন্বয়কারী প্রযুক্তি ইউনিট ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ২০১৯-২০২০ শিক্ষাবর্ষ
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-1568