

MBBS admission test results in 2 weeks

By Ripon Baig

The results of the written test for admission to the first year MBBS course are expected to be announced in two weeks, officials said yesterday.

The written test was held on March 17. Last year, the results were published within ten days.

In all, 22,450 students appeared in the test for a total of 1450 seats at the 13 government medical colleges.

Last year, about 16 thousand students had appeared at the test.

Professor A K M Nurul Anwar, Director of Medical Education, said 'Our target is to admit the students to the medical colleges in the first week of May. He said, they were trying to complete the admission procedures, including viva voce, by the mid or the third week of April.

This year, the authorities changed some of the rules for the test. According to the new rules, the total marks were 190 instead of 140.

Out of this, 150 marks were for the written test, 20 for the viva voce and one per cent of the total marks secured by the candidates in the SSC and HSC examinations.

In the written part of the test, there were 45 marks each for Physics, Chemistry and Biology and 15 marks for English.

The students got one and a half hours for completing their answers.

Last year, the students got

one hour and 20 minutes. In other words, the candidates got only 36 seconds to answer each question compared to 45 seconds last year.

The authorities have also increased the number of seats to 1450 from 1325.

The students who passed the SSC and HSC examinations in 1990 and 1992 respectively were allowed to sit for the test along with the regular students. No marks were deducted in case irregular students.

On the basis of the written test, 2,500 students will be selected for the viva voce.

After the publication of the final results, a waiting list of 200 students will be announced.

The number of students to be admitted to the eight old medical colleges is 150 each and to the five new ones 50 each.

There are also 16 reserved seats for tribal students.

The old medical colleges are: The Dhaka Medical College, the Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka, the Mymensingh Medical College, the Chittagong Medical College, the M A G Osmani Medical College, Sylhet, the Rajshahi Medical College, the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Barisal and the Rangpur Medical College.

The new medical colleges are at Faridpur, Comilla, Khulna, Bogra and Dinajpur.



Ghorey Bairay, a juvenile drama group, presenting a play at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday on the occasion of the first Children's Drama Festival. — Star photo

'Oilseeds, potato, pulses more profitable than rice, wheat'

By Staff Correspondent

Cultivation of oilseeds, potato and pulses, instead of rice and wheat, can earn more money for the farmers in a more environment-friendly way, according to recent data.

The five-year joint Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) of the government Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Dutch Aid Agency (DGIS), implemented in 125 thanas of 31 districts in the country, has increased total net income by Tk 448 crore at the farm level through increased production, it was claimed.

The first phase of the CDP to be completed in June has raised the production of potatoes, oilseeds and pulses by 15 lakh tonnes over the last three years.

"The CDP is an environment-friendly programme focussing exclusively on cultivating oilseeds, potatoes and pulses which require lesser commercial fertiliser and irrigation than rice and wheat," said the Resident Project Manager of the CDP, Dr Gerry Gartner, at a press conference in the city yesterday.

According to CDP data, through improved management a farmer gets a Tk 71,531 return per hectare by cultivating diamond (one kind of tuber) whereas, cultivation of MV Boro in the same method would earn him Tk 14,075 per hectare.

The improved method introduced by the CDP increases the input cost for the farmers by only 8 to 25 per cent. Extension Development Specialist of the CDP Rosemary E Peer told the newsmen.

Two new crops — sunflower and soybeans — have been introduced in Bangladesh under the programme and are rapidly finding their place in the production and consumption pattern of the people, it was pointed out.

"Unlike the Green Revolution which focussed mainly on producing cereal and extensive irrigation, the CDP talks about marginal increase of production, use of treadle pumps in irrigation and interacting with farmers to know their problems and their ideas," said Dr Gerry Gartner.

He said the cultivation of pulses added nitrogen to the soil and thus helped replenishing soil fertility.

The Barind area in the

Five killed in Ctg incidents

CHITTAGONG, Mar 22: Five people, including three young girls, were killed in separate incidents in the port city during the last 24 hours, reports UNB.

Police said Swapna Ara, 15, and Rina Akhter, 14, were crushed under the wheels of a running bus at Mirzapur in Panchlaish thana at about 8:00 am.

Police seized the bus, but the driver fled.

In another incident, Hashima Akhter, 13, of Khatgan in Patiya thana died on Tuesday night after drinking water in which her step-mother allegedly mixed poison. Her step-mother Lutfunnesa went into hiding soon after the incident.

Police said Nabai Mandal, 52, was run over by a speedy truck at Sitakundu Bazar on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway early today.

The driver, however, managed to flee with the truck.

Besides, police recovered the body of one Abul Kashem, 26, this morning from Muslimabad in Bandar thana. Kashem was killed by unknown miscreants, police said.

Separate cases were filed with the local police.

The Midnight File

Russia to sell advanced military tech to India

NEW DELHI, Mar 22: Russia today said it would sell advanced military technology to India regardless of controls imposed on the two allies by the international community, the Press Trust of India reported, reports AFP.

4 killed, 45 hurt in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three persons were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

One Hafez Ali, 50, died on the spot when a tempo in which he was travelling overturned at Uttara yesterday morning.

Five other passengers were injured. They were identified as Begum, 35, Kazal, 22, Shahidul Islam, 30, Bacchu, 25, and an unknown male aged about 40. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, an unknown male, 35, was killed when a bus ran over him at Klujji road in Mohammadpur in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, one Alam, 32, succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH early yesterday.

Alam was admitted to the hospital Tuesday night with serious injuries after a truck had hit him at Goran.

Our Gopalganj Correspondent adds: One person was killed and at least 40 others were injured in a road accident on the Gopalganj-Moulbarhat road yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Irshadur Rahman, 23, a college student. Of the injured, 13 were admitted to the

Gopalganj Modern Hospital while the others released after first aid.

The mishap took place when the driver of a Khulna bound passenger bus coming from Barisal lost control of the vehicle while giving side to another bus near village Bogra in Gopalganj.

A case was registered with Gopalganj Police Station in this connection.

Dhaka-Jamalpur road link snapped for 5 hours

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar 22: Traffic movement between Jamalpur and capital Dhaka was suspended for five hours today as a mob, angered by the killing of a minor girl in a road accident, put up barricade on the highway at Haripur, three kilometres from here.

Witnesses said, local people started stopping vehicles after a speeding truck had killed a minor girl at Haripur at seven this morning. The victim was identified as Moyna, 10.

Soon after the accident, the people caught both the driver and the helper and demanded their punishment.

The road was cleared at noon after Jamalpur municipality chairman Faizur Rahman gave the assurance that those responsible for the accident would be punished.

The body of the girl was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

CIDA to provide 150m Canadian dollar in 5-yr

Bangladesh will receive 150 million Canadian dollar from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the next five years for various projects in power, railway, disaster management and education sectors, reports UNB.

An official handout said this yesterday on the eve of a six-day visit to Bangladesh of CIDA President Huguette Labelle from March 24.

During the visit, the CIDA President is expected to meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman and senior government officials.

She will also visit some CIDA-supported projects in Bangladesh.

NGOs threaten

From Page 1

The ADAB postponed the meeting but sent a letter yesterday demanding immediate reconsideration of the decision, according to highly-placed government officials.

The ADAB planned the rally at Manik Mia Avenue to create opinion in favour of development and progressive politics.

However, similar rallies sponsored by ADAB will go on at the thana-level.

Chandrika

From Page 1

Begum Zia will host a dinner in honour of the Sri Lankan leader Wednesday evening.

President Chandrika will witness a cultural show to be organised in her honour at the Osmany Memorial Hall Wednesday evening.

On her arrival Tuesday afternoon President Chandrika will be received at the Zia International Airport by the Foreign Minister, A S M Mostafizur Rahman, and his wife, Mrs Soha Rahman.

Shortly afterwards President Chandrika will fly to Savar where she will lay wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha, to honour the valiant martyrs of the Liberation War.

Begum Zia will call on Mrs Chandrika later in the evening at the state guest house Korotoa where the Sri Lankan leader will be staying.

Later, in the night, President Chandrika will attend a reception to be hosted by the Sri Lankan high commissioner at his residence.

