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Degree exams now from Nov 18

By Staff Correspondent
The Degree Pass and Subsidiary examinations of 2000 under the National University will now begin on November 18 instead of October 29.

The date has been shifted due to severe flooding in the country's south-western districts, a press release of the university said yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of controllers of examination and officials of the university with Vice-chancellor Durga Das Bhattacharya in the chair.

Examinees of the flood-hit areas will be allowed to appear at the regular examinations beginning on November 18. Special examinations will be held for those failing to appear at the regular examinations. Schedules for both will be announced soon. None will be allowed to appear at both the examinations, the press release said.

Examinations will be held at all centres as usual. The meeting cancelled the earlier decision to hold examinations only at district headquarters in Khulna division.

BNP yet to get permission for Paltan rally

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP held talks with two ministers yesterday to get clearance to hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan on November 7 but is yet to get the nod.

The country's main opposition party submitted an application to the National Sports Council (NSC) last month seeking permission to use the Paltan Maidan for the rally in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Sources said the NSC has already given permission to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for the use of Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) and its adjoining areas, including the Paltan Maidan, for the Test match between Bangladesh and India beginning on November 10.

The NSC officials had earlier suggested that the BNP leaders contact with State Minister for Sports Obaidul Kader to get the permission.

Opposition's Demonstration Day today

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP-led opposition alliance will observe countrywide Demonstration Day today protesting deterioration of law and order, fuel price-hike, "conspiracy" to export gas to India and resignation of the government.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia announced the Demonstration Day programme at a joint public meeting at Dinajpur on October 14.

As parts of the countrywide programme, the BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote and some other smaller rightwing political parties will jointly organise public rallies and processions at all thana, district and city headquarters in the afternoon.

The alliance will organise its

Magurchhara tale takes a new twist

Unocal asked to explain 'ghost payment' of compensation

By Sharier Khan

Petrobranga has sought an explanation from Unocal for claiming that till August 31 this year it has paid Bangladesh a total of Tk 332.32 crore in compensation for the Magurchhara blow-out.

In a letter sent to the US company, Petrobranga demanded details on how and where the payment had been made.

Petrobranga said that, according to its information, Unocal (and formerly Occidental) so far paid only Tk 38 crore to the victims

of the devastating blow-out, which took place in June 14, 1997. It termed the remaining amount of Unocal claims as 'ghost payment'.

Unocal made the claims in a statement sent to the environment ministry on October 4. It was also forwarded to the energy and law ministries and to Petrobranga. The statement mainly focused on the technical aspects related to restoration of the Magurchhara ecosystem. A breakdown of its compensation payment till August 31 was also attached.

The breakdown shows that Unocal paid to public transport authorities Tk 20.7 crore, public utilities Tk 3.30 crore, community victims Tk 60 lakh and different tea estates Tk 15.17 crore. In addition, it paid Tk 134.4 crore to Petrobranga.

However, in another page of the attached document, Unocal shows a grand total of Tk 332.32 crore paid to the government in compensation so far.

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SKS to give up only 97 feet!

By Staff Correspondent

The Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) has started work to remove 97 feet of encroachment on the river Buriganga near Shyampur Bazar but said that the remaining 600 feet of encroachment on the shore and foreshore areas will remain as it is.

Lt Col (ret) SM Faizul Haq of the SKS told The Daily Star that as per agreement with the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) they were removing 97 feet of encroachment from the river. The SKS has already floated tender to sell the earth dumped into the river to reclaim land.

Haq, however, replied in the negative when asked whether the SKS would withdraw from the rest of the encroached area.

"We have applied to the BIWTA to install our berthing and warehouse facilities on the shore and foreshore and we will remain there like others in the area," he said.

The SKS dumped 2.5 million cubic feet of earth into the Buriganga to reclaim over 2.15 acres of land near Shyampur Bazar without permission from the BIWTA or an environmental clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE).

Later, after The Daily Star had reported on the matter in July this

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Plaintiff held with arms

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: The plaintiff of sensational eight murder case was arrested with firearm at Bayezid Bostami area in the city last night.

Police with the help of local people arrested Anwar Hossain with a pistol when he came to rescue his younger brother and a young man from beating by a mob for allegedly making an attempt to violate a girl in the local bazaar area at around 8:30 p.m.

Anwar is a plaintiff in the case regarding the Bahadherhat carnage that left eight people including six BCL activists killed on July 12 this year.

Alamgir, Anwar's brother, and

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Hungry for peace... Students of Sir Salimullah Medical College began a hunger strike in front of the principal's office yesterday morning to protest the reign of terror unleashed allegedly by some BCL activists. Later, on the principal's assurance that she would ensure a peaceful solution to the problem, the protesters withdrew their programme.

— Star photo

25 murdered in city in first 15 days of Oct

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-five people were murdered in Dhaka metropolitan area in the first 15 days of the current month, marking an alarming rise in incidents of killing.

According to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) records, 10 people were killed in the first half of last month. A total of 13 people were killed in the first half of August, 14 in that of July, 13 each in the first half of June and May, and 15, 11, 17 and 10 in the first half of April, March, February and January, the DMP records show.

Solaiman Haq, 75, a resident of West Jurain under Shyampur thana, was beaten to death by his son on October 15 as the retired government officer refused to share pension with his son.

Miscereants shot dead Shahidul Islam Swapon at a slum in Madhubagh area in the early hours of October 15. Iqbal Hossain Raju, 23, was gunned down in a shoot-out between two rival groups in front of Muktiyodha Club in the city on the same day. His body was recovered from Balur Math at Naya Pallan.

Two alleged muggers, Mohammad Mahfuz, 24, and Ashiq, 25, were beaten to death in separate incidents in Agargaon and Narinda in the city on

October 15. Miscereants slaughtered a young man at Tallabagh in the city's Mohammadpur area on October 14. The beheaded body of the victim, aged about 30, was found at a vacant plot in the morning on the same day.

Jubo League leader Sheikh Jahangir Alam was shot dead in a shoot-out at the 'BNP Slum' on October 13. Miscereants stabbed to death Imtiaz Hossain Rizvi, 35, executive director of a textile mill, on the city's Eskaton Road in the early hours of October 13.

Mob beat to death Arab Ali, an alleged mugger, when he along with his associates tried to snatch valuables from rickshaw passenger near Ansar Headquarters at Khilgaon in the city on the same day.

Police recovered bodies of Abul Kalam, Kamrul Islam and Abdul Awal from different places in Pallabi and Mirpur in the city. There were marks of injuries in their bodies, which means that unidentified miscereants killed them on October 13.

Four people including a Jubo League leader were murdered in separate incidents in the city October 11. The Jubo league leader, Jasim, was shot dead in

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Hunger strike at SSMC

By Staff Correspondent

The students of Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) yesterday started a fast unto death but called it off after about three hours following assurance from the principal that there would be a peaceful solution to their problem.

The SSMC Academic Council would discuss the matter and take steps to restore peace on the campus. Principal Farida Adib Khanum told the students.

About 500 students of the college boycotted classes on Saturday protesting a 'reign of terror' in their hostels unleashed allegedly by several leaders of the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League. They are demanding immediate removal of the terrorists from the college.

When contacted yesterday, the principal said the situation on the campus was 'under control'. Both the sides have expressed willingness to resolve the problem through negotiation.

"They are going to sit and settle the matter tomorrow," she said.

SB set to take over assets & liabilities of ITCL

Writ challenging BB order filed

Star Report

Sonali Bank yesterday formed a special cell to take over assets and liabilities of the Islamic Trade and Commerce Limited (ITCL) which has been closed down and requested Bangladesh Bank (BB) to provide list of its accounts and property.

On the other hand, the BB has urged the home ministry to ensure that ITCL men do not create any law and order situation.

According to sources, the ministry will ask police to keep an eye on the situation.

On the other hand, ITCL has filed a writ with the High Court challenging the BB order on Sunday to close down its operations.

Preliminary indications say that some Tk 125 crore was deposited with the company which allegedly conducted banking activities without licence.

A BB investigation found that ITCL received deposits from people under different schemes and also term and savings deposits. It offered fixed interest rates to the depositors in the name of profit and commission.

The company invested the deposits in different industries as partner and also used those for its own activities.

ITCL did not go for manufacturing goods directly but involved its subsidiaries in doing so. It invested a major part of deposits in the subsidiaries.

The activities of ITCL were tantamount to banking business under Article 5 (Ta) of the Bank Company Act.

This article only allows banks to collect deposits from people and invest those for different purposes but they have to return the money instantly when the depositors need to withdraw it," the BB probe report said.

ITCL got registration from the Registrar of Joint stock Companies on January 27, 1997 and started transaction on the same day.

The central bank also conducted an investigation at ITCL head office and Rajshahi Trade Centre in 1998.

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None can escape fallout of an Indo-Pak N-war

Speakers at int'l confce in city observe

By Special Correspondent

The issue of security in the light of a nuclear race in South Asia and sub-regional cooperation within the framework of regional cooperation and Pakistan and India's views on Kashmir dominated the discussions on the second day of an international conference in the city yesterday.

An Indian security specialist said 'Islamic militancy' in Pakistan, narcotics and proliferation of small arms are 'causing anxiety in the region and beyond' which should be checked before it spreads. He referred to the skirmishes between India and Pakistan in Kargil in Kashmir.

A Pakistani scholar suggested setting up of an observer group to monitor and resolve conflicts in South Asia, creation of a body like CTBT and UN-sponsored resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Participants in the open discussion however observed that the South Asian region would not escape the fallout of a nuclear war between Pakistan and India. Some of them suggested that the two countries should resolve their disputes bilaterally, if not possible, through the SAARC.

The three-day conference on 'Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Interfacing New Dimensions and Perspectives' has been jointly sponsored by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIIS) and German Embassy. It is being held at the BIIS.

Of the two sessions yesterday, the first one was on 'Security Cooperation, Conflict Prevention and

Management' and the second one was on 'Sub-regional Cooperation in South Asia'.

The first session was chaired by Ibrahim Hossain Zaki, Minister for Planning and National Development of Maldives and former Secretary General of SAARC.

Five papers were presented at the first session. Commodore Uday Bhaskar presented a paper on Security Cooperation, Conflict Prevention and Management in South Asia. Dr Shireen Mazari, Secretary General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Pakistan, presented a paper on South Asian Peace and Security Doctrine. A.K.M. Abdus Sabur, Senior Research fellow of BIIS, presented his paper on Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Role of Conflict Management. Dr S.M. Rahman from Pakistan presented a paper on SAARC and New Paradigm of Security. David Fouquat from the European Institute of Asian Studies also presented a brief paper.

The second session was presided over by Abul Ahsan, former foreign secretary of Bangladesh and former secretary general of SAARC. Prof Abul Kalam of Dhaka University presented a paper on Sub-regional Growth Mechanism: A Comparative Perspective' and Mohammad Humayun Kabir, Senior Research Fellow of BIIS presented another paper on Sub-regional Cooperation in South Asia: Interfacing Regionalism and Globalisation.

German Ambassador Uwe Schramm, Brig (Rtd)

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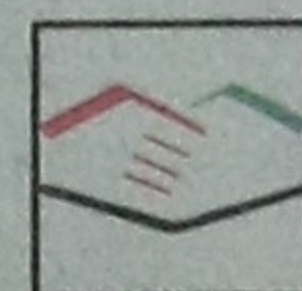
	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 24		5.25 pm
Oct 25	6.01 am	

Prayer Timings

October 24		
	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-35	5-40
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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