

Move to challenge SSC results

Star Report

Most of Dhaka's famous schools are disappointed at the recently announced Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination results under the Dhaka Board and plan to challenge them.

"We have many questions about the markings in Islamiat and General Science (Second Part). Most of the students of our school got below 60," the Headmaster of the Government Laboratory School told The Daily Star over telephone.

He said that there was little hope of improving the results as the answer scripts are not re-examined after being challenged but just rescrutinised.

The head of the institution said that four of the 100 students appearing from his school were placed in the merit list (7th, 10th and 17th), 37 got star marks while the rest of the students except one got the First Division.

"We expected better results than this and it would be possible if our students scored higher marks in Islamiat and General Science (Second Part)," he said.

The other school authorities contemplating to challenge the results are Agrad School, Udayan School, Vikarunessa School, University Laboratory School and the BDR High School.

Besides some guardians are also planning to challenge the results of their children who failed to score desired results because of scoring poor marks in a single paper.

The Board authorities announced October 19 as the last date of challenging the results, a Board source said.

Controller of the Dhaka Board Younus Ali Dewan said that so far 30 applications have been submitted challenging the results.

"We have nothing to do with allegations arising this year as we are 100 per cent meticulous in following the existing laws of the Board," he said adding that "the Board rules do not permit re-examination of the scripts."

He also said 75 per cent of the 4,000 teachers under the Dhaka Board are bearing the grade 'A'.

"We do not engage any 'C' grade teacher as examiners," he said adding that "the graduation is determined by the confidential reports of the head examiners."

He, however, confessed that marking varies from teacher to teacher. Citing an example he said that in 1980, 28 copies of an answer script were made and given to 28 examiners. None of the marks was similar, he added.

"Without computerising the system, such problem won't be eliminated," he said and added that "we constantly alert our teachers about being sincere and accurate while marking the scripts."

He also said that only one or two per cent of the results is usually changed through the challenge of scripts.

Last year about 150 scripts were challenged but only two or three faults were found in the tabulation sheets.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia addressing the officers and jawans at Dhaka Cantonment on Monday. Army Chief Lt Gen Muhammad Nooruddin Khan was also present. — PID photo

Diarrhoea death toll rises to 819

Forty-four persons died Monday of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases which have broken out in an epidemic form in most of the flooded areas of the country, official sources said, reports BSS.

With this, the death toll due to these diseases rose to 819.

According to the sources, a total of 50,163 people have been attacked with these diseases since September 1. Of them, 3,232 people have been attacked in Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Sherpur Monday.

Of the fresh deaths, four each from Joypurhat and Kishoreganj, three each from Rangpur, Netrakona, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Chandpur, two each from Panchagar, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Bogra and Naogaon and one each from Gaibandha, Rajshahi, Serajganj, Pabna, Jamalpur, Sunamganj and Sylhet were reported.

The sources further said an 18-member high powered team of officials of the Health Department will go to the diarrhoea affected areas today to monitor and provide medicare facilities in the areas.

When contacted, a high Health official, who just returned after a 10-day visit to

the diarrhoea-affected areas said that the stool of about 250 diarrhoea attacked persons have been brought to Dhaka for pathological test to diagnose the norms of disease.

When further asked why the death toll in the disease is rising, despite disease management preparations, and official said most of the attacked persons were found suffering from malnutrition.

The monitoring cell of the Directorate of Health told BSS that the two trucks loaded with medicines, which had left Sunday for diarrhoea-stricken areas, had been stranded in the Aricha ferry ghat, due to transport strike.

Meanwhile, UNICEF donated a sizeable quantity of

medicines worth about Taka 35 lakh to the programme of officer of the diarrhoea control department. The medicines include tetracycline capsule, I V fluid, Naladexic acid and Butterfly needles.

An official handout said, the Department of Public Health and Engineering had undertaken extensive measures for ensuring availability of pure drinking water in the flood and diarrhoea-prone areas of the country.

Under an emergency rehabilitation programme, the department has so far repaired 13,090 tubewells out of 19,425 tubewells damaged in the 19 districts affected by recent floods.

Two hundred eleven tubewells have been sunk and 182 resunk in the most affected areas. A total of 6,551 tubewells have been purified by applying bleaching powder and 1,773 tubewells raised above flood water levels.

Meanwhile, a monitoring control cell for prompt repair and rehabilitation of tubewells in the flood and diarrhoea affected areas has been opened at Segunbagicha division of the department.

Four senior-level officers of the department have been deputed to supervise the tubewell rehabilitation drive.

PM

From Page 1 Col. 7

She said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had pioneered modernisation and expansion of the army for building efficient, well-organised and well-trained armed forces.

