

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES UGC for ordinance to hold uniform admission test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission has recommended issuing an ordinance as soon as possible to hold a uniform admission test for all public universities from the 2023-24 academic year.

A 15-member committee, led by the UGC chairman, on the entry test decided it at yesterday's meeting, said a press release.

It said the ordinance will get priority over any university rule regarding the admission test. The ordinance would remain in force until the National Testing Authority is formed, said the release.

At yesterday's meeting, Prof Muhammad Alamgir, UGC chairman (additional charge), said the president is the chancellor of all universities. The decision to hold the uniform entry exam was made for the sake of public interest as per the chancellor's wish.

So, he called upon vice-chancellors and teachers of all public universities to work with a positive attitude towards implementing the decision. Besides, there is no scope for any university holding entry tests beyond the chancellor's wish or order, he said.

Committee members at the meeting agreed that good intention of the university authorities is needed to hold the uniform test. They also suggested that the chancellor of the universities could issue an ordinance to this end, added the UGC press release.

US deputy asst secy may visit Dhaka next week

UNB, Dhaka



Afreen Akhter

US Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA) Afreen Akhter is likely to visit Bangladesh next week to discuss issues of mutual interest.

The visit may take place on October 15-18, a diplomatic source told UNB, noting that she might also visit Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps during the visit.

The deputy assistant secretary looks after issues in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives, as well as the Office of Security and Transnational Affairs.

Akhter was formerly the national security and foreign affairs adviser to US Senator Chris Van Hollen. She visited Dhaka in May of this year.

The deputy assistant secretary is also scheduled to meet government officials to discuss priority bilateral issues. The matter of the upcoming parliamentary polls in Bangladesh may also come up for discussion, said the diplomatic source.

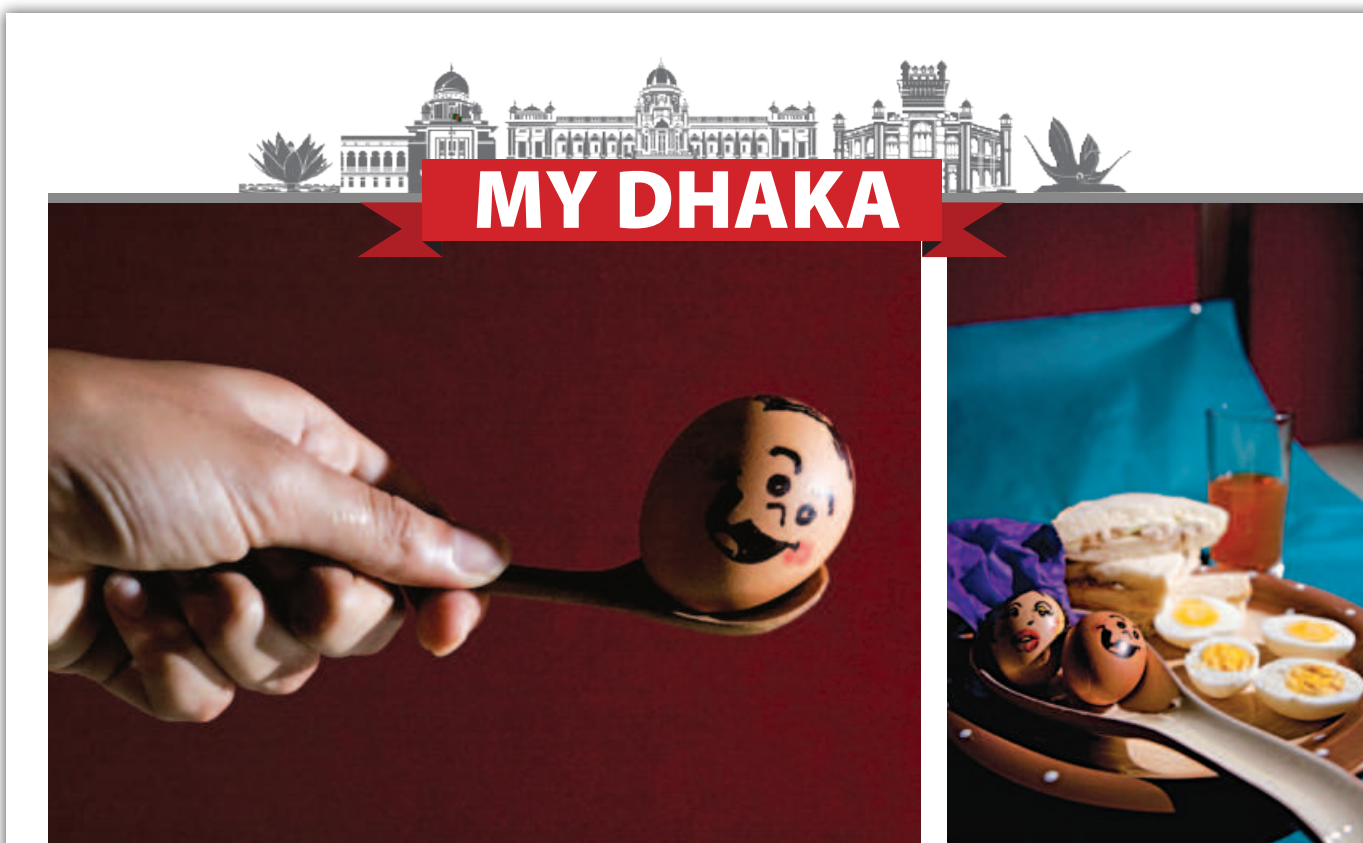


PHOTO: LS/ ARCHIVE

For the love of eggs

During the '70s, it was a common scene in the wee hours of the morning that a lone man in lungi, with a muffler tightly wrapped around the head and his ears, would carry a cane basket and peddle eggs. He was the only soul in the streets at that ungodly hour.

RBR

A knock on our door and I remember taking out a soiled Tk 1 note from my father's wallet and running to greet him. One piece of egg was sold at 0.25 paisas at that time, as opposed to today when the price of an egg is Tk 13.30.

It was fluctuating between Tk 15 to 16 just a couple of weeks ago.

How have times changed and with it the nostalgia surrounding the 'dimwala'!

I am a fan of the traditions and rituals of yesteryears. I find the present dry and curt with no time to pause and take a breather. Just see how the simple act of buying eggs has changed so drastically over the years! We now go to supermarkets and get our cartons or egg boxes of omega and vitamin-fortified eggs.

I mean advancement and development are not bad although the dimwala lost his job and the box makers ensured theirs.

Recently, with the egg price hike news doing the rounds, I came across a fact that the Bangladesh Egg Producers Association announced - about 3.5 crore to 4 crore eggs are required daily to meet the national demand. That is quite a lot of eggs per day and these mostly come from farms across the country, giving the local industry a boost.

"I am selling a dozen eggs for Tk 160

now and it fluctuates according to the market price. I buy my stock from a supplier in Gazipur at high prices; my profit margin for one egg is between 0.60 to 0.80 paisas. I am selling each egg at Tk 13.30 plus now. I used to make a profit of Tk 10 to Tk 12 by selling a dozen eggs. Now, it has stopped from Tk

5 to Tk 7," said Sarwar Hossain Sohel, a grocer in Uttara.

Prices increased by 14.58 percent in the past month and 22.22 percent in the past year and the Bangladesh Poultry Association blames the corporate syndicates for the price hike; even

though the government is conducting drives across the country to control egg prices.

These price hikes that we are cribbing about did not dampen our fondness for eggs; we are merrily cracking them for cakes, cutlets, French toast and all. Personally speaking, I was not fond of eggs until I started to run my own kitchen and I stumbled upon the greatest finding of the egg kind - the jammy eggs.

A jammy egg is somewhere between a hard-boiled egg and a soft-boiled egg, where the egg white is fully set like that of a boiled egg, but the magical difference is in the yolk. It's slightly set on the edges where it touches the white but soft and jammy in the centre.

Egg dishes are so diverse and each one is almost like soul food, the ordinary omelettes or mumblets as called locally jump to a different level when it is stuffed with tomato, spring onion, mushroom and cheese. It makes a fine sandwich filling for butter-toasted bread. The mumblet wrapped in crisp paratha at the roadside hotels, or the Michelin star recipe of eggs benedict; eggs are loved in every form.

Eggs are not only a staple source of nutrition in our diet but also an all-important ingredient in the kitchen. There are so many everyday recipes that need at least an egg to bind.



A dream fulfilled

FROM PAGE 1

and Faridpur district unit leaders and government officials welcomed her.

She then inaugurated the Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf Stadium and joined the rally organised by Faridpur AL there.

Thousands of people were waiting there since morning to welcome the PM and listen to her.

"I'm today giving you a gift, the Padma Bridge rail link after the Padma Bridge... I urge you all to vote for boat [electoral symbol of AL] so that the Awami League can serve the people again."

She also asked people to vote for AL to save the country from BNP-Jamaat.

Hasina promised the people of Faridpur a university there if voted to power.

Terming the BNP a party of "looters", the AL chief said the top leaders of the BNP had been engaged

in embezzling the money of orphans, money laundering, and trading arms. One of them left the country signing a bond that he would not engage in politics.

And Jamaat was involved in war crimes, she added.

The PM said she knows that the people are with her but many intellectuals are not.

"If the people of Bangladesh stay beside me, any impossible can be made possible, which we've proven through the construction of the Padma Bridge and inauguration of the rail connectivity via the Padma Bridge."

After the rally, Hasina and her family members travelled to her ancestral home in Tungipara and offered Fateha at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka this afternoon.

Plane maker keen on MoU this month

FROM PAGE 12

European Union, France, Germany and the British high commissioner, sources said.

This will be followed by meetings on October 15 and 16 between Airbus, the ambassadors from the EU, Germany, France, British high commissioner, Biman, the PM's principal secretary, the state minister for foreign affairs, Bangladesh Bank, and the secretary to the civil aviation ministry.

Biman is yet to finish a techno-financial evaluation of the Airbus proposal for the carrier to have a mixed fleet.

Biman on May 3, 2023, decided that such a purchase could only be done after a technical and financial evaluation.

During his visit to Bangladesh in September, French President Emmanuel Macron stated that Bangladesh has committed to buying 10 Airbus aircraft.

'You've turned country into hell'

FROM PAGE 1

He informed Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan about the comment made by the judge who will retire on October 15.

Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan then sent for Justice Emdadul and asked him to be more careful while making comments.

Judges of the Appellate Division were present in the chief justice's office at the time, a source told The Daily Star last night.

The attorney general told reporters at his office that Justice Emdadul had violated his oath. "The unconstitutional comment by a judge, who is under oath to protect the constitution, is very unfortunate," he said.

"I learnt about his comment from the news. I also heard it from the deputy attorney general... I discussed the issue with the authorities concerned. Then I met the chief justice and handed

him news clippings [prints of online reports]..."

It should be investigated whether the judge made the comment for the benefit of those conspiring against the judiciary and if the judge had links with them, said the attorney general.

ADILUR, ELAN GET BAIL

During the hearing, Ali said each of his clients was sentenced to two years in prison and fined Tk 10,000 under section 57(2) of the ICT Act.

DAG Rezaul told the court that there are allegations that Adilur and Nasiruddin provided false information and spread propaganda against the state.

Justice Emdadul then asked why the sentence was only two years when it should have been life in prison.

At the end of the hearing, the bench granted bail to Adilur and Elan and stayed the trial court order that fined

them Tk 10,000 each.

The court also said it will hear an appeal that challenged the trial court verdict.

Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, a lawyer for Adilur and Elan, told The Daily Star that unless the Appellate Division stayed the HC order of bail, his clients will be released from Keraniganj jail.

Adilur and Elan were sued for coming up with "a distorted report and doctored images" on the police action at a Hafajat-e-Islam rally in the capital in 2013.

A Dhaka court on September 14 this year delivered the verdict and ordered them to be sent to jail.

Odhikar's report claimed that 61 people died in the early hours of May 6 when the law enforcers flushed several thousand Hafajat activists out of the capital's Motijheel.

The government put the number of deaths at 13.

Israel retakes control of Gaza border areas

FROM PAGE 1

"Around 1,500 bodies of Hamas (fighters) have been found in Israel around the Gaza Strip," said army spokesman Richard Hecht, adding security forces had "more or less restored control over the border" with the enclave.

Israel imposed a total siege on long-blockaded Gaza on Monday, cutting off the water supply, food, electricity and other essential supplies, reports AFP.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply distressed" by the siege announcement and warned Gaza's already dire humanitarian situation will now "only deteriorate exponentially".

UN human rights chief Volker Turk said yesterday that imposing "sieges that endanger the lives of civilians by depriving them of goods essential for their survival is prohibited under

international humanitarian law".

The United Nations said more than 187,500 people had been displaced inside the Gaza Strip, with most taking shelter in UN schools.

Hamas has held around 150 Israeli hostages since its ground incursion, among them children, elderly and young people who were captured at a music festival where some 270 died.

On Monday, Hamas warned it would start killing hostages every time Israel launches a strike on a civilian target in Gaza without warning. Explosions have been heard in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon after Hamas warned people to leave by 17:00 local time yesterday.

At the morgue in Gaza's Khan Younis hospital, bodies were laid on the ground on stretchers with names written on their bellies. Medics called for relatives to pick up bodies quickly because there was no more space for

the dead, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, Gaza's sole border crossing with Egypt, the only entry point not controlled by Israel, was hit by an Israeli air strike yesterday for the third time in 24 hours, an AFP photographer and an NGO said.

Western countries have strongly backed Israel. Arab cities have seen demonstrations in support of the Palestinians. Iran, Hamas's patron, celebrated the attacks but denied a direct role.

Global powers and regional governments including Egypt, Turkey and Gulf states have engaged in frantic diplomacy seeking to prevent any further escalation.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas that the kingdom was working to ensure the conflict does not spread across the region, state media said.

Beach photographer goes missing while swimming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A photographer who used to take photos of tourists at the Cox's Bazar sea beach area went missing while swimming at Seagull Point yesterday.

Md Sagar, 17, a resident of Ukhiya upazila, along with his friend Yasin Arafat, 18, went swimming in the ocean around noon.

Yasin said, "We fell into a ditch when a sudden wave came and pulled us to the deep waters at Seagull Point".

"A water bike rider pulled me up to his jetski, but my friend went missing," he added.

Jetski rider Md Yunus said, "While I was giving rides to tourists, I saw two young men drowning. I was able to save one but failed to save the other."

Seasafe Senior lifeguard Zainal Abedin Bhutto said a search for the missing teenager was underway at different points on the beach.

Woman killed after being hit by train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An elderly woman died after she was hit by a train in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Momesa Begum, 68, of the upazila's Bagzana (Masterpara) area.

Momesa left home early in the morning to take a walk near the railroads, said Arif Hossain, a ward member of Bagzana Union Parishad, quoting family members.

She died on the spot after she was hit by the Panchagarh-bound Banglabandha Intercity train, he added.

Police recovered her body and handed it over to her family members, said Moktar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Government Railway Police of Santahar GRP Station.

2 get death penalty for killing their wives

STAR REPORT

Courts in Shariatpur and Natore handed death penalties to two men yesterday for killing their wives back in 2021 and 2013, respectively.

In Shariatpur, Raja Mia, 32, of Bhedarganj upazila was sentenced to death and fined Tk 20,000 by Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Shohel Ahmed, reports our correspondent, quoting Public Prosecutor Firoj Ahmed.

According to the case, on the night of June 6, 2021, Raja hit his wife Kanchannala, 28, on the back of her head with a bamboo stick during a fight over dowry, seriously injuring her.

The next morning, she was taken to Chandpur Sadar Hospital, where the duty doctor referred her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but she died en route.

In Natore, Osman Gani of Naldanga upazila was given a death sentence and fined Tk 30,000 by Women and Children Repression Prevention Judge Abdur Rahim, reports UNB, quoting Public Prosecutor Anisur Rahman.

According to the case, Osman strangled his wife Rokeya Begum to death for dowry in his house on August 21, 2013.

Pakistan sink SL with record run-chase

FROM PAGE 1

The victory gives Pakistan two wins in as many games and a huge boost in confidence ahead of their high-profile clash against India in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Sri Lanka's imposing total of 344-9 was built around brilliant hundreds from Kusal Mendis and Sadeera Samarawickrama.

Rizwan cracked eight boundaries and three sixes while Shafique's knock had ten boundaries and three sixes as Pakistan improved on the previous highest World Cup chase of 328 by Ireland against England in Bangalore in 2011.

Rizwan added a match-turning 176 run stand for the third wicket with Shafique and another 95 for the fourth with Saud Shakeel who made a 30-ball 31.

Rizwan and Shafique lifted Pakistan from a disastrous start in which they lost Imam-ul-Haq (12) and skipper Babar Azam (ten) to pacer Dilshan Madushanka.

Haq, who completed 3,000 runs

in 67 innings to become the second joint fastest to the milestone, hooked into the hands of the fielder while Azam edged a flick behind the wicket.

Shafique, who replaced out-of-form Fakhar Zaman, justified his selection by reaching his maiden hundred off 97 balls.

Shafique fell in the 34th over to Matheesha Pathirana but Rizwan continued the chase, reaching his third ODI hundred off 97 balls.

He hit the winning single and raised his hands in delight.

When Sri Lanka batted, after winning the toss, Mendis smashed the fastest century for Sri Lanka in a World Cup match with a 77-ball 122, his highest score in ODIs and third century.

It was an innings spiced with 14 boundaries and half a dozen sixes, leading the charge for Sri Lanka while Samarawickrama hit an 89-ball 108 for his maiden hundred.

Mendis completed his 50 off 40 balls with his seventh boundary, lifting Sri Lanka from the early loss of

Kusal Perera (nought) in the second over to Hasan Ali.

Mendis put on a 102 with Pathum Nissanka whose 51 came off 61 balls with seven boundaries and a six.

Once Nissanka fell to Shadab Khan, Mendis and Samarawickrama unleashed some superb hitting against Pakistan's pacers and spinners alike, adding 111 for the third wicket.

Hasan was hoisted by Mendis for a six to allow the batsman his third hundred off 65 balls.

It was his first century in three-and-a-half years but he had made 76 in the opening defeat to South Africa and now has at least five half-centuries in his last seven ODIs.

Mendis hit two sixes off Hasan's 29th over before he holed out at deep mid-wicket boundary.

Hasan then removed Charith Asalanka for one but Samarawickrama and Dhananjaya de Silva (25) added 65 for the fifth wicket.

Hasan finished as the best bowler with 4-71 while Rauf took 2-64.