

DU exams rescheduled

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday announced fresh schedule of the examinations of third year BA, BSS (honours), 1994, and MA, MSS (Final), 1993 which were postponed earlier.

According to the new schedule, BA/BSS examinations — English (07), Bengali (318), Arabic (305), Philosophy (318), History (318), Economics (318), Public Administration (318), and Sociology (319) will be held on April 15.

Besides Arabic (307) and Sociology (311) will be held on April 18, and Arabic (comprehensive) and Sociology (312) on April 21, while Sociology examinations — course no 320, 303, 304, 308, 318 and comprehensive — will be held on April 23, May 6, 9, 12, 15 and 19 respectively.

MA and MSS examinations — Bengali (408/409/410, Islamic Studies (505 and 506), Library and Information Science (504), Islamic History (3rd), Journalism (506), Public Administration (comprehensive), International Relations (513), Sociology (406) and History (511/515) will be held on April 15.

Examinations of Islamic Studies (comprehensive), Islamic History (comprehensive), History (517), Library and Information Science (comprehensive), Journalism (507), Economics (406), International Relations (514) and Sociology (comprehensive) will be held on April 18.

History (505/512), Journalism (comprehensive), International Relations (515) and Economics (comprehensive) will be held on April 21 while comprehensive examinations of History and International Relations will be held on April 24.

Besides, examination of Mathematics (10th paper) of Masters Degree, 1992, will be held on April 24.

HR activist held in Malaysia for protesting torture of migrant workers

By Staff Correspondent

The Malaysian government has arrested an immigration rights activist of that country for her active role in protesting alleged police atrocities on migrant workers including those from Bangladesh.

According to a report received here by a local human rights and legal aid centre, Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK), the Malaysian authorities have charged Tene Fernandez, Director, Tenaganita, under the Printing and Publishing Act of that country.

Mentionably, Tenaganita, in August last year, released its findings on dehumanised treatment of migrant workers at detention camps which was widely publicised in the local and international media.

ASK in a press release last night urged all government and non-government organisations to register their protests against the lodging of case and arrest of Tene. The protests could be sent in the following addresses: Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad, Fax: (603) 2328156 or, Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Head of the Task Force on Foreign Migrant Workers, Fax: (603) 2383691.

One abducted in Hathazari

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: Gunmen abducted one Sajal Kanti Chowdhury from Mogerhat under Hathazari thana this evening to realise ransom, police said.

Sajal returned from Dubai recently.

The gunmen took Sajal for a board baby taxi and headed towards the sanctuaries of abductors in the remote areas of neighbouring Fatkhahar thana, police said.

Police said officers were on to rescue the victim.

Urs of Shahjalal begins today

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 6: The Urs of the great saint, Hajrat Shahjalal (RA), will be held on April 8 and 9. Steps are underway to observe the annual occasion commemorating the death anniversary of the saint.

The two-day programme includes placing of *Gulaf* in the major, Quikhwani, Quankh-wani, Milad Mahfil, and *Jukir-ajkar*.

Akheri Munajat and distribution of alms will take place in the early hours of the concluding day.

People from across the country have started arriving here for the occasion.

M A Haq dead

M A Haq, a former minister, died of old age complications yesterday afternoon at BIRDEM Hospital here. He was 78, family said, reports BSS.

Haq was a member of second parliament of Bangladesh and was actively associated with various social works including the development of literacy.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mokarram Mosque after Zohr prayers today.

Haq stood first in Assam Public Service Commission examination in 1943 and joined the police service as the deputy superintendent of police.

An ex-deputy inspector general of police, Haq was also the founder of Bangladesh Police Cooperative Society. He received Presidential Police Medal in 1959. He also served on deputation as the chairman of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

Hasina at rally

From Page 1

acy within a 10-year period. Expressing her deep concern at the deteriorating standard of education in the country and supply shortage of text books, she said development of human resources would be one of her party's priority task, if elected.

