

Final year exams of JU Anthropology Dept postponed

By JU Correspondent

The Honours final year examinations of 1997 of the Department of Anthropology at Jahangirnagar University (JU), were postponed *sine die* on Thursday following a boycott by examinees demanding that a disqualified candidate be allowed to appear in the examinations.

The examination committee declared the decision at 1:30 pm Thursday, the second day of the examinations, as none of the examinees showed up.

The examinations were threatened from the very first day when a group of ruling party backed Chhatra League activists forced teachers to postpone the exam for course 301 on March 14. They demanded that one Abu Ahsan Mishu, who was declared disqualified for poor attendance in classes, be allowed to sit for the examination.

On Thursday, the examinees again requested the examination committee to allow that particular examinee to sit for the exam. But the Department turned down the request as it would be a violation of rules which make 75 per cent of class attendance mandatory for appearing in examinations. The students later decided to 'boycott' the examinations.

Asked why they "boycotted" the exams, an examinee said, "We did not feel to sit for the examinations leaving one of our

friends declared disqualified except for his absence in classes."

Talking to journalists, chairman of the Department and the examination committee Prosanta Kumar Tripathi said on Thursday, "At this moment we are in grave uncertainty whether we will be able to take the next examinations in a peaceful atmosphere. We had to postpone the first examination as some students agitated demanding that one disqualified examinee be allowed to appear. Today's exam could not be held as none of the examinees came to the exam hall. This uncertainty led us to postpone all the examinations *sine die*."

When asked whether Abu Ahsan Mishu would be able to sit for the examinations, he said, "It is the decision of the Department not to allow the particular examinee to sit for the examinations. We did not permit a second year student to sit for exams on March 10 for the same reason."

About the particular examinee's allegation of allowing some others with poor attendance records to sit for examinations, he said, "We have considered them as they were able to show satisfactory causes behind their absences. But the particular student has given no explanation for his absence in classes."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the parliamentarians of SAARC countries to unite on a minimum point to ensure peace and welfare of the people in the region transcending political differences, reports UNB.

"Peace is our first mandate from the people," she said, inaugurating the third conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians at the International Conference Centre.

The prime minister said: "There are political and other differences among us. These will continue to be there. In spite of that, let us, the parliamentarians, unite on a minimum point and for a common cause. Let that point and cause be peace."

Speakers of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Deputy Speaker of Sri Lanka and representatives of the Speakers of Nepal, the Maldives and Bhutan delivered their speeches at the opening ceremony.

The three-day conference of SAARC Speakers aims at forging closer ties and understanding among the legislators of the SAARC countries, many of whom have a long way to go to give democracy a firm footing and fight out poverty.

Juxtaposing democracy and poverty, Hasina said: "We seem to have caught in a vicious cycle. Democracy cannot work if there is widespread poverty and illiteracy."

"Poverty and illiteracy cannot be removed unless there is democracy. We must try to get out of this. This is the most urgent task," she told the parliamentarians.

Focusing on the trend of politics in South Asia, Hasina said political issues by and large dominate politics of this region. She suggested that in the new millennium all should be more concerned with social and economic issues than ever before.

"Why can't these be turned into political issues and given greater importance in our political thoughts?"

The prime minister observed political issues have their due place in politics. That does not mean that other issues, equally important, if not more so, should be relegated to back-seat.

She called for giving importance to the issues of attracting boys and girls to school, providing pure drinking water, sanitation facilities and healthcare services, ensuring women's empowerment and social justice and attaining economic growth.

The prime minister identified illiteracy and poverty as main obstacles to democracy and said life in this region is full of despairs than hopes. "Our faith in what is good and in ability to attain it are challenged every moment by disappointment and disillusion of one kind or the other."

"Money could play havoc with us, and it does. It can buy muscle power and intimidate us. It can even buy us since we live in distress and not above temptations. Our vision is blurred, since we have a poor and little education."

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yoshikazu Kaneko, JICA resident representative Yuzi Okazaki, JICA Alumni Association president Prof Matiur Rahman and general secretary Azmal Chowdhury also addressed the function.

Addressing as the chief guest a cultural function of the JICA Alumni Association at Shishu Academy auditorium, the finance minister described the economic ties between the two friendly countries as "excellent" and said Japan is the single largest development partner of Bangladesh.

Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday emphasised the need for greater economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan for mutual benefit, reports BSS.

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She stressed persistent efforts to make sure that no one dies of hunger or malnutrition or because of a lack of medical care. Measures need to be taken so that natural calamity, so frequent and devastating here, does not take a heavy toll of life.

Mentioning a devastating flood in the country last year, she said the present government by divine grace was able to save millions of lives. This was a proof of government's deep concern for human rights.

She said her government was committed to introducing the office of Ombudsman and an independent Human Rights Commission. "I believe it is time we had our own mechanism, independent and free, to monitor the human-rights situation in our region."

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First armed resistance day observed

GAZIPUR, Mar 19: The First Armed Resistance Day against Pakistani occupation forces in 1971 was observed here today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations including ruling Awami League held day-long programmes on the occasion.

The programmes included *milad*, *mafil*, rally, discussions and reception to Shaheed families. On this day in 1971 people from all walks of life in Joydevpur put blockade on the road and built up resistance against the movement of Pakistani occupation forces from Rajendrapur Cantonment. This was the first people's resistance against Pakistani occupation forces before the Liberation War began in which several people were killed.

In doing so, there must be full regards for the right of the people to express themselves freely, determine their own destiny without being detected or hindered anyway and reject all that standards in the way of this full expression, Hasina also said.

The prime minister urged the parliamentarians to set about the task of making the world realise the differences and developing own standards.

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Electoral Training Institute

Election Commission Secretariat

1/10, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

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Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Local Agents/Dealers/Distributors/Suppliers/Resellers/Manufacturers for supply of the below mentioned equipment for the project "Electoral Training Institute" under Election Commission Secretariat.

1. Tender No: ETI/1(52)/O/A/99/1763

Dated: 18.03.99

Sl No Item Name Qty/No

1 Air Cooler 01

2 Power Generator 01

3. Place of selling tender schedule : Electoral Training Institute 1/10, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.

4. Place of dropping tender schedule : Electoral Training Institute, 1/10, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.

OR

Office of the Project Director, Electoral Training Institute and Joint Secretary (Finance), Election Commission Secretariat, Room No 12, Block 6, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

5. Last date and time for selling tender schedule : 23rd March 1999; within office hour.

6. Price of schedule : Tk 200/- (non-refundable)

7. Last date and time for dropping tender : 24th March 1999; 12:00 Noon.

8. Date, time & place for opening tender for opening tender : 24th March 1999, 12:30 PM at Election Commission Secretariat.

9. Earnest money : 2.5% of the total quoted value in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from a scheduled bank in favour of "Director, Electoral Training Institute."

Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders partially or wholly, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Jesmin Tuli
Director

Ph: 822373

GD