

Leading univs withdrawing

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agricultural universities. **GENERAL CLUSTER** Jagannath University, which spearheaded the first cluster admission test, has formally withdrawn from the system and announced its 2024-25 undergraduate admission circular independently.

Prof Md Rezaul Karim described the cluster system as an initiative introduced with good intentions but marred by poor planning.

At Khulna University, Vice-Chancellor Prof Rezaul Karim said students and faculty alike have opted out of the system.

"KU now handles five batches simultaneously, instead of the usual four, causing a session jam and disrupting the academic calendar," he said.

While acknowledging the university's recent progress in academic excellence, he warned that the flawed admission process risks undoing these gains. "We are also considering holding our own admission tests," he added.

Meanwhile, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Comilla University, Barishal University, and Noakhali Science and Technology University have also decided to hold independent admission tests.

Prof Md Anwarul Azim

Akhand, Convener of the GST Integrated Admission Test Committee and VC of Maulana Bhashani Science and Technology University, expressed hope that the cluster exam could still proceed with the remaining universities.

He said no official discussions have taken place yet as the current academic year is still ongoing. A proper decision from the government is awaited.

ENGINEERING CLUSTER The engineering cluster, consisting of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, is also dissolving.

KUET announced its independent admission circular on November 17, scheduling its test for January 11, 2025.

Following this, RUET called an emergency meeting to discuss its participation.

"With KUET's departure, the cluster effectively no longer exists," said RUET Vice-Chancellor Prof SM Razzak.

CUET has yet to finalise its stance, but said the departure of two major universities has left the future uncertain.

AGRICULTURAL CLUSTER In the agricultural cluster,

admission processes for nine universities under the 2023-24 academic year are still ongoing, leaving decisions for 2024-25 pending.

Bangladesh Agricultural University has proposed holding its own tests, as recommended by its Dean Council. However, no official circular has been published yet.

Meanwhile, a group of students preparing for the 2024-25 admission tests submitted a memorandum to the education ministry, urging measures to preserve the cluster system.

They said without it, their application fees and travel expenses would rise substantially.

UGC'S POSITION University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof SMA Fayed said the UGC has no legal authority to prevent universities from conducting independent admission tests.

Prof Fayed suggested that universities opting out should consider holding tests in divisional cities and keeping application fees low.

"We will monitor the decisions of other universities and coordinate the next steps. However, universities should prioritise students' convenience and consult all stakeholders before finalising their decisions," he added.

AL's election

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The Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad-led commission presided over the one-sided January 2014 election, in which 153 out of 300 lawmakers were elected unopposed after the opposition, including the BNP, boycotted the vote. The Awami League-led alliance secured more than two-thirds of seats in all three general elections under the Hasina government.

During the discussion, participants unanimously called for a caretaker government, Badiul said.

"The Election Commission must be made independent and strengthened," he added. There was also widespread support for reinstating the "no" vote option and promoting internal democracy within political parties.

"If democracy is not established within political parties, it cannot be expected to flourish at the national level," he added.

Proposals for direct presidential elections and direct elections to reserved seats for women in parliament were also raised by academics and citizens.

J a h a n g i r n a g a r

University Prof Naseem Akhter Hussain suggested a bicameral legislature and an increase in reserved seats for women to 100.

Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman of the same university discussed various aspects of the proportional representation system, as well as issues such as proper constituency demarcation, transparent party funding, and the involvement of all stakeholders in ensuring fair elections.

Film star and Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan also proposed reintroducing the "no" vote system and urged a swift resolution of election-related cases

5 ex, present officials

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Upon hearing arguments from both sides, the judge turned down the bail pleas and ordered to send them to jail.

The judge also issued arrest warrants against nine others, including Biman's former managing director and CEO Kevin John Steele, and its former flight captain (operation) Ishrat Ahmed, as they were shown fugitives in the charge sheet of the case.

Earlier on May 20 this year, Md Anwarul Haque, deputy director of Anti-Corruption Commission and also the investigating officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court.

The IO dropped the names of 14 others from the charge sheet as

their involvement in the corruption was not proved.

ACC had filed the case on February 6 last year, accusing 23 people for causing financial loss to the national flag carrier by colluding, and misusing their power, and embezzling money by leasing and then re-delivering two Boeing 777-200 ER aircraft from Egypt Air under a five-year contract.

The aircraft, both around 12.15 years old, suffered engine failures at the end of the first year and eventually became inoperable, causing Biman a loss of total Tk 1,161 crore.

The findings came up in investigation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. Later ACC launched an investigation in this connection.

Govt to recruit 18,150

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for these candidates and 99 others who were dropped from the gazette.

The 44th BCS saw the PSC begin viva voce for 11,732 candidates, of which 3,930 had been completed before the government's fall on 5 August. The new PSC has decided to conduct fresh oral exams for all successful candidates.

For the 45th BCS, 12,789 candidates passed the preliminary exams held in January, but the evaluation of written exam answer sheets is still pending. The newly-formed PSC has opted to re-evaluate all answer sheets by a third examiner for fairness.

The preliminary results of the 46th BCS were published on 9 May, with 10,638 candidates qualifying for the written exam, although the exam date remains undecided. The new PSC has decided to republish the results, adding another 10,638 candidates.

No circular has been issued for the 47th BCS yet.

Mokhles-ur-Rahman also revealed plans to promote officials to deputy secretary and joint secretary positions. Additionally, Grade-I promotions will be awarded to additional secretaries who had previously been overlooked and are nearing retirement. However, those facing disciplinary or criminal cases will not be considered for promotion.

There are currently 20 lakh posts in government jobs, with 5.5 lakh positions remaining vacant.

One killed

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Police later detained another person, Sejul Mia, 37, from Longpur village in connection with the attempted robbery, and recovered local weapons from the possession of the detainees, the OC also said.

Filing of a case in this connection was underway, he added.

56 premature

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(KMC), and special care newborn units (SCANU). Less than five percent of newborns have access to KMC.

Mannan said that there are only 62 hospitals with SCANU facilities in the country. In 2024, a total of 1,22,061 newborns were admitted to these units.

Currently, Bangladesh has 468 health centres offering KMC services. Nearly 20,000 babies received KMC this year, he added.

Limit PM's terms

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Mohammad Moinul Islam from the Department of Population Sciences at Dhaka University, and Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, a member of the University Grants Commission and teacher of international relations at Dhaka University.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prof Tanzimuddin said that he proposed the establishment of a bicameral parliament and limiting the prime minister's tenure to two terms.

He also recommended that the prime minister, speaker, and deputy speaker relinquish their party's leadership positions, retaining only primary memberships.

He suggested dividing the Upper House into four zones -- Northern, Southern, Central, and the Chattogram Hill Tracts -- to ensure effective governance in these regions.

According to his proposal, each zone would have 80 to 100 representatives, with equal representation for men and women.

He further proposed that national elections be conducted under a non-partisan advisory council.

He also advocated for

an inclusive nationalism model to replace the current Bangalee nationalism framework.

Prof Mohammad Moinul Islam from Dhaka University proposed integrating population dynamics into the country's development projects.

He urged the commission to define small ethnic groups and ethnic minorities explicitly in the constitution.

He also recommended ensuring gender balance in parliamentary seats, removing the term "Gonoprajatanti" (People's Republic) from the constitution, and reviewing the constitution every 10 years to modernise it.

The meeting was attended by Commission Chair Prof Ali Riaz and commission members Prof Sumaiya Khair, Barrister Imran Siddique, Prof Mohammad Ikramul Haque, Sharif Bhuiyan, Barrister M Moin Alam Ferozi, Firoz Ahmed, and Md Mustain Billah.

The Constitutional Reform Commission plans to continue its consultations with various individuals and organisations to gather more feedback for the reforms.

Dengue fatalities

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WARNING SIGNS OFTEN OVERLOOKED

Nazmul said patients often fail to recognise warning signs, such as severe abdominal pain, breathing difficulties, bleeding, extreme weakness, or significant drops in urination. When they seek medical care, their condition has deteriorated.

Prof Tahmina Shirin,

director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, emphasised the risk of cross-infections from different dengue serotypes, which can cause severe complications if hospitalisation is delayed.

"Anyone with fever should immediately consult a doctor and follow prescribed treatment," she advised.

Ex-chief justice Md Ruhul

Amin no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justice Md Ruhul Amin died at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka early yesterday. He was 83.

He breathed his last at 4:30am while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Justice Ruhul Amin was the 15th chief justice of Bangladesh. He has left behind his wife and two daughters.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed suspended all judicial functions of both the Appellate and High Court Divisions yesterday in tribute to Justice Ruhul Amin, according to Supreme Court sources.

However, the administrative procedures of the SC ran as usual.

The cases enlisted in yesterday's cause list of the Appellate Division will be heard on December 1 and that of the High Court Division will be heard today.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of Justice Ruhul Amin and prayed for salvation and eternal peace of his departed soul and conveyed sympathy to his bereaved family members.

Justice Ruhul Amin's namaz-e-janaza will be held at Supreme Court's Inner Garden after Zohr prayers tomorrow, he added.

PRAYER
TIMING

NOVEMBER 25

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-10	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT 5-45	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
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684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Maghbar, Dhaka 1217.
PARX: +88-02-48310188-9, Ext: 222, 258, Dist: +88-02-8331430, web: www.bdrcc.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. Invitation Reference, Tender ID No and Date	Pro. (Log) 391/2024 (A,B,C,D), Date: 21/11/2024 Tender ID: 73/24
2. Procuring Entity Name	Secretary General, BDRCS
3. Name of Requisition Department	DR Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Maghbar, Dhaka-1217.
4. Procurement for	(MRRO) under BDRCS, Cox's Bazar.
5. Invitation for	Group-A: Supplying of Plastic Pallets, Group-B: Supplying of Stationary Items, Group-C: Supplying of Electrical Items, Group-D: Supplying of Laptops
6. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
7. Project Name	Mayanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO)
8. Budget and Source of Funds	UNHCR
9. Purchase of Tender document	Tender documents and schedules with detailed information are available at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) website: www.bdrcc.org . Tender Schedule Download Link: https://bdrcc.org/tender/ Important Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Interested bidders are requested to collect the tender documents within the stipulated timeframe from the mentioned link/BDRCS website.A Tender Schedule purchase fee of Group-A: BDT. 1000.00 and Group-B: BDT. 500.00 and Group-C: BDT. 500.00, Group-D: BDT. 1000.00 is applicable. This fee is non-refundable.The purchase fee should be paid through Bkash number 01894806393 (BDRCS Merchant Account).Please mention the Bkash transaction reference number on top of the tender schedule. Failure to include the Bkash transaction reference number may result in the disqualification of your bid.
10. Tender Schedule available	From 24-11-2024 to 03-12-2024
11. Tender Submission Date and Time	03-12-2024 3:00 pm
12. Tender Opening Date and Time	03-12-2024 3:15 pm
13. Address of Tender Submission & Opening	Logistics Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Maghbar, Dhaka-1217.
14. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	11:00 AM on 27 November 2024 in the Logistics Department Meeting Room, NHQ, BDRCS, Dhaka
15. Eligibility of Tenderer	Experienced Supplier/Importer/Manufacturing Company/Construction Firm
16. Brief Description of works/ Related Services	Group-A: Supplying of 500 Pcs Plastic Pallets, Group-B: Supplying of Stationary Items, Group-C: Supplying of Electrical Items, Group-D: Supplying of Laptops for 39 pcs
17. Tender Security Amount	2.5 % of the Total quoted amount
18. Completion Time in days	12 Calendar days

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender or split the order without assigning any reason whatsoever and will not be bound to accept the lowest bid.

Size: 3 col x 6"

Dr. Kabir M. Ashraf Alam, nmc
Secretary General

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Establishment of 40 TTC & 01 IMT Project (2nd Revised)
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
Bureau of Manpower Employment & Training
89/2 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No.: 49.01.0000.337.07.011.22-142
Date: 24/11/2024.

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP portal for the procurement of the following goods:

SL No.	Tender ID	Description of Goods & Related Services	Tender Publishing, Tender Opening Date & Time
01.	1036654	Procurement of RAC Trade training equipment and related services for 15 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.014.22-RAC-Lot-01).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.00 pm
02.	1036660	Procurement of RAC Trade training equipment and related services for 14 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.014.22-RAC-Lot-02).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.10 pm
03.	1036692	Procurement of Auto Driving Trade training equipment and related services for 22 Technical Training Center (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.015.22-Auto.D Lot-02).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.20 pm
04.	1036693	Procurement of Auto Mechanics Trade training equipment and related services for 08 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.011.22-Auto.M-Lot-02).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.30 pm
05.	1036695	Procurement of Auto Mechanics Trade training equipment and related services for 08 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.011.22-Auto.M-Lot-03).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.40 pm

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP portal <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/Helpdesk.jsp>).

(Md. Saiful Haque Chowdhury)
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GD- 1033

প্রাইম ব্যাংক ফাউন্ডেশন
হেড অফিস: প্রাইম টাওয়ার (৯ম তলা), বাড়ী নং-৮ ও ৩৫
বিমানবন্দর সড়ক, নিকট-২, ঢাকা-১২২৯

জমি ক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, প্রাইম ব্যাংক ফাউন্ডেশনের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রাইম কলেজ অব নার্সিং, ঢাকা নির্মাণের লক্ষে ঢাকা জেলার উত্তরা, দিয়াবাড়ী, খিলক্ষেত, এয়ারপোর্ট, ৩০০ ফিট রাস্তা হতে ১০-১৫ কিলোমিটারের মধ্যে চলাচলের জন্য ন্যূনতম ২০ ফিট রাস্তার পার্শ্বে কমপক্ষে ১০০ শতক নিম্নলিখিত ভরাত করা জমি ক্রয়ের লক্ষে সরাসরি জমির মালিক হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী মালিকগণকে দরপত্রের সাথে জমির আরএস খতিয়ান, এসএ খতিয়ান, বিএস খতিয়ান নম্বর ও দাগ নম্বর, নামজারী রেকর্ডপত্র, হালনাগাদ খাজনা প্রদানের রশিদ, জমির দলিল, জমির বায়া দলিলসহ সংযুক্ত করতঃ প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, প্রাইম ব্যাংক ফাউন্ডেশন বরাবরে আগামী ১৫/১২/২০২৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় অবশ্যই প্রতি শতক জমির মূল্য উল্লেখসহ সর্বমোট মূল্য দাখিল করতে হবে। টেন্ডেশন নং -৮৮০৯৬১০৯০২৩৯৩

(Md. Zabdul Islam)
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ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারালিস শিখার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৯২৩৮ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1032