The official ceremony to welcome the Sri Lankan President will take place at Bangabhaban Wednesday morning.

President Chandrika will address a seminar at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) Wednesday afternoon.

The Sri Lankan leader will have a meeting with the representatives of the business community and the chamber of commerce and industry Thursday morning.

She will be accorded ceremonial farewell at Bangabhaban Thursday morning.

President Chandrika is scheduled to leave Dhaka Thursday afternoon for Bangkok.

Integrated water policy

From Page 1

The NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation organised the seminar at the SPARRSO auditorium to mark the World Day for Water.

The Forum is the highest coordinating agency for 494 NGOs working on the rural water supply and sanitation sectors.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf said river water flow in Bangladesh has dwindled to less than 2500 million cubic metres from its natural 3400 million cubic metres a day because of low flow in the international rivers.

A recent study by the Water Resources Ministry said that sub-soil water level has gone down by an average of three to 26 metres in 36 districts.

The situation in 16 northern districts is even more critical where 50,000 shallow tubewells have gone out of order.

According to the Bangladesh Water Development Board, of an estimated 14 lakh tubewells, three lakh have already become inoperative due to water crisis.

The NGOs say that the health sector is being seriously affected due to falling ground water level with consequent scarcity of safe drinking water.

Because of the shortage and pollution of water, an estimated three lakh infants are

dying every year in Bangladesh and the country's estimated annual loss due to diarrhoeal diseases roughly stands at Taka 32,000 crore, the NGOs say.

Though there is one tubewell for every 92 people and most of the people drink water from tubewells, only 26 per cent of them use safe water for all domestic needs, said S M A Rashid, Director of the NGO Forum.

Director General of the NGO Affairs Bureau M A Mannan said rural water supply would be threatened if urgent steps were not taken to chart an integrated water management policy for the country.

Aminuddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering, suggested water storage during the monsoon to replenish the water shortage during the dry season.

Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), said water use in the country was beyond the international limit of 70 per cent of water for the agricultural sector, 20 per cent for the industries and 10 per cent for domestic use.

Commenting on the Farakka issue, he said it was a political issue which must be resolved politically.

Eric Jansen, Counsellor of Danish Embassy and UNICEF representative Gretchen Goodale also spoke on the occasion.

DHAMECSU polls Mar 30

By DMCH Correspondent

The Dhaka Medical College Students Union (DHAMECSU) elections will be held on March 30.

A four-member body headed by Prof F A Azim, Head of the Department of the Pathology will conduct the elections.

The other members are: Prof Sayed Ashrafuzzaman, Head of the Department of the Pharmacology, Dr. T I M A Faruk of Surgery and Dr. Mizal Haque of Cardiology Department.

Three panels are contesting the elections for 20 posts.

The panels are: John-Khasru of the ruling party-backed Jatiyatadab Chhatra Dal (JCD), Emu-Anwar of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) and Amitab Rabby of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BSU).

Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-C) has not submitted any panel while Islamic Chhatra Shibir has decided to boycott the elections.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union is contesting for only eight posts.

The student organisations submitted their panels on March 19 and those were finalised on March 21.

Mohammad Tawhid-Ul-Islam John and Mohammad Nuruzzaman Khan Khasru — the vice president (VP) and general secretary (GS) candidates from the JCD, S M Abdul Ahim Emu and Mohammad Nurul Anwar — VP and GS candidate from the BCL (S-P) and Amitab Roy VP candidate from BSU — are all fourth year students while only GS candidate from BSU, Mohammad Fazle Rabby Khan is a student of third year.

According to observers, the main competition will be held between John-Khasru panel and Emu-Anwar panel.

Manzur murder case

From Page 1

his statement, they added.

Col Rahman, who identified the body of Gen Manzur at the time of autopsy in the combined Military Hospital in Chittagong on June 2, 1981, was arrested on March 13 and first placed on a five-day remand.

A family member told the Daily Star that they were not allowed to visit or talk with the detained Colonel. They instructed their lawyers to move a bail petition if he is produced before the CMM today.

