

MBBS ADMISSION TEST

HC asks govt to maintain status quo until today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court Division yesterday directed the government to maintain a status quo on the MBBS admission test of 14 government medical colleges for the sessions 2006-2007 until today.

The bench comprising Justice Mohammad Awlad Ali and Justice Mainul Islam Chowdhury directed health secretary, Director General of Directorate of Health, Director of Medical Education and Health and Manpower Development and Principals of Dhaka and Salimullah Medical colleges to maintain the status quo.

The order came following a writ petition filed by five candidates: Tanvir Ahmed, Kazi Nahida Sultana, Hasan Moudud, Sadia Nujhat and Faysal Talukder challenging the legality of the examination.

In the writ, the petitioners said the question paper was leaked out early hours of November 17 and less qualified students bought the paper and sat for the admission test that led the brilliant students fall short.

Meanwhile, agitation of the general students continued yesterday for the fifth consecutive day demanding cancellation of the admission test and holding a fresh examination.

The students brought out a procession and staged a sit-in in front of the central Shaheed Minar in the city. They will also hold a sit-in at the Shaheed Minar and form a human chain in front of the High Court today.

In another development, guardians and students who passed the MBBS admission test organised a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday urging the authorities not to cancel the result published on November 22 and to take necessary steps to start the admission process.

They said the agitating section started the movement after the publishing of the result though they claimed that the question paper was leaked out prior to the admission test.

Naimul Hasan Plabon who got chance to study at Sir Salimullah Medical College at an emotion choked voice questioned "Why should we suffer even if the question paper was leaked out for a group of

corrupt people."

"Who can ensure that the fresh admission test would be fair where the rumour of question paper leak out arises almost every year after the MBBS admission test," said a guardian of a student.

Director, medical education, Prof Khandakar Safayetullah told the Daily Star that a five-member investigation committee was formed yesterday. Decisions would be taken after three days following the reports of the evaluation committee.

However, earlier Prof Safayet said they had not received any written complaint in this regard and there is no provision of cancelling the admission test after the publishing of the result.

Bangladesh Engineering University Teachers' (Buet) Association expressed concern over the issue of the leaking out of the question paper of MBBS admission test and demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the evil activities.

Hajj flights begin

UNB, Dhaka

The first batch of 301 Bangladeshi pilgrims left Dhaka for Jeddah yesterday by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines starting off this year's Hajj operation.

Aizul Huq, adviser of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, inaugurated Hajj flights at a simple ceremony at the Zia International Airport. Information and Religious Affairs Adviser Mahbul Alam was present as special guest.

A total of 48,000 Bangladeshi pilgrims will perform the Hajj this year. Of them, Biman is expected to ferry 32,354 devotees.

Saudia, the national airlines of Saudi Arabia, will carry 12,000 pilgrims and the rest pilgrims will be carried by other airlines.

Biman's first phase of Hajj Operation-2007 will complete on December 22. Biman will bring back the pilgrims to Bangladesh from January 3 to February 1, 2007.

Some 67 Biman flights, including yesterday's three flights, to Jeddah will be operated in the first phase while about the same number of flights will be operated on the way back. Biman will also operate six flights from Chittagong to Jeddah.

Of 48,000, some 2,505 pilgrims, better known as ballottees, will perform Hajj under direct supervision of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In addition to its one of DC-10, Biman has procured one wide-bodied Boeing 747 from Air Atlanta on lease to ferry the pilgrims.

Inaugurating flights, Adviser Aizul Huq said his ministry has done to the best of the ability to ensure that the pilgrims could perform Hajj smoothly.

Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Shahid Alam presided over the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Chhatra Sangram Parishad stages a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

'Remove Zakaria to reform EC'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Chhatra Sangram Parishad (CSP), a combine of 14-party combine backed student organisations, yesterday urged the President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed to reform the election commission through removing Election Commissioner SM Zakaria and other controversial officials.

They said reform of Election Commission (EC) is a must for holding a free, fair and neutral election. They threatened to launch tougher agitations to oust him if he fails to prove his neutrality.

Leaders of the CSP, led by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), at a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city said BNP-Jamaat alliance government has destroyed congenial atmosphere in the educational institutes through

politicisation, anarchy, corruption and distortion of history.

They urged the president to remove all "politically appointed" vice-chancellors and proctors of public universities to bring back congenial atmosphere.

They reiterated their 10-point demand to be met immediately that they articulated at a press conference on November 2.

