

HC stay on MBBS test overruled

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday overruled the order of a High Court division bench that stayed the admission process for the MBBS course at public medical colleges.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain passed the order and directed the parties to dispose of the rule, which is pending with the High Court.

On November 27, some

unsuccessful candidates filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legitimacy of the MBBS admission test as they alleged that the question paper was leaked the night before the test. On the allegation, the court stayed the admission process.

Staying the admission process, the High Court issued the rule upon the government to explain why the MBBS admission test should not be declared illegal.

Firearms seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A huge quantity of firearms and ammunitions were seized and seven criminals were arrested during a countrywide raid in last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday, says a police press release.

Different teams of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Chittagong Metropolitan Police, District Police and Rapid Action Battalion recovered 25 firearms, 22 round of bullets and seven other arms during the raid.

Seven criminals were arrested and six cases were filed in this connection.

The State of Governance in Bangladesh: Knowledge, Perceptions, Realities



Eminent economist Wahiduddin Mahmud speaks at the launching ceremony of the "State of Governance Report 2006" in the city yesterday. On his left is Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

Pre-bid meet with 3 companies on Sirajganj power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Power Cell yesterday held a pre-bid meeting with three power companies on the 450 megawatt (MW) Sirajganj power plant with the

aim to close the project's tender by January 21, sources said.

The meeting was participated by representatives of US company AES Transpower, Malaysian company YTL Power International Berhad and Indian company GMR Energy Ltd and its local partner Cosmos Engineering.

Three other companies British Globelac, Bangladeshi Summit group and US-Irish Cadogan-Manning purchased pre-bid documents, but did not join the meeting.

The Sirajganj project is viewed as a symbol of failure of the immediate past 4-party alliance government in the power sector, as it had cancelled the project's first bid back in 2004 at the final stage. If that bid was not cancelled, the project would have started generating power by now. The Power Cell has been failing to float a bid for the last two years.

In July, the Power Cell finalised the pre-qualification document, relaxing criterion to allow participation of less qualified power companies. As a result, a novice company like Cadogan-Manning, that has zero experience in power sector, became pre-qualified to participate.

One of the pre-qualification criteria demanded that the bidder must have an experience of designing, constructing and developing at least 300 MW combined cycle power plants in maximum two sites. The inexperienced bidder may qualify, if it has a partner with such an experience but that partner should have minimum 10 percent equity in the project.

As Cadogan-Manning has never built a power plant, they showed names of different experienced power companies which are holding 10 percent or more equity with their bids for the Sirajganj power project.

158 under-trial prisoners freed

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to set free 158 under-trial prisoners with minor charges, on the occasion of the Victory Day.

An official order yesterday said: "The government expects that the freed persons will lead their life as good citizens and play due role in socio-economic development."