

Comilla Board 84,795 students to take part in HSC exams

COMILLA, Apr 25: Some 84,795 students will take part in this year's HSC examinations under Comilla Higher Secondary Education Board from 154 centres, reports UNB.

Of the candidates, 52,579 are male and 32,216 girls. Official sources said 18,233 candidates would appear in the exams from Science group, 50,385 from Humanities, 5,447 from Commerce, 10,692 from Business Affairs and 38 from Agriculture Science.

The district-wise breakup of the participants are: Sylhet - 7,438 (centres 19), Habiganj - 2,773 (centres 11), Moulvibazar - 3,689 (centres 8), Sunamganj - 2,742 (centres 13), Noakhali - 10,861 (centres 14), Feni - 6,626 (centres 10), Laxmipur - 5,141 (centres 8), Chandpur - 11,506 (centres 21), Comilla - 27,641 (centres 35) and Brahmanbaria - 6,376 (centres 15).

60 pc work of voters' card complete in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: About sixty per cent work of Voter ID Card Project in the district has been completed, officials said.

The work of the project, which was undertaken in May 1995, is due to be completed by June 30 this year.

There are about 30 lakh voters in the district as per updated voters' list. ID cards of 18 lakh and 27 thousand voters have been prepared so far.

However, many cards with wrong information have been detected. There are 50 thousand 'faulty' cards, said a source in the Deputy Election Commissioner's Office in Chittagong.

In the 'faulty' ID cards, wrong names have been written or wrong photographs have been pasted.

Inexperience and lack of skills of the persons engaged in the project have been attributed to the flaws.

Officials, seeking anonymity, said the work of the project will not be completed in the stipulated time.

They said the programme to take photographs of all voters was achieved due to lack of publicity during the stipulated period.

Wife of police official robbed of ornaments

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Wife of a police official was robbed of her ornaments in the broad daylight on Saturday in the city.

Krishna Chowdhury, wife of RI Chowdhury, AC (Traffic), fell victim to mugging when she was on her way home at Magistrate Colony near Ishpani intersection from WASA area by rickshaw at around 2.30 pm.

Three muggers intercepted her rickshaw in the busy Lalkhan Bazaar area and snatched a bracelet, a necklace and earrings at dagger point.

The police official was in Dhaka when his wife fell victim to the mugging.

Political scenario in Moulvibazar

Warm up activities going on

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 25: Political scenario in Moulvibazar district is changing gradually with various political leaders busy in securing nominations of major political parties for contesting in the four parliamentary seats here in the next general election.

The political parties here have started warming up with many new faces announcing their arrival in the political arena.

Awami League (AL), Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jatiya party (Ershad) are the powerful parties here.

In the last parliamentary elections AL and BNP secured three seats and one seat respectively, while JP failed to capture any seat though the party got two seats in 1991 elections.

Traditionally, Moulvibazar district is always a fertile land for opposition parties. But this time BNP, JP and Jamaat have failed to secure public support.

Activities of Awami League (AL) here is too weak as the leaders and workers of AL and its front organisation are divided into two or more factions.

Azizur Rahman, former local MP and former whip of the opposition, now Joint General Secretary of Central AL is the leader of a local faction. This faction is locally known as Abdus Samad Azad (Foreign Minister) group.

Syed Molsin Ali district AL President and Abdul Wadud district AL General Secretary are the leaders of another group. But Syed Molsin Ali is known as the man of Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Abdul Wadud is known as the man of former DUCSU VP and MP elected from here Sultan Md. Mansur Ahmed.

Leaders and workers of front organisation including BCL are also divided and they are also supporting the factional politics of local AL.

In some cases, AL workers of Azizur Rahman group are showing their strength successfully. This group is supported by three out of four MPs (including the lady MP), Vice Principal Abdus Shahid, MP who is a second grade leader of district AL has been made whip of the Parliament with the blessing of Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad.

Not only this, in the last municipality election, nominee of Azizur Rahman group of district AL Al-haj Mahmudur Rahman had been elected chairman of Moulvibazar Municipality by defeating Syed Molsin Ali, who is also President of District AL. He also maintains a group after his name. So political gain has gone to Azizur Rahman's group.

It is mentionable here that district body of AL was captured by the opposition men of Azizur Rahman group.

Some leaders of different thana AL are supporting Molsin Wadud faction and some are supporting Aziz faction. This factional politics of local AL will reflect the next general election, observers say.

In BNP politics, leaders and workers are united the leadership of local MP and former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman though the party and its front organisations at different thanas is facing internal strife. M Saifur Rahman had been defeated in election in 1991 but won in 1996 elections. Now Saifur Rahman is a popular personality. He has gained his personal image as he worked for the development of Moulvibazar. While he was a minister. At present, BNP has a good number of leaders, but the party is suffering as the number of workers is insufficient.

Jatiya Party (JP, Ershad) is popular among general people. But a significant number of leaders and workers including former MPs joined BNP recently. JP has become a weak party now.

Jamaat-e-Islami has no strong base in the district. Jamaat candidates had lost security money in all the parliamentary seats in every general election.

However, leaders of major parties are yet to take decision on nomination of their respective party candidates for the next general election.

According to local leaders, BNP leaders have started discussions on party nomination. Insiders further say BNP, Moulvibazar district convenor and former JP MP Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, former JP MP Abad Miah and Md. Mahmud Saifur Rahman may seek nomination of BNP for Moulvibazar-1 (Baralekha), Moulvibazar-4, (Srimongal-Kamalgonj) and Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura) constituencies respectively. BNP's confirmed candidate for Moulvibazar-3, (Moulvibazar and Rajnagar thana) is M Saifur Rahman.

JP has been facing a very difficult situation in giving nomination in three out of four constituencies, because none among

the candidates seem to be fit for winning the elections. Nawab Ali Abbas Khan in Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura) is only strong candidate of JP.

AL is also facing the same fate as the number of nomination seekers are more than three to four in each constituency.

If BNP, JP, Jamaat and Islami Oikya Jote decide to face next general election under a same platform, their candidates may appear as stronger.

In Moulvibazar-1 constituency, comprising of Baralekha thana, Moulvibazar district BNP convenor and former MP Advocate Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury and local BNP leader Asad Uddin Batal may seek BNP ticket. In the last election Chowdhury was BNP candidate and he had been defeated to AL candidate. Asad Uddin Batal is now thana BNP president. He contested as BNP nominee in 1991 election and had been defeated to Advocate Ebadur Rahman, the then JP candidate. For the next election, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury is the bright candidate if all the four opposition parties back him.

In Baralekha AL, internal conflict has been prevailing. Sitting MP Shahabuddin Ahmed and thana AL President Sirajul Islam may seek nomination. If one is given nomination, others may be opposed and likely to work against the party nominee, party insiders say.

Other possible candidates from different parties are Brigadier (Retd) Masuk Ahmed Chowdhury (JP), Md Abdul Goni (Jamaat) and Husam Uddin Chowdhury (Islami Oikya Jote).

In Moulvibazar-2 constituency, comprising of Kulaura thana, AL central leader and former DUCSU VP Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed had been elected in the last election. As sitting MP of the ruling party Sultan Mansur had become a popular leader of the constituency as he worked for the infrastructural development of Kulaura. There is no rival leader of Monsur in Kulaura thana. So he is a confirmed candidate of AL.

Nawab Ali Abbas Khan of JP is also a strong candidate. Khan had been an elected MP from JP in 1988 and 1991. JP is now very weak in Kulaura. If four major opposition parties face the next election unitedly, Nawab Ali Abbas Khan will be a candidate of the United Opposition Party.

BNP is not expected to do well in this constituency. MM Shaheen may seek BNP nomination. He had been elected an MP in the February 15, 1996 elections.

Moulvibazar-3 seat, comprising of sadar and Rajnagar thana is an important constituency in the district as the home of former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman. Central Joint General Secretary of AL Azizur Rahman also lives in this constituency. Saifur Rahman will contest again in this constituency. He is the sitting MP and popular and strong candidate of BNP.

Azizur Rahman, former whip of the opposition in parliament (1991) and central leader of AL is likely to get AL ticket once again. But district AL president Syed Molsin Ali may seek party ticket. If one is given nomination, others may oppose it and likely to work against the party nominees.

Nila Chowdhury, central leader of the woman wing of JP and Asad Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, district JP General Secretary and Syed Shahabuddin Ahmed are likely to seek JP nomination in this constituency. If four major opposition parties face the next general election unitedly, M Saifur Rahman of BNP will be the candidate of the United Opposition Party.

In Moulvibazar-4 constituency, comprising of Srimongal land Kamalgonj thanas, whip of the Parliament, Vice Principal Abdus Shaheed had been elected an MP in the last election. In this locality, Vice Principal Shaheed is not a clean politician. People of the locality are alleging that there has been no development activities in this constituency though their MP Shaheed is the whip of the parliament. Vice-Principal Abdus Shaheed may seek AL ticket again. But his political rivals in his party may not support him and there is possibility of other AL leaders as contestants to face Vice Principal Shaheed.

Md Abad Miah, former JP leader now in BNP will take BNP nomination and he may appear as a candidate of the united Opposition Party led by BNP-JP-Jamaat.

However, political leaders of different political parties who have expressed their views said AL may face trouble for their internal conflict and politics of grouping except in Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura) constituency.

There may be close fight between AL and BNP in constituency 1,3 and 4, while AL and JP may fight separately to win in constituency 2.

CUTA for an end to stalemate at CU

CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Leaders of Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) on Monday made a fervent appeal to all political parties not to integrate the university politics with the national politics, reports BSS.

They also urged the university authority to immediately resolve the prevailing standstill of the university at any cost.

CUTA leaders made their appeal when they called on Vice

Chancellor of the university Prof Abdul Mannan at his office on Monday.

CUTA President Dr Anupam Sen, Secretary Prof Irshak Kamal, Prof Amin Uddin Mridha, Prof Anwar-ul-Azim Aref, Prof Hasanuzzaman, Prof Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, Prof Nurul Anwar and Dr Harunur Rashid were among others present at the meeting.

They said the students may have many problems related to their academic life and obvi-

ously they go for movement. "When the demand of the students add with national politics then it takes complicated shape resulting in immense sufferings to the students affecting the guardians in particular and nation in general", they observed.

The said that the teachers of the university are committed to extend all-out cooperation to the university authority for to the present standstill.

CUTA leaders underscored the importance of immediate resumption of the academic activities in order to help smooth completion of the test for the first year Honours admission seekers and postponed examinations of the different academic years.

The Vice Chancellor gave a patient hearing and said we are continuing to make our efforts for resumption of the academic activities at the quickest possible time through dialogues of all concerned.

Force AL Govt to step down, Ershad tells Natore rally

NATORE, Apr 25: Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad on Monday urged the countrymen to launch tough movement and force the "autocratic" government to step down saying, "neither the country nor its people could be saved if this government sticks to power anymore," reports UNB.

"As the Awami League Government has failed in all sectors, four opposition parties, including Jatiya Party, have forged alliance to save the nation from its misrule," he said addressing a huge rally at Singra Gol-e-Afroz Government College premises in the afternoon.

Ershad said during the last four years of its rule, Awami League could give the nation nothing, rather destroyed the economy and established a reign of terror in the country.

In this critical juncture of the country, none should remain indifferent. Ershad said calling upon all to unitedly take part in the opposition, anti-government movement.

Presided over by Singra JP President Abul Hossain, the rally was also addressed by JP Secretary General Nazim Rahman Manjur, Vice-chairman Kazi Feroj Rasheed and party central and local leaders.

Tk 32 lakh gold seized at Osmani Airport

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Apr 25: Gold worth over Taka 32 lakh was seized at Osmani Airport here on Saturday, said an official.

Airport officials seized the gold from a bag, which bore no nametag. After a Biman flight from London via Dubai landed at 3-10pm at Sylhet the luggage were taken to the customs lounge. The bag having no nametag came to the notice of the customs officials.

High officials were informed of the matter. Later a team of customs officials opened the bag and found 50 bars of gold weighing 10 tolas each.

The approximate price of the gold would be over Taka 32 lakh, said the official.

A case was lodged in this connection.

New GS of Comilla Sadar North BNP

By Staff Correspondent BNP has appointed Mohammad Obaidul Haq Bhuiyan as general secretary (GS) of party's Comilla sadar (north) unit after eight months.

BNP secretary general approved the appointment following recommendation and unanimous decision of the concerned unit's executive committee taken on February 27 last.

The post has been lying vacant since July last year following a serious controversy over appointment of Abu Taher Sarkar as general secretary of the committee.

Abu Taher Sarkar was the president of Devidia thana unit, but he was expelled from the party on June 12 last year by Local MP Manjurul Ahsan Sarkar for his (Taher) alleged anti-party activities.

But within a month of his expulsion, MP Munshi's rivals at BNP's headquarter gave promotion to Abu Taher and made him Comilla (north) unit general secretary. The decision of some senior central leader angered Munshi, who later resigned from the party and also declared to resign from parliament.

After this, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia personally interfered into the matter and instructed concerned party leaders to relieve Abu Taher immediately. Since then the post was lying vacant.

Property worth Tk 80,000 gutted in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Property worth about Tk 80,000 was destroyed when a fire broke out at Madhyam Barua Gram under Hathazari thana early Sunday.

The fire, reportedly originated from an electric short-circuit, also gutted some thatched houses.

Removal of Netrakona SP demanded

From Our Correspondent NETRAKONA, Apr 25: Ruling party lawmaker Jalaluddin Talabdar and Advocate Anjurul Islam, secretary general of district Awami League, recently in statement demanded the removal of Netrakona Police Super Kazi Jaimul Abedin for his alleged involvement in a sex scandal.

A female assistant sub-inspector of Police Department Sayda Jakia Begum recently filed a complaint with the Home Minister saying she was sexually harassed by her boss Netrakona Police Super Kazi Jaimul Abedin.

The police super, however, denied the allegation.

A group of freedom fighters at a press conference in the town said the complaint against the Abedin, who is also a renowned freedom fighter, is totally baseless.

News snaps



Rotarian Shammi Sher of Dhaka North West Rotary Club administering polio immunisation dose to a child at Pal-labi Tutorial on Sunday.

Two tribesmen shot dead

RANGAMATI, Apr 25: Two tribesmen have been shot dead in remote frontier Sajek area recently by gunmen opposed to the CHT peace accord, reports UNB.

Detectives gave the delayed information on Monday about the killing of Faracharan Chakma and Ajit Kumar Chakma of Baghaichhari thana. They might have been killed by anti-peace accord activists. When contacted, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity leaders confirmed the killings. A section of tribesmen residing in three hill districts opposed the peace accord signed between the government and the PCJSS in December 1997 aiming to end over two decades of tribal insurgencies.

Rivals' clash leaves 40 injured

MUNSHIGANJ, Apr 25: At least 40 people were injured, 10 seriously, in a clash between two rival groups in Sadar thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when a group led by Motaleb Dhal attacked Sarder group in Madihya Mohakali village over land dispute. Ten of the injured identified as Hosne Ara, 10, Meher, 15, Sakhina, 50, Zabeda, 22, Zaherun, 35, Zakir, 28, Rehan, 50, Zulhas, 58, Halim, 25 and Bashbar, 26, were admitted to Sadar Hospital. The other injured were released after giving first aid. Police arrested Shahjahan Sarder and Motaleb Dhal in connection with the attack. However, they were later released through mediation of local UP chairman.

Relief distributed

NETRAKONA, Apr 25: Local Awami League leaders distributed relief materials on Sunday among the tornado victims of Purboadhala, Hogra, Bishkakuni, Khalishoar, Narandia, Dhalamulgona and Jaria union, reports BSS.

Waresat Hossain Belal, Bir Protik, conducted the relief operation in the areas hit by tornado on last Thursday.

Heroin seized: 4 arrested

SHERPUR, Apr 25: Police arrested four people, including a housewife, with one kg of suspected heroin and one kg of hemp from a village in Jhenigati thana early Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Motaleb at Kashaipara near Jhenigati bazaar and arrested him with the suspected materials worth about Tk one crore. Later, police arrested the householder's son-in-law Shamsheer Ali, his wife Jahannara and neighbour Khorsheed Ali in connection with drug trafficking. A case was filed with the police in this regard.

Most favourite game

Cricket has become the most favourite game all over the country. In rural areas also school boys play cricket with great enthusiasm. Photo shows Imran, an eight-year-old student of Sabujkanon Kindergarten in Sirajganj and his nine-year-old playmate Mishel of the same institution playing cricket making the pipe of a tubewell stamp. Cricket has won the hearts of these tiny tots completely.

Advertisement for 'দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন' (The Security Printing Corporation) featuring a logo and contact information.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Invitation for Bid. Includes details about computer and copier procurement, contact information, and terms of the bid.

Advertisement for Biman Bangladesh Airlines Tender Notice. Details the procurement of renovation and decoration work for the GSE operation building at ZIA Airport, including tender submission procedures and contact details for the General Manager.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bid & Upliftment Board. Announces a tender for the purchase of 11 tons of rice, including contact information and terms of the bid.