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DU entry test begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for Dhaka University's 2022-23 academic session for undergraduate programmes started yesterday with the examination of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The exam began at 11:00am and continued till 12:30pm. The admission test was held at the university's Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences buildings, said a press release issued by DU public relations office.

A total of 7,097 students vied for 130 seats.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman, Pro-VC (Administration) Prof Muhammad Samad and Pro-VC (Academic) Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, among others, visited the exam centre at the faculty building.

The next admission test for arts, law and social sciences units will be held on May 6, science unit on May 12 and business studies unit on May 13.



The admission test for Dhaka University's 2022-23 academic session started with the examination of the Faculty of Fine Arts yesterday morning. The exam was held at the university's Faculty of Arts building and the Faculty of Social Sciences building.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Get united to save playgrounds

Say environmentalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several environmental organisations gathered at Tetultala playground in Dhaka yesterday, which they claim was to celebrate a year of preventing the public space from becoming a police station.

Last year, the government had withdrawn its decision to build the Kalabagan Police Station on the playground, following resistance from environmentalists and locals. The victory was a symbol of the power of united action, claimed the activists.

The coordinator of Tetultala Maath Rokkha Andolon, Syeda Ratna, who had been arrested along with her son during the movement, stated that the playground is necessary for children's cultural activities. With the playground now saved, the plan is to start cultural activities for the children in the space, she said.

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, emphasised that the preservation of the playground has given children a space to play and proved that anything is possible if locals unite.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, added that the victory was the beginning of a long-term plan for the development of the playground and protection of open spaces and reservoirs in respective areas.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, stressed that Tetultala ground is a symbol of the playground protection movement and that similar movements should be built to protect open spaces and reservoirs.

However, police initially did not give permission for a

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VACCINATION, HEALTH CHECKUP

79 medical centres selected for hajj pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has selected a total of 79 medical centres across the country for the purpose of conducting health examinations and administering meningitis and influenza vaccinations to hajj pilgrims.

The religious affairs ministry yesterday issued a circular in this regard.

The ministry also requested the pilgrims to bring test reports of urine, random blood sugar, chest X-ray, ECG, serum creatinine, complete blood count and blood grouping before coming to the medical centres for taking vaccines.

All Districts Civil Surgeon Offices excluding Dhaka will be centres for inoculation and health checkup of the pilgrims.

In Dhaka, the service will be available in Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), Sir Salimullah Medical College & Mitford Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Kurmitola General Hospital, Fulbaria Government Employee's Hospital, Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital, Bangladesh Secretariat Clinic, Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Shaheed Taj Uddin Ahmad Medical College, Gazipur and Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master General Hospital.

Besides, pilgrims can receive checkup and vaccination at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Bogura 250 bed Mohammad Ali District Hospital and Dinajpur 250 bed General Hospital.

321 Dhaka buildings risky, yet in use

Rajuk, city corporations still haven't taken action

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Thousands of people visit the Dhaka North City Corporation Zone-5 office every day to obtain its services, unaware of the dangers they might face.

A portion of DNCC's zonal building's roof has collapsed several times, with cracks in the pillars and plaster falling off in 24 rooms. Additionally, electrical wires on the walls make the site a potential death trap for anyone who visits or works in the office.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case, with 321 buildings in the capital identified by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) as earthquake-prone and highly vulnerable.

"Since my room is too risky, I'm working in the executive engineer's room. I abandoned the room last year since I cannot work there," said Mutakabbir Ahmed, executive officer of zone-5 under DNCC.

Mutakabbir said the condition of this building is deteriorating every day. "It is scary to work in the office,



PHOTO: STAR

as several accidents have occurred in many buildings in Dhaka recently."

On April 27, 2016, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief's Earthquake Preparedness and Awareness Committee (EPAC) decided to demolish such buildings, instructing Rajuk, DNCC, and Dhaka South City Corporation to put up sign boards indicating

the risks and disconnecting utility services such as gas, water, electricity, and telephone lines.

Additionally, as per the decision, the regional office and its utility services ceased operation. Nevertheless, DNCC displayed apathy towards its own safety by neglecting the committee's order.

However, despite identifying

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Bolster efforts to fully implement CHT Peace Accord

UN Forum on Indigenous Issues urges Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) has called upon Bangladesh to make further efforts towards full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord.

It said that the government uses constructive dialogue and cooperate with the Chattogram Hill Tracts Regional Council, the three Hill District Councils and the Chattogram Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission towards this end.

PFII, a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council which is mandated to address issues related to the rights of indigenous people, also welcomed the progress towards the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord.

The observations were made in its report of the 22nd Session held from 17 to 28 April in New York, according to a statement of the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in NY yesterday.

The members of the forum engaged with the delegation of Bangladesh as well as with a large number of civil society members and individuals belonging to the ethnic minorities throughout the session and discussed the status of CHT Peace Accord.

The statement said Bangladesh is committed to achieving inclusive and sustainable development of all its people including the ethnic minorities,

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Threats to foil polls won't yield any result: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP will not get any benefit by giving threat to foil the national elections as polls will be held in due time as per the constitution.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was speaking at a views exchange meeting at the AL's Bangabandhu Avenue central office.

The meeting was held with leaders of Rangpur district AL and all other organisational units under the district unit.

Later, Greater Rangpur district Awami League's membership renewal and member collection programme was inaugurated on the occasion.

Quader inaugurated the programme with renewing the membership of Prime Minister's ICT Adviser Sajeb Wazed Joy.

Man held with 1kg gold at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gold smuggling syndicates are finding new and innovative ways to exploit legal channels for their illicit trade.

In a recent bust, a member of a gold smuggling syndicate was caught red-handed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with six gold bars and ornaments weighing around one kg. The syndicate had been using unsuspecting passengers to carry gold bars and cosmetics in their luggage, paying their taxes to avoid suspicion.

According to SM Mizanur Rahman, additional superintendent of Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn), the arrestee was identified as Oli Ahad, a 46-year-old resident of Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria. He was caught moving suspiciously around 1:10am at the airport, and upon interrogation, he admitted to bringing the gold bars to sell.

A case has been filed against Ahad with the Airport Police Station.

Mizanur also said a syndicate has been exploiting passengers to smuggle gold for a long time. He said they are trying to get details about other members of the syndicate.

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In a month-long drive in April, the APBn members recovered around six kg of gold.



In this concrete jungle of a city, a fully bloomed golden shower tree remains a refreshing sight for city dwellers. The photo was taken on Manik Mia Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS