

Temporary staffs run NTRCA

Second certification test uncertain

ASHIQUIR RAHMAN

The Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) is yet to be fully operational due to lack of adequate manpower and infrastructural facilities.

The authority was formed more than 10 months back to issue certificates to candidates willing to get teaching jobs in private schools and colleges.

No one has so far been appointed permanently in any of its total 149 posts.

Four top posts including chairman of the NTRCA were temporarily filled up by senior government officials to arrange the first certification test on November 25 and 26 last year.

Presently, the posts of chairman and two members are lying vacant. Talking to education ministry

officials, it was learnt that the first certification test was held with the assistance of the officials and staffs of Dhaka Board.

But the next test has become uncertain as the board personnel will remain busy till July for SSC and HSC examinations.

"We shall have to wait for them to hold another teachers' certification test as the NTRCA still lacks necessary facilities," said Gazi Md Ahsanul Kabir, one senior member of the authority.

He, however, hoped that the NTRCA would not be dependent on other bodies for long citing that the work on filling up of its different posts has progressed significantly.

Meanwhile, there is a growing demand for holding another certification test as early as possible as the first test was held simultaneously depriving many candidates to appear both for school and

college certificates.

"It is totally unfair as I am interested in getting both the certificates," said Ashraf Uddin, a candidate of the first test.

He also alleged that the first certification test was held only on 45 elective subjects while there are more than 150 subjects in the syllabus of schools, colleges, madrasas and vocational institutions.

Prof Shaheda Obaed, NTRCA former member (Evaluation and Examination) also acknowledged the limitations of the first certification test.

"We had to arrange the first test within a very short time depending on the voluntary service of the officials and staffs of Dhaka Board," she added.

Prof Shaheda also stressed the need for arranging the second certification test as early as possi-

ble as the candidates appeared in the first examination amid various limitations.

Kabir, also the chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), hoped that the NTRCA would be able to arrange the next certification test comprising more than 100 elective subjects.

Thousands of posts in non-government educational institutions have been lying vacant for about a year because of delay in arranging the certification test.

According to Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority Act 2005 which came into effect on March 20, a candidate must have the NTRCA certificate to be recruited in non-government junior and high schools, colleges, madrasas, technical and business management institutions.



Asma Kibria, wife of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, discusses a point with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at a meeting at the Diploma Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city yesterday. Awami League organised the meeting in memory of Shah AMS Kibria on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

'Bring Kibria killers to book'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Rajshahi University at a rally yesterday demanded fair investigation and speedy trial of the killers of Kibria.

BCL brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus to mark the first death anniversary of veteran Awami League leader and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, who was killed in a grenade attack in January 27 last year.

The leaders said defeated forces of the Liberation War emerging as Islamist militants have been carrying out bomb attacks across the country.

They also demanded reinvestigation into the Kibria killing case alleging that the masterminds of the killing have not been brought to light or accused in the charge sheet of the case.

They threatened to launch a tougher movement against the government if the killers were not punished.

RU BCL vice president Tapos Kumar and joint secretary Ujjal also spoke at the rally.

JU convocation on Feb 2

JU CORRESPONDENT

The third convocation of Jahangirnagar University (JU) is going to be held on the campus on February 2 amid much enthusiasm and festivity.

The programme will begin with a colourful procession of the graduates led by President and Chancellor Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmad at 11:00am on the day. The Chancellor will preside over the ceremony while former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal will deliver a speech as convocation speaker. Dr M Osman Faruk, minister for education, and ANM Ehsanul Hoque, state minister for education, will be present in the ceremony.

The university authorities confirmed that all preparations have been completed to make the event a success. A total of 2,729 students who have completed their bachelor (honours) and master degrees from 1998 to 2003 will receive their academic certificates on the convocation day. Though about 4,500 students completed the degrees in the mentioned period, the rest did not get registered to attend the function. Certificates will also be given to 20 M Phil and 48 Ph D degree holders from the university while 13 students will receive gold medals for their outstanding academic achievement.

The distribution of convocation gowns will continue till January 31 and all students have been requested to collect gowns in time.

13 buses will ply from different points of the capital to the university on the scheduled routes from 8:30am on the convocation day for the convenience of the participants. The bus schedules were published in national dailies.

The students of JU will organise a colourful cultural programme in the evening.

An estimated Tk 54 lakhs will be spent for the ceremony. Of which the university authorities will seek an assistance of Tk 22 lakhs from the University Grants Commission while the rest will come from students' registration fees and donations.

BPRA election on Feb 28

UNB, Dhaka

The 10th biennial conference, general meeting and election of Bangladesh Public Relations Association (BPRA) will be held on February 28.

PR professionals have been requested to enroll or renew their membership by February 10. PR professionals can also contribute write-ups in the souvenir to be published on the occasion.

For further information, PR professionals can contact General Secretary Mirza Tarequl Qader, Organising Secretary Shaikh Sadeque Ahmed and Publication and Publicity Secretary Mohammad Abdul Khaleque.

Hasina slates charge sheet against Dohar party men

UNB, Dhaka

Denouncing the submission of charge sheet in a "false" case against her party leaders and workers, especially business tycoon Salman F Rahman, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday termed it as the worst example of political vendetta of BNP-Jamaat alliance.

In a statement, Hasina, also leader of the opposition in parliament, said cadres of Nazmul Huda attacked the AL leaders and workers while observing National Mourning Day on August 15 at Dohar last year.

After the incident, Huda filed a criminal case against 102 people, including Asaduzzaman Noor MP, Advocate Abdul Mannan and over 1400 unnamed party workers abusing his power.

Hasina said after five months of the incident police submitted the charge sheet implicating AL leader Salman F Rahman in the case along with others.

Describing the case as the latest instance of "misrule" of BNP-Jamaat alliance, Hasina called upon the people to stand united against it.

INCIDENTS OF MUGGING RAMPANT AT JU One beaten to death

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students beat an alleged mugger to death on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus on Friday night.

A group of over 60 students beat Omar Faruk Nayan, son of Wahidur Rahman of Pandua in Ashulia, at around 8:30pm when he along with two others tried to rob a boy and a girl who were sitting on the field of Jahangirnagar School and College.

Receiving information, Faruk's parents rushed to the spot and rescued him in a critical condition. But he died on the way to hospital, police said.

As the incidents of mugging in the area have become rampant due to lax security, the students set a trap to catch the muggers and Nayan had walked straight into it.

They placed the boy and the girl on the field and hid themselves behind the bushes.

When Nayan and the two others came close to the boy and the girl, the students surged out from their hiding places and managed to catch only one person. The two others fled.

The students said the same group robbed two of their fellows in the same place on Wednesday.

Sources alleged that at least four gangs of muggers having links with a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

(JCD) activists are active on the campus.

But the university authorities remained indifferent to such acts, they added.

A murder case has been filed with Ashulia Police Station in connection with the death of Nayan.

Attack on Keraniganj Swechchhasebak League leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convener of Awami League Keraniganj Upazila Unit Nasrul Hamid Dipu yesterday condemned the attack on local Awami Swechchhasebak League leader by the cadres of Jubo Dal and JCD, youth and student fronts of the ruling BNP.

Protesting the attack that caused injuries to Shah Selim Babu's head and other parts of the body, Nasrul Hamid demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers, said a press release.

Selim is undergoing treatment at a local clinic.

A group of local Jubo Dal and JCD cadres attacked Shah Selim Babu, president of Shuvadda union unit of Awami Swechchhasebak League on Friday.



Police stand guard on the Siddheswari University College campus in the city yesterday after a group of students allegedly assaulted the principal of the college.

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