



Throughout the day, a good number of people were seen visiting the fair, browsing through catalogues and buying books of their choice.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DU to hold ‘D’ unit entry exams for 2021-22

DU CORRESPONDENT

Amidst much debate, Dhaka University General Admission Committee has decided to hold D-unit entrance exams, under the social sciences faculty, only for admission seekers of academic year 2021-2022.

The decision was taken during a meeting yesterday, with VC Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman in the chair. Deans of the social sciences and arts faculties, Prof Zia Rahman and Prof Abdul Bashir, confirmed the news to this correspondent over phone.

The meeting made decisions about entrance exams of 2022-23, as per which four units will be formed: arts, law and social sciences; science; business studies; and fine arts.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

CID working with Facebook, TikTok

MUNTAKIM SAAD

To prevent suicides, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has recently started working with Facebook and TikTok to get information about social-media users who are vulnerable to self-harming tendencies.

In the last week, CID received data of 13 profiles on the platforms and have initially rescued eight persons from different parts of the country, according to officials at CID’s Cyber Police Centre. However, the specialised wing of police found that rescuing people who are psychologically vulnerable is one job, but counselling them is a separate matter.

To address this, CID yesterday organised a conference titled “Discussion to find ways to prevent suicide and create awareness to develop mental health among citizens of Bangladesh.”

Mental health experts and police personnel talked at the event. The move comes days after the death of businessman Abu Mohsin Khan.

In his presentation, Rezaul Masud, special superintendent of CID’s Cyber Intelligence and Risk Management cell, said after getting online

profiles of vulnerable people, identifying the victims is the first priority.

He said males were found to be more vulnerable than females, with their ages ranging from 16 to 32. “Victims need psychological support rather than policing support. Family detachment is the key factor behind such situations,” he observed.

Quoting BBS report, the official said death by suicide (1.8pc) is more common in the country than death by road accident (1.5pc).

In the last four years, since the launch of the National Emergency Service 999, it has been possible to prevent 1,492 suicides, said Mohammad Tabarak Ullah, additional deputy inspector general of police (National Emergency Service 999). However, in response to phone calls, police recovered 1,135 bodies of those who had died by suicide, he added.

Among others, former chair of palliative care department of BSMMU Prof Nezam Uddin Ahmed, counsellor and psychotherapy practitioner at Phoenix Wellness Center Sunjida Shahria, National Institute of Mental Health associate prof Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, also spoke.

RAPE OF O-LEVEL STUDENT

Charges framed against accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday framed charges against Fardin Iftekhar Dihan, lone accused in the case filed over rape and murder of an O-level student at Dhaka’s Kalabagan in January last year.

Dihan, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice, after Judge (in-charge) AM Zulfikar Hayat of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka read out the charges to him, court sources said.

The tribunal fixed March 16 for starting the case’s trial.

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Day 2, book fair is already buzzing



DIPAN NANDY

There was no way to understand that it was just the second day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday. Not even a weekend afternoon, the day saw a sizeable crowd visiting the fair as soon as its gates opened. Throughout the day, the fairgrounds saw these visitors having a chat over some tea and buying a good number of books.

“A lot of people were present in the evening. This is definitely positive for us,” said Masud Rana, manager of Abosar Publications. “While the sales aren’t great yet, it’s not bad at all. We can safely say from this that the coming days are only going to get better.”

During his visit, this correspondent came across cultural personality Ramendu Majumder at Suhrawardy Udyan. Holding several freshly-bought books, he told The Daily Star this year’s layout has been nice and that he feels comfortable moving around. “I would like to propose something for the fair’s future. The stage at Bangla Academy that hosts cultural programmes and seminars can be brought to Suhrawardy Udyan so that more people can attend them.”

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Masud Rana, Manager of Abosar Publications

According to Bangla Academy, 18 new books were published at the fair on Wednesday.

Among them are Mujahidul Islam Selim’s “Muktijuddher Kathakata: Bhule Thaka Hobe Aporadh” (Agami), Sajjad Hussain’s “Soumitrakhor” (Chhapakhana Bhoot), Ghulam Murshid’s “Bidyasagarer Dusho Bachhar” (Abosar) and Muhammad Zafar Iqbal’s “Ami Poramanob” (Somoy).

In the afternoon, a discussion titled “Golden Jubilee of Independence: Bangladesh in Progress of Development”, was held at the main stage, where Subhash Singh Roy presented an essay.

PRAYER TIMING FEB 17



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-25	12-45	4-30	5-57	7-15
Jamaat	6-00	1-15	4-45	6-01	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Footpaths, conventionally meant to aid pedestrians to walk safely, have turned into a rampant marketplace. In Panthapath, blocking more than half the width of the pavement, an array of shoes are elaborately laid out, while pedestrians have to wade through the huddled space, even amidst the pandemic. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Mushfiqa Kamal (Bullu), wife of Late Kamal Ahmad was born on 18 July, 1950 and returned to Allah (SWT) on 8 February, 2022. Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilahe Raj'ün. May Allah (SWT) accept all her good deeds and grant her the highest station in Jannah. Those who knew her will remember her as a devout and pious woman, a devoted wife, a most caring and loving mother and grandmother. She was creatively talented, entrepreneurial and involved in numerous charitable activities and was also the Chairperson of KARIKA for 3 years. She touched each and every heart that she came across.

Her passing has left a void in the hearts of her family and friends. However, it is in these moments, we must remember that the strength of our faith will lift us up and believe in Allah's (SWT) plan. As mere humans, we may not be able to see the plan now, but as Muslims, we accept it and rejoice in the knowledge that Allah's (SWT) wisdom can do no wrong.

Her faith and kindness were her defining qualities which she instilled in her children and grandchildren. For that, they will always be grateful and pray to reunite with her one day in Paradise.

Zubair, Amer, Anika, Shanila, Tonyrna, Mitali, Istiaque, Ishrak and all her loving grandchildren.

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