

DU reschedules admission tests

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities have rescheduled its admission test for the session 2020-21 of honour's first year, as the Covid-19 situation is deteriorating.

The decision was made in an emergency meeting of the General Admission Committee, held virtually yesterday and presided by Vice-Chancellor Prof M Akhtaruzzaman.

The Public Relations office of the university issued a press release in this regard.

According to the release, the Faculty of Fine Arts admission test (general knowledge part) will be held on July 31 instead of June 5, and its other part (drawing) will be announced later. The exam for Faculty of Science (Ka unit) will be on August 6, which was supposed to be held on May 21.

Arts Faculty (Kha unit) exam will be on August 7 instead of May 22; Faculty of Business studies (Ga unit) on August 13 instead of May 27 and the Social Science Faculty (Gha unit) exam will be on August 14, instead of May 28.

According to the rescheduled dates,

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The ripples of Buriganga, the stationary boats at the centre forming the shape of a water-lily, and the vibrant Krishnachura flowers seeping into the view would bring anyone's mind to peace. Sadly, such moments are few and far between in these times, with only concrete visible outside people's homes, where they remain cooped up. This photo was taken from the capital's Kamrangirchar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DEATH OF WOMAN IN GULSHAN FLAT

'Make sure accused does not walk free thru' legal loophole'

MJF demands fair probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation yesterday expressed concern and grief over the recent death of a woman at a city flat and reported anticipatory bail petition by an accused in a case filed over the death incident.

In a statement, MJF demanded a fair probe into the incident so that the accused in the case for 'murder or provoking suicide', cannot walk free by taking advantage of loopholes of the law.

Notably, incidents of deaths of women and children including Tonu, Nusrat, and the O-level student from Kalabagan continued to rise, and MJF believes incidents of violence against women have hurt and worried people of the country, the statement said.

It has not been possible to bring many of the perpetrators involved in torture against women under the trial or they walked free due to misuse of power, the rights group said.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "Due to absence of speedy trial and exemplary punishment in the incidents of rape and murder, such incidents continued to rise instead of coming to an end. So, we want assurance of speedy trial of all sorts of violence against women cases."

Referring to statistics of Ain O Salish Kendra, MJF said between January and March this year, 46 women were killed by their husbands in the country. There were 107 incidents of torture. Of those, cases were filed in only 39 incidents.

Besides, another 238 women and children were raped, and ten of them were murdered. Some 47 females were subjected to attempted rape and four of them died by suicide because of this.

In a recent survey report conducted by MJF on the topic

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'Don't deprioritise education'

Speakers demand at least 20pc budget allocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educationists have called for increasing allocation for education sector in the upcoming budget to implement plans to help students overcome Covid-19 induced learning crisis and possible drop outs from schools.

Increased allocation is also needed to reduce the huge gap of digital divide, the said.

They said this while talking at a discussion arranged by Campaign for Popular Education (Campe), and sought at least 20 percent budget allocation for the education sector.

Campe deputy director KM Enamul Hoque, during keynote presentation, demanded for ensuring transparency in the budget implementation.

Efforts are needed to improve alternative education and distance learning systems, he said. He also demanded "stimulus package" for the education sector.

While the government and MPO-supported teachers and institutions have been receiving their regular payment, others are falling into distress without any

help, except a token amount for the non-MPO teachers.

Many private education institutions are disappearing and teachers leaving the profession in search of livelihood, he added.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation Chairman Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad said the last budget amid Covid-19 crisis was a traditional one.

If the upcoming budget remains as usual, it will be difficult to overcome the crisis in the education sector, he said, while presiding over the webinar.

He proposed short, medium and long term plans to fulfill the education losses due to the Covid-19 situation. "If we cannot recover the education sector, we will not be able to have a sustainable development," he added.

Campe executive director Rasheda K Choudhury said education must not be deprioritised in planning and financing. "We are heading toward a learning catastrophe from learning crisis," she said.

Brac University Prof Emeritus Manzoor Ahmed suggested that schools should be reopened in phases.

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GLOBAL DROWNING PREVENTION

UN adopts resolution taken by Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted a historic resolution on Global Drowning Prevention introduced by Bangladesh.

The UN also declared July 25 a new UN Day for drowning prevention to promote awareness and encourage national action, as well as to share best practices and key solutions to drowning.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Rabab Fatima, on April 28 introduced the resolution, which was co-led by Ireland and co-sponsored by 81 UN member states.

It recognises that drowning affects all countries and provides a framework for action for an effective response to the unacceptably high number of drowning deaths.

According to the WHO's latest estimates, drowning is the cause of 235,000 deaths each year. The number of deaths from drowning in Bangladesh is around 18,000 every year. Many countries report drowning as a leading cause of childhood mortality, particularly in children under the age of five.

The resolution says drowning is a preventable cause of mortality that disproportionately affects children and adolescents within and among nations, says a statement.

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Italy bans entry to Bangladeshis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Italy has banned travellers from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka amid worsening coronavirus situation.

In a decree yesterday, Italian authorities banned entry of passengers who have stayed or transited throughout the three countries in the previous 14 days. The ban remains valid until May 15, said Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Enrico Nunziata.

"Only Italian citizens resident in Italy before 29th of April and diplomats are allowed to enter Italy on the condition that they observe an institutional quarantine in a Covid hotel or other structures indicated by the health authorities," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The decision comes as Italian authorities identified two cases of the Indian variant of coronavirus in two travellers who returned from India.

More than 18 million people in India have been infected and some 2.04 lakh have died.

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Two-month fishing ban on hilsa sanctuaries end tonight

Fishers gear up for netting after long period of hardships

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The two-month ban on fishing at six hilsa sanctuaries is going to end today (Friday) at midnight.