Our Court Correspondent says two brothers of Col Rahman were waited in the court premises yesterday, hoping he might be taken to the court on the day.

Two others accused — Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Huq and Maj (ret'd) Gen Abdul Latif — were now in the Dhaka Central Jail, after making confessional statements before a magistrate.

A source dealing with the case hinted that the CID officials might seek permission from the higher authorities for interrogating former president H M Ershad, who was the chief of army staff during the mysterious death of Gen Manzur.

When contacted, Jailer Didarul Islam said he did not get any information from the higher authorities as regards interrogating the jailed former president who has been serving a 20-year prison term for conviction in three cases.

In reply to a question, the jailor said none of the two accused — Gen Latif and Maj Emdad — was shifted to Chittagong Jail until yesterday evening. The CMM, Chittagong, has fixed April 2 for hearing of the case.

Meanwhile, CID officials recovered some important documents including a secret report by Shaikh Maruful Huq, former Superintendent of Police (SP), Chittagong.

In the "top secret" report dated June 3, 1981, the SP had informed Wajur Rahman Ghazi, Asstt Inspector General of Police (Confidential), details about the disposal of dead bodies including one of Gen Manzur.

He said in the letter: 'On 2-6-81 at about 11:00 hours while myself, DIG, Chittagong, Police, Commissioner, CMP, and DC, Chittagong were in a meeting with the Commissioner, Chittagong Division at his chamber, Brigadier Aziz of Chittagong Cantonment told the Divisional Commissioner over-phone that the DIG and SP should see him at once in the Cantonment in connection with the disposal of the dead body of Major Gen M A Manzur. At this we discussed with the Divisional Commissioner,

World Meteorology Day today

The World Meteorology Day will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world today, reports UNB.

In observance of the day, the Bangladesh Meteorology Department (BMD) has drawn up an elaborate programme which include seminar and exhibition.

The day's programme include an inaugural function followed by a technical seminar at the head office of the BMD at Agargaon in the morning.

An exhibition of meteorological equipment and charts from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm will open for the public.

Salam Talukder

From Page 1

harm the interest of the people in the name of opposing the government, he stressed.

He called upon the people to play a conscious role in this connection. He also made a strong demand to the government to take stern measures against those responsible for undesirable price hike of rice and fertiliser.

The BNP secretary general regretted that some dishonest traders were compelling the people to buy rice and fertiliser at higher prices by creating artificial crisis in the market through hoarding only to make personal profit taking advantage of the open market policy of the government.

Salam Talukder said despite selling lakhs of tons of fertiliser to the dealers throughout the country during the last several months, majority of the dealers have either sold it to other areas instead of their own or hoarded it in huge quantities for making higher profits as a result the farmers had to buy this input at higher prices at many places as it did not reach them in sufficient quantity, he added.

He further said the government has taken prompt measures in this respect. To enable the farmers to purchase fertiliser at fair prices the government has taken steps to supply it direct to the deputy commissioners or their selected dealers for making it available in sufficient quantities at the district and thana levels everywhere in the country. On the other hand, a good number of dishonest traders have been arrested on specific charges. Steps have also been taken to recover the fertiliser hoarded at godowns and barges for selling them at higher profits, he said.

Salam said at a time when the government has taken the initiative to optimise production of fertiliser at each fertiliser factory in the country and reach it to the farmers directly in different districts and thanas, some opposition parties have been creating impediments continuously in the transportation of rice and fertiliser in the name of opposing the government.

Fire at Bakhrabad Gas System office

CHITTAGONG, Mar 22: A fire at the office of regional distribution centre of the Bakhrabad Gas System Limited at Momin Road here gutted some valuable machines and other equipment, fire service and police sources said, reports BSS.

The fire originating from the telex room at the second floor of the three storied building engulfed quickly the entire room. The panic-stricken employees in the room ran helter-skelter and finally came out of the room.

Firemen rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control, the sources said.

BCL (S-P) gheraos BCIC Bhaban

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League yesterday gheraoed the BCIC Bhaban protesting the present crisis of paper, fertiliser and other agricultural inputs.