For the last 20 years people of the country have been exploited. I cherish the dream to translate the ideals of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman into reality by ensuring peoples' basic rights of food, clothes, shelter, health and education.

The AL President also promised sound labour and industrial policies and said more direct foreign investment would be ensured to boost the national economy. The nation suffered a lot due to the corruption and inefficiency of the BNP government, she added.

Brushing aside BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's contention that the national economy suffered a setback due to the then Opposition's movement programmes, the AL chief said, "It is not our movement which should be blamed for this setback, rather, the BNP government caused the losses by not meeting the peoples' demand for a caretaker government for the last two years."

She warned BNP of 'retaliation by the people' if it continued to 'threaten' employees and officials of the public and professionals, literate and artists who had joined the peoples' movement.

The other AL leaders who addressed the rally included Abdus Samad Azad, Sayeda Zohra Tajuddin, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hussain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Dr Selim, Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Nasim, Matiya Chowdhury, Muzaffar Hussain Paltu, Abul Hasan Kaiser, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Advocate Sahara Khatun and Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan.

Mayors of Dhaka and Chittagong and leaders of various front organisations of the party also addressed the rally conducted by city AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya.

In their speeches, the AL leaders came down heavily on the former PM, for using official entitlements like national emblem and security guards. They urged the head of the caretaker government to take charge of the Defence Ministry.

Later, a huge victory procession paraded the main thoroughfares of the city.



A US and a Croatian honorary guard stand in attention next to the coffins covered with Stars and Stripes and Croatian flags yesterday during a commemorative ceremony at Dubrovnik airport in Croatia for those killed in a plane crash on Wednesday. — AFP/UNB photo

Mary Good acting US Commerce Secy

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. Apr 6: President Bill Clinton on Friday named Mary Good, Undersecretary of Commerce for Technology, as acting Commerce Secretary, replacing Ron Brown who died in a plane crash in Croatia on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

"You are directed to perform the duties of the office of Secretary of Commerce until such time as I appoint a secretary of commerce," Clinton said in a memo to Good.

White House officials have said it would be some days before Clinton would consider candidates to become commerce secretary. One name that has arisen as a possibility has been presidential adviser Thomas "Mac" McLarty, an Arkansas friend who was Clinton's first White House Chief of Staff.

Meanwhile, a sombre President Bill Clinton planted a tree at the White House on Friday to honour commerce secretary Ron Brown and the 34 others who died in plane crash in Croatia on Wednesday.

Yeltsin names two Chechnya mediators

MOSCOW, Apr 6: President Boris Yeltsin, eager to show results from his fast-faltering Chechnya peace plan, named two prominent leaders as mediators today and said they were already trying to arrange talks with the rebels, reports AP.

Addressing a conference of his supporters in Moscow, Yeltsin said he had appointed the presidents of Kazakhstan and Russia's predominantly Muslim region of Tatarstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Minturstan Shaimiyev, as mediators.

Their task will be to convince Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev that Yeltsin is serious about peace negotiations and not simply posturing in order to win re-election, as many believe.

"We have proposed negotiations instead of military actions, including talks with Dudayev through mediators," Yeltsin said, standing at a podium in front of a huge Russian flag, news agency as saying, "I think that there is no alternative to negotiations."

He said Russian troops were already withdrawing from 'calm' areas of Chechnya as he had promised.

FFs' sit-in today

The Bangladesh Jatiya Muktiyoddha Sangstha will stage a sit-in demonstration in front of the office of the Chief Adviser at 11 am today to press home their demand for releasing former president H M Ershad, reports BSS.

BNP's public rally in city April 16

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold a rally at 3 pm on April 16 at Manik Mia Avenue in celebration of victory of Constitution and democracy, according to a press release, reports BSS.

A joint meeting of the central leaders of BNP, senior leaders of Dhaka city committee and the front organisations of the party was held yesterday at the central office of BNP to discuss the preliminary preparations for making the rally a success. Secretary general of the party Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar presided.

The cause of the fire could not be known immediately. The fire reportedly originated from an electric short circuit.



A Kashmiri militant, belonging to a militant faction which supports elections, stands guard in his sandbagged position in South Kashmir yesterday. Muslim separatists in Kashmir have threatened to disrupt the upcoming parliamentary elections in April-May. — AFP/UNB photo

Health Day

From Page 1

Biswas underscored the need for government and private initiatives and the utilisation of modern technology through short and long-term plans to ensure health for all.

In a separate message, the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government, Muhammad Habibur Rahman, stressed the importance of planning cities in a scientific way to prevent health hazards in urban areas.

The Chief Adviser urged city corporations and development authorities, municipalities, government work departments, traffic control authorities, WASA, PDB, commercial organisations and the citizens to make concerted and sincere efforts to build healthier cities.

To mark the day, various government and non-government organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes throughout the country.

In Dhaka, the day will begin with a walkathon at 7 am from the Shishu Academy to the National Press Club.

A discussion meeting on the theme of the day will be held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons, Mohakhali, at 10 am. Besides, different wards of the City Corporation and socio-cultural groups will organise programmes to highlight the day.

Rahman, quoting the order of the High Court, demanded that three important documents, which he sought, had to be provided by the prosecution before commencing of the trial. The documents are Judicial Enquiry Commission Report 1981, White Paper on the Chittagong mutiny prepared by the government, and the proceedings of the field general court martial.

Khandakar Mahbub Hossain, chief counsel of Ershad, told the court that yesterday was fixed for bail hearing as per prayer submitted earlier.

He sought bail for Ershad on three grounds, which include his long stay in the jail and instituting the 'politically motivated' case after long 14 years at the instance of some interested quarters. He said the excuses put forward by Manzur's brother, himself a barrister, are not tenable. Barrister Manzur said he could not file FIR because of delay in getting death certificate and post mortem report.

At this stage, Ershad taking the chair's permission, said there had been a lot of injustices with him in the past five years. He said despite the Speaker's order, he had not received any financial benefit as a member of the Jatiya Sangsad.

He questioned whether the people of my constituency did any crime by casting vote in my favour, otherwise why there was no allocation of fund in his area.

Manzur Murder Case

From Page 1

A Latif, Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman and Lt Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuiyan.

As the court went into session in the first floor of the red building opposite the main gate of the central jail, judge Chowdhury wanted to know from the defence attorneys if they have met their clients. The hearing in this case could not take place on March 27 as the counsels of the accused persons could not have interview with their clients by that time.

Counsel Rahman, who informed the court that he was yet to meet his client Kazi Emdad, sought adjournment so that the interview could place in the meantime. He also demanded rescinding the charge framed in this case by the earlier court done without participation of defence in the hearing.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzaque Khan protested when Rahman said, the jail authority was yet to inform him of the meeting. The PP pointed out that the order of The High Court states that the lawyer concerned should contact the jail authority for the purpose.

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Complaint with Anti-corruption Bureau against EC official

Star Report

A written complaint has been lodged with the Anti-Corruption Bureau against an Additional Secretary of the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat, according to sources in the Bureau.

The complaint addressed to the Director General of the Bureau alleged misappropriation of fund, abuse of power and other irregularities committed by the said person. The said person has been posted in the EC for the last 20 years.

When contacted, an official of the Anti-Corruption Bureau acknowledged receipt of such the complaint on behalf of one Shafigur Rahman.

Without disclosing the findings in the investigation, the official said that the allegations made in the complaint have already been 'scrutinised and sent to the higher authorities.'

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh District Election Officers Association on Wednesday last demanded removal of the said Additional Secretary (Election) from the EC.

The additional secretary could not be contacted yesterday despite repeated attempts.

17th BCS exams from May 5

By Staff Correspondent

The postponed written examinations of the 17th BCS will be held from May 5 in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna simultaneously, says a PID handout.

The detailed schedule of the examinations will be published soon in the national dailies.

The candidates will not issued any fresh admit card for the examinations. They will have to bring their admit cards issued earlier, the handout said.

No candidate will be allowed to sit for the examinations without admit card.

Jamaat demands announcement of polls date

Jamaat-e-Islami Amier Prof Ghulam Azam yesterday reiterated the demand for reorganisation of the Election Commission and immediate announcement of election schedule, reports UNB.

"Our prestige abroad will get a further boost if a free and fair election is ensured under the caretaker government," he told a party rally, urging all to cooperate with the government for its success.

The rally, organised by City Jamaat at the North Gate of Baitul Mokarram in the afternoon, was also addressed by senior may-be-amer Abbas Ali Khan and secretary general Maulana Matur Rahman Nigami. City amier ATM Azharul Islam presided.

Prof Ghulam Azam said the nation hopes that all ministries and departments concerned with the election will keep themselves completely neutral.

"Recovery of illegal arms is the pre-condition for ensuring a free and fair election," he said expressing his optimism that the caretaker government would succeed in freeing the country of such arms.

The Jamaat chief called upon the countrymen to give all support, as they did during the movement for caretaker government, to strengthen the struggle for establishing the rule of Allah in the country.

JP rally in front of TV bldg today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (JP) will organise a rally in front of the Television Building in the city today demanding autonomy of the electronic media and dissemination of objective news, said a press release.

The JP central working committee has asked all party activists and the members of other cultural organisations to attend the rally.

Coach passengers robbed in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 6: A daring dacoity was committed in a coach bound for Rajshahi from Dhaka at the Tebunia crossing in Pabna last night.

The dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka two lakh from the passengers.

According to sources, five dacoits who boarded the bus disguising themselves as passengers forced the driver at gun point to stop when the coach 'Unique Paribahan' reached Tebunia. Ten to twelve dacoits waiting there got into the bus and along with their accomplices looted the goods and money of the passengers.

The dacoits also attacked some passengers with sharp weapons.

Medical college admission test

The written examination for admission into the medical colleges for the year 1995-96 will be held on April 19 at 9 am, a press release of the health department said yesterday. The examination was earlier suspended due to unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

The Midnight File

DPRK troops withdrawn from demilitarised zone

SEOUL, Apr 6: About 260 North Korean soldiers staged a second incursion into the demilitarised zone separating North and South Korea today, but they later withdrew, a defence ministry spokesman said. He said the soldiers carrying heavy weapons were driven into the panmunjom border crossing area within the buffer zone in a convoy of nine trucks, reports Reuters.

Injured N'ganj Jubo Dal leader dies

By DMCH Correspondent

A Jubo Dal leader of Rupganj, Narayanjan, who was stabbed by an unidentified gang Friday night, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday.

Chhan Miah, 35, son of Raham Ali of Chhanpara, Rupganj, sustained fatal injuries when the gang attacked him near his house at around 10:30 pm Friday.

The President of the Pro-BNP Jubo Dal unit at Rupganj, the victim was a grocer.

He had been attacked allegedly by some activists of the Jatiya Party backed Jubo Shangkhat of the area. The killing was the result of previous enmity.

A case has been filed with Rupganj thana but none was arrested till last night.

Schoolgirl killed in road mishap

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 6: A schoolgirl was killed in a road accident on the Sylhet Sunamganj road yesterday afternoon.

The agitated villagers put up barricades on the road after the accident. Later, police cleared the road.

Halima Begum Ratna, 11, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding autorickshaw at Ghopal at about 5 pm. She died on the spot. Police sent the body to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Talukdar tells press President holding defence ministry as per provision of 13th amendment

BNP secretary general Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar said here yesterday that President Abdur Rahman Biswas was holding the portfolio of the Ministry of Defence as per provision of the 13th constitutional amendment enacted by the sixth Parliament, reports BSS.