The ban has been in place since March 1, in an area of 432 kilometres across six sanctuaries. Three of these sanctuaries, spanning 272 kilometres, are in Barishal Division, said officials of the fisheries department.

According to sources at Fisheries Department, 100 km area from Shatnal Point in Chandpur to Char Alexander in Lakshmipur, 90 km from Charilisha to Charpiyal in Bhola, 100 km from Charveduria in Bhola to Charrustam in Patuakhali, 82 km from Barishal Sadar to Mehendiganj upazila, 20 km from Naria to Bherganj of Shariatpur, and 40 km area of Andharmanik river in Kalapara of Patuakhali were under the two-month ban.

Deputy Chief of Fisheries Department's Dhaka office, Masud Ara Momi, told The Daily Star, "As the number of operational drives and monitoring activities have increased, we think the ban has been successful. The lockdown has reduced the tendency

of fishermen to go down the river. Now due to the drought situation, the water flow in the river has reduced and salinity has increased."

Asked if this phenomena can affect fish production, Masud Ara said, "We are expecting heavy rain in June and July, which will offset the effects of the drought. So we are hoping fish production will not be affected greatly."

Deputy Director of Barisal Divisional Fisheries Officer Anisur Rahman Talukder said the hilsa production in Barisal division was 3.5 lakh tonnes last year, and it is expected to be 3.6 lakh tonnes this time.

THE WOES OF FISHERS

According to the Barishal Divisional Fisheries Office, there are 3,83,191 fishermen registered in the division. Of this, food aid is being given to less than 60 percent fishermen.

From February to May, the fisherman card holders are to be given 40 kg of rice per month. They have received this aid till March. According to the Department of Fisheries, this food aid is

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NEWLYWED INJURED IN ARMANITOLA FIRE

Husband dies, wife still on life support

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NILIMA JAHAN

Ashikuzzaman Khan, a computer engineer, who was injured in the deadly fire in Old Dhaka's Armanitola on April 23, died on Wednesday night while undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Institute.

He breathed his last at the Intensive Care Unit of the institute around 11:45pm, said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of the institute.

With Ashikuzzaman and another injured Shafayat Hossain, who died on Sunday, the death toll now stands at six.

Ashikuzzaman and his newlywed wife Israt Jahan Mona, also a computer engineer, suffered serious inhalation injury when the fire broke out on the ground floor of the six-storied Musa Mansion on April 23.

They were on life support since April 24.

"We tried our best for both of them, but failed. Mona is still on life support, and her condition is not satisfactory," said Dr Sen.

The couple tied the knot around one and a half months ago. Their wedding reception was yet to be held. He was at his in-laws' house in Armanitola during the incident.

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MARCH 26 VIOLENCE

Three leaders of Hefajat remanded

STAR REPORT

Three leaders of Hefajat-e-Islam were placed on remand for different terms yesterday in two cases filed with Paltan Police Station over the violence in Dhaka on March 26.

Mufti Habibullah Mahmud Quasemi, an executive member of now defunct Hefajat central committee; and Mufti Faisal Mahmud Habibi, former joint secretary general of Hefajat Dhaka city unit, were placed on three-day remand each in a case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Hashim passed the order after investigation officer (IO) Kamrul Hasan Talukder, also an inspector of Detective Branch of police, produced the two before his court with a 10-day remand each.

Khondakar Arifuzzaman, deputy office secretary of Dhaka south Jubo League, filed the case against Hefajat leader Mamunul Haque and 16 others with Paltan Police

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MINI BYTES



Apple's new privacy feature pits it against Facebook over user data

ZARIF FAIAZ

Apple's latest iOS update, iOS 14.5, introduces a host of new features. From better Face ID unlocking even while wearing a mask, to a new set of emojis and new Siri voices, these new features will surely be exciting for users to explore. But the most important feature that iOS 14.5 introduces is the 'App Tracking Transparency' feature—one that sets the ground for the age of ethical tech and sets up a battleground against tech giants like Facebook.

WHAT CHANGES IN THE NEW FEATURE

The new feature makes a big change when it comes to app developers tracking user data to sell it to advertisers. Before iOS 14.5, developers could use a number of tools to track user data from an app and sell those data to advertisers who would then use that data to create a user profile to target advertisements towards a specific user. It created a chain, as the advertisers, in turn, could sell those advertising opportunities to other businesses to focus on specific user or market segments.

It was not like users had no choice when it came to tracking their data before iOS 14.5. Users could still stop an app from tracking their data. But what the new 'App Tracking Transparency' feature does, is that it puts the choice up front, and forces the developers to give users a very

specific choice before even launching the app.


After users update to iOS 14.5, the first time they launch an app, they will be prompted with a very specific choice of whether or not they will allow an app to track their data. If users choose 'Allow', then it's business as usual. If, however, they choose the option 'Ask App Not to Track', the developer cannot track their data and sell it to advertisers.

Apple originally announced the feature in June, 2020 but has delayed till now to give developers time to adapt to the changes. Finally, it's live and app developers must comply.

WHY FACEBOOK IS AGAINST THIS

Apple's new features were welcomed by many, including policymakers and consumer rights groups. But obviously, it didn't make a lot of people happy. So far, the strongest objection to this new feature came from Facebook. Facebook argued, often by taking out full page newspaper ads, that Apple's new system will make it difficult and expensive for ad networks to target customers, hurting small businesses and content websites that rely on these ad campaigns.

Apple, however, is allowing companies a chance to make their case to users. App developers will have freedom over specifically when to show the choice prompt, to give apps like Facebook a chance to make their case to users about why they should allow data tracking.



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