The 10-point demand included reopening of country's public universities immediately and bringing back congenial atmosphere at educational institutes, arrest of the armed cadres of JCD and ICS on Dhaka University campus and release of the CSP leaders arrested during the BNP-Jamaat government in the last five years.

A number of former BCL and JSD BCL leaders including Nazmul Haq Proshan, Shahe Alam, Asim

Kumar Ukil, SM Kamal, Noor Ahmed Bakul, Shafi Ahmed, Ruhul Kuddus Babu, Enamul Haq Shamim, Ishaq Ali Khan Panna, Karim Sikder, Liakat Sikder, Nazrul Islam Babu and others attended the rally.

Hasan Ripon, president of BCL, presided over the rally while Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury Roton, general secretary, conducted.

JSD BCL President Shariful Kabir Swapon, General Secretary Ali Hasan Tarun, Chhatra Moitree President Rafiqul Islam Sujan, Jatiya Chhatra Dhara president Bijoy Talukdar, Chhatra Samiti Convener Mustak Ahmed and Chhatra Andolon president Kanak Barua, leaders of the CSP organisations from different part of the city were present.

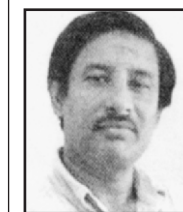
CPB reiterates demand for reforms in EC

Criticising the president/chief adviser for his role in holding a free and fair election, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday said he has kept the same administration engineered by the BNP-Jamaat government, says a press release.

In a statement CPB President Manzurul Hossain Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the country people would not accept any election if it is held under this politicised administration.

They demanded for reconstitution of the election commission (CE) for the sake of a free and fair election. Otherwise, the president/chief adviser would be responsible if any untoward situation arises, they warned.

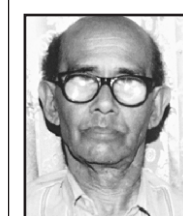
Obituary



GMA Quesem, proctor of North South University, passed away due to cancer at Apollo Hospitals in Kolkata on November 24, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two children, many students and colleagues to mourn his death.

Abu Al-Alam



Abu Al-Alam, sub-editor of The Muslim Times, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence at Kafrul in the city yesterday at the age of 73, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

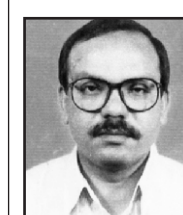


Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Amirunnesa Begum, the first woman president of Nikhil Bangla Muslim League, says a press release.

She is also the wife of language movement activist, editor of monthly "Shabuj" and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of undivided Bengal late Khan Shaheb M Osman Ali.

A small mahfil will be held after Zohr prayers at the deceased's residence "Baitul Aman" in Narayanganj.

Quikhwani



Quikhwani of Tozammel Hoque, a businessman and social worker, will be held at his house at 22/5, C Block, Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away due to kidney complications at Birdem Hospital on Friday night at the age of 55. He was buried at Azimur Graveyard.

He left behind his wife and two sons to mourn his death.

Doa mahfil



A doa mahfil in memory of late Suraiya Begum will be held at her house at Bijoy Nagar in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Suraiya Begum, wife of late Nazrul Islam, former chairman of Navana Limited, passed away at Apollo Hospitals on November 24. She is survived by two sons, two daughters and six grandchildren.



PHOTO: PID

Nepalese Foreign Secretary Bhagirath Basnet calls on President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Deprived teachers to hold convention on Dec 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National convention of the teachers who have been deprived in the last five years, organised by National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), has been rescheduled to be held on December 2 instead of today.

The themes that will be discussed in the convention at Engineers' Institute include statement of teacher representatives on politicisation of the education sector and repression and probable measures to stop repressions.

They will also urge the president/Chief Adviser to handover the charge of education sector to any adviser.

The convention will begin at 11:00am and it is expected that Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the day-long function, said leaders of NFTE, a platform of 11-teachers and employees organisations.

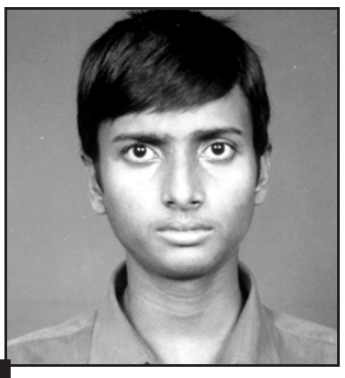
At a press conference at the National Press Club, NFTE Chief Co-ordinator and Convenor Prof Quazi Faruque said they have identified teachers who have been oppressed in six ways in the last five years. They are sacking teachers from their jobs, preventing them from entering educational institutes, issuing orders to stop payments, depriving them of two and eight year time scale, depriving institutes of MPO saying they lack manpower structure and dilly-dallying to bring teachers under MPO.

He warned that they will enforce tougher agitations if the caretaker

government does not cancel the conditional circular of depositing tuition fees to the government fund against enjoying cent per cent salary from government exchequer.

According to the circular issued by education ministry, teachers will have to deposit tuition fees collected from students to the government fund.

Among others, NFTE leaders Mohammad Azizul Islam, Prof Shahjahan, Prof Asadul Haq, Prof Abdur Rashid, SMA Jalil, Prof Ali Chowdhury Manik, Bilkis Jaman, Abdul Mannan and MArju were also present at the conference.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raihan, a minor boy of nine, has been suffering from Double Heart Valve Disease.

He needs replacement with artificial heart valves which will cost Tk 5 lakh.

His father Md Muslim Uddin, being a very poor man is unable to bear the cost of expensive surgery.

He has therefore appealed to the affluent section of the society to extend generous help for the treatment of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Account No 1365, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, New Market Branch, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Interested persons can also contact Md Muslim Uddin, East Rasulpur, PO Kamrangir Char, PS Kamrangir Char, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Cell Phone No 01190144974.

JU ADMISSION TESTS 11 fake examinees arrested

JU CORRESPONDENT

11 fake examinees were held during the admission tests under Ga unit for 2006-2007 academic session at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

A team comprising the proctor and security officials held the examinees for adopting unfair means during the admission tests for Bangla, Philosophy and Drama and Dramatics departments under Ga unit. Later, the examinees were freed after giving written statements. The fake examinees will not be able to participate in other admission tests.

Meanwhile, many applicants failed to get their examination rooms due to inconsistency in the sit plan, applicants alleged.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said, adding that night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 13.4 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:10pm today and rises at 6:22am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in Celsius	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.8	18.5	78	40
Chittagong	28.4	19.1	73	84
Rajshahi	28.3	14.8	66	74
Khulna	30.0	21.5	75	77
Barisal	29.5	20.0	96	91
Sylhet	27.7	17.8	90	61
Cox's Bazar	30.0	19.6	65	73

Mahmud to hold more meetings in future

FROM PAGE 1 retired government official," he said at a press conference at his Artisan Ceramics office at Uttara.

Mahmud also expressed his surprise at the reaction of the government, 14-party alliance leaders and former bureaucrats over the incident.

About the government initiative to investigate the government officials' visiting his office, Mahmud said, "If the government officials are punished for attending an invitation of a former colleague, the two advisers should also be punished for visiting Sheikh Hasina without using government vehicle."

On having such a huge circle of friends, the former executive chairman of Board of Investment (BoI) said his long career at different professional bodies and being the president of four associations and clubs and member of several others have earned him the acquaintance of a good number of people.

Mahmud, however, could not name more than four of his 30 guests, saying he does not remember all the names, or even if he does, he is not bound to mention their names as it is his private matter.

Mahmud blasted the media for

presenting "distorted" news, labelling its activity as that of paparazzi.

"The way the media behaved on Friday surpassed the stories about paparazzi," he said, adding that the media violated his privacy and civic right as he no longer holds any public office.

In reply to a query, he, however, said he will not take any legal action against the media, but he reminded the reporters of the law protecting a citizen's privacy.

Mahmud claimed that none of the secretaries named in different newspapers over the last two days were invited to his party.

Referring to a photograph showing a person hiding the face with a blue jacket, he said none of his guests was clad that way.

Asked how the photographers got that picture then, he said, "Either that person was just a pedestrian or it was a made-up photograph."

Referring to Jubo League President Jahangir Kabir Nanak's threat at a public meeting to demolish his house, Mahmud termed the reaction "fascist". He criticised the media for not condemning Nanak's behaviour.

Asked why the officials hid their

face, he said, "They have not only embarrassed themselves, they have also embarrassed me as the host."

Defending them, he, however, said, "Leave the mid-level government officials, any citizen would be embarrassed if approached that way."

Mahmud also blasted a former bureaucrat, who in an interview expressed his anxiety over the politicisation of bureaucrats. "That bureaucrat himself ordered deputy commissioners to act for a party during the 1996 elections," Mahmud said.

Security guard dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard died after falling from roof of a three-storey building at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Mohammad Sujan, 24, who worked at the house of one Azizur Rahman at Dhanmondi, fell from the roof at around 10:45am while he was checking the water tank.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.



Award giving ceremony

Award giving ceremony of Munir Chowdhury Award and Mohammad Zakaria Memorial Award will be held commemorating the 81st birth anniversary of Munir Chowdhury. Venue: Mahila Samity auditorium. Time: 6:30pm.

Jazz concert

Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts and Royal Norwegian Embassy jointly organise a jazz concert. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 6:30pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Medical Association will hold a discussion to mark the 16th death anniversary of Dr Milan. Venue: Dhaka Medical College premises. Time: 9:30am.

Munir Chy's birthday today



The 81st birth anniversary of Shaheed Professor Munir Chowdhury, a pioneer of modern drama in the country, will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the occasion the Theatre will organise a function at Mahila Samity at 6:30pm.

Names of this year's recipients of Munir Chowdhury Award and Mohammad Zakaria Memorial Award will be announced and awards will be handed over at the function.

Theatre President Prof Kabir Chowdhury will preside over the function, while eminent writer Hasan Azizul Huq will attend it as chief guest.

Golden jubilee of DU sociology dept

The sociology department of Dhaka University will celebrate its golden jubilee in the last week of January, says a press release.

All former student of the department are requested to contact the office of Dhaka University Sociology Alumni Association at 61 Central Road (Tel: 8628375) from 4:00pm to 9:00pm for registration.

Registration for membership and participation is open till December 10.

For further details, interested persons are requested to contact Md Faruk Hossain (0171-5697135), Syed Rezaur Rahman (0152-399198) or Mir Ahmed Miru (01199-804595).

Concern over delay in appointing new ECs

FROM PAGE 1

commissioners although Bangabhaban on last Thursday had summoned the EC secretary there and he stayed in the president's office for a long time with necessary documents to prepare a summary of the appointments, sources said.

EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar, however yesterday said the president is still considering the matter of the appointments.

Meanwhile, Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury yesterday said the assumption of the post of acting chief election commissioner by Justice Mahfuz is unconstitutional.

"We the advisers discussed the issue, talked with constitutional experts and came to a consensus that the assumption of the post of acting chief election commissioner was unconstitutional," the adviser said.

He also said the much talked about two new election commissioners should be appointed immediately.

Talking to The Daily Star on last Thursday, the day Justice Mahfuz made himself the acting CEC, former CEC Abu Hena disapproved of the move and said it is the president's jurisdiction to decide the next step in a situation like this.

"In such an extraordinary situation, the president will decide who will act as the CEC," Abu Hena said.

But Justice Mahfuz yesterday told reporters that he assumed the post in accordance with the laws although the provision for acting CEC does not exist in the constitution. "I have become the acting chief election commissioner in accordance with a judgement of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in 2000. The move did not require the president's direction," he claimed.

Justice Mahfuz said they are planning to announce the election schedule within this month, only a week of which is left.

It was learnt that the advisers to the caretaker government, who

initiated the step towards making the EC credible, wanted to see a CEC from the yet to be appointed new election commissioners.

But the day after the president's address to the nation, Election Commissioner Justice Mahfuz in a surprise move convened an EC meeting and authorised himself as the acting CEC with support of the two other election commissioners - SM Zakaria and Mahmud Hasan Mansur.

Justice Mahfuz yesterday again claimed that there is no scope for changing the decision that made him the acting CEC with a majority opinion of the commission based on seniority among the commissioners.

EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar, yesterday in a press briefing however said there is no legal binding for making the senior most election commissioner the acting CEC. "A new decision can be taken after appointment of two more election commissioners. But the decision should be taken with the majority's opinion," he said claiming,

"It did not require directions from the president."

Rashid Sarkar also said CEC MA Aziz did not resign, rather he took a leave of absence for three months. "Before taking the leave of absence, he informed me about his decision. I informed the rest of the election commissioners and requested them to decide who will act as the chief election commissioner," he added.

Replying to a query, the secretary said, "The CEC cannot discharge any official duty as he is on a leave. He can return to his office by cancelling his leave. But it is possible for him to do that in the wake of the prevailing situation?"

Meanwhile, Adviser to the Caretaker Government Dr Akbar Ali Khan told the media yesterday that after the two new election commissioners are appointed, the expanded EC may decide to rescind the earlier decision of making Justice Mahfuz the acting CEC, since the decision was not made by the president.