

## Madrasah students can't be enrolled in 2 DU depts: HC

Staff Correspondent

THE High Court on Wednesday withdrew its order that had stayed the Dhaka University syndicate's decision disqualifying madrasah students from taking admission to the economics and development studies courses in the university in the current academic session.

The same bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhamunad Khurshid Alam Sarkar on Tuesday stayed the university's

decision of disqualifying madrasah students from taking admission to ten departments — Bangla, English, linguistics, international relations, sociology, women and gender studies, mass communications and journalism, population science, economics and development studies.

The court passed Tuesday's order asking the university authorities to explain why the decision regarding admission to ten departments would not be declared illegal.

The court passed the order after hearing a writ petition filed by a group of madrasah students, who had already qualified in the current academics sessions.

The university syndicate had earlier decided not to consider Islamic economics, which madrasah students study at the higher secondary level, to be equivalent to economics in the case of admission to bachelor (honours) courses of the economics and the development studies department.

It also decided not to allow madrasah students to take admission to the eight other departments as they had not studied Bangla and English courses of 200 marks each.

The writ petition was filed with reference to a verdict of the High Court delivered in December 2010 allowing madrasah students to take admission to the nine departments excepting the Development Studies.

Imran Siddik and Mohammad Shishir Monir act-

ed for the petitioners while deputy attorney general Mokhlesur Rahman acted for the government.

Both the counsel told reporters that there was no legal bar on madrasah students, who have qualified in the admission tests, to take admission to eight departments.

Madrasah students cannot take admission to departments of economics, and development studies even if they have qualified for admission, after the HC order, they said.