The Prime Minister said the army personnel are considered patriotic, disciplined and trained as they begin their career with pledge to protect country's independence and sovereignty at the cost of their lives.

She emphasised maintenance of utmost discipline and training to achieve professional excellence by the army.

Begum Zia noted with happiness that the armed forces had acquired recognition and respect of all for their patriotism, discipline and professional standard.

She recalled the glorious contribution of army in the War of Liberation and said they had also earned appreciation home and abroad for their active cooperation in different natural disasters, particularly in the April 29 cyclone and floods.

The army, she said, had set an example of cooperation and coordination by working hand in hand with the ministers, public representatives, local leaders, foreign volunteers and NGOs at times of people's miseries during the cyclone.

Begum Zia thanked them for discharging duties for holding the parliament election and referendum in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere.

The Prime Minister also mentioned that the armed forces were now taking part in the construction of flood protection barrages, erosion checking measures in different parts of the country and working with the people in the Ulshi-Jadunathpur Project in Rangpur.

On her arrival at Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment, the Prime Minister was received by Adjutant General Major General Mohammad Azizur Rahman.

Begum Zia said the glorious role of army in protecting the holy land of Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war had given a boost to the image of the country as well as cemented Bangladesh's relations with the Muslim countries.

She also lauded the army's participation in United Nations missions and in the reconstruction of Kuwait, ravaged by Iraqi invasion.

On the country's development, the Prime Minister stressed the need for increasing agricultural production and optimum utilisation of natural resources.

"Ours is a small country stricken by poverty, natural disasters and meagre natural resources," she said, underscoring steps for exploration and utilisation of natural resources to redirect the nation towards progress.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan was present at the meeting.

Earlier, the Prime Minister was given a ceremonial guard of honour by a smartly tuned contingent of army. She took salute and inspected the parade.

Begum Zia also visited the Army Headquarters and exchanged views with the senior army officers. PSO to Supreme Commander Brig M S A Bhuiyan accompanied the Prime Minister.

KAFCO

From Page 1 Col. 8

cessional price, and guarantee for repayment of entire 229 million dollar to foreign banks.

Sources close to the meeting said the cabinet dwelt at length the observations of the committee on price of gas. The agreement stipulated that the gas will be supplied at 75 cent per 1000 cft as against the international commercial rate of 3 dollars.

The four-member cabinet felt that the agreement was 'inequitable and unfair'.

A Japanese trade delegation that visited Dhaka last month at a meeting with Finance Minister Saifur Rahman gave a broad hint that work on KAFCO may be suspended if the government failed to issue early the letter of guarantee for payment of project loan.

The Midnight File

Romanian security chief predicts more trouble

BUCHAREST (Romania), Sept 30: The intelligence chief told parliament Monday that a drastic revision of the country's leadership was necessary to avoid an escalation of the unrest that last week brought down the government. Striking miners who commandeered trains from their Jiu Valley homes northwest of Bucharest and stormed the capital were just back at work on Monday as the area was quiet, reports AP.

Tadzhik parliament lifts emergency

DUSHANBE (USSR) Sept 30: The Communist-dominated Parliament lifted its state of emergency Monday, only eight days after the decree touched off a crisis that brought tens of thousands of protesters to the legislature's door. But after voting 178-0 to end the state of emergency, the special session of the legislature demurred on other protesters' demands, reports AP.

Soviets will begin talks on Bush proposal

MOSCOW, Sept 30: The Soviet Union will begin immediate talks with United States on President Bush's sweeping arms control proposals, and may make some unilateral cuts. Foreign Ministry officials said Monday. The Soviet Union also would like to expand the proposals to include nuclear testing, and to bring other nuclear countries into the talks, the officials said at a press conference, reports AP.

AL agitates in front of Foreign Office today

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City unit of Awami League will hold a demonstration in front of the foreign ministry today (Tuesday) at 11 am in protest against what it called the 'conspiracy to assassinate party chief Sheikh Hasina' in London.

Juba League and Chhatra League will join the demonstration.

The demonstration will follow a rally in front of the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 10.30 am. Central and city leaders will address it.

Abdus Samad alleged that conspiracy has been hatched to kill Hasina at a moment when she was carrying forward the movement for people's emancipation. 'Meeting between killer Dalim and Khalistan leaders in London during Hasina's stay there was part of that conspiracy', Azad said.

Azad demanded of the government that the "killers", now with diplomatic jobs in Bangladesh missions abroad, be called back immediately.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 5

Sunday night with former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, who is the opposition candidate for the presidency.

Earlier reports said the Scotland Yard is providing protection to the opposition leader after a plot was unearthed that she is on the hit list of an international terrorist group.

Hasina left here last Thursday on an organisational tour to London and Paris. Party General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP is accompanying her.

JS summoned

From Page 1 Col. 7

Rahman Biswas.

According to BNP insiders the incumbent Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali will be elevated to the post of Speaker while a new person will be inducted as Deputy Speaker.

BNP insiders further said that the names of two persons are being discussed for the post of Deputy Speaker. One of them is Abdur Rab Chowdhury, MP, now heading the Private Members Bill Scrutiny Committee of Parliament and the other is Barrister Aminul Haque, MP, from Rajshahi.

As there is no member in the cabinet from Rajshahi, the name of Barrister Aminul Haque has come up.

Parliament secretariat sources said that the election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker should be conducted simultaneously. But the Deputy Speaker cannot preside over his own election as per the Rules of Procedure. As such an arrangement must be made to conduct the election of Speaker.

The sources said that a senior member of the panel of chairmen in parliament may be chosen to preside over the election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Before election of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali will have to resign first if he is nominated for the post of Speaker.

Besides the election of Speaker, the next session will have to pass many ordinances including the ordinances amending the Procedure of Presidential Election.

Observers believe that the next session will be a stormy one as the Awami League will this time press for the passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill notified in April 4 last and now being scrutinised by a Special Committee.

DESA

From Page 1 Col. 8

tion and reducing system loss which inflicts on PDB an annual loss of about Tk 800 crore.

But its launching, scheduled for last November, was deferred four times amid stiff resistance from the PDB workers and employees, incurring donors' wrath.

Following government's failure to launch DESA, IDA early September suspended about 150 million US dollar in credit for power sector development.

On September 25, an agreement signed between the administration and the PDB trade unions paved the way for its formal operation.

Explaining the necessity of a separate body for power distribution, Alam said the number of consumers across the country grew to about 13 lakh from five lakh in 1980, and some 3,63,000 are in greater Dhaka alone.

The demand for power also increased from 450 megawatt to about 1700 megawatt during the period.

"It should have been done much earlier," the DESA Chairman said, adding managing, billing and tariff collection under the single umbrella, PDB, was really difficult.

Alam said similar separate municipal distributing agencies exist in India, Pakistan and Thailand.

DESA, responsible for effective power distribution in greater Dhaka, will also encompass municipal and industrial areas of Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Gazipur and Narasingdi districts.

About 6,000 PDB men are expected to be placed under the new setup with the same benefits they enjoyed in PDB as per the agreement with the staff.

Regarding system loss, rated world's highest 41 per cent, Alam said DESA envisaged bringing it down to a permissible limit but declined to quantify.

He, however, said 9 to 25 per cent technical loss is inevitable, while the rest is caused by inaccurate metre reading, billing faults and pilferage.

Biswas-Badrul

From Page 1 Col. 3

Before entering the office of the Chief Election Commissioner Mokbul Hossain told newsmen that he was withdrawing his candidature because, in his opinion, Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury was a consensus candidate. Justice Chowdhury is also widely respected, he remarked.

The presidential election will be held through an open ballot between 2 pm and 5 pm on October 8.

The Election Commission has by-rules, framed under the Election of President Law, 1991, describing the shape the ballot papers will be given for the election.

The counterfoil of each ballot paper will carry the name and division number of a voter (an MP) who will collect his ballot paper by signing the counterfoil. The names of the candidates will be printed on the outerfoil and a voter will cast his vote by signing his name against the name of a candidate of his choice and putting his own division number on the outerfoil.

The Chief Election Commissioner will preside over the meeting of MPs and conduct the election. A number of ballot boxes will be kept and maintained by officials appointed by the Commission.

Counting of votes will be done openly, and the Chief Election Commissioner will announce the name of the winner. In case of a tie, decision will be made by lottery.

BJP hopes to build Ram Temple soon

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Sept 30: The BJP has expressed its firm resolve to fulfil its commitment to establish a Ram Temple at Ayodhya and said the party's government in Uttar Pradesh was 'expediting the process without losing a minute', reports PTI.

BJP leader, LK Advani and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Kalyan Singh, told a joint press conference here that though the party could not give any time frame, the temple would be constructed 'much sooner than expected'.

Singh said his government had started holding talks with

Muslim intellectuals, adding, 'we have moved forward' in finding an amicable solution to the issue. Asked who the intellectuals were, Singh said they were prominent and respected persons. He said he would not like to disclose their names now, 'as a matter of strategy'.

If negotiations failed, the state government would not hesitate to take administrative and legislative steps to fulfil its commitment, the Chief Minister said.

He said there was no question of holding talks with the Babri Masjid Action Committee now as they were fundamentally opposed to the construction of the temple. Talks would be held in a phased manner, he added.

The BJP leaders clarified it was Vishwahindu Parishad which would construct the temple and that BJP had committed to remove all hurdles in this regard.

Regarding the shrines bill, Advani said it was in a way acknowledgement of BJP's stand on Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. It also confirmed that the issue could be tackled only through a 'legislative fiat', he added.

Transport strike

From Page 1 Col. 5

Earlier, two other organisations — Inter-District Truck Drivers' Union and North Bengal Sarak Paribahan Samik Federation — separately called for strike cutting off road communication between the capital and 16 north-western districts.

The Truck Drivers' Union called off their strike this afternoon after the BJWTA authority handed over the disputed office to the union at the Aricha Ghat.

The truckers called the strike following a clash with members of Coolie Samik Union at Nagorbari Ghat on September 25 over collection of tolls and possession of an office. The clash left 20 people injured.

Sources said, night coaches for north-western and south-western destinations could not start this evening from Gabtali inter-district bus terminal as the North Bengal Sarak Paribahan Samik Federation continued their strike to realise its seven-point demand.

The demands include wage hike, issuance of appointment letters, implementation of the previously signed agreement with the authorities, transfer of the Deputy Commissioner of Naogaon, release of arrested workers and withdrawal of false cases against them.

The crisis started in Naogaon more than a month ago when transport workers demanded appointment letters from the owners.



Agitated workers of Chhatra Union went on rampage damaging rickshaws and vehicles near the Secretariat Monday. Police later chased them and nabbed some of them to bring the situation under control. Story on page 3 — Star photo

Ordn to stop floor-crossing

From Page 1 Col. 4

Chief Election Commissioner Justice M A Rouf told The Daily Star 'we are in action, not in a speculative world'.

Article 70 of the Constitution provides that an MP shall vacate his seat in parliament if he abstains from voting or absents himself from any sitting of parliament by ignoring the direction of the party which nominated him in the election.

Under the amended Constitution independent MPs joining a party would also be deemed as nominees of that party and liable for vacation of seats.

Again, if there arises dispute over leadership of a party in Parliament the matter would be referred to the Speaker for settlement. After such settlement members failing to obey the leader shall vacate their seats.

UNB adds: Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed, MP, today said the ruling party virtually suffered a 'moral defeat' by promulgating an Ordinance against the fundamental rights of the Members of Parliament.

Tofael, Organising Secretary of the Awami League, alleged that the BNP made Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed 'controversial' just on the eve of his departure by advising him to sign 'a controversial ordinance'.

"The people and the nation didn't expect Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to sign the Ordinance," he said.

Tofael said the new Ordinance directly contravened Article 39 of the Constitution which guaranteed freedom of thought of the citizens. "It's a direct encroach-

ment upon our (MPs) fundamental rights'.

The Awami League leader recalled that during the Ershad regime, a similar Ordinance was promulgated when the Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and the BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia agreed to contest from 150 seats each in parliamentary elections in 1986.

The Ershad government, through that Ordinance, said that nobody would be allowed to contest in more than five parliament seats.

"It's an irony of fate that today we see the same attitude in the ruling quarters as that of Ershad after a long drawn anti-autocracy movement", he said, adding "we are to go again to Court seeking justice against injustice."

Suranjit Sengupta, MP, termed the new Ordinance amending the President Election Act as 'violation of the Constitution' and encroachment upon freedom of conscience and expression of parliament members.

Promulgation of the Ordinance tantamounts to 'no confidence in parliament members and an absolute no confidence in the ruling party MPs', he said.

The Ordinance directly violates Articles 9, 11 and 39 which guarantee fundamental rights and freedom of expression, he said.

Sengupta, a Constitution expert, said election to the presidency can never be part of the parliament proceeding. He referred to Articles 65-92 of the Constitution relating to the legislature.

Sengupta said the Ordinance was promulgated at a time when filing of the nomination papers for the country's highest post of President and the scrutiny were completed. "It's ante-dated, malafide and with a collateral purpose". It is also against the convention of democratic and parliamentary practice as the Ordinance was promulgated when parliament has been summoned.

In another incident in the city, a group of toll-collector blasted several crackers in Kataban area in the evening panicking the people.

Eyewitnesses said the toll-collectors demanded money from workers at an under-construction building of Broadway Plaza. But the workers refused money and chased them.

Terrorism: Rao warns Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Sept 30: The

Indian Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, has cautioned Pakistan against fuelling terrorism and doing anything which impinged on India's integrity, because, "that is something which we can never allow". Pakistan's response had not been satisfactory so far, Rao said in an interview to the Malayala Monorama and The Week, reports PTI.

Editor : S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 86-02-863035. CPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.