Replying to questions from the press at the BNP's Naya Paltan central office here in the evening, Talukdar said the 13th amendment provided that the Ministry of Defence should be with the President during the interim period under the caretaker government.

He pointed out that the President is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

When asked as to how the former prime minister and the BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia could enjoy the services of the Special Security Force (SSF), Barrister Talukdar said the Chief Adviser could provide an appropriate reply to this question.

He, however, said that the security arrangements and services which were provided to the Awami League president Sheikh Hasina as the leader of the opposition of the fifth parliament, were still being provided to her.

Replying to another question regarding the progress of the process of unity of the BNP with the nationalists forces, the BNP secretary general said the process of unity was continuing. We want unity with all the nationalist forces, he added.

WASA office ransacked for water: One held

By Staff Correspondent

A group of people demonstrated in front of the WASA office at Kawan Bazar in the city yesterday morning demanding regular supply of water.

The demonstrators reported by from Tejgunipara and Nakhapara, at one stage entered the WASA building, ransacked the offices and assaulted some officials at around 11 am, police sources said.

Police arrested one person — Abu Bakar Siddique, 40, from the spot.

According to sources, the residents of Tejgunipara and Nakhapara area were facing the water crisis for the last couple of days. However, WASA officials could not be contacted for comments in this regard.

A case under Section 143, 448, 353 and 427 has been filed with Tejgaon thana. The charges include trespassing, assaulting and ransacking.

BNP extends

From Page 1

Chittagong on Tuesday and in other divisional headquarters.

The meeting extended support to the steps of the caretaker government to curb terrorism and recover unauthorised arms.

It hoped that the caretaker government will be able to discharge its functions and hold the election, maintaining absolute neutrality. BNP assured about cooperation to the caretaker government in this regard.

Ctg port

From Page 1

pensation to the ship owners for the delay, but unfortunately the shippers have to pay surcharge for it.

At the beginning of this year, the feeder line operators had agreed to reduce 25 per cent surcharge as the congestion slightly eased due to some urgent steps taken by the government.

But the situation deteriorated when loading unloading were seriously hampered during the recent political stalemate.

At the end of last month as many as 70 ships were waiting at the port jetties and outer anchorage for unloading goods while about 12,500 containers in portyard and more than 2,00,000 tonnes of cargo were awaiting delivery at the port sheds, according to the SCB.

M R Ali said, although the port now operates round the clock, it will take almost another 20 days to clear the congestion and bring back normalcy at the port.

Exporters and importers would be adversely affected and incur heavy losses because of the increased charge, said a leading businessman, who did not want to be named. Garments owners would be the worst victim of this congestion charge as they are highly dependent on export-import activities, he added.

President of Bangladesh Chamber of Industry Subid Ali, told this correspondent that imposition of the extra charge would cause another setback to the businessmen of the country who have already been hit hard by the long political standoff. He termed it totally illogical and one-sided.

Justice Sadeque

From Page 1

He said the opposition raised the demand since his appointment by the past regime as it was done to help BNP rig the election. "Our apprehension came true after the massive rigging of February 15 election."

Tofael asked the caretaker government to appoint a non-controversial and acceptable Chief Election Commissioner and reorganise the Election Commission to ensure impartial voting for the next parliament.

Jatiya Party acting Chairman Mizarun Rahman Chowdhury welcomed the resignation of the CEC saying that it would have been better if he did so much earlier.

"Better late than never," Chowdhury added while mentioning that the CEC's resignation was demanded by all the major parties and the people at large.

He hoped that the caretaker government of Justice Habibur Rahman will reorganise the Election Commission with a non-controversial Chief Election Commissioner. Chowdhury also demanded a flawless voters' list to ensure an impartial voting.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid said they had expected the CEC's resignation much earlier.

"We hope that the Election Commission will be reorganised with the appointment of a new Chief Election Commissioner immediately and he will start the process of holding the election to parliament," he said.