At a protest rally in front of the BCIC building at 11:30 am the BCL leaders urged the government to take immediate and effective measures for resolving the crisis.

The speakers held the government responsible for the crisis and said that the education and agriculture system in the country were at the verge of collapse.

The BCL leaders also alleged that a section of government's official was also responsible for this situation.

Singapore recalls envoy to Manila

SINGAPORE, Mar 22: Singapore today recalled its ambassador to the Philippines in retaliation for a similar action by Manila in a growing diplomatic row over the execution of a Filipino maid here, reports AP.

50 houses gutted in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 22: At least 50 persons were injured and over 50 tin-shed houses gutted in a fire in Talla Boro Mosque area under Fatulla thana this evening.

The fire reportedly originating from a cooking oven, engulfed the whole Boro Mosque area at around seven pm. Two fire brigade teams from Hajiganj and Mondalpara rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze after two hours.

The injured were admitted to the Narayanganj General Hospital. The extent of damage was preliminarily estimated at Taka 25 lakh.

Poverty situation

From Page 1

One cline since 1988-89, it also indicated that the poverty incidence still remained high at the start of the 1990s and that the rural areas fared worse compared to the urban areas.

The Bank study, provocatively entitled 'When method matters: Towards resolution of the debate about Bangladesh's poverty measures', was completed late last year.

The methodological analysis of the study, using a poverty line based on the cost of a bundle of basic-needs goods, suggested that the percentage of the population below the poverty line was 52.9 per cent in rural areas and 33.6 per cent in the urban areas in 1991-92, giving a national poverty incidence of just under 50 per cent. An overwhelming 80 per cent of the country's population lives in the villages.

Recent government estimates place the current incidence of poverty at around 38 per cent. A new Household Expenditure Survey is going to be initiated this year to gather the latest data.

The draft country economic memorandum prepared by the World Bank earlier last month also noted that the high percentage of hard core poverty is also reflected in the nutritional and health status of the population.

In 1992, moderate to severe malnutrition was present in 68.3 per cent of the children under six years of age, which was 71.5 per cent in 1985-86 and 66.5 per cent in 1989-90. This figure, the Bank pointed out, was the highest level of malnutrition in the region, with Nepal at 51 per cent, Sri Lanka at 42 per cent and Indonesia at 38 per cent.

Gaibandha firing

From Page 1

not get the tickets became agitated and attacked the Dhaka-bound Teesta Express passing by the stadium.

They detained the train for one hour and stoned its glass window panes.

Police lobbed six tear gas canisters to disperse the mob which again gathered near the BADC godown and started stoning.

At one stage, police opened fire after a pitched fight ensued between the police and the mob.

District administration officials later confirmed that the police fired 31 rounds and 18 tear-gas shells to quell the mob.

Abdul Momen died while others were rushed to the hospital.

The body of Momen has been kept at the hospital for autopsy.

Our Jamalpur Correspondent says, hundreds of farmers staged a day-long hunger strike yesterday near the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) demanding adequate supply of fertiliser at fair price.

The farmers assembled at the Pubaldigha High School ground near the factory and chanted slogans demanding fertiliser and punitive measures against those responsible for the crisis.

Talking to our correspondent, Managing Director of the factory Niamul Murshed said, fertiliser production was yet to return to normal though production resumed last Monday.

Orissa deputy CM may quit govt

BHUBANESWAR, India, Mar 22: The seven-day-old Congress (I) ministry led by J B Patnaik appeared heading for a crisis with one of the two deputy chief-ministers in the cabinet, Hemananda Biswal 'deciding' to quit the government, reports PTI.

Biswal, a former chief minister, who did not attend the meeting of the council of ministers at the secretariat last night, indicated his decision to resign this morning.

Mine blast kills 10 Indian troops in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Mar 22: An Indian brigadier and nine soldiers died in a landmine blast staged by suspected Muslim rebels in one of the worst attacks on troops in the troubled state of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Brigadier Venugopal Sridharan, 49, and nine soldiers were killed in the frontier town of Uri, near the Pakistani border late Monday, when their vehicle hit the remote-controlled mine, an army spokesman said in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar.