

## Single entry exam for public universities

### UGC okays draft of central admission test authority ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission has finalised the draft of Central Admission Test Authority Ordinance, which will require all public universities to hold a uniform admission test for undergraduate students from the 2023-24 academic year.

The ordinance was finalised at a meeting yesterday in the presence of UGC acting chairman Prof Muhammed Alamgir and vice-chancellors of different public universities.

The draft of the ordinance will be sent to the education ministry for further action next week, Prof Alamgir said.

He said after the ordinance is issued, there will be no scope for any university to take admission tests outside of it.

If the proposed ordinance is issued within a short time, then a uniform undergraduate admission test for the 2023-2024 academic year will be taken as soon as possible after the publication of the HSC examination results, he said.

Tests would be taken following the ordinance until the National Testing Authority is formed, he added.

In a press release, UGC yesterday said the drafted ordinance includes provisions to address the complexity, delays, and insecurity of the existing admission process for universities and to reduce extra costs for parents and students.

In the new system, any candidate who fails to attain a minimum requirement in the central admission test will not be considered eligible for admission to any university at the undergraduate level.

After publication of the central admission test results, the relevant universities will conduct the admission process on the basis of students' merit, considering their past academic performances and the universities' own requirements.

**After the ordinance is issued, there will be no scope for any university to take admission tests outside of it.**



Police have set up checkpoints on roads leading to Dhaka ahead of the Awami League and BNP rallies on October 28. The photos were taken at Aminbazar on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## Dengue death toll crosses 1,300

HELEMUL ALAM

The death toll from dengue this year has crossed the 1,300 mark as another 11 new deaths were reported in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

The figure is 0.5 percent of total infections, showing a grim picture this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least 1,802 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country yesterday, raising the total number of cases to 2,62,631.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said there are multiple reasons for the

high rate of dengue deaths this year, including virus, patient and management related factors.

Of the four types of dengue strains, Den-2 serotype is mostly active this year and has a high severity. This is a reason for so many deaths this year, he said.

Around 87 percent of the patients were infected with serotype 2, according to a recent study of Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute on dengue serotypes, Nazmul said.

"Serotype sequence is another factor. If a patient, who was infected with one serotype earlier, gets infected again with a new serotype, then its severity will be more, especially if the second infection is from serotype-2," he said.

"Serotype-2 was present in Bangladesh in 2017 and 2018 too, but the death rate was not high at that time. We are assuming that there are sub-serotypes of the Den-2 sequence which can be more severe, and may be active this year."

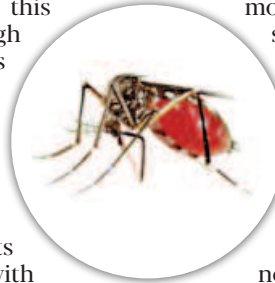
"Another reason is high rate of infection among high-risk group patients -- elderly, infant, obese, pregnant women and patients with comorbidity like diabetes, high pressure, heart, kidney, lung and liver problems," said Nazmul.

Also, many patients are coming to the hospital late with shock syndrome, which is another factor for the high number of deaths this year, he said. "This year we are observing many patients going into shock syndrome within two or three days which is unusual."

Many patients are coming from outside of Dhaka, he said.

"It takes several hours for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



## BHAIRAB TRAIN CRASH Disregard for signal caused accident Says railway minister

UNB, Dhaka

Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday said it is initially believed that the cargo train's disregard for red light caused the accident at Kishoreganj's Bhairab, leaving 17 people dead and 26 injured.

The minister said this while exchanging views with journalists at the conference room of the Rail Bhaban.

"I was in Malaysia at the time of the accident to participate in the First Asia Pacific Rail Summit. Due to the accident, I shortened the trip and returned to Bangladesh on October 25," he said.

He said the ministry will provide Tk 1 lakh to the families of each deceased while they will bear the medical expenses of the injured.

He also said three probe committees have already been formed to find out the cause of the accident.

After receiving the investigation reports, the exact cause of the accident will be known and action will be taken accordingly, he added.



## Man dies after being run over by lorry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after being run over by a lorry in front of a factory in Dhaka's Demra area early yesterday.

The deceased, identified as 55-year-old Rafiqul Islam, was the security guard of Jara Printing and Packaging Factory.

The accident took place around 3:00am when he was sitting on a chair in front of the factory.

The driver of the lorry, used for carrying goods of the factory, was reversing the vehicle and ran Rafiqul over.

He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 3:45am, said Mainul Hossain, a sub-inspector of Demra Police Station.

The driver fled after the incident. Rafiqul's body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy, he said.



Editors and senior journalists of various newspapers and television channels at a workshop titled "12th parliamentary polls: role of media and expectation of the nation", organised by the Election Commission at its office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Army chief leaves for Central African Republic

UNB, Dhaka

Army Chief General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed left Dhaka for the Central African Republic on a four-day state visit yesterday.

During his visit, the army chief will observe the different activities of Bangladeshi peacekeepers there and will hold a views-exchange meeting.

The army chief will also meet the high official concerned of the Central African Republic, the chief of the United Nations Mission, and others, and will discuss bilateral relations between the army personnel of the two countries. He is expected to return home on November 1.



## Bangladesh to send more workers to Libya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has signed a memorandum of understanding with Libya, aiming to expand labour market for Bangladesh, send more workers through regular channels, and ensure their safety.

The MoU will play a pivotal role in preventing irregular migration of Bangladeshis to Libya, the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry said in a press release yesterday.

The MoU on "joint cooperation in the field of recruitment of workers" was signed between the ministry and Libyan labour and rehabilitation ministry on Wednesday in Tripoli.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad signed the MoU.

The minister requested the Libyan authority to implement a "zero migration cost" policy for Bangladeshi workers and ensure their social protection there.

He also urged Libya to acknowledge the workers' prior learning certifications granted by Bangladesh authorities, ease the process of sending remittances through banking channels,

and regularise undocumented Bangladeshis without complications.

Bangladesh has sent about 1.22 lakh migrant workers to Libya for employment since 1976 till June this year, says Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training data.

Following the civil war in Libya in 2011, about 36,000 Bangladeshis were repatriated from the North African country.

Later in 2012 and 2015, the government banned migration of workers to Libya over security reasons. It lifted the embargo in February last year.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of Brac Migration Programme, told The Daily Star that while the MoU is a positive sign, it should be questioned whether Libya's instability and workers' vulnerabilities, along with other issues that prompted Bangladesh to impose the embargo, were considered before inking it.

Currently, an estimated 20,000-25,000 Bangladeshis, including the undocumented ones, are believed to be residing in Libya, according to an official of the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli.

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