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DU entry tests from January 4

STAR REPORT

The admission tests for Dhaka University for the academic year 2024-2025 will start from January 4, 2025 with the Fine Arts unit.

Following the admission test of Fine Arts, Arts, Law and Social Sciences unit exams will be held on January 25.

The entrance exams for Science (Ka unit) will be held on February 1, Business Studies (Ga unit) will be held on February 8.

Asides, IBA exams will be held on January 3.

Admission seekers can apply via online from November 4 to November 25.

The decisions came yesterday from a General Admission Committee meeting presided over by Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, vice-chancellor of the university, meeting insiders told The Daily Star.



A student chases a motorcycle as the rider and passenger cruise through the street without any helmets, a clear violation of traffic law. Under a new initiative, the government is planning to formally include 300 students in the capital's traffic management system. Students will work alongside police officers to assist in regulating traffic. The photo was taken on Mirpur Road yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Govt includes students in traffic management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to formally include 300 students in the city's traffic management system. These students will work alongside police officers to assist in regulating traffic.

Asif Mahmud Sajeb Bhuiyan, adviser to the Youth and Sports Ministry, proposed the initiative.

Confirming the plan, Khondokar Nazmul Hasan, additional commissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "We may provide training to students for traffic management if required."

The students will likely work on an outsourcing or payment basis. However, the exact terms will be clarified once the home ministry finalises the process, Hasan added.

Lt Gen (ret) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, adviser to the home ministry, announced the inclusion of students while inaugurating DMP's Traffic Fortnight-2024 at Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday.

He said students had already begun participating in DMP's traffic fortnight programme and will continue their involvement afterwards.

"Initially, around 300 students will be involved, with the number set to increase later," he added.

Students who participate in the programme will receive an honorarium for their services. While Chowdhury did not disclose the exact amount, he said it would be reasonable.

He also highlighted the positive impact students have had on the roads since August 5, when they initially took on traffic management responsibilities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

7 DU AFFILIATED COLLEGES Students demand separate university Block roads for hours, commuters suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University yesterday threatened to take to the streets again from Wednesday if their three-point demand is not met within 24 hours.

Abdur Rahman, one of the movement's coordinators, issued the warning on behalf of the students at the Science Lab intersection around 4:45pm, shortly before the end of their protest programme.

Earlier, with a three-point demand, including the formation of a reform committee to establish an

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



HELEMUL ALAM

The Den-2 variant of dengue is proving particularly lethal this year, contributing to the rising death toll.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with three new deaths in the last 24 hours, the total number of fatalities has reached 250, while total dengue cases have climbed to 50,919, including 1,039 new cases reported.

"We are mostly seeing Den 2 (serotype 2) cases this year, similar to last year," said Prof Dr Tahmina Shirin, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

Dr Shirin said being infected with Den 2 does not necessarily spell danger. However, cross-infections involving different dengue serotypes can lead to severe complications, especially if patients are not hospitalised in time. Delayed hospitalisation is one of the key factors behind worsening patient conditions and higher mortality rates, she added.

She advised that anyone diagnosed with fever should immediately consult a doctor and follow prescribed treatments. Keeping well-hydrated is crucial, with coconut water, saline, fruit juices, and homemade drinks recommended to maintain hydration and provide essential vitamins and minerals to aid recovery.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

Den 2 variant behind rising deaths



Dr Shirin also stressed the importance of cleanliness to prevent further infections, urging people to clear stagnant water from yards and rooftops to prevent mosquito breeding.

Experts have identified four dengue serotypes (Den-1 to Den-4), each further divided into genotypes. The Den-2 variant, particularly the cosmopolitan sub-variant, is prevalent this year and is known to be associated with severe dengue infections and outbreaks.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said the cosmopolitan sub-variant is especially dangerous due to its links to bleeding, increased severity, and a higher mortality rate. He pointed out that secondary infections with Den-2 are particularly risky for those previously infected with other serotypes.

"Many patients are going into shock after their fever subsides, which is alarming," said Dr Ahsan. He added that patients with shock syndrome, bleeding, and expanded dengue syndrome are contributing to the rising death toll.

High-risk groups, including the elderly, pregnant women, obese individuals, infants, and those with comorbidities, are more vulnerable.

Early hospitalisation, especially for symptoms such as severe stomach pain, difficulty breathing, and bleeding, is critical to prevent fatal outcomes, he added.

EXTENDING GOVT AGE LIMIT Jobseekers want gazette notification



DU CORRESPONDENT

Over a hundred job seekers staged a sit-in in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh yesterday, demanding that an immediate notification be issued extending the minimum age for entry into government jobs to 35 years.

The demonstrators, who started the sit-in around 11:30am, said they would not leave the premises until the notification was issued.

They were still at the spot around 6:30pm till the filing of this report and said they would continue their sit-in programme all night if needed.

Rajib Hossain, a coordinator of the movement, told reporters that they were planning to go on a hunger strike if their demand was not met yesterday.

Earlier, the Public Administration Reforms Commission recommended that the age limit for entering government jobs be set at 35 years for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Dhaka board chairman resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar submitted his resignation yesterday in response to escalating student protests demanding a reassessment of HSC and equivalent exam grades.

Prof Tapan submitted his resignation to the Secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division, citing "personal reasons".

Talking to this newspaper, he said, "I wrote to the authorities asking to remove me from the chairman post. What else can I do amid such protests? I heard their demands and assured them I would forward these to the higher authorities, but they didn't listen."

"I cannot risk physical assault, nor can I agree to demands for an 'auto pass'. This seemed like the wisest decision," he said.

"The decision now rests with the ministry. My resignation will be in effect once they approve it," Prof Tapan added.

GLOBAL INEQUALITY INDEX Bangladesh slips 17 notches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has fallen 17 positions in a global inequality index. The country has ranked 124th out of 164 countries, according to a report by Oxfam and Development Finance International.

In the previous index published in 2022, Bangladesh held the 107th position out of 161 nations.

Among South Asian countries, the Maldives (66th), Nepal (115th), Sri Lanka (118th), and Bhutan (122nd) ranked higher than Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh performed better than India (127th) and Pakistan (141st).

The report considered factors such as education, health, social protection, progressive taxation, labour rights, and wages.

Bangladesh was highlighted as one of the countries showing "backpedaling" on labour policies, with labour rights and unionisation deteriorating in law and practice compared to previous years.

Among South Asian countries, the Maldives (66th), Nepal (115th), Sri Lanka (118th), and Bhutan (122nd) ranked higher than Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh performed better than India (127th) and Pakistan (141st).

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A group of fishermen catching hilsa on the Atai river in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore. Despite a ban on catching hilsa during the breeding season from October 13 to November 3, these fishers allege that inadequate food support from the government has left them with no choice but to return to fishing. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN