

New SSC exam system from 1996

The government has introduced a new system of Secondary School Certificate examination (SSC) to be effective from 1996 under which the examinees have to secure minimum marks in each of the objective, narrative and practical part of a subject to pass the examination, reports BSS.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar disclosed this yesterday at a press conference at the conference room of the Education Ministry.

He said the pass marks for each subject had been fixed at 33 but students from Arts Group must secure at least 15 marks in both objective and narrative papers of a subject. He, however, pointed out that the students have to secure minimum 18 marks in either of the objective or narrative papers to pass the examination.

He said the students appearing from Science Group have to get minimum 12 marks in both objective and narrative parts of the subject and nine marks in practical.

The minister said a science subject will have a total mark of 100 of which 37 and a half in the objective part, another 37 and a half in the narrative part while 25 marks for practical.

Barrister Sircar said the new system would be applicable to the students who were now studying in class eight and be promoted to class nine in December this year.

The Education Minister said under the new system objective questions would not be confined to the existing 500 question bank for each subject but it would be set from the approved syllabus.

He said the new system had been evolved after a thorough study by the educationists as the result of the first examination after introduction of objective questions in 1992 showed an adverse effect on the standard of education.

Barrister Sircar said after

the results of 1992 SSC examination it was revealed that a student could pass without getting any number in the narrative part if he secured 33 marks in the objective part of a subject.

He said a high-level committee headed by Agriculture Minister M Majid-ul-Huq at a meeting in January last held detail discussion on the amendments to distribution of marks.

The committee, he said, had suggested holding of a workshop and creating public opinion on it through wide publicity.

Accordingly, he said, a workshop was arranged and Bangladesh Television held a discussion in which the Chairman of Dhaka Board and students of a few schools in the city had participated.

The Education Minister said the recommendations of the committee and the recommendations made during the discussion in the television were similar.

Thus the recommendations were put up before the cabinet which approved it.

Replying to a question on allegation of tampering of the examination results through influence, Barrister Sircar said all possible measures had already been taken to check it if there were any such case.

In this context, he said, computer system was expected to be introduced fully from 1996.

State Minister for Education Principal Md Yunus Khan, Education Secretary Ershadul Hoq and Director-General of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Prof Eunus Mia were present.

Sixth Asian Art show from Nov 2

By Staff Correspondent

The Sixth Biennial Asian Art Exhibition will begin November 2 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Artists from 40 Asian countries are expected to take part in the month-long exhibition organised by the Academy.

Bangladeshi Artists have been requested to submit their works for selection.

Artists who have participated in at least two National Art Exhibitions organised by the Shilpakala Academy or an Asian Art Exhibition are eligible for participation. They can submit a maximum of three recent art works (1991-93) to the Director of Arts Department of the Academy between August 26-31.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is distributing sarees among the flood-affected people of Gujarat under Gaibandha district yesterday. — PID photo

PM: Bank loan

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She suggested the officials to form committees with people's representatives for gearing up rehabilitation work in the affected areas. She said the officials, people's representatives and common people must work closely for mitigating the sufferings of the affected people.

The Prime Minister later addressed the local elite and praised their courage in facing this calamity. Begum Zia called upon them to work for mitigating the woes of the suffering people of the flood-hit areas and to participate in the government rehabilitation programmes for flood-affected people.

Earlier the Prime Minister enquired about the steps taken by different departments of the administration at the district level. She also enquired about the present relief situation and medicine facilities among other rehabilitation measures for the affected people.

Addressing a meeting of the local BNP workers and members the Prime Minister called upon her party members to work day and night to remove the sufferings of the flood-hit people. She also called upon them to extend cooperation to the government administration in their rehabilitation work.

The Prime Minister said the government would take up measures for reconstructing the Morisha regulator on the river Ghagot which has been washed away in the floods. The work for the regulator would be taken up with the fall of water in the river.

Israel pounds Sidon

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One wire-guided missile hit a three-story building in the village of Qleith where some 20 tenants were sheltering in the basement. UN officials said two people died and 18 were pulled from the rubble, all with serious injuries.

In Beirut, Israeli fighters buzzed Beirut International Airport at midday (0900 GMT). Sonic booms shattered several windows in the terminal building and control tower, and passengers broke their queues to dive for cover. Flights, however,

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10,000 Keraniganj AL, JP, Jamaat workers join BNP

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About 10,000 leaders and workers of the Awami League, Jubo League, Chhatra League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami of Keraniganj Thana and chairmen and members of various Union Parishads of the thana last night joined the BNP expressing their solidarity with the programmes and ideals of the party and support to the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

Moudud, Mosharraf granted bail

By Court Correspondent

Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed, MP, a former Vice President, and former Industries Secretary Mosharraf Hossain were granted bail, in connection with an Anti-Corruption Bureau case, Wednesday.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court granted the bail and asked them to post bonds of Tk 50,000 each.

That Anti-Corruption Bureau earlier filed a case accusing them of unlawfully employing one Abdur Rahim, convicted in an arms case, at the Kohinor Chemical Company and thereby causing a loss of Tk 2,08,823 to the government exchequer.

Both Barrister Moudud and Hossain had earlier taken advance bail from the High Court, which had asked them to seek permanent bail by being personally present at the CMM Court.

JP meet

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Moudud Ahmed, Anisul Islam Mahmud, Sirajul Hossain Khan, Sunil Gupta, Abdus Sattar, Sardar Amjad Hossain, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Dr TIM Fazio Rabbi, Col (ret) MA Malek, Syeda Razia Faiz, Reazuddin Ahmed Bholia Mia, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Syeed Tareq and JP member-secretary Khaledur Rahman Tito took part in the discussions till 11:30 last night.

Flood

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Sunamganj, Moulvi Bazar, Habiganj and Comilla districts would continue to improve in the next 24 hours with waters of all the rivers receding.

The major rivers in all the basins barring the Ganges recorded falls.

The Brahmaputra continued to decrease at all points.

The Ganges registered a rise by five centimetres at Pankha while it rose by five centimetres near Rajshahi.

The Surma recorded a slight rise at Kanaighat while it fell at both Sylhet and Sunamganj.

According to a bulletin of the FFC, six rivers were now flowing below the danger levels.

BSS adds: The Relief Ministry sources in Dhaka said that the government had so far distributed relief goods worth Tk 1,09,50,000 and Tk one crore as house-building grants, 7510 tons of rice, 150 metric tons of wheat, 11,400 pieces of saris, 11,400 pieces of lungis, 3,030 metric tons of wheat as test relief — and allotted 1,500 bundles of CI sheets and 2,754 tonnes of wheat against 29,384 vulnerable group feeding (VGF) cards.

The current floods claiming 157 lives till date, have affected 89,90,199 people in 32 districts, the Relief Ministry sources said. So far, crop on over four lakh acres of land have been fully damaged while partial damage was caused to crop on 4,71,337 acres.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) has strengthened its relief programme in Sylhet, Habiganj, and Moulvi Bazar while it has taken up relief programme in Gaibandha, Sunamganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Sherpur and Jamalpur districts.

The first and second council were held on January 25-26, 1980, and February 9-10, 1981 respectively when its founder late President Ziaur Rahman was the chairman and prof Badruddoza Chowdhury was the secretary general.

The third council was held on March 8-9, 1989 when the party was engaged in the anti-autocracy campaign under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia with Barrister Salam Talukder as the secretary general.

But it also has promoted anti-Muslim prejudice in a country where 82 per cent of the 880 million people are Hindus and 12 per cent Muslim. In December and January, India suffered its worst communal riots since independence after Hindu extremists leveled an ancient mosque in the northern city of Ayodhya.

He defended economic reforms, saying, "Liberalisation has become necessary because the Indian economy has to integrate with the world economy. We can't be an island in isolation."

Rao's victory Wednesday could mean he is safe only for the next six months, the amount of time Parliament must wait before introducing a new no-confidence motion.

Since 1990, two minority governments have fallen in India. Amid the political instability, the BJP has grown in power — from two seats in Parliament's lower house in 1989 to 119 at present — by capitalizing on growing Hindu nationalism.

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Biman to restore summer schedule from Aug 1

By Staff Correspondent

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will restore its original summer schedule from Sunday next after nearly two and a half months of disruption, officials said yesterday.

The decision to resume normal operations has been taken after one of the two newly leased DC-10 aircraft joined the fleet earlier this month, a senior official told The Daily Star, adding that the second leased aircraft would join the Biman fleet by tomorrow.

Biman's international summer schedule was disrupted after one of the national flag carrier's four DC-10s met with an accident at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) on May 18. The aircraft was returning from Jeddah with 135 passengers and crew who all survived unhurt.

The damaged aircraft is now under repair at the Biman's hanger at ZIA.

The Biman official said that besides restoring the original schedule the airlines would operate some extra flight to Riyadh and Kuala Lumpur because of the rush of passenger on these routes.

Biman will operate two weekly flights to Frankfurt and Hong Kong, the official said, adding that on the Dhaka-London route Biman would operate five flights weekly instead of four.

The first of the two additional DC-10s has been leased from the manufacturers McDonnell Douglas for six months while the second one, due here Friday, will serve Biman for three years.

Nasim undergoes surgery

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Whip of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Mohammad Nasim has undergone a surgery yesterday morning successfully at the Holy Family Hospital.

Prof Chowdhury Mohammad Habibur Rahman conducted the operation.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina visited the hospital yesterday to see him.

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UN team's report

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in the administrative structure." The report, which is to be formally handed over to the Prime Minister of the State Minister for Establishment in a few days, is expected to suggest major reforms in the administrative system, including concrete recommendations for change in the cadre system.

It was learnt that if the recommendations were accepted wholly or in part, the UNDP would provide assistance for implementation of the suggested reforms.



Jahanara Imam, Convenor of the Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee, addressing a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo